

Hizbullah and the Politics of Remembrance

Writing the Lebanese Nation

Born out of the Israeli occupation of the South of Lebanon, the political armed group Hizbullah is a powerful player within both Lebanon and the wider Middle East. Understanding how Hizbullah has, since the 1980s, developed its own reading of the nature of the Lebanese state, national identity, and historical narrative is central to grasping the political trajectory of the country. By examining the ideological production of Hizbullah, especially its underground newspaper *al-'Ahd*, Bashir Saade offers an account of the intellectual continuity between the early phases of Hizbullah's emergence onto the political stage and its present-day organization. Saade argues here that this early intellectual activity, involving an elaborate understanding of the past and history, had a long-lasting impact on later cultural production, one in which the notion and practice of resistance has been central in developing national imaginaries.

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Bashir Saade

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For Leo and Nour, who give meaning to all things.

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Acknowledgments

This book, based on seven years of research, has been a long time coming. Since then the world has changed, our region has definitely changed, and I have changed. Despite all these changes certain constants have remained, and they are at the heart of the concerns of this book.

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This study is a tribute to all those who dedicated their lives in their fight to regain their lands in South Lebanon. Even if it proposes to study critically the phenomenon that is Hizbullah it respects the core legacy it aimed to defend. In fact, I hope the ethics I try to follow to look at this phenomenon in the most transparent and academic way can attempt to match the ethics of those who decided to choose resistance.