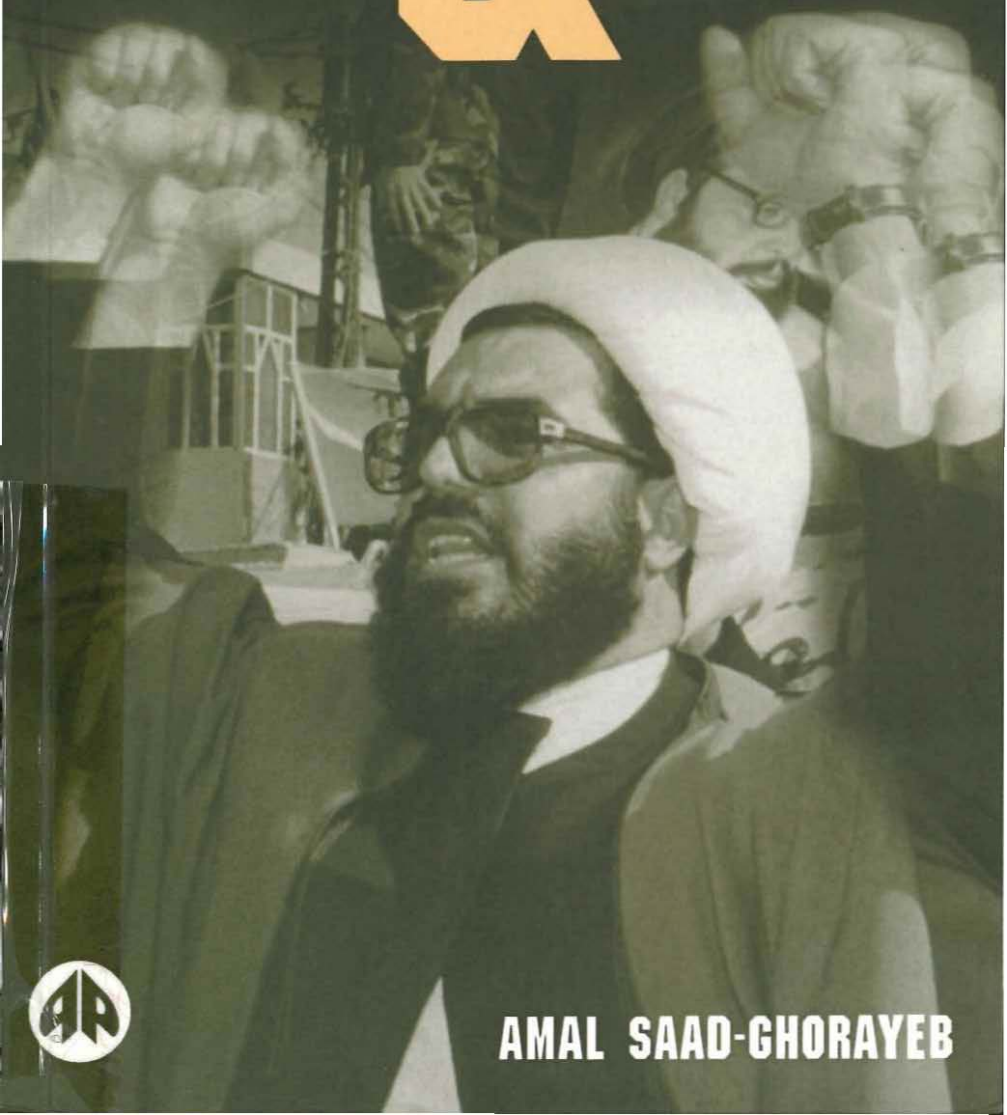


# HIZBU'LLAH

## POLITICS & RELIGION



AMAL SAAD-GHORAYEB

**Critical Studies on Islam**

Series editors: Azza Karam (Director of the Women's Programme at the World Conference on Religion and Peace, New York) and Ziauddin Sardar (Visiting Professor of Postcolonial Studies at City University, London)

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MPRECIO - ISEN - BIBLIOTECA
INVENTARIO: 090488
UBICACION:
AR/ISEN: L 11488
CDU: 3206.569.3
FECHA: 2015-07-22
PROCEDENCIA: Compra NREC 2014
PRECIO: US\$ 40,56

# Hizbu'llah

## Politics and Religion

Amal Saad-Ghorayeb

**PLUTO PRESS**  
www.plutobooks.com



First published 2002 by Pluto Press  
345 Archway Road, London N6 5AA and  
175 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10010

www.plutobooks.com

Distributed in the United States of America exclusively by  
Palgrave Macmillan, a division of St. Martin's Press LLC,  
175 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10010

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British Library Cataloguing in Publication Data  
A catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library

Library of Congress Cataloging in Publication Data  
Hizbullah : politics and religion / Amal Saad-Ghorayeb.  
p. cm. — (Critical studies on Islam)  
ISBN 0-7453-1793-6 (hard) — ISBN 0-7453-1792-8 (pbk.)  
1. Hizballah (Lebanon) 2. Islam and politics—Lebanon. 3.  
Shiites—Lebanon—Political activity. 4. Israel—Arab Border Conflicts,  
1949—Lebanon. I. Title. II. Series.  
BP194.L85 .S23 2001  
322.4'2'095692—dc21

2001002257

ISBN 978 0 7453 1792 2 paperback

To my father

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2

Designed and produced for Pluto Press by  
Chase Publishing Services, Sidmouth  
Typeset from disk by Stanford DTP Services, Northampton  
Printed and bound in the European Union by  
CPI Antony Rowe, Chippenham and Eastbourne

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## Critical Studies on Islam

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Islam is a complex, ambiguous term. Conventionally it has been used to describe religion, history, culture, civilisation and worldview of Muslims. But it is also impregnated with stereotypes and post-modern notions of identity and boundaries. The diversity of Muslim peoples, cultures, and interpretations, with their baggage of colonial history and post-colonial present, has transformed Islam into a powerful global force.

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# HIZBU'LLAH

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Hizbu'llah is the largest and most prominent political party in Lebanon, and one of the most renowned Islamist movements in the world. In this volume, Amal Saad-Ghorayeb examines the organisation's understanding of *jihad* and how this, together with its belief in martyrdom, brought about the withdrawal of Israeli occupation forces from Lebanese territory in May 2000.

Saad-Ghorayeb explores the nature of the party's struggle against the West by studying, among other issues, its views on the use of violence against Westerners. Crucially, she also addresses the question of whether Hizbu'llah depicts this struggle in purely political or civilisational terms. The existential nature of the movement's conflict with Israel is analysed and the Islamic roots of its anti-Judaism is unearthed. The author explores the mechanics and rationale behind the party's integration into the Lebanese political system, and sheds light on how it has reconciled its national identity with its solidarity with the Muslim *umma*.

**Amal Saad-Ghorayeb** is an Assistant Professor at the Lebanese American University.

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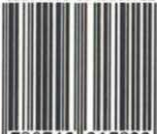
Cover photograph: by Issam Koubeissi,  
courtesy of *Intiqad* magazine

Cover design: mark-making design



**Pluto Press**  
www.plutobooks.com

ISBN 978-0745317922



90000 >



9 780745 317922

Printed in the UK