Abstract

Since the attacks on 9/11, the intensive use of the “Islamism” concept by media and political leaders has lead to a simplistic and illusive way of categorizing some very different social phenomena throughout the world as “terrorism”. In this context, Lebanese Hizbullah -although Shiite and fiercely opposed to Al-Qaeda- has acquired a special statute from the U.S. Secretary of State, from 2002 onwards, as the principal terrorist threat. We propose here a specific research on the “Party of God”. This longitudinal study, tracking the evolution of this militia movement which has become a political party, tries to look deeper into this “social fact” and to locate it amongst the wide spectrum of political Islam[s]. We synthesize here the several phases of ideological maturation which it went through since its emersion and we recall the structural evolution of this political party characterized above all by its project of “resistant society”. Each of these two aspects (ideology and structure) lifts the veil on the bilateral interactions which occurred, as time went on, between religion and politics within Hizbullah, but shows mostly the polymorph submission of both elements to the unswerving cause of resistance against Israel. The resolutely new element which we bring to the specialized scientific literature is an interpretative grid of the global course through the Shiite community in Lebanon. This grid is based on the -initially psychological- concept of “resilience” and proposes its transposition in the socio-political field. The analysis which proceeds from it brings the “resilient ideology” and the “resilient structure” in line as Hizbullah developed them progressively in a strategic optic.