

# Safavids Scaring Sunnis With Their Imperium

[Here.](#)

But the Iranian effort in Syria is costing it billions. And in Yemen, the Houthis are swimming in a Sunni sea, and that's before the Saudis and GCC troops arrive. In Iraq, the Shi'a militia have trouble taking even depopulated Tikrit. In Lebanon, Hezbollah has alienated Sunnis and most Christians (but not the Hezbollah ally General Aoun), and even some fellow Shi'a. Syria, Iraq, Lebanon, and Yemen can be looked at one way as the enlargement of a nascent Persian Empire. But looked at another, these are tarbabies to which the Iranians, with their domestic economy collapsing, have become permanently stuck.