

Ahmadinejad in Lebanon: Day Two

Veni. Vidi. Vici. (Julius Caesar)

Ahmadinejad did more than go to the Israeli border. Beirut Online is [reporting](#) on 17 trade agreements signed between Lebanon and Iran.

Lebanon and Iran Wednesday signed 17 trade agreements in the economic, oil and energy fields, as visiting Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad said that Tehran is capable of solving the country's chronic electricity problems. ... Among the key agreements which were signed at the Presidential Palace was an energy accord between Energy and Water Minister Jibrán Bassil and Iranian Foreign Minister Manouchehr Mottaki. Details of the agreement were not disclosed during the signing ceremony, but Bassil has on previous occasions assured that Iran can help Lebanon build power plants at very competitive rates.

Bassil, who visited Iran four days ago, discussed the possibility of signing contracts to build one or two gas-operated power stations at reduced rates. Talking to reporters after a meeting with Iran's Energy Minister Majid Namjoo in Tehran, Bassil said that Iran was determined to help solve Lebanon's problems in the field of energy. He noted that his country was interested in using Iran's experience in all fields. Bassil announced a deal with Iran to set up a technical committee to review Lebanon's energy-sector shortfalls. "Iran can export electricity to Lebanon via Turkey and Syria," he said, adding that Lebanon boasted sizable water resources, but, that it had not been able to make optimal use of them.

Lebanon News [adds](#), "Lebanon and Iran signed 16 agreements and memoranda of understanding to develop bilateral relations and cooperation in the areas of agriculture, energy, oil and gas, trade and handicrafts, tourism, higher education, health, environment, media, communications, information technology and techniques. The agreements, however, did not include military aid to Lebanon. Ahmadinejad also gave Lebanon a gift of an Iranian-made technical device called "Nanoscope" designed to develop scientific and technical programs."

Now Lebanon gets to the [heart](#) of the matter. "During a Thursday rally at the Stadium of Bint Jbeil, Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad addressed the crowd, saying, "You proved that there is no power in the world that can defeat [the Lebanese] Resistance," referring to Hezbollah."

However, this is what Debka [had](#) to say about Ahmadinejad's visit to the Lebanon-Israel border.

1. He demonstrated that Tehran calls the shots in Beirut – not the lawful Lebanese government which is crumbling under Iranian pressure, not the divided Christian or Sunni Muslim communities and not even Syria. Every last Lebanese leader, including those who made a show of protesting his visit, paid homage to Ahmadinejad in Beirut and praised his "moderation."
2. The Iranian president's tour Thursday plants an Iranian flag on Israel's northern border with Lebanon and that's just for starters. The flag, already present in the Hamas-ruled Gaza Strip, is heading for the West Bank and eventually Jerusalem. Addressing tens of thousands of cheering Lebanese Shiites in the Hizballah stronghold of Dahya in Beirut Wednesday night, Ahmadinejad and his puppet, Hizballah leader Hassan Nasrallah, pledged to make Israel "disappear" and declared nothing and no one can stop this happening. How and when is up to Tehran.
3. He also announced the formation of a new Islamic bloc, a revival of the old Eastern Front, composed of Iran, Syria, Turkey, the Palestinians, Lebanon and **Iraq** (Emphasis

added.) It would be dedicated to fighting not only Israel but also America. (This also creates the Shiite Crescent that King Abdullah II of Jordan warned about in 2004.) For the Iranian ruler, Israel is small change compared with the task of destroying America's Middle East presence and usurping its big power role. In the course of his triumphal tour of Beirut, an abject Iraqi Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki came to Syrian president Bashar Assad cap in hand to beg for him to intercede with his Iranian ally for support.

4. Ahmadinejad gave the entire Arab Middle East an object lesson in how much ground the Islamic Republic and its president are capable of swallowing up – even without a nuclear weapon. They were warned by the way Lebanon fell at his feet that they stood no chance against their new hegemon as a nuclear power.

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Debkafile's sources find a strong, unfortunate analogy between Israeli passivity today and British appeasement on the eve of World War II: the British prime minister Neville Chamberlain went down in history for signing away the Sudetenland region of Czechoslovakia to Nazi Germany at Munich in 1938, opening the door to Germany's conquest of Europe and the war, and the Netanyahu government's silence as power-hungry Iran annexes Lebanon on its doorstep.

Analysis. I was wrong. I truly believed that Israel would rid itself of the leader of its main enemy. Here I must agree with Debka's interpretation of events. George Santayana has admonished us that if we fail to know our history then we are bound to repeat it meaning making the same mistakes over again. The parallels between the rise of Nazi Germany before World War Two and the rise of Iran are there if you are willing to look and see. Both ideologies had as the basis of their beliefs a supremacy over all others because of a particular belief. Hitler and the Nazis believed in the superiority of the Aryan "master race". The Iranian mullahocracy believes in the superiority of Twelver Shiite Islam and the return of their messiah: the Mahdi.

Both nations created dual military systems. Hitler had the Waffen SS as a parallel to the Army. Ahmadinejad has the Revolutionary Guards Corps as the parallel to the regular Iranian armed forces. Both systems enforce ideological purity. Both severely penalize ideological deviation. Hitler put his political prisoners in concentration camps. Iran puts its political prisoners in Evin Prison and other such institutions.

Both systems point to the same end: expand or die. Nazi Germany ended in a funeral pyre that destroyed Europe from the Atlantic to the Urals. The destruction of theocratic Iran will burn the Middle East from the beaches of Beirut to, if we are lucky, the eastern border of Iran. If we are unlucky, this mess will spread to the western tip of the Aleutians as other festering conflicts piggy back on the mess in the Middle East and the United States focus on that conflict. *Si vis pacem, para bellum.*