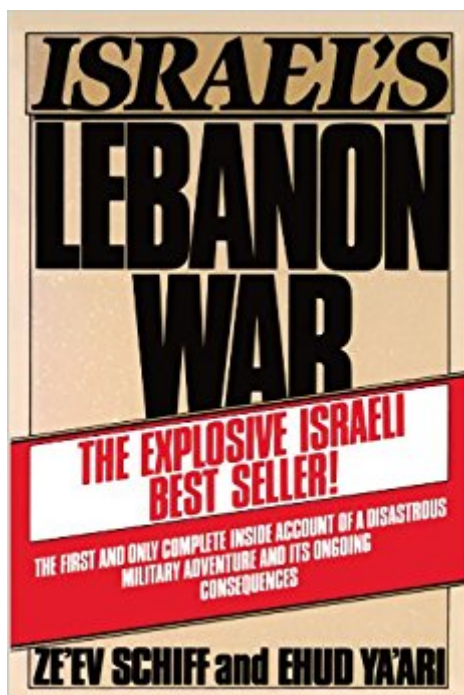


The book was found

Israel's Lebanon War



Synopsis

Despite the fact that the two authors are journalists, the book is accurate and credible enough to be used as academic reference. The book covers mainly the Israeli point of view, but its scope is wide and provides insight into the intricate workings and components of the Lebanese-Israeli-Palestinian interactions, as well as the internal aspects of Lebanese and Israeli politics relevant to the issues discussed. The book provides a most interesting and readable coverage of the Israeli military operation, and the behind the scenes planning and intrigue of this operation. Notable is the coverage of the deception used by the Israeli Minister of Defense, Ariel Sharon and Chief of Staff, Rafael Eitan in order to pull the wool over the eyes of the Israeli Prime Minister, Knesset and public. Quite astounding, considering the fact that these events took place in a democratic country. This book is a must for anyone who seeks to understand or research the subject.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Text: English, Hebrew (translation) --This text refers to an alternate Paperback edition.

I was pleasantly surprised what a good study of Israel war with Lebanon in 1982 I had purchased in this instant history book. Although I do not agree with all of the books conclusions it does appear that as all too common in this region (and many others) that Israel went into this war without due diligence. Everyone in the Israeli leadership had their own goals and aims. Many did not realise that they were going to war. So Israel went into the conflict without a plan how to fight. This probably costed them many troops lives. On the Lebanese side, it appears the Phalangist desperate to

remain in power made promises that they never intended or could deliver. I found it strange that never did Israel top leadership ask experts who I am sure they had many, to review the situation there for them first. Once Israel was in Lebanon, it found itself without any major ally. Condemned by almost everyone with little reason to remain. Israel did achieve some major goals out of the conflict such as badly bruising Syria and destroying the Palestinian military as a force in Lebanon. However Israel decision to go into Lebanon did come at a huge cost. It costed Israel the lives of many of its troops, was economically expensive and costed them much in goodwill. Later Israel refusal to leave Lebanon resulted in the growth of the Hezbollah. To anyone interested on a study of how military strong states fail to achieve limited objectives when they use military force against vastly weaker targets will find this book useful.

This book helps understand the background of what happened during this time period in the Middle East.

Great

This bestseller book serves two purposes. On the one hand, it documents one of the biggest military adventures in the Middle East while on the other hand, it is a lesson for Western leaders who intend to use military might to change political realities in the region. According to the book, this military adventure consumed itself and its engineer then Defense Minister Ariel Sharon, who circumvented Israel's democracy by withholding information about his true plan of invasion from Israeli politicians then unsuccessfully meddling in Lebanese internal politics. The book is a survey of rapidly unfolding military events and a deep analysis into their immediate political consequences. Since the book was published shortly after the Israeli invasion of Lebanon in 1982, the authors should consider publishing an updated version that should cover the period of Israeli occupation thereafter and the consequent withdrawal in 2000. The authors display mastery in understanding the mosaic picture of Lebanese politics. They also succeed in painting an accurate portrayal of Sharon, the General/politician who always called for a military solution for the Middle East's conflict. This, however, proved to be much more complicated than to be solved in an Israeli blitzkrieg strike against Lebanon in 1982. The book also sheds a light on the determined and shrewd personality of late Syrian dictator Hafez Assad who succeeded, as in most complicated issues that faced him, in prevailing victoriously. Assad simply displayed more skill in understanding Arab politics than his Israeli counter parts, a fact whose end result was the complete Syrian domination of Lebanon, more

than two decades after Israel's Lebanon war. American policy makers behind the liberation of Iraq should read this book in order to refresh their memory on Arab politics and remind themselves of the magnitude of regional intervention of neighboring Arab countries in Iraq affairs.

Without doubt this is the definite account of the 1982 war in Lebanon, although the reader who is more interested in the military aspects of the campaign should read also Samuel Katz's excellent "Israeli Tank Battles". The authors give plenty of information regarding the dark motives of the Israeli policy in Lebanon, the alliance with the Christian Maronites and the complex games played by Ariel Sharon (Defense Minister of Israel) and Bashir Gemayel. The most astonishing fact in the book is the way that one minister (Sharon) dragged a government and a whole nation in a war adventure without telling the truth and not explaining his objectives from the beginning. The campaign of 1982 never was intended to go far beyond the Litani river, but eventually the IDF reached Beirut and put it under siege for months! Also, the clash with the Syrians in the Bekaa valley was Sharon's choice and the Israeli cabinet was forced to accept it! The terrible massacres of Shabra and Shatila are also covered in many pages and in great detail. I wish the authors had devoted some more pages to the military events, such as the brilliant victory of the Israel Air Force above the Bekaa.

Superbly written account of how Israel became mired in the Lebanese civil war. The Israeli people were essentially misled and lied to (sound familiar?) by its government, which itself was duped by the Lebanese leadership under Bashir Gemayel. Ariel Sharon was bound and determined to invade Lebanon to drive out the PLO, and any dissenters were quickly dismissed. After Bashir Gemayel was assassinated, everything started to fall apart, starting with the international outcry following the massacre at the Sabra and Shatila refugee camps. Excellent detail of the underlying politics and the series of missteps, lies, miscalculations and misjudgments committed by Israel before and during the conflict.

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