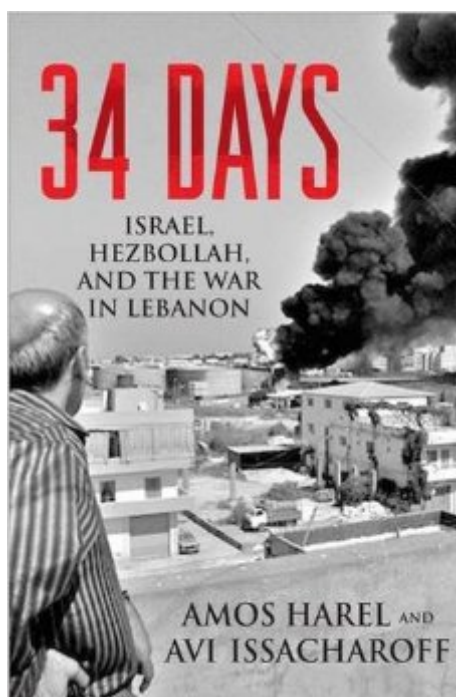


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34 Days: Israel, Hezbollah, And The War In Lebanon



Synopsis

This is the first comprehensive account of the progression of the Second Lebanese War, from the border abduction of an Israeli soldier on the morning of July 12, 2006, through the hasty decision for an aggressive response; the fateful discussions in the Cabinet and the senior Israeli command; to the heavy fighting in south Lebanon and the raging diplomatic battles in Paris, Washington and New York. The book answers the following questions: has Israel learned the right lessons from this failed military confrontation? What can Western countries learn from the IDF's failure against a fundamentalist Islamic terror organization? And what role did Iran and Syria play in this affair? 34 Days delivers the first blow-by-blow account of the Lebanon war and new insights for the future of the region and its effects on the West.

Book Information

Hardcover: 304 pages

Publisher: Palgrave Macmillan; First Edition, 1st Printing edition (April 29, 2008)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0230604005

ISBN-13: 978-0230604001

Product Dimensions: 6.6 x 1.2 x 9.1 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.1 pounds

Average Customer Review: 4.0 out of 5 stars See all reviews (10 customer reviews)

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Customer Reviews

I've been looking for a general overview of the 2nd Israel-Lebanese war and this book delivered. The authors are Israeli, but they do a good job of maintaining a distanced, neutral perspective and stick to a plain accounting of events without deep commentary. A good starting off point for learning about the conflict and understanding the central themes and events of the war like the initial Hezbollah raid and kidnapping, the incident at Bint Jbeil, the bombing of northern Israel, and Olmert's fateful late ground war.

Trace the commander of this organization and the many operations that were conducted against

israel by this terrorist organization. One interesting part is the infighting conducted by the organization on how to set its goals out and who is the major leader in this organization.

A really fascinating account of the 2006 war. A real page turner. This is really a topic that hasn't been covered much outside of Israel. The authors did a great job of turning this page in Israeli history into a fluid, fascinating story. I think often about parts of the book, where mistakes were made and consequences suffered by the Israeli army. The authors used great quotes to move the story along and drew from the actual government report on the war extremely well. I highly recommend the book.

Like: the depictions of the decision-making level in the Israeli government and IDF/IAF. Like: the critique of the failed Westmoreland-esque "Search and Destroy" operational methods. Dislike: poorly bound. Book fell apart. Dislike: absolutely no maps or charts. Dislike: the Disinformation especially in terms relating to geography and placenames. There is no village of "Randoria" (did they mean Ghandoriya astride Wadi Hujeir aka Wadi Saluki?). There is no town of Jabal Amil. That is the name of an entire areal district. No maps. Go and print out your own from the internet. Other than all that: good. Balance it out by studying other books. I have been studying this 34 day war for years. The book helps.

This conflict has clearly put a dent in the legend of the IDF's fighting prowess. This book chronicles the frequent missteps by the Israeli government and the IDF high command in the "Second Lebanon War" on the diplomatic and tactical levels. While some of these mistakes can easily be put down to "the fog of war", others can only be described as negligence; especially in regards to the ignorance of the state of the IDF's ground forces by Defense Minister Peretz (no clue), Prime Minister Olmert (also no clue), and IDF Chief of Staff Halutz (not interested in getting a clue). The initial airstrikes mounted by the IAF successfully took out Hezbollah's medium range missiles. Hezbollah was politically "on the ropes" in Lebanon and was under intense pressure to disarm. However the Israeli government gave up its high ground with the 2nd Qana massacre and its inability to decide on the actual goals of its military campaign. This dithering resulted in wasteful operations against Hezbollah that did little real damage and squandered the lives of IDF servicemen (and 1 woman) in order to achieve objectives that sometimes merely symbolic. This account is also reminiscent of the book "Israel's Lebanon War" in that the Israeli cabinet appears to be willfully ignorant of the military operations that it authorizes. This book focuses

primarily on the political and diplomatic aspects of the war. Many of the military references are vague. Despite this, the book still gives a clear picture of a great opportunity that was lost by people who should have known better.

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