An Oral History Guide to Navigate Contested Histories

Handout 17: Treasure Hunt

Session: Formulating a Research Question

Strong Research Questions:

What role did ideology play in causing the civil war? What role did nationalism play in causing it?
When did the conflict begin?
What role did the media play in causing the civil war? What role did the media play in continuing the civil war?
What were women's roles during the civil war and how did or didn't they change throughout?
What was the impact of the civil war on education in Lebanon?
What factors led to the militarization of the youth at the start of the civil war?
What is the relationship between identity and civil war?
How did the civil war cause the collapse of the State?
How did the collapse of the State cause the civil war?
What was the role of the Lebanese army during the civil war?
What were the key turning points in the civil war?
What impact did the civil war have on (village/town/city/region) as compared to (village/ town/city/region)?
How was the civil war an intra-sectarian violent conflict?
To what extent was the civil war a sectarian violent conflict?
Why did the civil war end, and when?



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Weak Research Questions:

How did the Kataeb Party, and Lebanese nationalism, cause the civil war in 1975?
To what extent was the Kataeb, or any other party, a fascist party during the civil war?
How did the presence of the PLO and Palestinian refugees in Lebanon cause the civil war?
How did the Communist party lead to the militarization of the South?
What role did the Syrians play in expanding the scope of the civil war from a civil to a regional violent conflict?
Who was responsible for the Tel El Zaatar massacre (can also be applied to Karantina, Damour, Sabra and Shatila)?
To what extent did Hezbollah benefit from the civil war?
How successful was Aoun's war of Liberation?
What role did Amal play in destroying the war of the Camps (vs. PLO)?
How did the assassination of Kamal Jumblatt represent a turning point in the civil war?
Who won the Mountain War of 1983?
How did the Christian right-wing militias betray Lebanon?

