

Handout 11: Abridged Timelines

Session: Chronology

[BBC Website](#) (March / April 2009) Abridged Lebanon War Timeline

1975

April - Phalangist gunmen ambush a bus in the Ayn-al-Rummanah district of Beirut, killing 27 of its mainly Palestinian passengers. The Phalangists claim that guerrillas had previously attacked a church in the same district. These clashes start the civil war.

1976

June - Syrian troops enter Lebanon to restore peace but also to curb the Palestinians, thousands of whom are killed in a siege of the Tel al-Zaatar camp by Syrian-allied Christian militias in Beirut.

October: Arab states approve of the Syrian presence as an Arab Deterrent Force in October.

1978

March - In reprisal for a Palestinian attack, Israel launches a major invasion of southern Lebanon.

April - Israel withdraws from all but a narrow border strip, which it hands over not to the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) but to its proxy South Lebanon Army mainly Christian militia.

1982

June - Following the attempted assassination of the Israeli ambassador to Britain by a Palestinian splinter group, Israel launches a full-scale invasion of Lebanon.

September 14 - Pro-Israeli president-elect Bachir Gemayel is assassinated and Israel occupies West Beirut

September 17-18 - Phalangist militia kills thousands of Palestinians in the Sabra and Shatila camps.

September 21 - Bachir's elder brother Amine is elected president.

September 24 - Mainly US, French and Italian peacekeeping force arrives in Beirut.

1983

April: Suicide attack on US embassy kills 63 people

October - Suicide attack on the headquarters of the peacekeepers kills 241 US and 58 French troops.

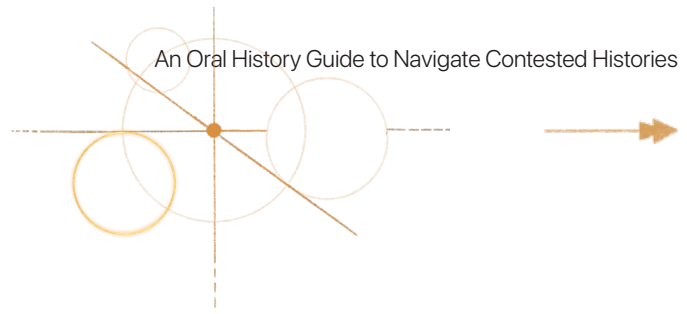
1984

US troops withdraw.

1985

Most Israeli troops withdraw from the SLA "security zone" in the south.





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1988

Outgoing President Amine Gemayel appoints an interim military government under Maronite Commander-in-Chief Michel Aoun in East Beirut when presidential elections fail to produce a successor. Prime Minister Selim el-Hoss forms a mainly Muslim rival administration in West Beirut.

1989

Parliament meets in Taif, Saudi Arabia, to endorse a Charter of "National Reconciliation" transferring much of the authority of the president to the cabinet and boosting the number of Muslim MPs.

1990

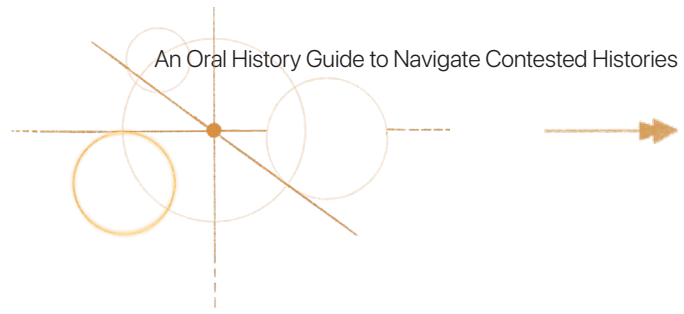
October - The Syrian air force attacks the Presidential Palace at Baabda and Aoun flees.

1991

July - The Lebanese army defeats the PLO and takes over the southern port of Sidon.

August - The National Assembly orders the dissolution of all militias, except for the powerful Shia group Hezbollah. The South Lebanon Army (SLA) refuses to disband.





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[AUB Libraries](#)

Abridged Lebanon War Timeline

1975

February 26: Assassination of Maaruf Saad in Saida, while he was leading a protest against plans to privatize the fishing sector in Lebanon.

April 13: Ain-al-Rumannah incident. A bus carrying Lebanese and Palestinian civilians was attacked. 27 passengers were killed and 19 wounded. This was claimed as a retaliation to an earlier attack on a church in the same area.

October 24: Battle of the Hotels that lasted several months. These street battles started in Beirut defining demarcation lines which, divided the city into East and West sides.

December 6: Black Saturday, sectarian violence spread. By the end of the day, at least 300 Muslims and 300 Christians killed on arbitrary roadblocks.

1976

January 5–August 12: Siege of Tal al-Zaatar Palestinian camp by the Lebanese Front. Thousands of Palestinians died in the siege and its aftermath.

January 18: Karantina Massacre: The “Guardians of the Cedars”, the Phalangist and the Tigers Militias took control of the Karantina district. Hundreds of Palestinians were killed and the inhabitants fled before the shantytown was burned and bulldozed.

January 20: Damour Massacre: Palestinian guerrillas and the National Movement attacked and destroyed the Christian populated town of Damour south of Beirut. Hundreds of people were killed and thousands were displaced.

June–Oct: Syrian intervention stops the vast military gains of Palestinian guerrillas and the Muslim forces against Christian militias. Formation of the Syrian-dominated Arab Deterrent Force (ADF).

1977

March 16: Assassination of Kamal Joumblatt, leader of the National Movement.

March 17–19: Massacres against Christian civilians in the Chouf villages of Barouk, Botmeh, Kfarnabrakh, Mazraat el-Chouf, Maasser el-Chouf, Machghara and Brih, in reaction to the assassination of Joumblatt.

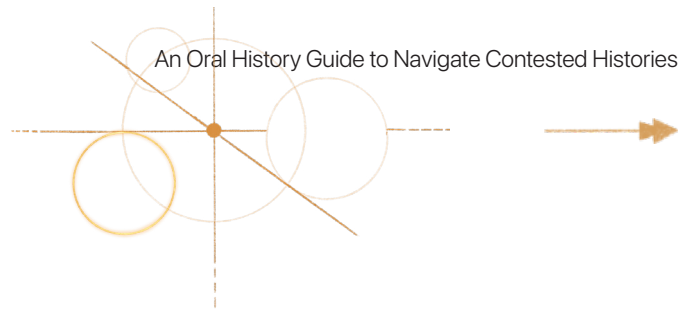
1978

March 14–15: Israel invades South Lebanon claiming retaliation for a PLO fighters attack into its territory.

March 19: United Nations Security Council Resolution 425, which calls on Israel to withdraw from Lebanese territory and creates a 6,000-man peacekeeping force called UNIFIL. Israel withdraws and passes control of the land to its proxy army, the pro-Christian South Lebanon Army (SLA).

June 13: Massacre of Ehden by a Phalangist commando, killing Tony Frangieh and his family members and bodyguards.





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1982

June 6: Israeli invasion: Israel invades Lebanon and reaches the southern suburbs of Beirut.

August 23: Bashir Gemayel elected president of Lebanon.

August 24: A multinational force of U.S. Marines, French paratroopers and Italian soldiers lands in Beirut to assist in the evacuation of the Palestine Liberation Organization fighters.

August 30: PLO forces evacuate Lebanon, under the supervision of US-French-Italian forces.

September 14: Lebanese President-Elect Bashir Gemayel is assassinated at his headquarters in Achrafieh.

September 17-18: Sabra and Shatila massacre, Christian militia killed about 1,000 Palestinians in the Israeli-controlled area of Sabra and Shatila refugee camps,

September 21: Amin Gemayel, Bashir Gemayel's elder brother, elected president.

1983

April 18: Suicide bomb attacks on the United States embassy in Beirut, killing 63 people.

May 17: May 17 Agreement, Lebanon signs a withdrawal agreement with Israeli which provided a framework for the establishment of normal bilateral relations between the two countries.

August 31 - September 9: The Mountain war, interconfessional massacres in the Chouf area which resulted in the displacement of Christians from the area.

1984

February 6: An uprising by leftist movements and Afwaj Al-Muqawama al-Lubnaniya (AMAL) took place in West Beirut against the signing of a peace accord with Israel, and seized control of West Beirut.

1986

January: Geagea uprising against the three party agreement and the expulsion of Hubayka from East Beirut.

1988

Brothers War: clashes between Shiite groups in AMAL and Hizbullah.

September 22: The presidency of Amin Gemayel ends without a successor.

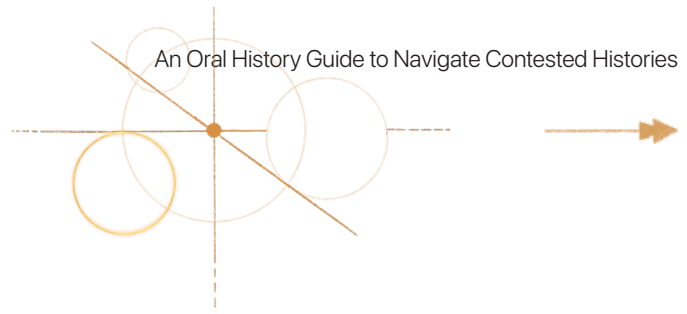
1989

March 14: War of Liberation: General Michel Aoun declares war against Syrian occupation. Syrian forces besiege East Beirut.

September-October: Lebanon's National Assembly meets in Taif, Saudi Arabia and Taif accord signed.

November 22: President Elect René Muawad, believed to have been a reunification candidate, is assassinated. He is replaced by Elias Harawi. General Emile Lahoud is named to replace General Michel Aoun, commander of the Lebanese army.





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1990

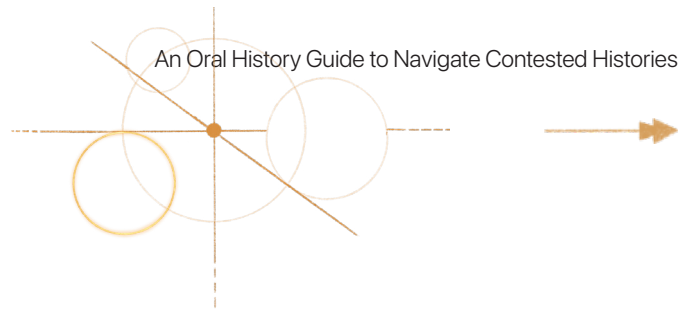
January 31: War of Cancellation: General Michel Aoun wages a war against the Lebanese Forces to take over the Christian leadership.

October 13: Syrian forces expel Michel Aoun from Presidential palace.

1991

August 26: The national assembly grants amnesty for all crimes committed during the civil war. Aoun gets a presidential pardon and heads for exile in France.





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Al-Jazeera

Abridged Lebanon War Timeline

1975

April 13 – Christian Phalange fighters ambush a bus in Ain-al-Rumannah, Beirut, killing 27 passengers. Most of those killed are Palestinian. The Phalangists claim Palestinian fighters had previously attacked a church in the same area. The ambush is generally regarded as the spark which ignited Lebanon's civil war.

1976

Christians kill Palestinian civilians at Karantina and Tel el-Zaatar, while Palestinians kill Christians at Damour.
 June – As the Muslim-left alliance (Lebanese National Movement) gains an upper hand in the fighting, Suleiman Franjeh, Lebanon's president, invites Syrian troops into Lebanon.
 October – A ceasefire is agreed following Arab summit meetings. A mainly Syrian Arab Deterrent Force (ADF) is set up to maintain the ceasefire.

1978

March 14/15 – Israel invades Lebanon after PLO fighters launch an attack into its territory. Israeli troops push up as far as the Litani river, approximately 40km north of the Israel-Lebanon border. United Nations Security Council resolution 425 calls on Israel to withdraw from all Lebanese territory and establishes the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (Unifil) to oversee the withdrawal.

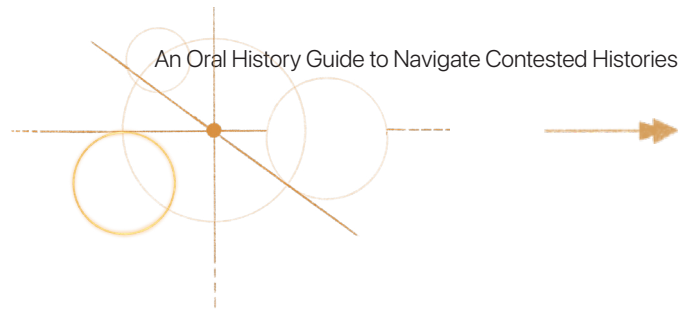
1982

June 6 – Israeli army launches Operation Peace for Galilee invasion in response to attempted assassination of Israeli ambassador to London. Israel demands that PLO fighters and Syrians leave Beirut.
 September – PLO forces evacuate Lebanon, under the supervision of US-French-Italian forces. Yasser Arafat, the organisation's leader, leaves Beirut for Tunisia.
 September 14 – Bashir Gemayel, leader of the Christian Phalange militia and Lebanon's president-elect, is assassinated.
 September 16-18 – In reprisal for the assassination of Gemayel, Phalangist militia massacre hundreds of Palestinians in the Sabra and Shatila refugee camps in southwest Beirut.
 September 21 – Amin Gemayel, is elected president.
 September 24 – A US-French-Italian multinational force, requested by Lebanon, arrives in Beirut.

1983

April 18 – A suicide bomber detonates an explosives-laden lorry drives into the US embassy on Beirut's seafront. Sixty-three people are killed and more than 100 are hurt. Islamic Jihad claims responsibility.
 May 17 – Israel and Lebanon sign a peace agreement in Naqura on condition Israel that withdraws from Lebanon.





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September – US warships shell Muslim areas of Beirut in support of Amin Gemayel's government.

October 23 – At least 241 US Marines and 58 French paratroopers are killed in an Islamic Jihad suicide lorry-bomb attack on the US Marine base in Beirut.

1984

Multinational force leaves Beirut after Lebanese government falls.

Several westerners are abducted in Beirut, including William Buckley, station chief for the US Central Intelligence Agency (CIA).

1985

By June 6 most Israeli troops withdraw. SLA maintains a so-called security zone in south Lebanon.

May 19 – Afwaj al-Muqawama al-Lubnaniya (Amal), a Shia militia group, begins shelling Palestinian refugee camps in south Beirut.

June 16 – A passenger aircraft is hijacked by two alleged members of Hezbollah, an armed Shia organisation. The hijackers demand the release of Shia Muslims in Israeli jails. Syrian mediation resolves the crisis.

Several more Westerners, including Terry Anderson, a journalist for the Associated Press news agency, are seized.

1987

January – Terry Waite, special envoy to the Archbishop of Canterbury, disappears in west Beirut while seeking the release of other Western hostages.

May 21 – Lebanon cancels 1969 Cairo agreement with the PLO, and also abrogates the May 17 1983 agreement with Israel.

June 1 – Salim al-Hoss becomes acting prime minister after Rashid Karami is killed in a bomb attack.

1988

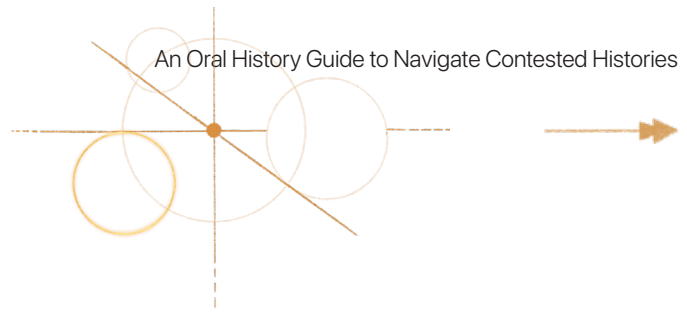
September 22 – Lebanese parliament fails to elect a successor to Amin Gemayel, Lebanon's prime minister. Gemayel appoints a six-member interim military government, comprising three Christians and three Muslims. Lebanon now has two governments – Salim al-Hoss heads the Muslim government in west Beirut while General Michel Aoun, the Maronite commander-in-chief of the Lebanese Army, controls east Beirut.

1989

March 14 – Michel Aoun declares war on Syrian army in Lebanon. Syrian forces, backed by their Lebanese militia allies, respond by besieging east Beirut. Aoun backs down.

October 22 – Lebanon's National Assembly meets in Taif, Saudi Arabia. A Document of National Reconciliation is drawn up, which transfers executive power from the president to the cabinet. The previous 6:5 ratio of Christian to Muslims seats in the assembly is adjusted so that an equal balance between members is achieved.





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1990

October 13 – Syrian air attacks force Michel Aoun out of the presidential palace at Ba'abda. The Lebanese war ends.

1991

May 22 – A Treaty of Brotherhood, Co-operation and Co-ordination is signed in Damascus by Lebanon and Syria.

July 1 – The Lebanese army defeats the PLO in Sidon. The army now faces the SLA and the Israelis in Jezzine, just north of the SLA's so-called security zone.

August 26 – The national assembly grants amnesty for all crimes committed during the civil war.

