

History Has Seen This Before

Iran — 1979

The Shah was opposed by:

- ✓ Islamists
- ✓ Marxists
- ✓ Student organizations
- ✓ Nationalists
- ✓ Liberal reformers

Each envisioned a different future.

Yet they united around one objective:

Remove the Shah.

After Ayatollah Khomeini consolidated power, many secular and leftist organizations that had participated in the revolution were imprisoned, exiled, or executed as the new Islamic Republic eliminated competing centers of power.

History demonstrates that tactical allies often become rivals once power changes hands.

Do We See Similar Coalition Politics Today?

Some political analysts use the term "**Red-Green Alliance**" to describe tactical cooperation between parts of the revolutionary left ("**red**") and Islamist political movements ("**green**") around shared political causes.

Examples of organizations that have appeared in overlapping coalitions at demonstrations or campaigns include:

- DSA chapters
- PSL
- FRSO
- Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP)
- Palestinian solidarity organizations
- Muslim advocacy organizations

These organizations often have different long-term goals.

What they sometimes share is a common political objective.

Whether these coalitions are temporary or enduring remains a subject of political debate.



VERIFY IT YOURSELF

This pamphlet is intended as an introduction—not the final word.

Every major claim made here is drawn from publicly available primary sources, organizational publications, government documents, and historical scholarship.

Read them yourself.

Draw your own conclusions.

PRIMARY SOURCES

Democratic Socialists of America

- National Political Program
- Convention Resolutions
- Platform on Palestine

Hamas

- 1988 Charter
- 2017 Principles and Policies Document

Muslim Brotherhood

- Historical documents
- Academic histories

Hezbollah

- Official Manifesto
- Congressional Research Service reports

Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC)

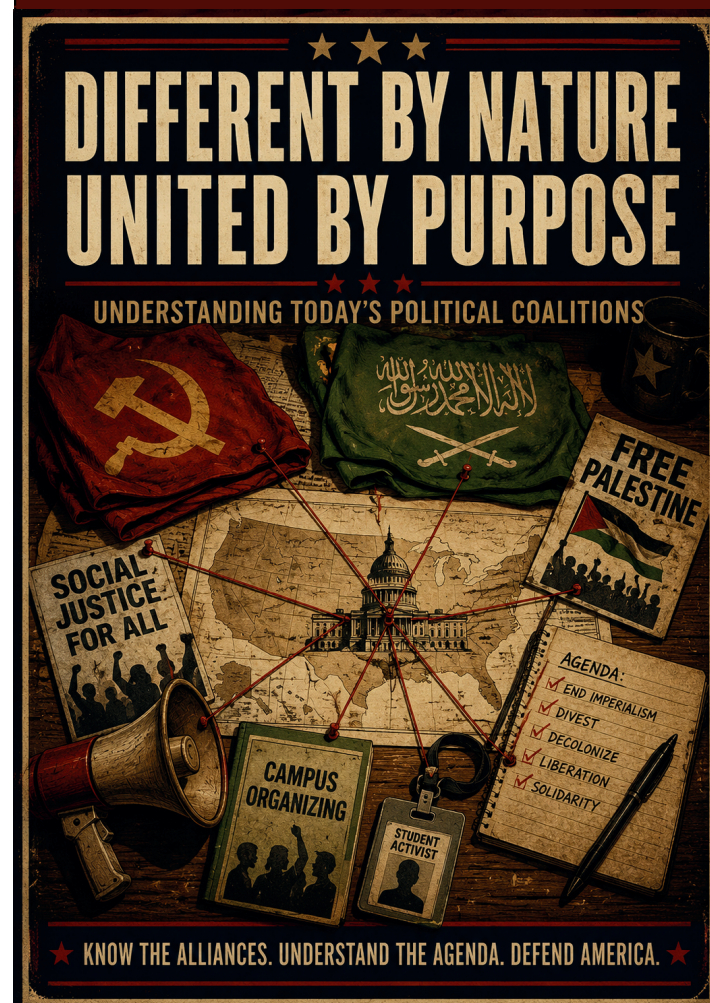
- U.S. Treasury sanctions
- U.S. State Department reports
- Congressional Research Service

Iranian Revolution

- Ervand Abrahamian — Iran Between Two Revolutions
- Ervand Abrahamian — A History of Modern Iran
- Ray Takeyh — The Last Shah
- Abbas Milani — The Shah

Coalition Politics

- DSA National Platform
- PSL Statements
- FRSO publications
- Students for Justice in Palestine materials
- Academic literature on political coalition building



RECOGNIZING THE PATTERNS OF POLITICAL EXTREMISM

America Understands One Form of Extremism...

For decades Americans have been taught to recognize the dangers of fascism, Nazism, and white supremacy.

Far fewer have been taught about revolutionary Marxism, Islamist political movements, or how groups with very different worldviews sometimes cooperate around shared political objectives.

This pamphlet is not about telling you what to think.

It is about providing historical context so you can better understand today's political landscape.



Politics Is More Than Left vs. Right

Most people picture politics as a straight line.

LEFT ← CENTER → RIGHT

History paints a different picture.

Political movements frequently build tactical alliances—temporary partnerships between organizations that may disagree on religion, economics, or government but cooperate because they share an immediate political objective. These alliances are not built on friendship. They are built on strategy.

Understanding the Players

Revolutionary Socialist Organizations ("Red")

Unlike mainstream liberals or Democrats, revolutionary socialist organizations generally seek fundamental structural changes to America's political and economic system.

Democratic Socialists of America (DSA)

The DSA is the largest democratic socialist organization in the United States.

Its current national political program includes proposals such as:

- Abolishing the United States Senate.
- Abolishing the Electoral College.
- Replacing the presidency and Supreme Court with institutions accountable to Congress.
- Expanding public or social ownership of major sectors of the economy.
- Making Palestinian liberation ("Free Palestine") a central foreign policy priority while ending U.S. military aid to Israel.

Supporters argue these reforms would create a more democratic and equitable society.

Critics argue they would concentrate greater political and economic power in government institutions and fundamentally reshape America's constitutional system.

Why it appears in this pamphlet:

The DSA is not an Islamist organization.

It is included because its domestic revolutionary program and Palestinian activism illustrate how organizations with very different ideological foundations can participate in overlapping political coalitions.

Other Revolutionary Organizations

Examples include:

- Party for Socialism and Liberation (PSL)
- Freedom Road Socialist Organization (FRSO)

These organizations advocate revolutionary socialist political change and frequently participate in Palestine-centered activism through an anti-imperialist framework.

Islamist Political Movements ("Green")

Islamism is not Islam.

Islam is one of the world's largest religions. *Islamism* is a political ideology that seeks to organize government and society according to a particular interpretation of Islam.

Examples include:

Muslim Brotherhood

Founded in Egypt in 1928.

An influential Islamist movement whose ideas have inspired later organizations throughout the Middle East.

Hamas

Founded in 1987 as the Palestinian branch of the Muslim Brotherhood.

Combines Palestinian nationalism with Islamist ideology.

Hezbollah

Lebanese Islamist movement supported by Iran.

Functions as both an armed organization and political party.

Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC)

An Iranian military organization responsible for protecting the Islamic Republic.

Provides support to regional proxy organizations, including Hezbollah.

These organizations do not share the same long-term vision as revolutionary socialist organizations.

Why Would They Cooperate?

Political coalitions do not require identical beliefs.

They require shared objectives.

Examples of common themes include:

- Opposition to American foreign policy.
- Opposition to Israel.
- Anti-imperialist narratives.
- Anti-colonial narratives.
- Mobilization around Palestine.

Agreement on one issue does not require agreement on everything else.

