

Spheres of influence in Lebanon conflict

While the battle between Israel and Shia militant group Hezbollah rages on the soil of Lebanon, powerful forces are working behind the scenes to achieve their own regional and global objectives, with Iran and the U.S. in particular confronting each other by proxy



EUROPEAN UNION

Key member, of "Quartet" for Middle East peace. Major arms supplier to region



UK: Involved in direct hostilities with Iranian-backed militia in Iraq

ISRAEL

Aims to crush Hezbollah in Lebanon



UNITED STATES

U.S. ambitions for stable, west-leaning regimes threatened by growing radicalisation in region. Wants Iranian influence – in Iraq as well as Lebanon – to suffer major setback

FRANCE

Retains former colonial links in region



IRAN: Financial and ideological power

behind Hezbollah. Nuclear ambitions and radical Islamic agenda endanger U.S. interests and pose existential threat to Israel



SYRIA

Forced out of Lebanon in 2005 by U.S. and France – but believed to have given green light for Hezbollah attacks. Technically still at war with Israel – seeks return of Golan Heights, occupied since 1967



Beirut

Damascus

GOLAN

WEST BANK

IRAQ

JORDAN

EGYPT

Fears crisis could spark domestic instability



SAUDI ARABIA

Blames Hezbollah for destruction of Saudi-financed reconstruction in Lebanon. Fearful of growing Iranian power in "Shiite crescent" from Lebanon to Saudi Arabia itself



Tel Aviv
Jerusalem
GAZA

