

Lebanon Fire And Embers A History Of The Lebanese Civil War

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seminar paper from the year 2001 in the subject politics region near east near orient grade very good university
of wyoming department of political science course politics and government of the middle east language english
abstract the war in lebanon was the result of several highly connected internal and external conditions that
have been in the making for a long time causal forces rooted in the existing social and political structures of the
country while contributing forces aggravated the internal conflicts and set the process of confrontation into

motion triggered a set of events already in the making that awaited only the proper time and place regarding this quoted statement the purpose of our paper is to show the reasons that led to the civil war in lebanon from 1975 till 1990 usually four causes can be found throughout the literature we used for this paper the social context within lebanon itself namely the unbalanced sectarian or confessional system and socioeconomic problems namely the united states israel and syria this paper mainly deals with the causes expressed above we do not want to describe the war itself in all its details or provide a historical chronology instead discussion of the war will be restricted to the description of landmark events however the named causes worked together in waging the civil war one cannot separate them from one another mutual interactions took place between them leading to bloodshed and hatred the lebanese people needed almost five decades to settle down these causes from which almost all were already present since the independence in 1943 the first attempt to resolve some of the problems with the national pact of 1943 did not last long before the second civil war broke out in 1958 the latest peace agreement the taif accord from 1990 reviewed most of the causes trying to adopt political measures to prevent another outbreak of violence still the accord did not get rid of the sectarian problem so far this paper will not deal with these events in great details references will be made according to their importance for the topic in this regard we try to answer not only the questions of the causes but also how they interrelated and how they contributed to the escalation of the situation in lebanon our paper describes first the social context starting with the unbalanced confessional system followed by the socioeconomic problems afterwards we want to write down how the palestine issue contributed to the civil war and how the external actors usa syria and israel caused more and more troubles which led to the extent of the conflict

in this illustrated work zeina maasri tells the tumultuous story of the struggle for lebanon through the poster wars which raged on its streets from 1975 to 1990 different factions in lebanon s civil conflict flooded the streets with posters to mobilize their constituencies undermine their enemies and create public sympathy for their cause showcased here for the first time the posters display a dramatic clash of cultures ideologies and meanings maasri shows how the iconography of the posters changed over time and links this to changing political identities and communities as the war progressed she looks at the aesthetic influences of different groups from modern arab visual culture to as far afield as latin america and revolutionary iran she urges a radical rethink of the idea and function of political posters in civil war contexts too often dismissed as mere propaganda arguing instead that they should be seen as symbolic sites of struggle every bit as fiercely

women have consistently been left out of the official writing of lebanese history and nowhere is this more obvious than in writing on the lebanese civil war as more and more histories of the war begin to circulate few include any in depth discussion of the multiple roles women played in wartime lebanon fewer still address the essential issues of women s work and their creative production such as literature performance art and filmmaking developed out of a larger oral history project collecting and archiving the ways in which women narrated their experiences of the lebanese civil war this book focuses on a wide range of subjects all framed as women telling their war stories each of the six chapters centers on women who worked or created art during the war revealing in their own words the challenges struggles and resistance they faced during this tumultuous period of lebanese history

this book challenges the assumption that men write of war women of the hearth the lebanese war has seen the publication of many more works of fiction by women than by men miriam cooke has termed these women the beirut decentrists as they are decentered or excluded from both literary canon and social discourse although they may not share religious or political affiliation they do share a perspective which holds them together cooke traces the transformation in consciousness that has taken place among women who observed and recorded the progress towards chaos in lebanon during the so called two year war of 1975 76 little comment was made about those usually men in search of economic security who left the saturnalia of violence but with time attitudes changed women became aware that they had remained out of a sense of responsibility for others and that they had survived consciousness of survival was catalytic the beirut decentrists began to describe a society that had gone beyond the masculinization normal in most wars and achieved an almost unprecedented feminization emigration the expected behavior for men before 1975 became the sin qua non for lebanese citizenship the writings of the beirut decentrists offer hope of an escape from the anarchy if men and women could espouse the lebanese women s sense of responsibility the energy that had fueled the unrelenting savagery could be turned to reconstruction but that was before the invasion of 1982

when civil conflicts break out in plural societies violence often occurs along group divides running the risk of spiraling into ethnic cleansing yet for militants who do not seek ethnic separation as a political goal indiscriminate attacks are detrimental to their cause under what circumstances are such combatants more or less likely to commit ethnic violence nils hägerdal examines the lebanese civil war to offer a new theory that highlights the interplay of ethnicity and intelligence gathering he shows that when militias can obtain reliable

intelligence particularly in demographically intermixed areas where information can cross ethnic boundaries they are likely to refrain from indiscriminate tactics access to local intelligence helps armed groups distinguish between neutral and hostile non coethnics to target individual opponents while leaving civilians in peace conversely when militias struggle to access local information they often fall back on ethnicity as a proxy for political allegiance with bloody consequences as intelligence capabilities shape the course of sectarian strife the role of ethnicity can vary even within a particular conflict hägerdal conducted sixteen months of fieldwork in lebanon interviewing former militia fighters and commanders and collecting novel statistical evidence he combines documentation by government agencies ngos local news media and the united nations with firsthand narratives by participants to provide an unparalleled account of the processes that generate violence or coexistence when a diverse society descends into armed conflict theoretically innovative and descriptively rich friend or foe sheds new light on the logic and dynamics of ethnic violence in civil wars

sune haugbolle s often poignant book chronicles the battle over ideas that emerged from the wreckage of the lebanese civil war

this is my story as a child of 9 years old being born in beirut and living the civil war of 1975 even though i do not enjoy this memory i am writing this to express my bad experience in such a turmoil in my life my father worked for an american company ncr national cash register and my mother was a housewife at that time in lebanon few women worked it was the responsibility of a man to provide a living to his family we lived in achrafieh an upper district of beirut and our french school was just opposite our home going to school was crossing the road we used to wave to my mother on recess time from the school playground shortly after the war started and the reason was as we know it was one political faction shooting on another political faction at least that is what we were informed of this book is not involved in politics nor does the writer have any say in politics this book will only describe the experiences of the child myself during this period until our exodus out of the country we were lucky as my father managed to secure a job overseas due to the fact that he worked for a multinational company my cousins were not so fortunate and we re trapped in there

the lebanese civil war was a multifaceted civil war in lebanon lasting from 1975 to 1990 and resulting in an estimated 120 000 fatalities as of 2012 approximately 76 000 people remain displaced within lebanon there was also an exodus of almost one million people from lebanon as a result of the war this is my story as a kid hope

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this volume edited by leyla dakhli and klaus wieland is an overview of the cultural memory of the lebanese civil war as it has emerged and evolved over the last 30 years these narratives represent a counter memory to the non existent national memory undesired by lebanon s political class in 1991 the amnesty law g84 91 was enacted granting state power impunity for all war crimes including crimes against humanity the general amnesty entailed partial amnesia the war was to be officially forgotten and yet since the 1990s nongovernmental organizations archives activists publicists visual artists filmmakers and writers have produced an impressive alternative culture of remembrance of the lebanese civil war which is revisited and analyzed in this book contributors represent a multi disciplinary mix with perspectives from area studies history social science literary studies trauma and memory and peace and conflict studies

this book analyses the reasons for women s participation in the various lebanese and palestinian militias involved in the lebanese civil war 1975 1990 whilst most existing accounts of the civil war in lebanon either overlook the roles and experiences of women entirely or focus on women as victims or peacemakers only women and the lebanese civil war highlights that women were involved as militants and often also as fighters in all of the militias partaking in the war analysing individual motivations organisational characteristics security related aspects and societal factors the book explains why women were included as fighters in some of the militias but not in others based on extensive fieldwork in lebanon the book is the first comprehensive study of female perpetrators and supporters of political violence during the lebanese civil war beyond the case of lebanon it questions widespread assumptions about the roles of women at times of violent conflict and war

addressing one of the most pressing issues of the lebanese civil war 1975 1990 that is still unresolved almost 30 years later this book adopts a political sociological and anthropological approach to look at periods of transition from conflict to peace in lebanon inducing a set of questions about the social and political system the post conflict state has been pushing for a politics of amnesty and amnesia the case study delves into the notion of transition from conflict to peace in lebanon by looking in the case of the estimated 17 000 people who disappeared during the civil war using the concept of liminality to understand the evolution of the issue over the years the book follows the trajectory of the relatives of the missing who have formed a *communitas* a group

sharing strong feelings of comradeship and brother sisterhood by virtue of finding themselves in the same situation offering a novel way of looking at transitions the book is a significant contribution to peace studies and it will be an interest of students and academics working in human rights political science and the middle east disciplines

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