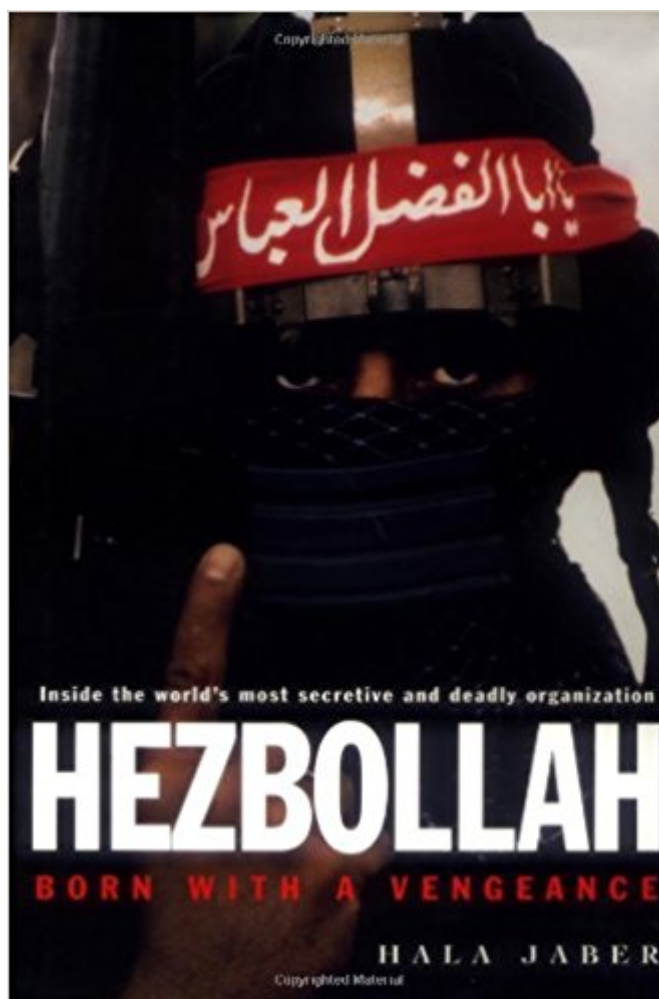


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Hezbollah



Synopsis

Revered by many fundamentalist Shiites and reviled by the West, Hezbollah is considered to be a paradigm for other militant groups wishing to make the promise of Islamic Revolution a reality. Journalist Hala Jaber was granted exclusive and unparalleled access to the inner circle of this organization, and she exposes not only its tactics, but also its history, ideology, and culture.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

[A] readable account of Hezbollah's rise by an experienced journalist,... [Jaber's work] gives a broad account of the origins of Hezbollah and its expanding influence. (Jon Van Camp International Socialist Review) Essential for any who would study the region's past, present, and possible futures. (Midwest Book Review: California Bookwatch)

Hezbollah lifts the shroud of secrecy covering the Shiite Muslim organization that has been synonymous with terror since it first made global headlines with the 1983 suicide bombing that killed 241 U.S. Marines in Beirut. For the first time, Hezbollah has allowed an outsider to talk to its fighters, leaders, and strategists, and to question them about the motives and operations behind some of the most destructive terrorist attacks in recent history. Does Hezbollah deserve its reputation? Can its role in the Beirut hostage crisis be justified? And what do former hostages John McCarthy, Terry Anderson, and Terry Waite now feel about their experience? Born in the grinding poverty of the Bekaa Valley, Hezbollah - or "Party of God" - has ties to Iran and exerts influence far

beyond Lebanon. In many ways it is the model organization: passionate, demanding of its members, and devoted to furthering an Islamic way of life. Above all it is driven by the ultimate mandate: whatever it has done, and whatever it will do, is accomplished in the name of God. Hala Jaber explores the incredible devotion demonstrated by the members of Hezbollah: for example, the suicide bomber who went on to kill twelve Israeli soldiers in May 1995 speaks here, as does his wife, approvingly, of his martyrdom. We also hear the voices of the hostage takers, as well as their victims, speak confidentially here. Jaber clarifies the strategy of Hezbollah's weekly attacks on Israeli forces in Lebanon and documents its influence in the Palestinian-administered areas of Israel. She also sheds light on Hezbollah's shadowy sister organization in Teheran.

Very interesting, insider work from a good journalist on Hezbollah. Page turner on this Lebanese resistance group who have such influence in the region and the best leader in all the middle East, Nasrallah!

I have wanted to read this book for a very long time. It is a great one!!!Well Done!

I give it four stars not because it is a great scope, rather it is a great scope for the price. I bought an inexpensive 22 mag for varmints and both the rifle and scope suit the need. No problem at 100 yards, and if the varmint is further than a hundred yards it's my neighbor's problem.

This short work is a brief history of the rise, methods and goals of the Lebanese Shi'ite terror group/political party Hezbollah (lit. "the party of God"). At only 200 pages, journalist Hala Jaber's monograph should be an easy read, but it jumps around chronologically, so some basic background in Middle Eastern history and religion would be very helpful. Because of the author's access to primary sources in the form of rare interviews, I recommend the book to specialists, as well as students or even casual readers, but preferably readers with a healthy dose of skepticism.¹ The book is completely one-sided in favor of Hezbollah. It betrays no indication whatever that Jaber interviewed any Israeli source. She expresses no sympathy for Israel's government or citizens. She only manages to use words like "fringe extremists" (p. 59), "massacred in cold blood" (p. 115), or "ruthlessness" (p. 123) about Israel, and never in regards to any Lebanese group. Considering that Hezbollah invented suicide bombing, Jaber's inability to even hint at disapproval is disconcerting. None of that changes the basic facts -- and in many cases, Israel's actions are clearly horrific -- but the point is that the book cannot reasonably be read as a dispassionate, objective account. It is

propaganda.² In addition to Hezbollah's military methods, Jaber is unrealistically credulous of Hezbollah's political aims. She apparently accepts at face value Hezbollah's claim that its charitable projects come without strings attached. But she reluctantly admits that monthly, personal visits by Hezbollah representatives to beneficiaries allows for significant control (p 160), and it is telling that non-Shi'ites are unwilling to take Hezbollah charity because they are worried about becoming indebted to the group (p. 148).³ History has proven Jaber wrong on at least one point. When the book was published in 1997, she asserted (contrary to all the evidence) that "Hezbollah knows that its military resistance would be terminated once Israel withdraws from South Lebanon" (p. 208). But when Israel unilaterally withdrew in 2000, Hezbollah assassinated SLA leaders and continued attacks and kidnappings against Israel, sparking the 2008 Israeli invasion.⁴ The book is chronologically disjointed as a result of Jaber's lack of focus. The reality is that Hezbollah is so secretive that Jaber doesn't have enough material for a full book (at least, not without providing more detail on Hezbollah's attacks, which she won't do). So she pads the text heavily. Chapter 1 is a general treatment of Lebanese conflict and Shi'ite resistance. Chapter 2 deals more directly with Hezbollah from 1982, but repeats the Hezbollah material in Chapter 1. Chapter 3 discusses Hezbollah's development and use of suicide bombers, which again takes us back to 1982. Chapter 4 discusses the Iranian revolution, later exported to Lebanon via Hezbollah; again we move back in time, to 1979. The chapter is not improved by an extensive, meandering discussion of kidnappings in the context of the Lebanese Civil War. Chapter 5 concerns Hezbollah's humanitarian projects - this is the only chapter that really works well as a separate, non-chronological treatment. Chapter 6 examines in some detail the 1996 "Operation Grapes of Wrath," in which Israel aggressively targeted Hezbollah but failed to accomplish its goals, and in the process strengthened Hezbollah's hand. Jaber's narrative would have benefitted significantly from a more coherent structure.⁵ In spite of the foregoing criticisms, the book is not useless. Jaber clearly has good access to Hezbollah sources, so she provides some raw material for a more balanced analysis. She never assumes too much previous knowledge on the part of the reader, so the book is accessible. NOTE: If you find my review unhelpful, please tell me why in a comment.

Reading *hezbollah: born with a vengeance* by H. Jaber gave me a good introduction to the history of such an organization. It made me think differently taking into consideration the study Jaber undertook into the dark corridors of Hezbollah when no one tried to go deep into their beliefs. Nowadays, with media coverage and the current affairs in the region, the Hezbollah movement became more known and more people got to discover their intentions and why they had

to fight for their rights in the way they did. I always believed they were freedom fighters, I could understand how someone is fighting for his own land, it is theirs and Israel was occupying it. Anyone who thinks that hezbollah is only labelled as a terrorist movement, definitely never felt the imprisonment in his own house and land....Imagine you can't have an orange from your garden that you yourself planted but not allowed to have a bite because your occupier is benefiting. The rise of Hezbollah as clarified by Hala Jaber gives different angles to how you can look at them, but at the same time she puts you on her track of thoughts to be able to see what she saw and what she endured. Maybe being a Lebanese made her more vulnerable to criticism from many other people who think that hezbollah are mass murderers, terrorists, fanatics and ignorant militias. That is just wrong and one can't just draw a line under such recognition just because one's background influences such beliefs. What I really respect about Jaber, is her writing her research in English just to make it possible for a western audience to take a glimpse at a part of the world she wanted to shed the lights on. A good critique is a criticism that tries to show the book in its literary worth and not based on the reader subjective points of views. It is ok for the reader to not agree with Jaber sometimes but in a constructive way not just for the sake of destroying this piece of work...

Wasn't exactly what I was hoping to read as the book was more into the history of Hezbollah rather than a description of the successful tactics that have paralysed the Israeli Army. However, it does uncover the most important element in Hezbollah's success, which made it vastly superior to any other Arab Army, and it can be summarised into one word "Motivation". The book kicked off with a story of a young boy named Mohammed, watching a video every evening, of a suicide bomber, crashing into a convoy of Israeli soldiers. The suicide bomber is his father.....

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