



## Research Paper

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## The Zionist regime's strategic ties to the Republic of Cyprus and its risks to the resistance axis

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### Abstract

**Introduction:** Cyprus is one of the strategic points geographically adjacent to countries in West Asia, particularly the Levant sub-region. Located in the Eastern Mediterranean and neighboring Greece, Turkey, Syria, Lebanon, the occupied Palestinian territories, and Egypt, Cyprus has always been a focal point of contention among regional and international powers due to its geopolitical advantages. These advantages include controlling trade and transportation routes from Asia to Europe and Africa on one hand, and enhancing the influence of these powers on developments in neighboring regions on the other. In other words, Cyprus' strategic geographical position, proximity to the Malacca Strait-Suez Canal maritime route, deep and extensive interdependence with the security environment of its neighbors, possession of natural gas resources, suitability for intelligence-military operations in surrounding areas—especially the Levant—presence of British military-intelligence territories, its role as a hub for energy and communication routes, membership in the European Union, and its strong maritime services capacity have granted Cyprus a unique geopolitical status. Over the past century, British colonialism, through the occupation of Cyprus and later legalizing this occupation by annexing parts of Cyprus to its territorial domain, transformed the island into an intelligence-operational base for the West against regions such as West Asia, North Africa, the Balkans, the Black Sea, the Caucasus, and Central Asia. The intelligence and military utilization of Cyprus by Britain and the United States has also attracted the attention of Israel. Israel has sought to leverage Cyprus' geopolitical position and the military-intelligence presence of Britain and the United States on the island to enhance its flexibility and resilience, initially, and subsequently to establish regional order and counter the Islamic Republic of

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Iran. In this context, the Gaza war can be seen as a small-scale example of Israel's use of the Republic of Cyprus as its strategic depth. Cyprus, which previously played a significant role in Western military operations during the Cold War, the First Gulf War, the occupation of Afghanistan and Iraq, the Libyan war, the Syrian crisis, and intelligence operations such as British and American espionage on the former Syrian government, resistance forces, and their movements (especially Hezbollah in Lebanon) and the presence of Iranian advisory forces in the region, has also provided strategic services to Israel during the Gaza war in various dimensions. Therefore, this article aims to examine the risks posed by Israel's strategic relations with the Republic of Cyprus for the Resistance Axis, with an emphasis on the active role of Cyprus in the ongoing Israeli war against Gaza.

**Methodology:** The research methodology in this study is descriptive-explanatory in nature. The descriptive-explanatory approach aims to examine and convey complex ideas and information, analyze and synthesize data from various sources, and ultimately generate coherent text. Moreover, this study is applied-developmental in terms of its objective. Additionally, this study is qualitative in terms of its research methodology based on the nature of the data.

**Result and discussion:** The findings of the research show that the strategic relations between the Zionist regime and the Republic of Cyprus lead to an increase in the resilience and flexibility of the Zionist regime, as well as disrupting the process of Iran's presence in the region. These conditions have practically shown themselves during the Gaza war; So that during the Gaza war, Cyprus, in addition to supporting operations against the axis of resistance, providing war logistics and information needed from the axis of resistance, de-governance of the resistance in Gaza, creating a defense ring to protect the Zionist regime and creating a bridgehead for entering of manpower to occupied Palestine, has provided the conditions for the attack of the American-British coalition on Ansarullah in Yemen and the confrontation of the Zionist regime with the operation of the Islamic Republic of Iran's True Promise.

**Conclusion:** The Gaza war has multiple dimensions, offering valuable lessons for the Resistance Axis in its future confrontations with Israel and the West. One key aspect is Cyprus' role in the Western campaign against the Resistance Axis. Cyprus' geostrategic position is crucial for facilitating intelligence, military, and logistical operations for both Israel and the West in conflicts such as the Gaza and Lebanon wars, as well as broader

engagements with the Resistance Axis. Additionally, Cyprus plays a significant role in Israel's offensive and defensive planning for potential large-scale regional conflicts, further underscoring its importance in future war scenarios. Understanding Cyprus' geopolitical significance in the West-Israel-Resistance Axis confrontation during the Gaza war can enhance the effectiveness of counterstrategies against Israel. Cyprus' involvement in Gaza serves as a microcosm of its broader strategic contributions to deepening Israel's regional influence, shedding light on the implications of Israel-Cyprus relations and Cyprus' potential role in larger regional conflicts. For Iran and the Resistance Axis, recognizing this strategic picture is critical—especially given Israel's adversarial stance toward them and the ongoing gray-zone warfare, which escalated into direct military conflict following the events of October 7. Cyprus' role in strengthening Israel's strategic resilience, facilitated through its partnerships with Israel, Greece, select West Asian nations, and, on a broader scale, the U.S., U.K., and NATO, enhances Israel's military capabilities, adaptability, and regional endurance, thereby countering Iran's influence. Since any factor that bolsters Israel's power constitutes a security threat to both Iran and the Resistance Axis, Israel's strategic alliance with Cyprus—using the island as a strategic depth—poses a direct threat to Iran's national security. This partnership has both short-term and long-term security implications, spanning soft, semi-hard, and hard security dimensions. Given Israel's broader strategy in the Eastern Mediterranean—where Cyprus functions as a strategic depth to establish and expand regional order—it is imperative for Iran to closely monitor the security threats arising from Israel's alliance with Cyprus. This evolving dynamic necessitates adaptive policies and forward-thinking strategies from Iran and the Resistance Axis to effectively counter emerging security challenges.

**Keywords:** The Zionist regime; Republic of Cyprus; Axis of Resistance; Gaza War; Islamic Republic of Iran

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