



History of Lebanon

From prehistory to 2004

History of Lebanon

From prehistory to 2004

Printing History:

January 2004
December 2004

First Edition
Second Edition

Contact:

Rassemblement Canadien pour le Liban (RCPL)
Place Élysée C. P. 132
Laval (Québec) H7W 4K2
Tel : (514) 205-4226
Email : info@rcplonline.org

Web site: <http://www.rcplonline.org>

Copyright © 2004 RCPL All rights reserved.

Note: This research document is prepared by the Rassemblement Canadien Pour le Liban (RCPL). All rights reserved. For reasons of security, no part of this document may be reproduced or distributed in any form or by any means, or stored in a database or retrieval system or shared with individuals and organizations without the prior consent of RCPL.

Table of contents

	page
LEBANON.....	7
Geography.....	7
Capital.....	8
Major cities.....	8
Population.....	10
Religion.....	10
Language.....	11
Education.....	11
Way of Life.....	11
Culture.....	11
Music and Dance.....	12
Libraries and Museums.....	12
Currency and Banking.....	12
Government.....	12
Summary of history.....	13
PREHISTORY AND ANCIENT HISTORY.....	15
3000- 2500 BCE.....	15
2000 BCE.....	16
1800 BCE.....	16
1400 BCE.....	16
1100 BCE.....	17
867 BCE.....	18
8 th century.....	18
7 th century.....	18
612 BCE.....	18
590 BCE.....	18
539 BCE.....	19
333 BCE.....	20
332 BCE.....	20
323 BCE.....	20
ROMANS AND BYZANTINES.....	21
30 CE.....	21
64.....	21
4 th century.....	22
5 th century.....	22
6 th century.....	22
THE ISLAM CONQUEST.....	23
628.....	23
635.....	23

637.....	23
687.....	23
759-760.....	23
938.....	23
977.....	24
986.....	24
1054.....	24
1055.....	24
THE CRUSADERS AND MAMELOUKS.....	25
1098.....	25
1099.....	25
1197.....	25
1283.....	25
1289.....	25
1367.....	26
1402.....	26
1439.....	26
1440.....	26
OTTOMAN EMPIRE	27
1516.....	27
1572.....	27
1610.....	27
1613.....	27
1633.....	27
1657.....	27
1697.....	28
1711.....	28
1737.....	28
1738.....	28
1750.....	28
1788.....	28
1823.....	28
1830.....	28
1840.....	29
1842.....	29
1845.....	29
1858.....	30
1860.....	30
1861.....	31
1914-1918.....	32
1915.....	32
1916.....	32
FRENCH MANDATE	33
1919.....	33

1920.....	33
1922.....	33
1926.....	33
1929.....	33
1932.....	34
1939.....	34
1941.....	34
INDEPENDENCE.....	35
1943.....	35
1945.....	35
1946.....	35
1948.....	35
1949.....	35
1950.....	35
1956.....	36
1959.....	38
1961.....	38
1964.....	38
1966.....	38
1967.....	38
1968.....	38
1969.....	39
1970.....	39
1972.....	39
1973.....	40
1974.....	40
WAR IN LEBANON.....	41
1975.....	41
1976.....	42
1977.....	44
1978.....	44
1979.....	46
1980.....	46
1981.....	47
1982.....	47
1983.....	51
1984.....	58
1985.....	60
1986.....	65
1987.....	67
1988.....	68
1989.....	71
1990.....	74
POST WAR.....	76

1991.....	76
1992.....	78
1993.....	78
1994.....	79
1995.....	79
1996.....	79
1997.....	80
1998.....	81
1999.....	82
2000.....	82
2001.....	85
2002.....	86
2003.....	90
2004.....	93
REFERENCES.....	97

LEBANON

- Lebanon was known as the 'land of milk and honey'. The 'milk' came from the snow-covered mountain peaks; the 'honey' from the fragrant woods.
- Lebanon was mentioned 71 times in the Holy Bible.
- King Solomon used only the finest materials in the world to build God's temple in Jerusalem--including the "Cedars of Lebanon." This country of cedars has always served as an important East-West bridge, connecting Europe, Africa, and Asia.
- The Phoenicians invented the alphabet at that time it was made of 22 characters.

Geography

The name of Lebanon (Loubnan), which comes originally from Aramaic and designates "White", is the name of its mountain. Mount Lebanon differs from the neighboring countries in its aspect, its climate, its rain-fall, its vegetation, and its 3000 m peaks that are continually covered with snow.



Lebanon¹

Lebanon lies at the center of the gulf that runs between the Oriental Mediterranean Sea and Turkey and Egypt. This small country does not exceed 10452 Km², its length is about 250 km and its width varies from 40 to 70 km. Syria limits Lebanon from the North and the East, and Israel (Palestine) from the South. One range of mountains (Mount Lebanon)

¹ www.bethany.com/profiles/c_maps/lebanon.gif

dominates a narrow alluvial coastal plain. At the East, another arid and dry range of mountains lies parallel to the first mountain chain (Anti-Lebanon and Mount Hermon); the two ranges embrace the high plateau of the "Bekaa".



Map of Lebanon²

Capital

Beirut

Major cities

- **Beirut** is the country's largest city. Beirut's history dates back over 5,000 years. Under the city's downtown area lie remnants of Ottoman, Mamluke, Crusader, Abbassid, Omayyad, Byzantine, Roman, Persian, Phoenician and Canaanite Beirut. Its name first appeared in cuneiform as early as the 14th century B.C. In the first century B.C., it became a Roman colony, only to be destroyed later by a triple catastrophe of earthquake, tidal wave and fire in 551A.D. Arab control then dominated until the Crusaders took over in 1110. Following the Crusaders were the Mamlukes and the Turks. After World War I there was a French mandate period, and in 1943 Lebanon gained its independence.

² www.emulateme.com/images/Lebanon.gif

- **Tripoli**, the northern port, is the second largest city. The real history of Tripoli began in the 9th century B.C., when the Phoenicians established it as a trading station. Under the Persians, it was the home to the confederation of Phoenician states that included Sidon and Tyre. During Alexander the Great's rule the city was used as a naval shipyard mainly, and the Romans enhanced the city during their reign by building several monuments. The Crusaders who took over in 1109 destroyed the city. After many years the city was turned over to the Ottoman Turks in 1516, where it retained prosperity and commercial importance. The Ottoman rule saw great strides in the field of architecture there as well.

- **Byblos** (Jbail), one of the oldest towns in the world, goes back at least 9,000 years. After living for years as the home of fishing communities, Canaanite Byblos was slightly different in that it developed into the most important shipping center on the eastern Mediterranean. Trade with Egypt was immense, and instituted a period of wealth and prosperity. Around 1200 B.C. a wave of "Sea Peoples" from the north settled on the southern coast. They had the maritime skills and society we know as Phoenicia. About this time the groundwork for the modern alphabet was first being proposed in Byblos. Like all other cities in this area, Byblos was subject to conquest. The Persians were first, and were assimilated into Greek culture and customs, which were continued into the Roman times. During Roman rule, temples, baths and other public buildings were built. Following the Roman rule was the Byzantine Period, followed by Arab rule in 637 A.D. In 1104, Byblos fell to the Crusaders, and then turned over to Mamluke and Ottoman rule. The rise and fall of nearly two dozen successive levels of human culture on this site makes it one of the richest archeological areas in the Middle East.

- **Sidon** was inhabited as early as Neolithic times. The city was built facing an island to protect it from inland attacks. During the Persian Empire the city provided the Persia with ships and seamen to fight the Egyptians and Greeks, which gave them a favored position within the Empire. During the Phoenician Era, glass manufacturing was Sidon's most important enterprise along with purple dye. Sidon, like most states in Phoenicia, was subject to conquest. Alexander was one of many rulers who took the city. Under Alexander's successors, the city enjoyed relative freedom. During the Roman reign in Sidon, theaters and other major monuments were built. After a turbulent Crusader age, which saw the city change hands numerous times, it finally fell under the control of Mamluke forces. Sidon flourished during the 15th and 17th centuries especially, due to its location and use as a port between France and Syria.

- **Tyre** began to flourish in the first millennium B.C., although it was founded much earlier. The city was attacked numerous times, beginning with Nebuchadnezzar in the sixth century B.C. Alexander successfully took it in 332 B.C. for strategic reasons. By 64 B.C., Tyre was under Roman rule. The Romans built many monuments in the city, including an aqueduct, a triumphal arch and the largest

hippodrome in antiquity. Much later, it was taken by the Byzantine Empire, until Islamic armies took over in 634. The city continued to prosper as a trading post. After a brief stint with Crusader rule, it was taken over by Ottomans until after World War I, when it was integrated into Lebanon.

- **Zahleh** was founded over 300 years ago. In the early 18th century the town was divided into three separate sections, each of which had its own governor. The city was the region's first independent state later in the 19th century when it possessed its own flag and anthem. It became the center of agriculture and trade between Beirut, Damascus, and Baghdad due to its railway. Zahleh has played a major role in the establishment of the country, as it is considered the birthplace of the Lebanese Army.
- **Baalbeck's** temples were built around the first millennium B.C. The enclosed court was built on the ancient tell. The more accurate history of Baalbeck first begins during the Hellenistic period (333-64 B.C.). The Greeks identified the God of Baalbeck with the sun God and enlarged the court. The temple was begun in the last quarter of the first century B.C., and was nearing completion in the last years of Nero's reign. The Great Court Complex of the Temple of Jupiter was built in the second century A.D. The other addendum courts to the Jupiter Temple were added in the third century. The Baalbeck temples were officially closed in 313 A.D., when Byzantine Emperor Constantine officially closed them. Since then these monuments have gone through many transformations, falling under Arab domination, and the Omayyad, Abbasid, Toulounid, Fatimid and Ayyoubid dynasties. It was sacked by the Mongols in 1260, but later has enjoyed a period of calm and prosperity.

Population

The 1997 estimated population was 3,111,828, but this figure, provided by the Lebanese government, does not include Palestinian refugees and foreign workers, mainly Syrian. An independent 2002 estimate placed the population at 3,677,780, yielding a population density of 352 persons per km².

Religion

Lebanon is characterized by great religious and cultural diversity. At the time of independence Christians formed a slight majority of the population, the largest single community (nearly 30% of the total) being the Maronite Christians, who mostly inhabited the north of Lebanon and the capital, Beirut. Other Christian groups included Greek Orthodox communities, Greek Catholics and Armenians. The Muslim groups were the Sunnis (living mainly in the coastal towns of Tyre, Sidon and Beirut), the Shi'as (a predominantly rural community in southern Lebanon and the northern Bekaa valley) and the much smaller Druzes, an ancient community in central Lebanon.

Actually, the government recognizes 17 distinct religious sects: 5 Muslim (Shia, Sunni, Druze, Ismailite, and Alawite), 11 Christian (4 Orthodox, 6 Catholic, and 1 Protestant), and Judaism.

Language

In addition to Arabic, English and French are widely spoken. Kurdish, Syriac and Armenian are spoken by a small percentage of the population.

Education

Lebanon has one of the most educated and technically prepared populations in the Middle East. In 2001, 95 percent of the Lebanese aged 15 and older were literate. Primary education in Lebanon is free and compulsory for five years; school attendance is near universal for primary school-aged children. Beirut is home to six universities: the well-known American University of Beirut; the Jesuit-sponsored Saint Joseph University; the government-supported Lebanese University; the Egyptian-sponsored Beirut Arab University; the Lebanese American University; and the Armenian Hagazian College. Lebanon also has more than 100 technical, vocational, and other specialized schools.

Way of Life

The Lebanese value individualism, which contributes to their creativity and inventiveness. Close family relations, loyalty to family and friends, and honor are also important. People strive to gain influence and to accumulate and display wealth, which are signs of success that win respect.

In their leisure time, Lebanese people enjoy lively conversations over Turkish coffee, participating in outdoor activities, and eating good food. Traditional foods include kebbe, a dish of lamb and crushed wheat, and tabbouleh, a salad made of parsley, mint, tomatoes, and crushed wheat.

However, people enjoy a variety of foods and restaurants serve everything from French, Arabic, Turkish, Persian, and Greek specialties to hamburgers and pizza.

Culture

Lebanon's rich history has been shaped by many cultural traditions, including Phoenician, Greek, Roman, Islamic, Crusader, Ottoman Turkish, French, and recently American. The resulting culture is distinctively Lebanese, a combination of East and West, past and present. Folk music and dancing have a long tradition and are very popular. Influential Lebanese writers emerged in the early 20th century and greatly influenced the Arabic language. Painters, sculptors, and performers and producers in theater, film, and television have recently distinguished themselves.

Music and Dance

Lebanese vocal and instrumental music is varied and extremely popular. It characteristically blends traditional oriental classical and folk modes with European styles. French and American influences are especially strong in radio and popular music. In the mid-1990s Lebanese female vocalist Fairouz was among the most popular singers in the Middle East and was well known elsewhere. Folk dancing is widely practiced and before the war was emphasized at an annual folk dance festival and the professionally performed Baalbek International Festival. The debkeh, a rural group dance from Lebanon, has influenced many European and American folk dances.

Libraries and Museums

The National Museum in Beirut was badly damaged during the Lebanese war. However, the museum's famous Phoenician treasures were protected during the war and many are again on display. During the reconstruction of central Beirut, many artifacts were found and added to the museum's collection. The Archaeological Museum of the American University of Beirut attracts many visitors and scholars, and the well-known Sursok Museum of Art, housed in a mansion in Beirut, reopened after the war's end.

Currency and Banking

The unit of currency is the Lebanese pound or lira, consisting of 100 piastres. The "Banque du Liban" is the central bank and the sole bank of issue. All other banks are private.

Government

Lebanon is a parliamentary republic with a centralized, multireligious, and multiparty government.

Because political power and the government bureaucracy are organized according to religious groups, a policy known as confessionalism, Lebanon's government has been described as a confessional democracy.

The 1926 constitution, amended by France in 1927, 1929, and 1943, was complemented by the National Pact of 1943. The National Pact, an unwritten covenant, provided for a Maronite Christian president, a Sunni Muslim prime minister, and a Shia Muslim speaker of parliament. It also provided that the ratio of seats in parliament would be six Christian seats for every five Muslim seats, and other government posts would be allotted on similar sectarian criteria.

The 1989 National Reconciliation Charter (commonly known as the Ta'if Agreement) gave Muslims increased power, for example, by dividing parliament's seats equally between Christians and Muslims and transferring some deicisonal powers from the Christian president to the Sunni prime minister. The new constitution also made the Shia speaker a member of a *troika* (executive threesome) with the Maronite president and Sunni prime minister.

The Lebanese government was unable to function in most respects during the war. Since the war, it has lacked real sovereignty because of several conflicting forces: Israel and Syria have used Lebanon as a buffer state and battleground; stateless Palestinians are military active in Lebanon; Hezbollah guerrillas, who advocate creation of an Islamic state, operate in the south; and Syria maintains a decisive influence in Lebanese affairs through the presence of tens of thousands of soldiers and security agents in the country.

Time

Lebanon Time Difference: GMT + 2 (GMT + 3 in summer)

Summary of history

Lebanon was the early home of the Phoenicians--the world's first seafarers--whose civilization flourished between 3000 and 450 B.C.

Jesus Christ was well acquainted with the area, for it was in Lebanon that He healed the daughter of the Canaanite woman.

Maronites and Druze are considered the founders of the Lebanese state

When the Turkish Empire collapsed after World War I, France took over the rule of Lebanon. This lasted until 1943, when Lebanon became an independent nation.

A war started in Lebanon between 1975 and 1990, which results a heavy loose.

Since 1990 and till now, Lebanon is trying to recover the destruction.

During the war from 1975 to 1990 more than:

200,000 Lebanese have been killed

250,000 seriously wounded and

800,000 displaced from their homes, 2/3 of them are Christians and 1/3 are Muslims and Druzes

9,600 Handicapped dead-alive

17,000 Missing persons.

13,000 Kidnapped

950,000 left the country: about 2/3 being Christians and 1/3 Muslims
145,000 destroyed houses

In global, 3,7% of the population were killed, 10% wounded, 25% forced to inner (local) emigration and 33% to outer emigration [S3].

PREHISTORY AND ANCIENT HISTORY

3000- 2500 BCE

First traces of settlements of the Phoenicians [S6]. The Phoenicians, whose lands corresponds to present-day Lebanon and coastal parts of Israel and Syria, probably arrived in the region in about 3000 B.C.



Phoenicia³

Phoenicia is a term applied to the coast of Lebanon. The name comes from the Greek, from the Tyrian purple dye which they were especially famous for; in the Bible, they are called Sidonians (after the city of Sidon). The Phoenicians were traders, involved in international trade between the Middle Eastern hinterland, and countries around the Mediterranean. Phoenicians discovered and used the North Star (Polaris) to keep their bearings at sea. They were the first ones to sail around Africa. They colonized parts of Cyprus and Rhodes and crossed the Black Sea. They founded Tarshish on the coast of Spain and Carthage in North Africa.

Each of the coastal cities was an independent kingdom noted for the special activities of its inhabitants. Tyre and Sidon were important maritime and trade centers; Gubla (later known as Byblos and now as Jbail) and Berytus (present-day Beirut) were trade and religious centers. Gubla was the first Phoenician city to trade actively with

³ www.phoenicia.org/pics/mapphoe.jpg

Egypt and the pharaohs of the Old Kingdom (2686-2181 BCE), exporting cedar, olive oil, and wine, while importing gold and other products from the Nile Valley.

They were also transmitters of culture, new inventions, alphabet, money and more. These were often believed to have been the product of the Phoenician culture, but in many cases, they had their origin in Babylonia. The Phoenicians did not establish larger kingdoms, but limited their states to single cities that accepted compromises with stronger neighbors, and paying for peace and freedom so that they had freedom to trade. This civilization included the towns of Jbeil, Beirut, Saida, Tyre, and Tripoli.

In the following centuries, the Phoenicians formed the major naval and trading power of the region. From their own country came the purple ink as well as the famous wood of the cedars of *Lebanon*. From elsewhere they got many other materials, perhaps the most important being tin from Spain and Britain, which together with copper (from Cyprus) was used to make bronze. The trade routes from Asia converged on the Phoenician coast as well, causing the Phoenicians to also govern trade between Mesopotamia on the one side and Egypt and Arabia on the other.

2000 BCE

The Amorites, coming from the east, invaded the Phoenician land and overran the coastal region, burning the city of Byblos to the ground. However, Byblos was rebuilt, and quickly resumed its roll as one of the main commercial centers of that era - especially trade with Egypt's pharaohs of the Middle Kingdom. The Amorites were a Semitic-speaking group who appeared in Babylonia as mercenaries.

1800 BCE

Lebanese Egyptian relations were interrupted when the Hyksos, a nomadic Semitic people, conquered Egypt. After about three decades of Hyksos rule (1600-1570 B.C.), Ahmose I (1570-45 B.C.), a Theban prince, launched the Egyptian liberation war. Opposition to the Hyksos increased, reaching a peak during the reign of the pharaoh Thutmose III (1490-36 B.C.), who invaded Syria, put an end to Hyksos domination, and incorporated Lebanon into the Egyptian Empire [S2]. Egypt, which was then beginning to acquire an empire in the Middle East, invaded and took control of Phoenicia, holding it until about 1400 BC.

1400 BCE

The Egyptian Empire weakened, and Lebanon was able to regain its independence by the beginning of the twelfth century B.C. The subsequent three centuries were a period of prosperity and freedom from foreign control during which the earlier Phoenician invention of the alphabet facilitated communications and trade [S2].



Phoenician Alphabet⁴

The first alphabet was made of 22 phonetics and was invented by a Phoenician trader from Byblos called Kadmous. The latter transported his invention during his trips to all other continents and countries he visited. The invention of the first alphabet can be considered as one of the most important contributions of these people to the international culture. From this alphabet, the Greek alphabet, which forms the basis of all European alphabets, has been derived. The alphabets of the Middle East and India also derive from the Phoenician alphabet.

Textile, mainly red dyed, became also an important part of their trade products. The Phoenicians were known for being the first people to use the red color in textile by using a clam specific of the Phoenician coasts called the Murex.

The Phoenicians also excelled not only in producing textiles but also in carving ivory, in working with metal, and above all in making glass. Masters of the art of navigation, they founded colonies wherever they went in the Mediterranean Sea (specifically in Cyprus, Rhodes, Crete, and Carthage) and established trade routes to Europe and western Asia. Furthermore, their ships circumnavigated Africa a thousand years before those of the Portuguese. These colonies and trade routes flourished until the invasion of the coastal areas by the Assyrians.

1100 BCE

The raids of the Hittites against Egyptian territory gave the Phoenician cities an opportunity to revolt, and by 1100 BC they were independent of Egypt. Egypt loses its control over Phoenicia, and independence is regained. Tyre grows into becoming the strongest of the city-states, casting shadows over rival city Sidon.

⁴ i-cias.com/e.o/ill/phoenician_alphabet.gif

867 BCE

Phoenicia was subjugated by Assyria [S6]. The Assyrians deprived the Phoenician cities of their independence and prosperity and brought repeated, unsuccessful rebellions.



Assyrian Empire⁵

8th century

In the middle of the eighth century B.C., Tyre and Byblos rebelled, but the Assyrian ruler, Tiglath-Pileser, subdued the rebels and imposed heavy tributes. Oppression continued unabated, and Tyre rebelled again, this time against Sargon II (722-705 BCE), who successfully besieged the city in 721 BCE and punished its population [S2].

7th century

Sidon rebelled and was completely destroyed by Esarhaddon (681- 668 BCE), and its inhabitants were enslaved. Esarhaddon built a new city on Sidon's ruins.

By the end of the seventh century B.C., the Assyrian Empire, weakened by the successive revolts, had been destroyed by Babylonia, a new Mesopotamian power [S2].

612 BCE

Freedom from Assyria was regained.

590 BCE

Nebuchadnezzar II of Babylonia conquered all Phoenicia [S6]. Tyre rebelled again and for thirteen years resisted a siege by the troops of Nebuchadnezzar (587-574 BCE). After

⁵ http://www.hyperhistory.com/online_n2/images_n2/assyria.gif

this long siege, the city capitulated; its king was dethroned, and its citizens were enslaved [S2].



Babylona Empire⁶

539 BCE

The Achaemenids ended Babylonian rule when Cyrus, founder of the Persian Empire, captured Babylon and Phoenicia and its neighbors passed into Persian hands [S2].



Persian Empire⁷

⁶ [www.ebibleteacher.com/ images/babylona.jpg](http://www.ebibleteacher.com/images/babylona.jpg)

⁷ <http://regentsprep.org/Regents/global/themes/movement/images/persian.gif>

The Cambyses (529-22 B.C.), Cyrus's son and successor, continued his father's policy of conquest and in 529 B.C. became suzerain of Syria, Lebanon, and Egypt. The Phoenician navy supported Persia during the Greco Persian War (490-449 BCE). But when the Phoenicians were overburdened with heavy tributes imposed by the successors of Darius I (521-485 BCE) revolts and rebellions resumed in the Lebanese coastal cities.

333 BCE

The Persian Empire eventually fell to Alexander the Great, king of Macedonia. He attacked Asia Minor, defeated the Persian troops, and advanced toward the Lebanese coast. Initially the Phoenician cities made no attempt to resist, and they recognized his suzerainty. However, when Alexander tried to offer a sacrifice to Melkurt, Tyre's god, the city resisted [S26]. A siege of Tyre begins.

332 BCE

After 7 month of siege, Tyre gave in. 2,000 men are crucified, 30,000 are sold as prisoners. Phoenicia plays a far less prominent role in trade following the conquest of Alexander. The culture gets heavily influenced by Hellenistic culture [S6].

323 BCE

Despite his early death in 323 BCE, Alexander's conquest of the eastern Mediterranean Basin left a Greek imprint on the area. The Phoenicians, being a cosmopolitan people amenable to outside influences, adopted aspects of Greek civilization with ease. [S26]

After Alexander's death, his empire was divided among his Macedonian generals. The eastern part, Phoenicia, Asia Minor, northern Syria, and Mesopotamia, fell to Seleucus I, founder of the Seleucid dynasty. The southern part of Syria and Egypt fell to Ptolemy, and the European part, including Macedonia, to Antigonus I. This settlement, however, failed to bring peace because Seleucus I and Ptolemy clashed repeatedly in the course of their ambitious efforts to share in Phoenician prosperity. A final victory of the Seleucids ended a forty-year period of conflict [S26].

The last century of Seleucid rule was marked by disorder and dynastic struggles. These ended in 64 B.C., when the Roman general Pompey added Syria and Lebanon to the Roman Empire [S26].

ROMANS AND BYZANTINES

30 CE

At Cana Jesus transformed water into wine during the wedding feast to which he had been invited with his disciples and his mother, Mary. This was the first of his miracles.

64

Lebanon was conquered by Rome, and governed as part of Syria [S6]. Aramaic replaces Phoenician language [S6]. Beirut grew into becoming the most important city and became the military and commercial metropolitan of the Romans in the East. A new city was built according to the Roman concept. Byblos and Heliopolis became famous for their temples, Tyre became known as a philosophical study center, and Beirut for its school of law.



Roman Empire⁸

Christianity spread as from the beginning of the first Christian century. At that time, although the Roman Empire was still pagan, and Christianity was not recognized by the officials of the Empire, most Phoenicians became Christians and Phoenicia became famous with its Christian martyrs before the edict of Milan was issued in 313.

Upon the death of Theodosius I in A.D. 395, the empire was divided in two: the eastern or Byzantine part with its capital at Constantinople, and the western part with its capital

⁸ <http://www.iol.ie/~coolmine/typ/romans/empirem.gif>

at Rome. Phoenicia became Byzantine and Beirut held its fame for the teaching of the law.

Under the Byzantine Empire, intellectual and economic activities in Beirut, Tyre, and Sidon continued to flourish for more than a century.

Under the Orthodox Byzantines, Christianity became deeply rooted.

4th century

A long period of religious strife began. The quality of Christ was the most central question, where the Christians of Lebanon, the Maronites, profess that Jesus was both man and God [S6].

Early in the 4th century, a series of earthquakes and tidal waves ravaged Lebanon, destroying many buildings and cities both on the shore and in the Bekaa. Beirut so far has been destroyed by the sea, and rebuilt again.

5th century

The inhabitants of Mount Lebanon were converted by the disciples of St. Maron and became Maronites themselves [S27].

The contribution that the Maronites made and continue to make to Lebanese history, independence and culture is of such magnitude that a separate section is dedicated to the Maronites [S28].

6th century

Around the middle of this century, a series of earthquakes demolished the temples of Baalbek and destroyed the city of Beirut, leveling its famous law school and killing nearly 30,000 inhabitants. To these natural disasters were added the abuses and corruptions prevailing at that time in the empire. Heavy tributes and religious dissension produced disorder and confusion [S26].

THE ISLAM CONQUEST

628

The Muslim troops coming from Saudi Arabia invaded the region. From the Byzantine defeat up till the battle of "Yarmouk" in 636, the cities of the Lebanese coast fell into the hands of the Arabs. The mountain, that was not invaded by the Muslim army, had, in spite of the resistance of its inhabitants, to give in before the authority of the new masters of the region, especially when the project of a reconquest with the help of the Mardaites failed [S29].

635

In conquering Lebanon, the Muslims fought the Christian armies of Byzantium, whom they called the Roumis. The Byzantines were defeated, and retreated further north. Lebanon was made part of the Sham territory of the Islamic Empire. Islam became the Law and official religion of the land. Christians and Jews were allowed to worship as long as they paid taxes to the Muslims, and obeyed their laws. Arabic became the official language of the region [S9].

637

The Omeyyads regime was tolerant with the Christian inhabitants of the country, but when the Abbassids took hold of the Muslim power in 750, a Christian mutiny burst in the Mountain. It was suppressed with savagery, inhabitants were deported, and ownership seized, this repression incited the protestation of "Imam al Aouza'i" known for the tolerance of his Sunni school [S29].

687

Maronites appointed their own patriarch, who was Saint John-Maron, who lived in the Kfarhay-Batroun. At Kfarhay, the Patriarchs lived through hard times. Numbers of their spiritual children flocked about them, trudging to Kfarhay on weary feet, carrying in their arms their infant children and staggering under the burden of such simple belongings as they had been able to bring when driven from their houses, their lands, and their property in Syria and the Bekaa [S10].

759-760

Christian peasants revolted against taxes and regulations, but the rebellion faltered, surviving only in local legend.

938

After 251 years spent by the Patriarchs in the region of Batroun. They settled in the vicinity of Aakoura. [S10]

977

The decline of the Abbassids' authority entailed the parceling of the Muslim authority. Thus, the Toulonids and the Ikchidits governed the Lebanon in the IXth and Xth centuries respectively; the Fatimids followed between 969 and 1171. Under the Fatimids' reign Byzantine expeditions were undertaken against Northern Syria and the Lebanese coast. The Byzantine massacred the Maronites of the Oronte Plains and destroyed the famous monastery of St. Maron [S29].

986

Under the Fatimid Caliph El-Hakim, a new religion was born and spread by a man called Darazi. This was the beginning of the Druze religion. Many families in the regions of Gharb, Matn, Shouf and Wadi el-Taym became Druze. But from 1030 AD, a person could only be Druze if born Druze [S9].

1054

The Great Christian Schism occurred, with the Church of Rome and Constantinople splitting from one another. The Christians of Lebanon were part of the Eastern Church of Antioch, and fell under the authority of the Church of Constantinople. At that time, all the Christians of the East were called the Melchites, except for the Maronites [S9].

1055

The Seljuks overthrew the Abbassides in Baghdad, and took back Damascus, the Bekaa and the Holy Cities of Palestine from the Fatimids. The Seljuks and the Fatimids fought for control of the Eastern shores of Bilad-el-Sham [S9].

THE CRUSADERS AND MAMELOUKS

1098

The first Crusader kingdom was established. In the following two centuries, Lebanon was divided between two crusader kingdoms, the one of Tripoli, and the one of Jerusalem. This period gave strength to the Maronite Christians, who entered a union with the Church of Rome [S6].

During their occupation they gave Lebanon monuments like the Saint John Citadel in Jbeil, the Castle of Saint Gilles in Tripoli, the Castle of the Sea in Saida, the fortress of Belmont in Balamand and the Castle of Smar in Jbeil.

1099

The Crusaders were better known as the Franks or Franjs as the Arab called them. They re-conquered Jerusalem, and founded the Kingdom of Jerusalem which also included Beirut, Sayda and Sur [S9].

1197

A slow Muslim reconquest started, directed by the Ayyubids of Egypt [S6].

1283

After the departure of the Crusaders, the Maronites came under attack from the Mamlouks. They suffered every humiliation, while their Churches were set of fire, their villages plundered, and their vineyards destroyed.

Patriarch Daniel of Hadshit in person led his men in their defence against the Mamluk soldiery, after the latter had assaulted the Jubbeh of Bsharri. He succeeded in checking their advance before Ehden for forty days, and the Mamluks captured Ehden only after they had seized the Patriarch by a ruse [S10].

1289

In 1289, Tripoli, and 1291, the other Lebanese cities and regions were controlled by the Egyptian rulers, the Mamluks, who governed the region for two centuries and a half.

The Lebanese, Christian and Shiite, became the object of several repressive military expeditions, in the end of the XIIIth century and the beginning of the XIVth century. The Mamluks attacked the Mountain, especially the Kesrouan and Metn; they destroyed the villages and pulled down the Kesrouan.

After a century of military administration, the country gained back its commercial activities; Beirut's harbor flourished again and became the meeting point of several commercial nations of the Mediterranean [S29].

1367

Patriarch Gabriel was conveyed from Hjoula, his home district where he had taken refuge during the persecutions, down to Tripoli, where he was burnt alive at the stake by muslims. His tomb still stands in Bab el Ramel, at the gates of Tripoli. [S10]

1402

There was great hardship. Many of the dead remained without burial, many of which died of hunger. It was a tragedy without parallel. [S10]

1439

An emissary of the pope, sent to the Maronites, was arrested by Muslims in Tripoli. This one was released when the patriarch sent them money. But the Muslims changed their mind and came back in Meifouk and arrested all those which they was doors guarantors for the Vatican's envoy. The army rabble entered in action, setting fire to and plundering all on its passage. [B2, p142]

1440

Following these events, the patriarch moved his patriarchal residence to Qannoubin located in Quadicha's valley. The Maronites at that time were always under the threat of famine through failure of the crops. They were also under the threat of attack on their persons whenever they went out to their fields.

OTTOMAN EMPIRE

1516

Lebanon fell into the hands of the Turk-Ottomans. The Sultan kept at their places the Lebanese Emirs and provided them with certain autonomy in the management of their regions. This autonomy and the weakening of the Ottoman central power, encouraged the spirit of independence the Emirs Maan of the Mountain have, especially Emir Fakhr-ed-Din II (1572) [S29].

1572

Emir Fakhr el-Dine II from the Lebanese Druze family of Ma'an became the third Ma'an emir to govern the Emirate of the Shouf. Ambitious but wise, he set out to enlarge and enrich his emirate, and surrounded himself with Christian, Druze and Muslims advisors. He succeeded in annexing the Bekaa, Sayda, the Kesrwan and Beirut and gained control of parts of Syria and Palestine. He concluded treaties with Tuscany. The religious tolerance given to the Maronites encouraged them to spread in the Mountain from the North to the south of the country. Emir Fakhr el-Dine is considered the founder of modern Lebanon.

1610

The first printing press of the empire was built in Lebanon, in the Monastery of Qozhaya, in the Kadisha valley, using "Syriac" characters, a language close to that of the Aramaic that Jesus Christ spoke [S9].

1613

The army of the Wali of Damascus invaded the region. Fakhr el-Dine fled to Italy, but returned after five years of exile, and re-conquered his emirate. His victory was such that the Ottoman Sultan gave him the title of "sultan el-barr". But Fakhr el-Dine became too powerful [S9].

1633

Fakhr el-Dine was captured and imprisoned in Istanbul. He was executed two years later [S9].

1657

The ottomans defended the Christians to wear bonnets out of velvet, yellow shoes or red belts [B2, p160].

1697

The Emirs Chehab continued the work of the Maans. Emir Bashir Chehab was their first prince, and he was Sunnite. He and his successors governed the region in relative peace. Under the Emir Bechir II, converted to Christianity, the Lebanon knew calmness and prosperity [S29].

1711

Because of the defeat and expulsion of one Druze faction, the Maronites came to predominate. Reflecting this shift of power, members of the Shihab family converted to Christianity starting year 1750.

1737

The persecutions against the Maronites are accompanied by humiliations; the pasha established the order of 1657 again and goes until ordering to cut down the residences of Christians which he considered too high being [B2, p160].

1738

New order was made by the Ottoman Empire, which forbidded the Christians to spend the days of rest in the gardens, as it was the use; and interdicted the women to visit the cemeteries [B2, p160].

1750

Various emirs of the Chehab and the Abillama' families converted to Christianity.

1788

Emir Bashir Chehab II becoming the first governing prince of the region to be a Christian (Maronite). He built a magnificent palace at Beit el-Dine, many roads, and planted a fine pine forest on the hills overlooking Beirut. But, he was defeated by an army composed of English, Austrians, and Ottomans soldiers, and went into exile after 52 years of reign. He died in Istanbul. His successor, Bashir III Chehab was appointed by the Ottoman, and was Christian too. He was the last of the Princes of Mount Lebanon, as a new officer of the Ottoman army Omar Pasha became the new governor of the mountains in 1842.

1823

As peace slowly returned, the Maronite Patriarchs envisaged the transfer of their seat to Dimane. [S10]

1830

The Egyptian troops reached Lebanon and broke the serene atmosphere. Abusing of the protectorate of the troops of Mohamed-Ali, Bechir summoned the inhabitants to pay huge

sums of money. The echoes of the French revolution probably inspired the Maronites who started a series of peasant revolts that have already started in 1820. These popular rebellions asked for equality among the citizens, the independence of the Emir vis-à-vis the Ottomans, and yearned to let the public property prevail over the private one [S29].

1840

The popular revolts and the European foreign intervention obliged the Prince Bechir to resign, and to leave the country in a real and harsh vacancy of power. The choice of Bechir III to replace his cousin Bechir II at the head of the Emirate did not fill the gap [S29].

1842

Bloody conflicts blew up between the Druzes and the Maronites from 1841 to 1860. The Maronites, who were the new power of the country by their number, their economic and cultural power, and the conversion of the Emirs Chehab and Abu-L-Lam'a to Christianity, believed in the legitimacy of their gaining the power. The Druzes, who have become a minority and without any economic strength, held on to their old prerogatives and opposed the Maronites by force [S29].

These conflicts, poked up by the Ottomans, weakened the country and deteriorated to become bloody massacres. The first conflict occurred after burning up Deir al Qamar, the leading Maronite town in the Shouf. Maronites fleeing to Beirut were butchered by the Turks [S29].

Lebanon was divided into two administrative divisions (Caimacamat): one Druze, lying south of Beirut, and directed by a Druze prince; the other Christians lived in the Druze part, and a minority of Druze in the Christian part [S29].

This partition of Lebanon proved to be a mistake. Animosity between the religious sects increased, nurtured by outside powers. The French supported the Christians, while the British supported the Druzes, and the Ottomans fomented strife to increase their control. Not surprisingly, these tensions led to yet another conflict between Christians and Druzes [S11].

1845

In April, the long gathering storm burst with a Maronite attack on the Druze in the Shouf, burning fourteen villages and advancing as victors to Mukhtara [S11].

At the heart of this administrative division, the Druzes kept their social structure, while the Maronite peasants, going back to the spirit of their popular movements (1820 – 1840). This system failed to keep order when the Maronite peasants of Kesrouen, overburdened by heavy taxes, rebelled against the feudal practices that prevailed in Mount Lebanon [S29].

1858

Tanyus Shahin, a Maronite peasant leader, demanded that the feudal class abolish its privileges. When this demand was refused, the poor peasants revolted against the feudal lords of Mount Lebanon and distributed the land amongst the tenants. The situation in the Shouf was even harsher for the Maronites: 'For the last fifteen years the Druze had been oppressing the Christians living among them in every possible manner. A Christian could hardly call his life his own. The Jumblatts, the Amads, and the Abou Nakads were pre-eminent for their barbarous and unfeeling despotism' [S11].

1860

A real religious war started in 1860, to which, the Maronites and other Christians, disarmed by the Ottoman garrison, opposed a very small resistance and suffered heavy losses in lives and ownership. The massacre was interrupted due to the intervention of Napoleon III French troops [S29].

Early in the spring of 1860, Maronites were attacked and killed by the Druze, some Maronites fearing for their lives took refuge in Deir al Qamar and Zahleh, leaving their houses to be burnt to the ground. [S11]

April: Within weeks more than sixty Maronite villages layed in ashes. The turn of the towns came next. The butchery followed a general procedure, the Ottoman garrisons would offer the Maronites protection and disarm them, then they would leave them to the mercy of the Druze and even actively take part in the slaughter. Such was the fate of Deir al Qamar, Jezzine, Hasbaya, Rashaya and Zahleh S[11].

May: By the end of May the Maronites of Deir al Qamar found that their town was in a state of blockade as the Druze surrounded the town, cut of the supplies and even reaped and carried away the corn in the nearby fields [S11].

June 1: The forces of the Jumblatts, Abou Nakads, Amads, and the Hamadis, amounting to some 4000 troops set upon the town in furious onslaught. The Maronites made a desperate defence, in the words of Colonel Churchill:

'The battle raged till sunset, the Christians gallantly keeping their enemies at bay, and inflicting on them a considerable loss; upwards of one hundred were killed besides large numbers of wounded. They themselves only lost twelve. Several Turkish soldiers belonging to the garrison fought in the Druze ranks' [S11].

June 3: 400 Turk soldiers arrived with Tahir Pasha from Beirut to 'keep the peace', and after a brief conference with the Druze on the edge of town, the Druze burnt 130 houses and withdrew. The Druze then cut off the town's water supply and prevented food from entering [S11].

The Druzes attacked Jezzine and over 1200 Maronites were massacred over a space of two miles [S11].

Druze forces attacked Hasbeya and after a brief battle with 200 defenders the Druzes took the town. The latter was wrapped in flames within two hours [S11].

June 4: At nearby Rashaya, Turkish troops prevented the Christian population from escaping. On the morning 4th of June Turkish soldiers fired a signal and shortly afterwards the town was attacked by 1500 Druze. The town maintained a resolute defence throughout the day and inflicted heavy losses on the Druze, but as night fell, and having expended their ammunition they abandoned their barricades and flocked to the Turkish barracks as the Turks swore to defend them to the death [S11].

June 18: the Druzes attacked a Zahleh, a Christian town in the Bekka Valley. A bloody fight resulted. The Druzes began to retreat after having lost some 1,500 dead. The Christian losses numbered 700. While all eyes were on Beirut, the Christians of Baalbek were killed, their property pillaged, their houses and churches burnt. By the end of June, the Druzes had destroyed 300 villages, slaughtered more than 20,000 Christians and leaving 80,000 Christian refugees to depend on charity for their daily bread [S11].

July 1: The town of Deir-el-Kamar, inhabited exclusively by the Maronites, was invaded by the Druze who lived the villages around. The inhabitants tried to defend themselves, but deposited their weapons, on the council of the Turkish commander, who promised to them in this condition the inviolability of their person and their goods. The Druzes presented to carry seraglio of Beit Ed Din were taken refuge the Christians without weapons. The soldiers Turkish delivered to them. The result was a massacre of 2000 Christians. The attacks of the Druzes continued everywhere. The result of the massacres was of 30000 people. [B2, p 164]

The great powers decided to act with France taking the initiative dispatching 7,000 troops. The Ottomans fearing this intervention sent their foreign minister, Fuad Pasha, to Lebanon ahead of the French and put an end to the violence. The French troops landed in Beirut in August 1860 [S11].

Civil war ended, with the Druzes in a dominant position due to interventions from Istanbul, and France. A Christian autonomic province was set up in the middle of Lebanon. Faced with the turbulent times, many Lebanese, primarily Christians, emigrated to the Americas.

1861

An international commission, consisting of representatives of the great European powers (Great Britain, France, Prussia, Austria, and Russia), in collaboration with the representative of the Ottoman Sultan, met in 1861, to talk about the Lebanese issue. The result was the issuing of the Organic Rules of the "Mutassarifah", or the small Lebanon limited to the Mountain (Mount-Lebanon) [S29].

The country was amputated from its big coastal cities and from the great plain of the "Bekaa", and from a big part of the South. However, an interior autonomy was provided; a representative council had the role of counselor before a Christian Catholic, non-Lebanese, Ottoman governor "Mutassarif", who had to administer the new organization of the Lebanese Mountain [S29].

During the period of the "Mutassarifiaah", Lebanon became the home of the Arabic literature Renaissance "the Nahda", The Renaissance spread over the Mountain and also over Beirut. The city gained back the fame of the yesteryears after the restoration, the enlargement, and the opening of its port (end of the XIXth century), towards the big routes of international traffic [S29].

Two universities (American and Jesuit), were founded in Beirut, the schools of missionaries and of local foundations and organizations multiplied; publishing houses and press organs became numerous, writers and poets grew famous and some (Gibran Khalil Gibran) shone in the international sky [S29].

1914-1918

World War 1 resulted in famine and diseases. Grasshoppers drowned Lebanon. The Turks commanded Lebanon's food supplies and requisitioned its beasts of burden which resulted in hundreds of thousands of deaths from widespread famine. The land also became a paradise for disease, and plagues claimed thousands of souls.

1915

During this period, the Ottoman violated the autonomy of Lebanon and annexed it to cut it up and reduce it to the famine: Lebanon suffered more than any other Ottoman province, losing over one third of its population (150.000) to slow and painful deaths, especially in the Christian regions (Jbeil, Batroun, Jezzine...) (about 100.000). [B4, p40]

After the Armenian massacre in 1915 by the Ottoman empire, many convoys of tens of thousands armenians including men, women, and children came to Lebanon and established there.

1916

— **May 15:** The Sykes-Picot Agreement was elaborated between France and England. This agreement entrusted to France a mandate on Syria and Lebanon, while England had a mandate on Iraq, Jordan and Palestine.

FRENCH MANDATE

1919

Patriarch Elias Hoayek was delegated by the Lebanese people to go to the Peace Conference at Versailles, and to demand independence on their behalf. The Patriarch went to Versailles and explained the problems of Lebanon. He negotiated effectively, and accomplished his mission. He thus put the future of Lebanon on a firm footing and obtained satisfaction for the national aspirations [S26].

1920

A French mandate, made up of today's Lebanon, Syria, and Turkish province Antakya, is established [S6].

The French proclaimed the creation of Greater Lebanon in Beirut, which included Mount Lebanon, the Bekaa, Wadi el-Taym (Taym Valley), Jabal Amel (Mount Amel), Sur, Saida, Beirut and Tripoli.

The Christians then formed 80% of the Lebanese population and the Muslims 20%. The Maronites, alone, counted 60% of the population while the Muslims counted only the third of Maronites [B1, p35].

1922

The Lebanese elected a local Representative Council, which drew up the Lebanese Constitution under French supervision.

1926

The republic of Lebanon came under French protection. The Lebanese Constitution became the law of the land: it defined the borders of Greater Lebanon which it renamed the Republic of Lebanon, as a "united, independent, indivisible and absolutely sovereign State" (Article 1), with all citizens equal under the law -men and women-. Executive power was given to the President of the Republic, assisted by a Cabinet of Ministers. Legislative power was held by the Parliament. The Parliament members were democratically elected by the people. The Parliament elected the President, who appointed the Prime Minister who in turn, chose the Cabinet members. The political power was divided between Shi'is, Sunnis and Christians.

1929

The French general Gouraud gave Lebanon back its territories amputated during the "Mutassarifah". Thus, in September 1, 1929, the Great Lebanon received its present borders. This was a reply to the aspiration of the Lebanese people, to create a Lebanese nation.

The return of the amputated territories, having a Muslim majority, swung the preceding equilibrium in the "Mutassarifah" in which the Christians constituted 80% of the population.

1932

England carried out a political action and encouraged the creation of two parties: The Syrian Social Nationalist Party and the Bath party. The Syrian Social Nationalist Party, founded in 1932 by orthodox Christians, is committed to unifying a laic state, starting from the racial supremacy of the Syrian people [B1, p 45].

1939

Lebanon was put under the French administration.

1941

Both the British and the Free French forces occupied Lebanon. General Charles de Gaulle visited Lebanon, officially ending Vichy control. The Lebanese national leaders took the opportunity to ask de Gaulle to end the French Mandate and unconditionally recognize Lebanon's independence. Free France proclaimed the independence of Lebanon that was not due before the end of the war, and before the destiny of the Middle East was defined.

— **April 4:** After the Vichy government assumed power in France in 1940, General Henri-Fernand Dentz was appointed high commissioner of Lebanon. This appointment led to the resignation of Emile Iddi. Five days later, Dentz appointed Alfred Naqqash [S24].

— **November 26:** As a result of national and international pressure, General Georges Catroux, delegated by General de Gaulle, proclaimed the independence of Lebanon in the name of his government. The United States, Britain, the Soviet Union, the Arab states, and certain Asian countries recognized this independence, and some of them exchanged ambassadors with Beirut. However, even though the French technically recognized Lebanon's independence, they continued to exercise authority [S24].

INDEPENDENCE

1943

— **September 21:** General elections were held, the new Chamber of Deputies elected Bishara al Khuri as president. He appointed Riyad as Sulh (also cited as Solh) as prime minister and asked him to form the first government of independent Lebanon [S24].

— **November 8:** the Chamber of Deputies amended the Constitution, abolishing the articles that referred to the Mandate and modifying those that specified the powers of the high commissioner, thus unilaterally ending the Mandate. The French authorities responded by arresting a number of prominent Lebanese politicians, including the president, the prime minister, and other cabinet members, and exiling them to the Castle of Rashayya (located about sixty-five kilometers east of Sidon). This action united the Christian and Muslim leaders in their determination to get rid of the French [S24].

— **November 22:** France, released the prisoners at Rashayya, finally yielding to mounting internal pressure and to the influence of Britain, the United States, and the Arab countries. Since then, this day has been celebrated as Independence Day [S24].

1945

Lebanon joined the UN and the Arab League of States.

1946

— **December 31:** After the last French troops left Lebanon, the real independence of Lebanon was declared

1948

The first Arab-Israeli war broke out, and hundreds of thousands of Palestinians fled their homes as Israeli troops advanced on them. About 150,000 Palestinians became refugees in Lebanon. The Palestinians come to play an important, if indirect, part in Lebanese politics.

1949

A coup promoting union with Syria, failed [S6]; a violent confrontation was raised between the Syrian Social Nationalist Party and the Lebanese government.

1950

Muslim opposition increased against the government [S6].

1952

— **June:** an organization called the Social National Front (SNF) was formed by nine deputies led by Kamal Jumblatt, head of the Progressive Socialist Party [S24].

— **July 23:** the Phalange Party, led by Pierre Jumayyil voiced its discontent with the regime [S24].

— **August 17:** the front held a meeting at Dayr al Qamar, Shamun's native town. The meeting was attended by about 50,000 people and turned into a mass rally. The speakers criticized the regime and threatened rebellion if the president did not resign.

—**September 11:** the SNF called for a general strike to force the president to resign; the appeal brought all activities in the major cities to a standstill. This general strike is sometimes referred to as the "Rosewater Revolution" because of its nonviolence. President Khuri appealed to General Fuad Shihab the army chief of staff, to end the strike. However, Shihab refused to become involved in what he considered a political matter [S24].

— **September 18:** President Khuri finally resigned [S24].

— **September 23:** the Chamber of Deputies elected Camille Shamun to succeed Khuri [S24].

1953

The relation between President Shamun and Jumblatt deteriorated as Jumblatt criticized Shamun for accommodating himself to the traditional pattern of Lebanese politics and for toning down the radical ideals that had led to the change of government in 1952. The balance between religious communities, provided for in the National Pact, was precariously maintained, and undercurrents of hostility were discernible. The Muslim community criticized the regime in which Christians, alleging their numerical superiority, occupied the highest offices in the state and filled a disproportionate number of civil service positions. Accordingly, the Muslims asked for a census, which they were confident would prove their numerical superiority. The Christians refused unless the census was to include Lebanese emigrants who were mainly Christians, and they argued that Christians contributed 80 percent of the tax revenue [S24].

1956

The Lebanese Muslims, who identified with the Pan-Arab nationalism of Egyptian president Gamal Abdel Nasser, were alienated when President Camille Chamoun was the only head of state who refused to break diplomatic relations with France and Britain during the 1956 Suez Crisis.

1957

The question of the reelection of Shamun was added to these problems of ideological cleavage. In order to be reelected, the president needed to have the Constitution amended to permit a president to succeed himself. A constitutional amendment required a two-thirds vote by the Chamber of Deputies, so Shamun and his followers had to obtain a majority in the May-June 1957 elections [S24].

1958

The Egyptian president, Gamal Abdul Nasse, became the symbol of panArabism after the 1956 Suez crisis. In 1958, he merged Egypt with Syria to form the United Arab Republic. He had great influence on Lebanese Muslims, who looked to him for inspiration. In this period of unrest, the Lebanese authorities, most of whom were Christians, insisted on two things: maintaining the country's autonomy and cooperating with the West. Christians considered their friendly relations with the West as the only guarantee of Lebanon's independence. President Shamun's refusal to respond favorably to pan-Arab pressures was in direct opposition to the stand of several prominent Sunni leaders, who devoted themselves to Nasser and the pan-Arab cause [S24].

Shamun's followers did obtain a solid majority in the elections, which the opposition considered "rigged," with the result that some non-Christian leaders with pan-Arab sympathies were not elected. Deprived of a legal platform from which to voice their political opinions, they sought to express them by extralegal means. The conflict between Shamun and the pan-Arab opposition gained in intensity when Syria merged with Egypt. Pro-Nasser demonstrations grew in number and in violence until a full-scale rebellion was underway. The unrest was intensified by the assassination of Nassib Matni, the Maronite anti-Shamun editor of *At Talagraph*, a daily newspaper known for its outspoken panArabism. The revolt almost became a religious conflict between Christians and Muslims [S24].

— **July 14:** This state of turmoil increased when, a revolution overthrew the monarchy in Iraq and the entire royal family was killed. In Lebanon, jubilation prevailed in areas where anti-Shamun sentiment predominated, with radio stations announcing that the Shamun regime would be next. Shamun, realizing the gravity of his situation, summoned the ambassadors of the United States, Britain, and France on the morning of July 14. He requested immediate assistance, insisting that the independence of Lebanon was in jeopardy.

Furthermore, he invoked the terms of the Eisenhower Doctrine, which Lebanon had signed the year before. According to its terms the United States would "use armed forces to assist any [Middle East] nation . . . requesting assistance against armed aggression from any country controlled by international communism." Arguing that Lebanese Muslims were being helped by Syria, which had received arms from the Soviet Union, Shamun appealed for United States military intervention. The United States responded, in large measure because of concern over the situation in Iraq and the wish to reassure its allies, such as Iran and Turkey, that the United States could act [S24].

— **July 15:** The American forces began arriving in Lebanon and played a symbolic rather than an active role. In the course of the 1958 Civil War, in which the American forces were not involved, between 2,000 and 4,000 casualties occurred, primarily in the Muslim areas of Beirut and in Tripoli. At the end of the crisis, the Chamber of Deputies elected General Fuad Shihab, then commander in chief of the Lebanese Army, to serve as president [S24].

1959

Fouad Chehab, Chamoun's successor, restored confidence and advanced Lebanon's economic boom. Chehab attempted to reform feudal values and bridge sectarian rifts, by increasing membership in parliament from 66 to 99, thereby providing more seats to more sects.

Moussa Sadr, young Iranian Shiite mollah, elected by the Shah, came and established in Lebanon

1961

A new coup promoting union with Syria, failed [S6].

1964

Charles Helou, continued Chehab's programs but was thwarted by the severe aftereffects of the 1967 Six-Day War between Arabs and Israel. The war sent another wave of Palestinian refugees to Lebanon. Yet, Helou kept the country neutral during the war.

1966

Mohammed Hussein Fadlallah, a monk born in Iraq, came and established in Lebanon [B3, p251].

1967

After the Arab defeat, Syria started sending Palestinian guerrillas into Lebanon to attack Israel.

The Lebanese Parliament created the Islamic and Shiite council superior [B3, p 251].

1968

Israeli commandos landed at Beirut International Airport and destroyed thirteen Middle East Airlines and TMA aircraft with impunity. The Israeli strike was in retaliation for a series of Palestinian hijackings.

1969

In the Cairo Agreement, Lebanon's neighbors forced the government to let the PLO (Palestine Liberation Organization) use its territory to mount raids on northern Israel. The situation worsened after the PLO was expelled from Jordan in 1970. Most of the refugees from Jordan, including more armed militiamen, regrouped in Lebanon. By this time, the Lebanese government was too weak and vulnerable to impose any significant controls on the Palestinians [S30].

— **April 15:** Fighting broke out between the Lebanese Army and infiltrating guerrillas in the southern village of Deir Mimas [S5].

— **April 19:** Another clash took place between army troops and armed Palestinians in the villages of 'Odeiseh and Khiyam, resulting in several casualties. Demonstrations also took place in Beirut and in other major cities [S5].

— **April 23:** in Sidon, armed demonstrators coming from Ayn al-Helweh camp stormed the municipality building in the city and clashed with security forces [S5].

— **October 29:** the Palestinians fired on a Lebanese army patrol, which resulted in the death of three Lebanese soldiers and one guerrilla man and the injury of two people [S5].

According to Lebanese security sources, the number of guerrillas based in the south by mid-1969 was approximately 4000. The majority belonged to Sa'iqa and Fateh.

1970

A serious confrontation involving PLO guerrillas occurred in March 25, following an exchange of gunfire between phalangists and Palestinian guerilla men escorting a convoy of cars passing through the Christian town of Kahhaleh on their way to Damascus to bury a Palestinian commando officer. The tension spread immediately to the outskirts of Beirut.

— **August 17:** Sulayman Franjieh, who had the backing of the National Bloc Party and the center bloc in the Chamber of Deputies, was elected president by one vote over Ilyas Sarkis, head of the Central Bank, who had the support of the Shihabists [S24].

1972

The PLO opened its headquarters in Beirut. From southern Lebanon, PLO Fatah fedayeen (commandos) periodically launched hit-and-run attacks on northern Israel. Israel responded with raids on the PLO in Lebanon. The Israeli attacks were often more severe and on a larger scale than PLO attacks on Israel and often impacted civilian areas. The feeble, divided Lebanese government was unable to restrain attacks by either side and watched helplessly as the destruction and death among its citizens mounted [S30].

— **April:** The parliament elections were accompanied by violence. The high rate of inflation and unemployment, as well as guerrilla actions and retaliations, occasioned demonstrations, and the government declared martial law in some areas [S24].

1973

Palestinians and Lebanese soldiers had a brief, sharp clash in Beirut [S30].

— **April 10:** three leaders of the Palestinian Resistance Movement were assassinated [S24].

— **May:** Armed clashes between the army and the guerrillas in Beirut spread to other parts of the country, resulting in the arrival of guerrilla reinforcements from Syria, the declaration of martial law, and a new secret agreement limiting guerrilla activity [S24].

— **August 26:** The Syrian president, Hafez Assad, said that Syria and Lebanon are one country and one nation, but they have two governments.

— **October:** The war overshadowed disagreements about the role of the guerrillas in Lebanon. Despite Lebanon's policy of noninvolvement, the war deeply affected the country's subsequent history [S24].

1974

Movement of Disinherited was created by Moussa Sadr [B3, p251].

WAR IN LEBANON

1975

A Shiite militia, Amal, was created. It was the armed wing of the Movement of Disinherited [B3, p 251].

— **April 13:** The Lebanese War began with a strike and counterstrike: Palestinian gunmen attacked Christian Phalangists (members of the Kataib faction) at a Beirut church, killing several people. Few hours later, the Phalangists ambushed a busload of Palestinians, killing 27 people [S30].

— **April 22:** The committee of vigilance of Dekwaneh, fauborg northern of Beirut, asked the Maronite patriarch and the president of the parliament, Kamel el-Assad, to obtain the displacement of the camp of the Palestinian refugees of Tell el Zaatar. The latter had become a center for organized terrorism, where the extremists make the law [B4, p103].

— **May 13:** Sharp tension at Dekwaneh occurred between Palestinians and Phalangists [B4, p103].

— **May 19:** Dekwaneh was subjected to shootings of mortiers coming from Tell el Zaatar [B4, p103].

— **May 23:** After four days of disorder at Dekwaneh and the neighbourhoods, the assessment was 25 died and more than 100 wounded [B4, p103].

— **May 25:** new confrontation occurred between Palestinians and Phalangists resulted in 7 dead and many casualties [B4, p103].

— **May 26:** Clashes between Palestinians and Phalangists occurred again, 13 people were killed and 23 wounded.

— **July 10:** Few thousands of Shiites supported by many Palestinians attacked the Christian villages Quaa and Deir el-Ahmar [B4, p105].

— **August 26:** Clashes started between the Christian town Zahleh and the Shiites of the locality Hoche El-Oumara [B4, p105].

— **September:** The Palestinians attacked Zahleh as well as other cities.

— **September 10:** The Syrian Special troops (Saekah) invaded the Lebanese town of Dier Ashashe forcing its inhabitants to flee. They massacred three priests [S5].

— **September 11:** The Syrian Special troops invaded the Southern town of Biet Malat, killing seven citizens and kidnapping ten [S5].

— **September 26:** The Egyptian newspaper, Al-Ahram, accused Syria of direct involvement in Lebanon's internal affairs in a bid to force its Baath ideology on its people.

— **October 9:** The Syrian forces invaded Tal Abass in the Akar district, killing fifteen citizens and injuring ten. They burned the town's church, hoping to instigate a religious strife among Lebanese.

— **October 30: Palestinians launched a raid** against Naame village [B4, p61].

1976

— **January 2:** A Syria special brigades entered the Bekaa Valley.

— **January 7:** The Syrian Vice President, Abdoul Halim Khadam, stated in an interview with a Kuwaiti Newspaper "Alrai Al'Am" « Lebanon is part of Syria, and it should be clear that Syria will take it back».

— **January 15:** The Palestinian Yarmouk Brigade entered the Bekaa Valley under the Syrian command, attacking the Lebanese army positions stationed in the area. The Palestinians arrived at Kab Elias, an Islamic Christian village situated in the Bekaa. Ten days later, 16 Christians were killed and another 23 were injured. Following that, we witnessed the exodus of the Christians towards Zahleh, East Beirut and Jounieh.

— **January 19:** More Yarmouk forces entered in northern Lebanon, attacking local police stations aided by Palestinian collaborators. The village of Hoche Barada in the Bekaa was attacked by Palestinians and Muslim Lebanese. It was completely pillaged and destroyed.

— **January 20:** The Palestinians with the collaboration of the leftist allies attacked Damour, a Christian town south of Beirut. Damour was captured, the civilians were lined up against the walls of their houses and shot; their houses were then dynamited. Many of the young women were raped and babies were shot at close range at the back of the head. 149 bodies layed in the streets for several days and 200 other civilians were never seen again. In Sum, about 582 civilians were murdered.

— **January 21:** Lieutenant Ahmad Khatib, a Sunni Muslim officer in the Lebanese Armed Forces, established the Lebanese Arab Army (LAA). Khatib urged his fellow Muslims to mutiny and desert the army. Within several days, he rallied 2,000 soldiers, including 40 tank crews, to his side. At the zenith of its power, the LAA controlled three-quarters of all army barracks and posts in Lebanon [31].

— **March 5:** The Syrian forces surrounded the northern towns of Kebait and Endact in Akkar, shelling both with heavy mortars, while falsely broadcasting lies claiming that the

locals had asked for their help. Mr. Kamal Jumblat denounced the Syrian military invasion.

— **March 10:** The officer Moiin Hatoum, member of the Lebanese Arab Army, led an attack on the Khyam Barracks. Over 30 Lebanese soldiers were killed.

— **March 17:** the leftist forces and the Palestinians launched an offensive across Mount Sannine to invade the Christian heartland.

— **March 25:** the artillery of the LAA led by Major Hussien Awwad, scored direct hits against Frangieh's residential quarters in the Presidential Palace. The President was forced to leave the palace and seek residency for the rest of his term in Keserwan [S5].

— **April:** The alliance of Lebanese National Movement (LNM) led by Kamal Jumblat LNM and PLO managed to take control of nearly 70% of Lebanon.

— **April 5:** Bashir Gemayel, the Lebanese forces leader declared that the Lebanese parties are getting closer to resolving their differences. The Syrian troops aborted all peace and conciliation efforts.

— **May 31:** The Syrian army units entered northern Lebanon for the first time equipped with tanks and heavy artillery.

— **June 1:** The Syrian forces advanced through the Bekaa Valley and overtook many strategic locations.

— **June 16:** The Syrian troops invaded Lebanon and soon became the strongest party in the country, controlling many of the most important strategic positions.

— **June 29:** The camps at Jisr el Basha and Tal al-Zaatar fell in the hands of the phalangists.

— **July 4:** On the road of Chekka to Deir Naurye, gunmen blocked thirty cars and massacred all their passengers. [B4, p62]

— **July 20:** President Hafez Al-Assad boldly declared in his famous speech, (Damascus University):

"Syria and Lebanon have been one country through history, and one nation, and this is what everyone should know... and that is why we supplied arms and weapons, and we interfered under the cover of Palestinians Liberation Army, and we entered our army through this army to Lebanon. Nobody knew that! We did not consult any Lebanese national party! We did not take any permit from anyone..."

— **August 5:** A quota of Iraqi soldiers, arrived to Lebanon via Cairo, to fight with the Palestinians. [B4, p113]

— **September:** Following a Libya brokered cease-fire, Elias Sarkis won in a Syria controlled presidential election.

— **October:** The Arab summits in Riyadh and Cairo set forth a plan to end the war. The resulting Arab Deterrent Force (ADF) was mainly composed of Syrian troops [S22].

— **November:** The fighting began to calm and a cease-fire yielded a lull. However, PLO attacks on northern Israel continued, bringing Israeli reprisals in Lebanon.

— **November 11:** The Syrian special troops (Saeekah) attempted to assassinate Mr. Raymond Edeeh, head of the National Block party [S32].

— **December 15:** The Syrian army took control of the country's newspapers, forcing out their employees, physically abusing some and confiscating all publishing equipment in retaliation for the papers' open criticism of Syria's illegitimate military presence in Lebanon.

— **December 19:** The Syrian army barged into Annahar newspaper and L'orient de Jour headquarters and occupied them [S32].

— **December 20:** The Syrian Defense Minister attempted to justify these attacks to muzzle free speech as an attempt to stop them from publishing Zionist propaganda against Syria [S32].

1977

Israel started to equip and fund a renegade Christian remnant of the Lebanese Army led by Major Saad Haddad. Haddad's force, which became known as The Free Lebanon Army, and later as the South Lebanon Army (SLA), grew to strength of about 3,000 men and was allied closely with Israel.

— **March 16:** The Syrian secret service agents (Mukhabarat) assassinated the Druze Leader Kamal Jumblat (a few meters from a Syrian check point) in the Shouf area. They proceeded to instigate numerous massacres against Christians in the area. the village of Deir Dourit was erased, and 273 civilians were killed [S14].

— **November 5:** The Syrian special troops (Saeeka) invaded the southern town of Alasheeyeh, killing forty-one citizens and forcing all its inhabitants to flee [S32].

1978

While the other Arab nations withdrew their soldiers from the Arab Deterrent Force (ADF), the Syrian army stayed. The Lebanese Forces (LF) enjoyed the patronage from Israel and the National Lebanese Movement (NLM) and the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) became partners with Syria [S23].

As the situation in the South became worse because of constant offensives from the Palestinian guerillas and the heavy Israeli counter attacks, the Amal Movement was forced to take up its weapons against the coalition of the NLM/PLO (Joint Forces, JF) and slowly won terrain and made areas inaccessible for the JF.[S23]

— **February 7:** The Syrian army attempted to enter the Lebanese Army Fiayadiyeh Barracks (the heart of Lebanon autonomy); However, the attacks were thwarted by the Lebanese Army. General Major Abdallah El-Hatshiti was killed in the battle; Thirty Syrian soldiers were lost.

— **March 11:** The PLO attacked Israel from sea killing 36 civilians [S23].

— **March 14:** Israel launched the "Operation Litany" to sweep a zone of 30-40 kilometres clean of guerrilla bases into the Lebanese territory [S23]. During the invasion, Israel created a self-proclaimed security zone in the southern border of Lebanon, which was manned by the South Lebanon Army (SLA), a Lebanese militia sympathetic to Israel. After three months, most of the Israeli troops withdrew, and Israel controlled the southern 10% of the country. To help reduce attacks in the area, the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) was deployed in the southern part of the country [S27].

— **March 19:** The United Nations (UN) Security Council ratified the Resolution 425 that calls upon Israel to immediately cease its military action against the Lebanese territorial integrity and to withdraw forthwith its forces from all Lebanese territory.

— **May:** International pressure resulted in an Israeli withdraw from the occupied territory. However, Israel established a buffer zone of 4 to 12 km all along the southern border.

— **June 14:** The Syrian forces shelled the Christian town of Dayr El-Ahmar in the Bekaa Valley.

— **June 28:** The Syrian army invaded the towns of Alkah, Rass Baalbak, and Jadidat Altoufah. They kidnapped tens of citizens, later found dead in the towns' vicinity. The whereabouts of many other inhabitants remain unknown.

— **June 30:** The Syrian tank brigades, supported by their Air Force, invaded the hills of Batroun in northern Lebanon. Despite heavy resistance from the locals and the Lebanese Forces (LF), they overtook the Bashari district.

— **July 1:** Syria rushed forces to Beirut and unleashed a devastating artillery attack across the Christian East Beirut, particularly Ashrafieh considered the stronghold of the Christian Phalangist party and the town was ponded for hundred days.

— **August 31:** Imam Moussa Sadr, the spiritual leader of Lebanon's Shiite community, disappeared in Libya during a formal visit to that country.

— **September 30:** Heavy fighting broke out between the Syrian army and the Lebanese Forces all over East Beirut which is mainly christian. Unable to capture the area, they retreated and resorted instead to indiscriminate shelling of the area with heavy mortars and 240 ml cannons. Those fights resulted in the death of 100 civilians and the injury of more than 1000.

1979

— **May:** Fighting started between the Phalange Party and the National Liberal Party (of Chamoun).

— **August:** The Syrians shelled the villages of Niha, Deir Bella and Douma in North Lebanon.

1980

Nabih Berri took the head of the Shiite movement Amal.

Between 1980 and 1982, fighting became rampant in Beirut again, with vicious militia wars, car bombings, kidnappings, and assassinations.

— **February 10:** The Syrian army invaded the town of Kanat in northern Lebanon; conquering it after six days. Tanks and heavy artillery were used in that offensive.

— **February 24:** Salim Alousi, a well known anti-Syrian Lebanese journalist, was found dead at the Aramoun area. The Syrian troops kidnapped Mr. Lousi, tortured him and mutilated his body. His fingers were cut and burned with acid.

— **March 13:** A car bomb attempted to assassinate the former Lebanese President Camille Chamoun.

— **July 7:** The Phalangists launched a surprise attack against Chamoun's Militia, the Tigers. The attack was aimed against their barracks, ports, and offices in a villa next door to Safra Marine in Kesrouen with the aim of assimilating the Tigers into the Lebanese Forces under one command.

— **July 22:** Assassination of Mr. Riyad Taha, the head of the Lebanese Journalists Union.

— **August 28:** Failed to assassinate the American Ambassador in Lebanon, Mr. Joan Ghonterdean.

— **November 10:** Two car bombs exploded in East Beirut (Ashrafeyeh), killing and injuring tens of civilians.

— **December 19:** Zahleh was again shelled by the Palestinian guerillas who were supported by the Syrian army. A heavy fighting broke out between the Syrian army and

the Lebanese Forces after the Syrians sent a patrol down the Zahleh Boulevard. The patrol was attacked by LF and 6 Syrian soldiers and Major were killed.

1981

— **February 20:** The Syrians attempted to assassinate a Catholic Archbishop in the town of Bahamdoun close to a Syrian military checkpoint, in a bid to instigate a religious conflict in the area.

— **April 2:** Again, the Syrian artillery basis located in Mount Lebanon shelled East Beirut, killing 100 innocent civilians mostly school students.

— **April 2:** The Syrian army surrounded Zahleh with 2600 troops and began bombarding the city. On the first day of the battle, the Syrians tried to seize the high ground above the city, but were repelled with the loss of three armoured vehicles and the death of over twenty soldiers. The next day the Syrians retaliated with an artillery barrage on east Beirut, which inflicted heavy civilian casualties.

— **April 3:** Ten thousand Syrian troops attacked the Christians town of Zahleh in an attempt to conquer it. The local militias, mostly Christians, resisted fiercely for 4 months, thwarting the Syrian offensive.

— **July 10:** The Israel Defense Forces (IDF) commenced five days of air strikes and naval bombardments against PLO strongholds in southern Lebanon.

— **September 3:** Syrian agents assassinated the French Ambassador in Beirut, Mr. Louis de Lamar.

— **December 15:** Iraq accused the Syrian secret services of bombing the Iraqi Embassy in Beirut, killing thirty people and injuring more than one hundred twenty.

1982

— **April:** After two infiltration attempts from Jordan by the PFLP-GC of Ahmed Jibril, and the assassination of an Israeli diplomat in Paris, Israel carried out air strikes against Lebanon at the end of April 1982 [S23].

— **April 10:** The U.S. and Soviet Ambassadors to Lebanon met separately with the Lebanese President, Elias Sarkis, who asked them to help staving off a feared Israeli invasion of southern Lebanon [S21].

— **April 11:** The U.S. Ambassador to Israel, Samuel Lewis, after meeting with Prime Minister Begin in Jerusalem for three hours, said that Mr. Begin "assured me that the Israeli cabinet has taken no decision to go into Lebanon in any way, shape or form" [S21].

— **April 27:** Syrian agents assassinated Sheik Ahmad Assaf who had denounced the Syrian occupation.

— **May 1:** Syrian agents assassinated Father Philip Abou Suliaman in an attempt to instigate religious strife in the area.

— **May 24:** An explosion inside the French Embassy killed nine and injured twenty-six. The notorious Syrian agent, Hussein Teliess, carried out the attack.

— **May 24** The French newspaper, Le Matin, openly accused the Syrian secret services of bombing the French Embassy. It released a report naming all those responsible for the terrorist attack.

— **June 5:** After heavy Israeli air-raids on Lebanon carried out on June 4 and 5 and retaliatory shelling of northern Israel by PLO forces, the U.S. voted in favor of a United Nations Security Council resolution 508. The resolution, which passed unanimously, "calls upon all the parties to the conflict to cease immediately and simultaneously all military activities within Lebanon and across the Lebanon-Israel border and no later than 0600 hours local time on Sunday, June 6, 1982." [S21]

— **June 6:** Israel launched "Operation Peace for Galilee," a full-scale invasion of Lebanon. Israel pushed north to Beirut forcing a PLO retreat. Through international mediation, thousands of PLO troops and Syrians were evacuated from Beirut and Tripoli by sea. Nearly 18,000 Lebanese, in addition to many Palestinians and Syrians, were killed in the Israeli invasion.

The Israeli invasion, as expected, also provoked a confrontation with Syria, who lost nearly 400 tanks, 86 MIG fighter aircraft and 19 surface-to-air missile batteries in a week's fighting. Nonetheless, Syria remained powerful in northern and eastern Lebanon [S12].

The United States voted in favor of a United Nations Security Council resolution 509, demanding Israel to "withdraw all its military forces forthwith and unconditionally to the internationally recognized boundaries of Lebanon." [S21].

— **June 7:** The U.S. Department of State issued a statement on the fighting in Lebanon which said, in part, that "Israel will have to withdraw its forces from Lebanon, and the Palestinians will have to stop using Lebanon as a launching pad for attacks on Israel." [S21].

— **June 8:** The United States cast the lone veto of a United Nations Security Council resolution condemning Israel for its noncompliance with U.N. resolutions 508 and 509 and threatening Israel with sanctions, unless it agreed within six hours to a ceasefire and unconditional withdrawal from Lebanon [S21].

— **June 10:** Reagan Administration officials disclosed that the President had sent Israel's Prime Minister Begin a "firm" but "friendly" message calling for Israeli forces to cease firing in Lebanon and to prepare to withdraw [S21].

By mid June, Beirut was surrounded, but there was very heavy resistance [S23].

— **July 11:** Syrian troops shell the area of East Beirut for no reason; killing and injuring citizens.

— **August 10:** The Government of Israel accepted "in principle", but with conditions, the U.S. proposal for the evacuation from West Beirut of PLO forces [S21].

— **August 18:** Lebanon and the PLO officially approved a U.S.-mediated agreement for the evacuation of PLO guerrillas from Beirut [S21].

— **August 19:** Israel approved the U.S.-mediated evacuation agreement, but said evacuation could not begin until guerrillas in Beirut hand over two Israeli prisoners. Lebanon requested the U.S., France and Italy, to send troops to oversee the evacuation of guerrillas from Beirut [S21].

— **August 20:** President Reagan formally announced his order to send 800 U.S. marines to Lebanon to participate, as part of a multinational peacekeeping force, in the safe evacuation of PLO forces from West Beirut. "In no case," the President said, "will our troops stay longer than 30 days." He also said the evacuation would "set the stage for ... the rapid withdrawal of all foreign forces from that country." [S21].

— **August 21:** A multinational force made up of U.S., French, British, and Italian troops tried to stabilize the situation and convince PLO that they have to leave Lebanon.

— **August 23:** Bashir Gemayel was elected president.

— **August 25:** Eight hundred U.S. marines from the 32nd Amphibious Marine unit took up positions in the port of Beirut [S21].

— **September 14:** Habib Chartouni, assassinated President elected Bashir Gemayel.

— **September 15:** Israeli troops moved into Beirut.

— **September 17:** United Nations (UN) Security Council ratified the Resolution 520 that asks for the the withdrawal of all non-Lebanese forces from Lebanon.

— **September 18:** Sabra and Shatila massacre. In 3 days, about 2,000 children, men and women were killed.

The US Administration released a statement saying that, together with the governments of France and Italy, it had urged the Secretary General of the United Nations "to dispatch observers immediately to the sites of the greatest human suffering and losses in and around" the city of Beirut [S21].

— **September 20:** A Western Multi-National Force started to deploy in Beirut, consisting of US, British, French and Italian troops.

— **September 21:** Amin Gemayel, Bashir's brother, was elected new president.

— **September 25:** Two American military officers belonging to a U.N. observer mission in Lebanon were killed when the jeep in which they were riding ran over a land mine nine miles east of Beirut. [S21]

— **September 29:** The Israeli troops leaved Beirut.About 800 U.S. marines from the 32nd Amphibious Unit landed in Beirut and immediately took up positions at the Beirut International Airport, from which the last Israeli soldiers had departed only minutes earlier. The arrival of the marines had been delayed for three days while the Administration waited for Israel to evacuate the airport [S21].

— **September 30:** Four-hundred more U.S. marines landed in Lebanon, bringing the total U.S. marine presence up to 1,200 [S21].

— **October 6:** A senior Reagan Administration official said that the Administration hoped to have a plan ready within about ten days for the withdrawal of Israeli, Syrian and Palestinian forces from Lebanon [S21].

— **October 7:** Two Israeli tanks that had been positioned within firing range of U.S. marines at the Beirut International Airport were withdrawn. The withdrawal took place after several days of negotiations between the U.S. and Israel, which had initially refused to move the tanks [S21].

— **October 14:** U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz met in Washington with Israel's Foreign Minister, Yitzhak Shamir, to discuss Israel's proposals for withdrawing its forces from Lebanon [S21].

— **October 18:** Senior Reagan Administration officials said at a press briefing that their "target date" for the withdrawal of Israeli, Syrian and PLO forces from Lebanon is "the end of the year."

The United States and 12 other member nations of the U.N. Security Council voted in favor of extending for three months until Jan. 19, 1983-the peacekeeping mandate of some 7,000 U.N. troops in southern Lebanon. The Soviet Union and Poland abstained [S21].

— **October 28:** U.S. envoy Morris Draper held talks, in Beirut with Lebanon's President Amin Gemayel on the establishment of a framework for discussions between the Lebanese and Israeli governments on the withdrawal of Israeli, Syrian and Palestinian forces from Lebanon [S21].

— **November 4:** A contingent of U.S. marines with the multi-national force in Beirut began patrolling major roadways in East Beirut [S21].

— **November 29:** Lebanon's President Amin Gemayel formally asked the United States, France, and Italy to increase the number of their troops in the multinational peacekeeping force in Lebanon. The three countries had about 3,400 troops in the Beirut area, 1,300 of whom are U.S. marines [S21].

— **December 16:** President Reagan said in an interview with The Washington Post that "we think the time has come now" for the armed forces of Israel, Syria and the PLO to leave Lebanon. The President also said that "for those countries to delay in getting out now places them in the position of being occupying armies" [S21].

1983

— **January 17:** U.S., Israeli and Lebanese officials held their first formal session of negotiations on an agenda that was agreed to January 13. The agenda calls for "the termination of the state of war" between Israel and Lebanon, -a framework for mutual relations," and arrangements for the withdrawal of Israeli troops from Lebanon "within the context of the evacuation of all foreign forces" [S21].

— **February 9:** Responding to a report that Lebanon's Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan had written guarantees and assurances from the Syrians and the PLO that they would "withdraw totally" from Lebanon at the appropriate time, State Department spokesman Alan Romberg said: "It's our understanding that they (the Syrians and PLO) would be willing to withdraw totally" [S21].

— **February 19:** A contingent of U.S. marines belonging to the multinational peacekeeping force in Lebanon began expanding patrols in East Beirut, four days after Lebanon's Army took over security duties there. The marines have been occasionally patrolling major roadways in East Beirut since last November 4 [S21].

— **April 18:** The US embassy in West Beirut was partially destroyed by a car bomb on, leaving 63 people dead, including 17 Americans. The "Islamic Jihad," a group presumably backed by Iran, claimed responsibility [S12].

— **April 20:** Media and world newspapers from Egypt, Jordan, United States and Israel revealed that the Islamic brotherhood group who claimed responsibility for the bomb attack on the US Embassy in Beirut, was nothing but a cover up for the Syrian secret service.

— **May 4:** Lebanon approved a U.S.-mediated draft agreement for the withdrawal of Israeli troops from Lebanon. U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz helped negotiated the proposed plan through a series of meetings, beginning April 27, with Israeli and Lebanese officials in both Jerusalem and Beirut. [S21]

— **May 11:** Secretary of State George Shultz—who returned to Washington after spending two weeks in the Mideast and several days in Paris attending an international economic meeting—told reporters that although Syria had been "very critical" of the Lebanon-Israel agreement for the withdrawal of Israeli troops from Lebanon, he was "confident" that Syria would eventually agree to withdraw its forces from Lebanon [S21].

— **May 16:** The parliaments of Israel and Lebanon both endorsed the U.S.-backed agreement between Lebanon and Israel which calls for the withdrawal of Israel's troops from Lebanon. The Israeli approval was by a vote of 57 to 6, with 45 abstentions. Most of the abstentions were cast by Labor Party members, who disapproved the agreement because it did not set a specific timetable for the withdrawal of Israeli forces. The vote in Lebanon's parliament was unanimous [S21].

— **May 17:** Government representatives of Lebanon and Israel signed in separate ceremonies in each of the two countries—the agreement formally ending the state of war between Lebanon and Israel and setting forth a framework for the withdrawal of Israeli troops from Lebanon. The signing was witnessed by Morris Draper, the U.S. Special Negotiator for Lebanon. Negotiations on the withdrawal accord commenced last December 28 [S21].

— **May 18:** In response to Syria's announced decision not to receive U.S. special envoy Philip Habib for a discussion of a Syrian withdrawal from Lebanon, State Department spokesman John Hughes said: "The Syrian attitude regarding the Ambassador's (Habib's) visit is certainly not in the spirit we hoped to have." But he stressed that Administration officials had "not accepted the suggestion that this is a final closing of the door" for a possible Syrian commitment to leave Lebanon [S21].

— **May 20:** The Senate approved \$251 million in additional assistance for Lebanon this year, including \$150 million in grants to help rebuild Lebanon's economy, \$100 million in loan guarantees for military equipment purchases, and \$1 million for military training [S21].

— **May 27:** Responding to the increase in the number of Syrian forces in Lebanon and along the Syrian-Lebanon border, the State Department issued a statement saying: "The Syrian buildup of forces into Lebanon and along the Syrian-Lebanon border can lead only to increased tensions in an already volatile area and could threaten the uneasy peace that now prevails in Lebanon" [S21].

— **May 28:** Amid increased tension in the Bekaa valley in Lebanon between Israel and Syria, a senior State Department official attending the Williamsburg economic summit conference said: "The additional Soviet weaponry, the Soviets manning that weaponry, the aggressive behavior of the Syrians, their association with PLO guerrilla forces, with Iranian terrorist groups that are there, all provide a situation that is dangerous." The official, who could not be named under the rules of the briefing, said that Israel had demonstrated "restraint" in the face of "quite a large Syrian buildup" [S21].

— **June 8:** President Reagan met at the White House with the Lebanese Foreign Minister, Elie Salem. While in the U.S. on a private visit, the latter told reporters that he was seeking "to make sure the American interest in Lebanon does not lag." Mr. Salem added that he felt "pretty confident" that Syria would agree to withdraw its forces from Lebanon [S21].

— **June 14:** The Lebanese parliament officially ratified the U.S.-mediated agreement between Lebanon and Israel by a 65 to 2 vote, with 4 abstentions. The agreement provided a framework for the withdrawal of Israeli troops from Lebanon [S21].

— **June 27:** The US Defense Department announced its plans to provide the Lebanese army with \$57 million worth of military gear, including 102 armored personnel carriers, 95 vehicles to transport mortar equipment, 25 mobile command posts, machine guns, communications equipment, spare parts and other supplies. The transfer represents the third installment of military aid to Lebanon since November under a U.S. program designed to rebuild the Lebanese army [S21].

— **July 6:** Following his nearly five-hour meeting with the Syrian President, Hafez al-Assad, the Secretary of State, George Shultz, said that he and the Syrian president "had no agreement about the agreement" signed last May 17 between Israel and Lebanon, which provided for the conditional withdrawal of Israeli troops from Lebanon [S21].

— **July 20:** Commenting on the Israeli cabinet's announced decision July 20 to "redeploy" its troops in Lebanon to positions south of the Shouf mountains and the Beirut-Damascus highway, the State Department spokesman, John Hughes, reiterated the U.S. policy of seeking the "full withdrawal" of all foreign troops in Lebanon. He added: "Any partial withdrawal, therefore, should be within the framework of that objective and should not complicate the very difficult tasks facing the government of President Gemayel" of Lebanon [S21].

— **July 21:** The Lebanese president, Amin Gemayel, who arrived in Washington July 19 on a state visit, told a gathering of the National Press Club that Israel's decision of a partial troop pullout from Lebanon "could endanger all the peace process and also maybe the (Lebanon- Israel) agreement of the 17th of the May" on the full withdrawal of Israeli forces. One day earlier, he told reporters on Capitol Hill: "We are against the partial withdrawal... (It) means a de facto partition" [S21].

— **July 23:** President Amin Gemayel concluded a five-day visit to Washington, where he met with President Reagan and senior Administration officials to discuss ways of achieving a complete withdrawal of all foreign troops in Lebanon. A framework for the withdrawal of Israeli forces was signed by Lebanon and Israel last May 17 [S21].

— **August 19:** Israel prepared to redeploy its forces in southern Lebanon [S21].

— **August 29:** Two U.S. marines were killed and 14 others wounded in Lebanon, when their positions at the Beirut International Airport were fired upon for more than five hours

from territory controlled by Muslim Shiite militiamen. The marines returned the fire with artillery, small arms, and rocket fire from a helicopter gunship. The deaths were the first combat fatalities suffered by the 1,200 marines in Lebanon since arriving there September 29, 1982, as part of a 5,400-man multinational peacekeeping force along with British, French and Italian troops [S21].

— **August 31:** The Israelis withdraw from the Shouf Mountains, and heavy fighting ensued between the Lebanese Forces and the Druze militia, the progressive Socialist party, which resulted in a mass massacre of Christians from the region. During the fighting, many towns were destroyed, especially in the Christian town of Bhamdoun. 36 Christians had their throats cut in Bmariam village.

— **September:** President Gemayel addressed a letter to the Syrian President Hafez El Assad requesting the withdrawal of his forces from Lebanon. The Syrians ignored the request.

The Druzes surrounded and besieged Deir al Qamar, which held 40,000 Christian residents and refugees and 1,000 Lebanese Forces fighters. The first few weeks of September saw a rising number of massacres being committed against Christian civilians.

— **September 1:** President Reagan ordered an additional 2,000 U.S. marines, aboard three naval vessels, to be sent to Lebanon's coastal waters. This will increase the number of marines on ships offshore to 2,600 [S21].

— **September 2:** The Palestinian forces, led by special Syrian units, launched a massive attack against the Souk Al-Gareb town in an attempt to take over the Presidential Palace in Baabda district. The attack was foiled by the Lebanese Army.

— **September 3:** Israeli troops withdrew from the Shouf region, and the Phalange militia and the Lebanese army moved in, resulting in a war between them and the PLO-Druze alliance. The Lebanese army soon got aid from USA and France [S6].

September 4: Israeli forces in Lebanon made a partial pullback, by evacuating their positions along the Beirut-Damascus highway, in the Shouf mountains, and in the outskirts of Beirut. They established a new front line in southern Lebanon at the Awali river near Sidon, 20 miles south of Beirut. The Israeli troops continued to control key mountain ranges near the Beirut-Damascus highway and sections of the Bekaa Valley [S21].

— **September 6:** The Lebanese government officially complained to the United States and the European government that the Syrian and Palestinian troops have attempted to overthrow the Lebanese government and take control over the country.

— **September 7:** 200 Christians were massacred in Bhamdoun by the Druze militia [S5].

— **September 8:** Syria declared publicly that it will be willing to help its allies overthrow the Lebanese government.

— **September 8:** US spokesman Mr. Allen Ronburg, in a press release, made it clear that the US hold Syria and its troops fully responsible for the escalating situation in Lebanon; accusing Damascus of supplying its allied militias fighting against the Lebanese government with all kinds of weapons.

— **September 10:** 30 Christians were massacred in Ras el-Matn, 64 slaughtered in Bireh, several victims were executed in the village church, some of them on the altar by the Druze militia [S5].

— **September 11:** 15 Christians were massacred in Maasser Beit ed-Dine, 36 in Chartoun by the Druze militia [S5].

— **September 12:** 3 Christians were massacred in Ain el-Hour, 12 in Bourjayne, 11 in Fawara by the Druze militia [S5].

— **September 13:** 84 Christians were massacred in Maasser el-Chouf by the Druze militia [S5].

— **September 25:** A cease-fire was brokered between the fighting parties.

During the fighting, the mixed Christian and Druze village of Kfar Matta whose Christian population had been expelled, was attacked and briefly held by the LF. 58 Druze civilians were killed by the Lebanese Forces.

Within days, the Christians lost sixty villages, suffering 1000 dead and 50,000 homeless [S12].

— **September 26:** The US and Syria negotiated a cease-fire, with the Druzes in control of the Shouf area.

— **October 16:** Several thousands of integrist Shiites out of weapon seized the barracks of Sheik Abdallah at Baalbek [B3, p 251]. The Shiite superior council called to resistance against the Israeli occupant [B3, p252].

— **October 23:** The US and French military headquarters were attacked: 241 marines were killed when a barrack at Beirut International Airport was blown up by a truck packed with explosives. A similar attack destroyed a French military barracks a few kilometers away killing 56 French troops.

— **November:** A reconciliation conference was held in Geneva, Switzerland [S6].

— **November 4:** The israelien HQ in south-Lebanon was attacked (61 dead). It was revendicated by Islamic Jihad [B3, p252].

— **November 8:** A force of nearly 200 U.S. marines withdrew from its outpost at the Lebanese University science building in southeast Beirut and was later ferried to U.S.

ships offshore, leaving the position to Lebanese army troops. The move came less than 24 hours after the marine forces had fought an intense gunbattle with guerrillas. The withdrawal will leave up to an estimated 1,800 U.S. marines on the ground in Lebanon. [S21]

— **November 7:** The service action of DGSE (French secret maltreatment) deposited, without success, a jeep trapped in front of the Iranain Embassy in Beirut [B3, p252].

— **November 17:** France launched an air strike against the Iranian Revolutionary Guard positions in the Bekaa valley in retaliation for the bombing. The US Sixth Feet struck the Syrian air defense position in Lebanon after they fired on a US reconnaissance aircraft. Sporadic fighting continued into January.

— **December 1:** After a meeting with the Lebanese president Gemayel in the white House, President Reagan said: "We stand by the May 17 agreement (between Lebanon and Israel) as the best and most viable basis for the withdrawal of Israeli forces from Lebanon." President Gemayel came to Washington seeking to modify the terms of the agreement-an objective which had been authorized by all of Lebanon's factional leaders during their "reconciliation conference" in Geneva in early November [S21].

— **December 4:** A force of 28 U.S. warplanes bombed Syrian army positions located in an area of 10 to 20 miles east of Beirut. Two American planes, containing three pilots, were shot down and another plane was slightly damaged. One pilot was killed, another was injured and taken prisoner by the Syrian troops, and the third pilot parachuted to safety. President Reagan said the bombing raid was in response to Syria's "unprovoked attack" on December 3 on U.S. planes flying reconnaissance missions over Lebanon. In that attack, Syria fired antiaircraft and surface-to-air missiles at U.S. jets which were reconnoitering some of the same Syrian positions bombed by Israeli jets earlier that same day. The retaliatory raid on Syrian positions marked the first time U.S. aircraft have been used in combat in the Middle East [S21].

Following the U.S. bombing attack on the Syrian forces in Lebanon, U.S. marine positions at the Beirut airport came under heavy artillery, rocket, and mortar fire from Druzeheld areas. The attack lasted more than four hours and left eight marines dead. A spokesman for the marines said: U.S. troops responded with artillery and tank fire, and later with guns fired from U.S. warships off the coast [S21].

— **December 5:** The Soviet Union, in a statement by its official press agency Tass, "resolutely condemned" the U.S. bombing raid on the Syrian positions in Lebanon on December 4 and warned that "the U.S. government ought to be aware of the fact that the U.S. armed interference in Lebanon, the aggressive actions of the U.S.A. against Syria, constitute a serious threat to peace in the Middle East, and not only in that region" [S21].

— **December 7:** The Syrian Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Farouk al-Charaa, said: "The release of the prisoner of war"-a reference to Lt. Robert Goodman, the American pilot captured by Syria on December 4, during a U.S. bombing raid on its

positions in Lebanon-"very much depends on the development of relations between Syria and the United States." The Syrian Defense Minister Lieut. Gen. Mustapha Tlas had said on December 5 that Lt. Goodman would be released when the "war" is over.

— **December 13:** Two U.S. warships off the coast of Lebanon fired a total of approximately 50 five-inch shells at Syrian anti-aircraft batteries in the mountains, about 12 miles east of Beirut. The U.S. naval bombardment came immediately after two American reconnaissance aircraft were fired upon-but not hit-during overflights of the Syrian positions [S21].

— **December 14:** For the first time since it arrived off the coast of Lebanon last September, the U.S. battleship New Jersey fired its 16-inch guns at targets inside Lebanon, hurling eleven 1,900-pound shells at Syrian anti-aircraft batteries east of Beirut. The latter had fired on U.S. reconnaissance planes minutes earlier. The planes returned safely to a U.S. aircraft carrier. Two other U.S. warships also fired a total of sixty 70-pound shells at the Syrian gun sites [S21].

— **December 15:** The US New Jersey fired 40 rounds from its smaller, five-inch guns at Druze militia positions east of Beirut which had been the source of machine gun and rocket fire against U.S. marines at their airport compound. No marines were killed or wounded in the gunfire [S21].

— **December 16:** For the fourth day in a row, Israeli gunboats off the Lebanese port city of Tripoli fired shells at PLO forces loyal to Yasser Arafat as they prepared to depart from Tripoli [S21].

— **December 18:** For the third time in less than one week, the U.S. warships bombarded the Syrian anti-aircraft positions in the mountains east of Beirut, which had been the source of fire on U.S. reconnaissance jets. None of the latter were hit [S21].

— **December 19:** In a report on its inquiry into the October 23 bombing of the U.S. marine compound near Beirut, the House Armed Services investigations subcommittee concluded that "inadequate" measures had been taken by the entire chain of command to ensure the safety of the marines. The subcommittee also urged that the Administration "determine if deployment of the Marine unit ... is justified" [S21].

— **December 20:** The Frégate post office of French quota in Beirut was attacked resulting in the killing of 20 people [B3, p252].

PLO leader, Yasser Arafat, and 4,000 of his loyalist forces withdrew from the port of Tripoli, (Lebanon) aboard five Greek passenger ships flying U.N. flags. The ships-which were not hampered by nearby Israeli warships-were escorted by French naval vessels. The scheduled departure of the PLO forces on December 19 had been delayed a day by Israel's bombardment of the port-which sank one freighter and heavily damaged another [S21].

1984

— **January 3:** The Syrian government released U.S. Navy pilot, Lt. Robert O. Goodman Jr., who had been taken prisoner in December 3 after his plane was shot down by Syrian forces during an American bombing raid on Syria's positions in Lebanon [S21].

— **January 8:** A U.S. marine was killed by unidentified gunmen, who opened fire on a U.S. helicopter in western Beirut while U.S. troops were unloading [S21].

— **January 30:** At the U.S. marine compound near Beirut, one marine was killed and three others wounded during day-long fighting between marines and Shiite Amal militiamen firing from Beirut's southern suburbs. A spokesman for the militia said that rounds from the marine base had killed two civilians and wounded over a dozen others in the Shiite neighborhoods [S21].

— **January 31:** The Lebanese President, Amin Gemayel said in an interview with Washington Post reporters that if U.S. marines were withdrawn from Lebanon "there would not be a new president to replace Amin Gemayel but a revolutionary council under Soviet control, or chaos" [S21].

— **February 3:** The Lebanese army and the Lebanese Forces attacked Shi'i suburbs of West Beirut. This resulted in fighting between the army and the Lebanese Forces and the Amal-Druze alliance [S6].

February 5: The Lebanese President, Amin Gemayel, accepted the resignation of the Prime Minister, Shafiq Wazzan. All nine ministers of his cabinet, both Christians and Muslims also resigned. Mr. Wazzan said he was quitting to help improve chances for the creation of a government of "reconciliation" [S21].

— **February 6:** The Amal Shi'i movement and the Druzes of the Socialist Party progressive took control of western Beirut, at the end of a bloody combat with the Lebanese army [B3, p252]. U.S. jets bombed targets in the Shouf mountains east of Beirut [S21].

— **February 7:** The U.S. battleship New Jersey fired its 5-inch guns at positions south of Beirut airport, from which shells were being fired at the U.S. marine compound. Over forty "non-essential" U.S. embassy personnel and their dependents were evacuated [S21].

— **February 8:** For more than nine hours, the US New Jersey fired 340 rounds from its 16-inch guns at 15 "pre-selected targets" inside the Syrian- controlled territory in Lebanon. Over four hundred 5-inch shells were also fired by other U.S. ships at the same targets, which included command bunkers, ammunition dumps, and rocket and gun sites. The bombardment was part of the Administration's new policy of shelling opposition positions which fire into greater Beirut [S21].

— **February 9:** For the second day in a row, U.S. gunships shelled antigovernment forces who had been firing on East Beirut [S21].

— **February 11:** More than 800 American civilians were evacuated from Beirut during a three-day operation that came to a close today.

— **February 15:** The French engineer Christian Joubert was kidnaped by an unknown while leaving the embassy of France, and released after 61 days of detention on April 15 [B3, p252].

— **February 16:** President Gemayel accepted a Saudi sponsored "peace plan" which included a call for the abrogation of the Lebanon-Israel agreement signed in May, 1983 [S21].

— **February 21:** The first group of a total of 1,200 U.S. combat marines belonging to the 22nd Marine Amphibious Unit began their "redeployment" from the Beirut airport compound to U.S. ships offshore—a move announced by President Reagan on February 7. Several hundred other American "support" personnel had already been evacuated, along with heavy equipment and supplies [S21].

— **February 26:** The last of the U.S. marines stationed at the Beirut airport as part of a multinational peacekeeping force were "redeployed" to American ships. Their positions on the perimeter of the airport were immediately taken up by Shiite Amal militiamen, while the marines' headquarters complex and the airport proper were quickly taken over by several largely Shiite brigades of the Lebanese army [S21].

Less than an hour after the last U.S. marines were withdrawn from Lebanon, the U.S. battleship New Jersey fired a barrage of 16 one-ton shells at Syrian anti-aircraft batteries located in the mountains East of Beirut. The U.S. destroyer Caron fired some 50 five-inch shells at the same targets. Rockets from the Syrian batteries had earlier been fired at a U.S. reconnaissance plane but it had not been hit [S21].

— **March 5:** Lebanon cancelled the Lebanese-Israeli peace treaty of May 1983 [S6].

— **March 6:** The first official visit to Damascus of the Lebanese president Amin Gemayel.

— **March 12:** The Lebanese traditional political leaders, both Christians and Muslims, as well as the Druze and Shia militia commanders meet in Lausanne, Switzerland. All except the Lebanese Forces were represented.

— **July 30:** About 90 U.S. marines, who stayed behind in Beirut to guard the U.S. diplomatic mission after the withdrawal of U.S. troops last February, were today returning to their units in the Sixth Fleet. Security needs at the U.S. mission have diminished since most embassy functions were administered at a new site in the Christian town of Aukar, six miles north of East Beirut [S21].

— **September 20:** A truck bomb killed 20 (two of whom were U.S. citizens) at the U.S. embassy annex in Awkar [S16]: The U.S. embassy annex in Aukar, Lebanon--seven

miles northeast of Beirut--was severely damaged and two U.S. servicemen were killed when a van loaded with explosives forced its way to a spot about 30 feet from the front of the building and exploded. Seven Lebanese employed at the embassy also were killed, as well as 5 to 15 non-employees. Twenty Americans were injured, including U.S. Ambassador Reginald Bartholomew. Visiting British Ambassador David Miers also suffered minor injuries. An estimated 40 to 50 Lebanese were hurt, 19 of whom worked at the embassy. Responsibility for the attack was claimed by Islamic Jihad, which had threatened on September 8 to strike an American installation in response to the U.S. veto September 6 of a U.N. Security Council resolution. It called on Israel to "lift all restrictions and obstacles" it has imposed on southern Lebanon, and reaffirmed previous resolutions calling for an Israeli withdrawal [S21].

— **September 21:** Murphy had arrived in Beirut as part of a team sent to investigate the U.S. embassy bombing. But he was then dispatched to other capitals for "exploratory" talks after indications that progress perhaps was possible on the withdrawal of Israeli troops from southern Lebanon.

— **September 23:** Four Americans injured in the bombing of the U.S. embassy were flown from Beirut to Tel Hashomer hospital in Tel Aviv to receive treatment for shrapnel wounds and punctured ear drums. The U. S. had turned down a similar Israeli offer of medical assistance made in October 1983, after the U.S. marine barracks at the Beirut airport was leveled by a suicide bomber [S21].

— **November 13:** Security guards protecting the U.S. ambassador's residence in Beirut mistakenly fired at a small, civilian plane that they believed was about to attack. The Saudi-owned plane was not hit. The air space over the ambassador's residence has been closed to civilian traffic for several weeks, at the request of U.S. government officials.

— **November 20:** Attack against the appendix of the embassy of the United States at east of Beirut: Revendiction: jihad Islamic [B3, p252].

1985

— **January 8:** Gunmen in West Beirut kidnapped Rev. Lawrence Martin Jenco, an American priest who directs Catholic Relief Services in Lebanon. He was the fifth American to be seized in Lebanon in the past 11 months. So far, none have been found [S21].

— **January 20:** Israel began the first phase of what it said was a three-stage plan for the withdrawal of its troops from Lebanon, although it offered no timetable as to when the withdrawal would be completed. In the first phase, Israeli military forces along the Mediterranean coast will establish a new position at the Litani River. From that point, Israeli troops will redeploy along a new line running sharply northeast, keeping the Lebanese towns of Nabatiye and Jezzín under Israeli control.

— **January 28:** The London news agency Visnews released a videotape showing the kidnapped U.S. diplomat William Buckley—who was captured at a gunpoint in Beirut last March—holding a recent newspaper and saying that he and two other Americans taken hostage in Beirut were "well." Mr. Buckley then asked "that our government take action for our release quickly." The two other Americans he was referring to were Jeremy Levin, Cable News Network's bureau chief in Beirut, and Benjamin Weir, a Presbyterian minister. Two additional Americans missing in Beirut were Reverend Lawrence Jenco and Peter Kilburn [S21].

— **February 16:** The IDF implemented the first stage of a withdrawal from Lebanon, evacuating its troops from the northern front at the Awali River, to south of the Litani River, thus removing Sidon from Israeli control. Nearly 2,000 soldiers of the Lebanese Army's 12th brigade immediately took up positions in the city, along with members of a Shiite militia known as the National Resistance Front [S21].

Heavy fights over southern Lebanon started after the withdrawal of Israeli troops. Palestinians making commando raids on northern Israel were joined and later replaced by a new extremist group, Hezbollah (Party of God), which enjoyed Iranian support and Syrian approval. They face Israeli-backed South Lebanese Army, SLA, which had been formed in 1982.

— **March:** fresh fighting broke out between the LF and the Druze and Palestinian militias in the area of Iklim El_Kharroub and the eastern part of Saida. The LF was defeated and the PSP began to massacre the Christian villagers in the area. They burned over twenty Christian villages. It was the worse setback for the LF since the Mountain War in 1983 [S23].

— **March 2:** Approximately 35 Americans working with the U.N. peacekeeping forces in southern Lebanon (UNIFIL) were removed from their jobs out of fear they would be attacked by Shiite Muslim guerrillas. Fears of an attack have heightened since February 28, when the U.S. indicated that it would veto a Lebanese-sponsored U.N. Security Council resolution condemning Israel for its new "iron-fist" policies in southern Lebanon.

— **March 4:** An explosion devastated a mosque in the village of Marakah--only hours after the IDF had inspected the site--killing at least twelve people, many of whom were Shia guerrilla commanders.

— **March 8:** Attack with the booby-trapped car against the residence of the Sheik Fadlallah. 80 people were killed [B3, p253].

— **March 11:** A large Israeli armored force wreaked vengeance on the village of Az Zrariyah, killing 40 people and detaining 200 men.

— **March 12:** The U.S. voted a U.N. Security Council resolution condemning "Israeli practices and measures against the civilian population in southern Lebanon ... which are in violation of the rules and principles of international law." U.S. Ambassador Jeane Kirkpatrick said the resolution—which also called on Israel to halt its crackdown in

southern Lebanon and to withdraw "unconditionally"—was "unbalanced" and that it "does not accord Israel fair treatment." Egypt, France, and 9 other nations voted for the resolution, while Australia, Britain and Denmark abstained.

— **April 3:** The Reagan Administration charged Israel with violating the 1949 Fourth Geneva Convention by transferring approximately 1,200 prisoners from its Ansar prison in southern Lebanon to a prison in Israel. The State Department issued a statement saying: "We have consistently taken the position that the Fourth Geneva Convention applies to areas of Lebanon under Israeli occupation. According to the convention, protected persons are to be detained only within the occupied territory and their transfer to the territory of the occupying power is prohibited, regardless of motive. It appears that Israel's actions are inconsistent with certain provisions of the Geneva Convention." Most of the 1,200 prisoners moved by Israel April 2 were Muslim Shiites.

— **May 15:** The jihad Islamique distributed for the first time the photographs of its six hostages: Paperboard, Fountain, Weir, Anderson, Buckley, Janco [B3, p252].

— **May 22:** The journalist Jean-Paul Kauffmann and the researcher Michel Seurat disappeared in West Beirut. Revendiction: Islamic Jihad [B3, p252].

— **May 16:** Islamic Jibad, the group holding four Americans and two Frenchmen hostage, released photographs of six captives and a statement addressed to the hostages' familie. "For the last time," the statement said, "we wish to stress that all contact with your abducted relatives will be cut off and the consequences will be catastrophic if you do not act seriously and force your governments to intervene for the release (of) all our brothers in Kuwait." Islamic Jihad was seeking the release of 17 pro-Iranian Arabs who were convicted in Kuwait for involvement in bombings of the U.S. and French embassies in December, 1983 [S21].

— **May 17:** A caller told Agence France-Presse in Beirut that the U.S. government should expect "the greatest military operation it has ever seen" because it refused to negotiate on the terms proposed by Islamic Jihad for the release of the American hostages. The caller said that "the refusal of our demands would mean hell for American diplomats across the world."

— **June 6:** Israel completed the withdrawal of the agreed number of troops from South Lebanon, leaving only 1,000.

— **June 10:** Israel completed the withdrawal of its combat forces from southern Lebanon, although an undisclosed number of Israeli soldiers remained inside a security belt Israel established in Lebanon that ranges from approximately five to nine miles north of the Israeli border. Since Israel launched its invasion of Lebanon on June 6, 1982, it has suffered 654 dead and almost 4,000 wounded. During the invasion, tens of thousands of Lebanese and Palestinians were also killed and wounded [S21].

Thomas Sutherland, dean of agriculture at the American University of Beirut, was kidnapped by unidentified gunmen as he was driving from Beirut airport. He became the

eighth American to be kidnapped in Lebanon since March, 1984. Jeremy Levin, a correspondent for Cable News Network, escaped and the others were still missing [S21].

— **June 14:** Two Lebanese Shiite gunmen seized TWA flight 847 from Athens to Rome and forced it to fly to Beirut first where more gunmen came aboard, and then to Algiers. 104 American and 49 other passengers were on that flight. During the first stop in Beirut, the hijackers released 19 passengers, mostly women and children. Another 23 were freed in Algiers [S21].

— **June 15:** TWA Flight 847 returned to Beirut where the gunmen killed U.S. Navy diver Robert Stethem and read a statement which included the demand for Israel to release 766 Lebanese, mainly Shiite Muslims, being held in Atlit prison in Israel. The plane then returned to Algiers, where the hijackers repeated the demands, released another 50 passengers, and threatened to kill the remaining passengers if Israel did not comply [S21].

— **June 16:** TWA Flight 847 left Algiers for the second time for its third stop in Beirut, one hour before expiration of the deadline set by the hijackers to fulfill their demands. In Beirut, they requested Nabih Berri, leader of Amal, the Shiite militia, to negotiate on their behalf. One more hostage was released for medical reasons. U.S. media reported that ships of the U.S. Sixth Fleet were dispatched to the Eastern Mediterranean and a unit of the U.S. Army's "Delta Force" had departed for the Middle East [S21].

— **June 24:** Israel released 31 of the 766 Lebanese and Palestinian detainees it had been holding in Atlit prison near Haifa. Defense Minister, Yitzhak Rabin, insisted that the move was "not linked whatsoever" to the demands of the hijackers of TWA flight 847 but was in accordance with Israeli law which allows detainees to appeal to a special committee and gain release if not found guilty. In response to the measure, Nabih Berri said "we are expecting the release of 731 prisoners and not merely 31" and called for a pullback of U.S. Navy ships standing off Beirut's shore [S21].

— **June 26:** Nabih Berri released hostage Jimmy Dell Palmer, suffering from a heart condition, and introduced a proposal to move the remaining 39 hostages either to a Western embassy in Beirut or to a third country such as Syria. He stipulated that the government concerned should not free the hostages until Israel released its Lebanese prisoners. Meanwhile, in Washington, U.S. Secretary of State Shultz called for unconditional release of all detained Americans, including 7 kidnapped earlier in Lebanon [S21].

— **June 28:** Syrian sources said the hostages "will be fully freed in Damascus" the following day [S21].

— **June 29:** A plan to free the hijackers failed when Nabih Berri and the hijackers demanded that the United States guarantee that it would not retaliate militarily for the hostage crisis. Berri's concern stemmed from remarks by President Reagan in which he referred to the hijackers as "thugs, murderers and barbarians" [S21].

— **June 30:** After 17 days of captivity, the 39 remaining American hostages from TWA flight 847 were transported to Damascus. After a press conference in which the hostages thanked the Syrian President Assad for his intervention, they flew to Frankfurt, Germany. The release took place after the Department of State issued an ambiguous statement in apparent response to Berri's demand for no retaliation. Though seven Americans kidnapped over the previous year-and-a-half in Lebanon were not part of the release, the administration reaffirmed its commitment to their release, and noted that Syria was working on behalf of the U.S. to gain their freedom. In a televised address, President Reagan said "Terrorists, be on notice: we will fight back against you in Lebanon and elsewhere" [S21].

— **July 1:** The U.S. Government announced that it is taking steps to close down Beirut International Airport, including termination of all services of Lebanon's Middle East Airlines between Beirut and New York as well as those of Lebanese and American cargo carriers that use Beirut Airport. Ambassador to the U.S., Abdallah Bouhabib, protested that the action would damage the Lebanese people and government, but would not hurt the terrorists [S21].

— **July 5:** An Arab delegation met with Richard W. Murphy, Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern and South Asian affairs, to protest American actions aimed at closing Beirut International Airport. Led by the Kuwaiti Ambassador, Saud al-Sabah, the dean of the Arab diplomatic corps, including the Lebanese Ambassador Abdallah Bouhabib and Arab League Ambassador Clovis Maksoud, the delegation asked the State Department to reconsider what Arabs view as unwarranted actions being enacted against Lebanon. In a letter to UN Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar, the Lebanese government protested that "the American response is not proportionate to the damage caused and does not punish the true perpetrators" [S21].

— **August 3:** Nabih Berri, leader of the Shiite Amal militia, after meeting with graduates of the American University of Beirut, told reporters he hoped "to gain the release of some [abducted] AUB employees, such as the Dean of Agriculture" [S21].

— **August 28:** Israel released from Atlit prison another 113 detainees from the group of more than 700 Lebanese and Palestinians from southern Lebanon arrested during Operation Iron Fist last year [S21].

— **September 9:** High-level French official declared that Damascus is attempting in every way possible to disrupt all positive efforts by the Lebanese to negotiate among themselves. He also held Syria accountable for the bombing of the French Embassy from positions occupied by Syrian forces.

— **September 10:** Israel released the last 119 of 1100 Lebanese and Palestinians from Atlit prison. Those were originally arrested in southern Lebanon as part of the Iron Fist operation and then transferred to Israel. The hijackers of TWA flight 847 in June had demanded the immediate release of the entire group. The Israeli Government continued

to deny any connection between the release of prisoners from Atlit and the resolution of the TWA hostage crisis [S21].

— **September 30:** Four sovietic diplomats were removed in Beirut. They were released one month later.

— **October 4:** The Islamic Jihad advertised the execution of the American diplomat, William Buckley, head of the CIA post office in Lebanon [B3, p253].

— **November 18:** Terry Waite, a special envoy of Archbishop of Canterbury Robert Muncie, arrived in Beirut to seek the release of four American hostages in Lebanon. Waite later said he had established "a measure of trust" with the captors and reported that the four Americans were in "satisfactory condition" [S21].

— **December 15:** Israel accused Syria of seeking a military confrontation by redeploying Soviet-built SA2 surface-to-air missiles in three locations along Syria's border with Lebanon, threatening Israeli reconnaissance flights over Northern and Eastern Lebanon. The State-controlled Syrian newspaper *Al-Tishrin*, charged in turn, Israel with "sounding the war drums" [S21].

— **December 28:** Syria tried implementing the tripartite agreement signed in Damascus by the the leaders of three main Lebanese militias: Nabih Berri of Amal, Walid Jumblatt of the Druze Progressive Socialist Party, and Elie Hobeika of the Lebanese Forces (LF). A revolt from East Beirut killed the attempt on the spot

1986

— **January 5:** U.S. intelligence officials confirmed that Syria had withdrawn batteries of SAM 6 and SAM 8 mobile missiles from Lebanon into Syria. It was the second time the missiles had been moved into Lebanon and returned to Syria after Israeli aircraft flying over Lebanon near the Syrian border had shot down two Syrian aircraft [S21].

— **January 16:** Fierce fighting raged within the Christian camp, between partisans of Hobeika and Geagea, two leaders of the Lebanese Forces (LF). Hobeika fled to Paris, and then to exile in Damascus.

— **February 17:** Israel began a six day sweep of 20 villages in southern Lebanon, moving outside its so called "security zone" to search for two Israeli soldiers captured by Muslim guerrillas. More than 1,500 Israeli troops rounded up villagers for questioning and arrested over 150 Shiite suspects, but failed to locate the kidnapped soldiers [S21].

— **March 5:** Islamic Jihad announced the execution of the French researcher Michel Seurat [B3, p253].

— **March 8:** Removal at bir el-Abed of a team of journalists of Antenne 2. Revendiction: revolutionary justice organization. [B3, p253]

— **March 14:** Islamic Jihad diffused a first video cassette of Carton, Fontaine and Kauffmann [B3, p253].

— **March 21:** A car bomb exploded in Furn El Chebbak (East Beirut), leaving 30 dead and at least 132 injured.

— **April 17:** Gunmen holding the hostages Britons Leigh Douglas, Philip Padfield as well as the American Peter Kilburn murdered their captives in retaliation for the U.S. air raid against Libya earlier in the week. In a message left with the bodies, a group calling itself the Arab Commando Cell warned that "American and British terrorists will be targets for our attacks" in the future [S21].

— **May 7:** A French citizen, French Camille Sonntag, was kidnapped in Western Beirut [B3, p253].

— **June 13:** President Reagan told journalists that recent U.S. initiatives to secure the release of five American hostages held in Lebanon "didn't work out," causing him "great disappointment", "We have gone down channel after channel and many of them have brought us to the point where we believed that within a few days we were going to be successful and then would find a dead end that didn't work out," Reagan said [S21].

— **June 20:** The two French hostages, Philippe Rochot and George Hansen, were released [B3, p253].

— **July 4:** The Syrian troops entered West Beirut for the first time since being expelled during the 1982 Israeli invasion.

— **July 29:** A Mercedes exploded on the Wadih Nahim Street in Ein el Remmaneh, a Christian Beirut suburb, resulting in 31 dead and 128 injured.

— **July 30:** A booby trapped Mercedes exploded in Barbir, a muslim suburb in West Beirut. The result was 22 dead and 163 injured.

— **August 11:** Lebanon's Christian-owned Central Information Agency reported that American hostage Terry Anderson is "sick and suffering from health problems that confine him to bed." U.S. officials said they had no information on Anderson's health [S21].

— **August 20:** The French positions of FINUL were attacked in Maarakeh, South Lebanon [B3, p253].

— **September 4:** The French positions of FINUL were again attacked at Jouaya in South Lebanon. Three people were killed [B3, p253].

— **September 12:** Joseph James Cicippio, acting comptroller of the American University of Beirut, was kidnapped in West Beirut. No group claimed responsibility [S21].

— **September 24:** Revolutionary justice organization has affirmed to hold for six months, the French national, Marcel Coudari [B3, p253].

— **September 27:** A 3,000-man force loyal to Hobeika launched a surprise attack across the Green Line from Muslim West Beirut against East Beirut. By noon, the invasion of East Beirut was halted.

— **October 7:** Assassination of the vice president of the Islamic center in Lebanon, Sheik Subhi Alsaleh, in broad daylight.

— **October 16:** Israeli jets raided a Palestinian refugee camp in southern Lebanon in retaliation for the previous day's grenade attack in Jerusalem. One plane was shot down. Israeli forces rescued the jet's pilot, but the navigator was captured by the Shiite Amal militia [S21].

— **October 21:** The American national, Edward Austin Tracy, was kidnapped in West Beirut. The Revolutionary Justice Organization claimed responsibility for the abduction [S21].

— **November 2:** The American hostage, David P. Jacobsen, was freed by Islamic Jihad after 17 months in captivity [S21].

— **November 11:** The French hostages, Marcel Coudari and Camille Sonntag, were released in Damascus [B3, p253].

— **November 22:** The Syrian army units kidnaped hundreds of Lebanese from the city of Tripoli and tens of them were found dead in different alleys and streets around Tripoli.

— **November 31:** The Syrian army carried out executions of 34 Lebanese civilians accusing them, without any trial or proof, of defying the Syrian occupation in Lebanon.

1987

Hizbullah strictly following the theological line of Iran's Ayatollah Sayyid Ruhollah Musawi Khomeini and called for the establishment of Islamic rule in Lebanon modeled on that of Iran [S25]. He rejected any compromise with the Lebanese Christians.

The Lebanese government annulled the Treaty of Cairo signed with the PLO in 1969, which authorized them to use Lebanon as a base for military operations against Israel.

— **January 13:** A French journalist, Roger Auque, was arrested in West Beirut [B3, p254].

— **January 18:** A German engineer, Rudolph Cordes, was arrested in West Beirut [B3, p254].

— **January 20:** An English emissary, Terry Waite, was arrested by the Justice Revolutionnaire Organization [B3, p254].

— **January 21:** A German technician, Alfred Schmitt Cordes, was arrested in West Beirut [B3, p254].

— **January 24:** Four professors, three american and one indian were arrested in West Beirut [B3, p254].

— **January 31:** The United States required of their nationals to leave Lebanon [B3, p254].

— **February:** In mid-February, a new round of fighting broke out in West Beirut, this time between the Druze and Shia militias, both of which were regarded as Syrian allies. The combat was described by witnesses as being of unrivaled intensity in twelve years of war, with the militiamen using formations of Soviet-made T-54 tanks that Syria had supplied to both sides. Five days of combat caused an estimated 700 casualties and set much of West Beirut aflame.

— **February 24:** A dozen trucks full of Syrian commandos entered the Basta neighborhood, a Shia stronghold, and attacked the Fathallah barracks, the headquarters of the Hizbullah organization. There, Syrian troops killed eighteen Hizbullah militants.

— **June 17:** The american journalist, Charles Glass, was arrested in West Beirut. He escaped on August 18 [B3, p254].

— **August 2:** President Gemayel's special advisor, Doctor Muhammad Shoukeir, was killed inside his home in West Beirut.

— **November 27:** The 2 French hostages, Jean Louis Normandin and Roger Auque, were released in West Beirut [B3, p254].

1988

— **April:** Fighting started between Amal and Hizbullah in southern Lebanon, lasting for nearly 2 months.

— **April 5:** A Boeing KU 422 of Kuwait airways was diverted by Hizbullah militants on the airport of Machad (Iran) [B3, p254] [S18].

— **April 7:** An inter-Shi'ite war was provoked between Amal and Hezbollah that resulted in 30 deaths in 48 hours [B3, p254].

— **May 4:** Three french hostages, Jean-Paul kauffmann, Marcel Carton, and Marcel Fontaine, were released [B3, p254].

— **May 27:** The Syrian troops entered the southern suburbs of Beirut, the stronghold Shiite where the Western hostages were held [B3, p254].

— **August 9:** Israeli fighter planes bombed the Palestinian positions in South Lebanon, killing three people and wounding five [S21].

— **September 8:** Syrian troops in Beirut arrested two Lebanese Shiite Muslims on suspicion of involvement in the kidnapping of foreigners. Sources said the Syrians were tipped off by their allies in Amal, the mainstream Shiite movement, and that the two suspects were members of the Iranian-backed Hezbollah [S21].

— **September 12:** A pro-Iranian Shiite Muslim group released the West German hostage Rudolf Cordes, 55years old, after 20 months in captivity. The group said its action was in response to "guarantees for a settlement" of the cases of two Lebanese held by West Germany as terrorists, including Mohammed Ali Hammadi, now on trial in Frankfurt for the 1985 hijacking of a TWA jetliner. West German officials denied any such agreement [S21].

— **September 21:** The Syrian President, Hafez Assad, summoned Christian and Muslim Lebanese leaders in an attempt to find a compromise decision on a successor for the Lebanese President, Amin Gemayel. Gemayel returned to Beirut after four hours of talks, saying no agreement had been reached [S21].

— **September 22:** Minutes before his term expired, President Gemayel appointed a six-man military government to steer the country out of the constitutional crisis caused by the failure of the Parliament to agree on a successor. Three Muslim officers refused to join the military government, led by Lebanese army chief Maj. Gen. Michel Aoun. The next day, Muslim Cabinet members claimed they were still holding power and rejected the legitimacy of Gemayel's appointments. The US Embassy evacuated 17 of its personnel from Lebanon. Daoud Daoud, second man of Amal, was assassinated at the southern entry of Beirut [B3, p254].

— **September 23:** Israeli planes bombed a Palestinian refugee camp described as a PLO guerrilla base outside of Sidon in southern Lebanon, wounding five in the 14th such raid on Lebanon this year [S21].

— **October 19:** Seven Israeli soldiers were killed and 10 people injured when a suicide car bomber blew up his van in a convoy of army vehicles in Israel's security zone in Lebanon, 300 yards north of the Israeli border [S21].

— **October 20:** Israeli artillery shelled three Shi'ite villages in southern Lebanon in retaliation for the soldiers killed in a car bomb attack. The Middle East Times reported 17 people dead and at least 40 injured.

— **October 21:** The Israeli government bombed and rocketed what it described as the main Hezbollah headquarters and Palestinian bases in Lebanon in retaliation for the attack on Israeli soldiers in Lebanon. A four-year-old boy was among the 15 dead. Another 35 persons were wounded [S21].

— **October 26:** Israeli warplanes attacked Palestinian bases at Sidon and Beirut, killing at least 19 and wounding 41. The Los Angeles Times reported that Col. Mustafa Daoud, a Fatah militia commander, was among those killed [S21].

— **October 31:** President Reagan denied that his administration had blocked a deal to free American hostages held in Lebanon and accused the kidnapers of Terry Anderson of forcing Anderson to read a false message [S21].

— **November 21:** The four higher reponsables of Hezbollah escaped an attack with the booby-trapped car on the road of Baalbek [B3, p254].

— **December 1:** US officials announced that American military officers have been withdrawn from patrol duties with the UN peacekeeping forces in Lebanon. [S21]

— **December 9:** Israeli commandos raided the Lebanese headquarters of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command (PFLP-GC), killing 20 and wounding dozens more. The raid, Israel's deepest incursion into Lebanon since its 1982 invasion, drew widespread international criticism, including disapproval from Shultz, the Secretary of State [S21].

— **December 12:** The Lebanese kidnapers of American hostage, Marine Lt. Col. William R. Higgins, threatened to kill him in retaliation for the Israeli raid three days earlier on the PFLP-GC headquarters. Higgins, the last of nine Americans to be kidnapped and held in Lebanon, was head of an observer mission attached to a UN peacekeeping force in southern Lebanon [S21].

— **December 14:** Three Palestinians were deported from the Gaza Strip to the Bekaa, bringing the total number of Palestinians deported to Lebanon to 36. Israeli spokesmen said the deportations were unrelated to the Palestinian uprising because the men's offenses predated the intifadah. The US strongly condemned the deportations as illegal [S21].

— **December 16:** Three Irish soldiers serving with the UN peacekeeping force in South Lebanon were kidnapped by Lebanese gunmen demanding the release of Jawad Kasfi, identified by Israel as the leader of the Religious Resistance Front, a faction affiliated with Hezbollah. Kasfi was seized Dec. 15 by Israeli soldiers in the village of Tibnin, which is inside the area patrolled by the UN force in south Lebanon [S21].

— **December 17:** The three Irish soldiers kidnapped by a pro-Iranian Shi'ite Muslim group in south Lebanon were rescued by the mainstream Shi'ite Muslim militia Amal [S21].

— **December 23:** Palestinian guerrillas and Lebanese Shi'ite Muslim militiamen announced an agreement to end three years of fighting in southern Lebanon. The "pact of understanding" was signed by leaders of Amal, the main Shi'ite militia, and the PLO [S21].

1989

— **January 10:** The Israeli army revealed that its soldiers had killed eight guerrillas Jan. 7 in its self-proclaimed security zone in southern Lebanon. The clash, the first between Israeli troops and guerrillas in south Lebanon that year, took place about 11 miles from the Israeli border near the village of Aaramta [S21].

— **January 11:** In the first Israeli air raid against Lebanese targets that year, Israeli aircraft attacked guerrilla bases of Abu Nidal's Fatah Revolutionary Council. There were no reports of deaths or casualties following the raids in the Bkusta and Majdalyoun valleys south of Sidon [S21].

— **January 25:** After three days of intense negotiations in Damascus, the leaders of the Syrian-backed Amal and the Iranian-sponsored Hezbollah, agreed to a cease-fire to end their escalating conflict in Beirut and southern Lebanon [S21].

— **February 14:** Aoun struck at the LF in the Matn and in East Beirut and after two days of fighting the army gained the upper hand.

— **February 15:** Rival Christian forces fought with tanks and heavy artillery for 17 hours for control of the Christian areas of Lebanon in one of the most serious power struggles among Christians during the 14-year-old Lebanese civil war. The battle, in which at least 40 people were killed and 90 wounded, pitted the Christian forces of the Lebanese army led by Gen. Michel Aoun against Lebanese Forces militiamen led by Samir Geagea [S21].

— **February 24:** Aoun ordered the closure of all illegal ports to compel shipping to use the Port of Beirut. The Syrian controlled militias refused to comply with Aoun's orders.

— **March 6:** Aoun activated the army's 'Marine Operations Room' and started a blockade of West Beirut militia ports.

— **March 14:** The Syrians, equipped with heavy artillery of 240 ml and 180 ml, shell the hills of Armoune in east and West Beirut; especially hitting hard the UNESCO, killing tens of innocent civilians. Aoun declared the "war of liberation" to eject Syrian forces from Lebanon.

— **April 16:** At least 23 people were killed during shelling by Christian and Muslim militias in Beirut, including the Spanish ambassador to Lebanon. More than 100 others were wounded during artillery exchanges between Syrian troops and their Muslim allies in one hand and the Christian militias on another hand [S21].

— **April 19:** Gen. Michel Aoun criticized members of the parliament and the head of the Maronite Church, who had appealed earlier in the week for an end to the fighting in Beirut [S21].

— **April 20:** The Arab League proposed a plan for the civil war in Lebanon that involved a league-monitored cease-fire, negotiations with Syria over its future role in Lebanon, and talks among Lebanon's Christian and Muslim leaders to choose a new form of government [S21].

— **April 27:** The foreign ministers of the Arab League called for an immediate cease-fire in Beirut and the reopening of blockaded Lebanese ports in an attempt to end the artillery war which had caused more than 250 deaths over the preceding six weeks. Both Gen. Michel Aoun, leader of the Military cabinet, and Selim Al-Hoss, head of the rival Muslim cabinet, pledged to cooperate with the Arab League observers to be sent to oversee the cease-fire [S21].

— **May 3:** Gen. Michel Aoun, commanding army forces in East Beirut, agreed to suspend his blockade of Muslim militia ports at the request of Arab League cease-fire mediators [S21].

— **May 9:** The leading Sunni Muslim cleric in Lebanon, Sheik Hassan Khaled, and 21 other people were killed by a bomb explosion while Khaled's motorcade drove along a main Beirut street. Sheik Hassan Khaled had been a leading voice for moderation in Lebanon. No group claimed responsibility. The assassination of Mufti Hassan Khalid came after he informed Kuwaiti's Ambassador that the Syrian artillery from its positions at the hills of Aramoun were responsible for shelling east and West Beirut; causing the massacre of UNESCO.

— **May 28:** Two Palestinian guerrillas were killed in a shoot-out with Israeli troops and militiamen of the South Lebanon army near the village of Marjayoun in the Israeli-proclaimed security zone in Lebanon. During the clash, the guerrillas fired rockets into northern Israel, the first such attack this year [S21].

— **September 6:** The U.S. Ambassador John McCarthy closed the U.S. embassy annex in Awkar following anti-American demonstrations [S16].

— **October 22:** Some 60 National Assembly deputies, meeting in Taif, Saudi Arabia, agreed to government reforms that included increasing the National Assembly from 99 to 108 members evenly divided between Christian and Muslim/Druze, disarming the militias, and calling for discussions of a Syrian withdrawal within 2 years after

ratification of the “Taif” agreement [S16]; The agreement also reduced the power of the president who is always Christian and delegated more powers to the prime minister who is always sunni. Michel Aoun considered the agreement illegal as it was ratified outside Lebanon by deputies who have been elected since more than 20 years and rejected it.

— **November 1:** The Islamic Jihad claimed responsibility for the killing of Mohammad Ali Marzouki, 70, the only remaining Saudi Embassy official in Lebanon.

— **November 4:** General Michel Aoun declared the Lebanese parliament dissolved in an effort to prevent the election of a new president and ratification of the Arab League-endorsed peace plan proposed by the Lebanese deputies in Taif, Saudi Arabia.

The Lebanese Parliament backed by Damascus met in a remote village in the North of the country to ratify the Arab-sponsored peace plan and elect Rene Moawad, a Maronite Christian, as the country's new president.

René Moawad was elected president.

— **November 13:** Selim al-Hoss, a Sunni Muslim and US-educated economist who has been serving as prime minister of Lebanon, was named to the same post by newly-elected President Rene Moawad [S21].

— **November 17:** Following a two-month absence from Lebanon, US Ambassador John McCarthy presented his credentials to President Rene Moawad at the latter's ancestral home in the mountains of northern Lebanon. McCarthy then departed Lebanon for consultations in Washington [S21].

— **November 22:** The newly elected president, Rene Moawad, was assassinated after 17 days in office. There was no claim of responsibility for the killing of Moawad along with fourteen others, including 10 of his bodyguards and four Syrian soldiers, by a bomb detonated by remote control as the President's motorcade returned from an observance of Lebanese Independence Day [S21].

— **November 23:** Israeli planes attacked two bases of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, the general Command located in the Syrian-controlled Bekaa Valley [S21].

— **November 24:** The Lebanese Parliament elected Maronite Christian deputy and businessman Elias Hrawi to succeed Rene Moawad as president. Hrawi, whose candidacy was supported by Syria, retained Selim Al-Hoss as prime minister [S21].

— **November 25:** As assassinated Lebanese President Rene Moawad was buried, his successor Elias Hrawi declared the cabinet of Christian General Michel Aoun dissolved and named a new government [S21].

— **November 27:** Syrian tanks moved to within two miles of General Michel Aoun's stronghold in the Lebanese Presidential Palace in Baabda, as the standoff between the rebellious general and the newly elected government of Lebanon took on military overtones [S21].

1990

— **January 22:** A month-long conflict between rival Shi'i Amal and Hezbollah militias in southern Lebanon expanded as meetings between the Syrian President Assad and the Lebanese President Hrawi concluded with an agreement to restrict the entry of illegal aliens into Lebanon. This move aimed primarily at Iran, which backs Hezbollah. Syria, which backs Amal, also agreed to give military aid to the Hrawi government.

— **January 31:** Heavy fighting between the Lebanese army and the Lebanese Forces, which declared allegiance to Hrawi. Aoun was able to take control of 35% of the Christian part of Beirut.

— **February 16:** General Michel Aoun captured East Beirut strongholds in Ain al Rummaneh of the Christian Lebanese Forces loyal to Samir Geagea in heavy inter-Christian fighting [S21].

— **February 23 :** Shi'i Hezbollah spiritual leader Sheikh Mohammed Hussein Fadlallah called for the release of the 18 Western hostages held in Lebanon [S21].

— **February 24:** A Lebanese ferry en route from Cyprus to the port of Jounieh, held by the LF of Samir Geagea, was fired on off the Lebanese coast by artillery controlled by Gen. Michel Aoun, killing one passenger and wounding at least fifteen [S21].

— **March 4:** The Syrian Foreign Minister, Farouk Charaa, met with the Iranian diplomat Mahmoud Hashemi, to discuss Western hostages held in Lebanon [S21].

— **March 24:** Renewed fighting between the rival Christian troops of Gen. Michel Aoun and Samir Geagea ended the latest cease-fire [S21].

— **April 9:** The Lebanese Forces headed by Samir Geagea announced their support for the Taif agreement and their readiness to hand over the institutions under their control to the rival government in west Beirut.

— **August 1:** Syria and its allies surrounded the area loyal to the Lebanese autonomy in an attempt to overthrow the legitimate transitional government of General Aoun.

— **September 30:** The Lebanese Forces shot any person visible in the north of Beirut, on Nahr el Mott, or river of death, killing at least 15 civilians and wounding 14 others.

— **October 12:** Francois Halal, attempted to assassinate General Michel Aoun at the Baabda Presidential Palace.

— **October 13:** Following an air and ground campaign, the Lebanese army troops loyal to Aoun were defeated by the Syrian army. Lebanese army units and civilians resisted in every way possible. Syria crushed the resistance, proceeding on a killing spree of more than 400 innocent civilians execution style in the area of Daher Elwahish, Souk Elkharab, Bessouse, Hadath and Biet Meri. The Syrian army arrested hundreds of Lebanese army officers and soldiers, as well as civilians and transferred them to Syrian jails where many of them are still detained till today. Aside from all the killing and arrests, the Syrian army penetrated the Defense Ministry offices and stole all the equipment that they could get their hands on: computers, desks, maps, archives, historic and strategic documents belonging to Lebanon and moved everything to Syria.

Aoun was exiled to France. The Syrian-backed Lebanese army achieved a strong position in the country. Peace seemed to return to Lebanon. Slow restructuring of Beirut started. At this time 35,000 Syrian troops remains in Lebanon.

— **October 21:** Dany Chamoun, the leader of the National Liberal party, who was against the Syrian presence in Lebanon and a strong supporter of General Aoun's policies was killed by uniformed gunmen who broke into his apartment in the early hours. His wife and his two young boys, aged 5 and 7, were also killed.

— **October 26:** The Lebanese Forces headed by Samir Geagea, the Amal militia headed by Nabih Birri, and the Druze forces headed by Walid Jumblatt agreed to withdraw their militias from Beirut, leaving the Lebanese Armed Forces in control [S16].

— **November 10:** Hundreds of Lebanese militia forces began pulling out of Beirut in response to a call from the Hrawi government, thus creating a militia-free zone around the capital [S21].

— **November 28:** Israeli planes bombed the Palestinian guerrilla bases in southern Lebanon in retaliation for an earlier attack which killed five Israeli soldiers [S21].

POST WAR

1991

— **January 7:** The Lebanese Forces militia threatened to block progress of the new Lebanese government if its conditions for joining were not met. LF leader Samir Geagea and two other Christian leaders had not yet taken their posts in the week-old cabinet [S21].

— **January 29:** Israeli gunboats and helicopters attacked a Palestinian refugee camp near Tyre, Lebanon, in retaliation for a rocket attack on Israel's "security zone" [S21].

— **February 6:** The Lebanese government troops began deploying in southern Lebanon for the first time in 16 years, as Israeli planes attacked Palestinian bases near Sidon for the second straight day [S21].

— **March 11:** Lebanese security sources reported that the 13 Western hostages being held by pro-Iranian Muslim extremists had been moved from Beirut's southern slums to hideouts in the Bekaa Valley [S21].

— **May 22:** Hrawi and Hafez Al-Assad signed a treaty of cooperation between the 2 countries. Many parties criticized the treaty as they considered it as allowing more Syrian interference in Lebanon's foreign affairs, defence and economy [S21].

— **May 23:** The newly elected leader of the Lebanese pro-Iranian faction Hezbollah, Abbas Musawi, announced his willingness to exchange prisoners with Israel [S21].

— **May 28:** Responding to Iranian President Rafsanjani's call for increased cooperation with the West, Bush administration officials said the US hostages in Lebanon must be freed before the US would take any action. [S21]

— **June 4:** Israeli planes attacked Palestinian and Lebanese targets east of the port city of Sidon, in the largest attack since Israel's 1982 invasion of Lebanon [S21].

— **July 2:** At least 19 people were killed and 60 wounded as Lebanese army troops took control of PLO outposts in southern Lebanon [S21].

— **July 4:** PLO guerrillas in southern Lebanon agreed to abandon their bases and surrender their weapons to authorities, ending four days of fighting with the Lebanese government troops. In Beirut, the government lifted working restrictions on the 400,000 Palestinians living in Lebanon [S21].

— **August 6:** The Lebanese pro-Iranian group, Islamic Jihad, sent a message with a photo of the hostage Terry Anderson to UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar, saying it would send "a special envoy carrying an extremely important message" within 48 hours [S21].

— **August 8:** The pro-Iranian Lebanese group, Islamic Jihad, released the British hostage John McCarthy, who had been held for five years. Israel said it would free its Lebanese hostages in exchange for the return of or information on seven Israeli soldiers missing since its 1982 invasion of Lebanon [S21].

— **August 17:** The Lebanese government, following a heated cabinet meeting, issued a general amnesty for war crimes, clearing the way for Maronite Christian Gen. Michel Aoun, who fled to the French Embassy following his defeat by Syrian backed forces in October 1990, to leave the country for political asylum in France [S21].

— **August 29:** After receiving a guarantee of safe passage by Lebanese President Elias Hrawi, Aoun was secretly transported from the French Embassy in Beirut to asylum in France [S21].

— **September 1:** Lebanon and Syria signed a security agreement calling for coordination on all military and security matters, intelligence sharing and extradition of fugitives [S21].

— **September 3:** Defying the terms of his amnesty, exiled Lebanese General Michel Aoun called on his countrymen to reject the Hrawi government.

— **September 11:** Israel released 51 Lebanese hostages and the bodies of 9 others in response to word that one of its missing soldiers was dead [S21].

— **September 12:** The remains of one of its soldiers missing in Lebanon were returned to Israel by the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, in exchange for Israeli permission for the return to the West Bank Of Ali Abdalla Mohammed Hallal, a Democratic Front activist deported in 1986 [S21].

— **October 18:** The United States and the Soviet Union issued invitations to Syria, Lebanon, Israel and a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation for a peace conference to convene in Oct. 30 in Madrid, Spain [S21].

— **October 21:** Following Israel's release of 15 Arab hostages held in southern Lebanon, US hostage Jesse Turner, kidnapped in 1987, was released in Beirut by the Islamic Holy War for the Liberation of Palestine [S21].

— **October 23:** Officials of the PLO, Syria, Egypt, Jordan and Lebanon, joined later by the Saudi Arabian and Moroccan foreign ministers, met in Damascus for a formal strategy session prior to the Madrid peace conference [S21].

— **October 30:** Lebanon participated in the Madrid peace conference (although it was widely understood that Lebanon and Israel would not sign a peace treaty until after Syria and Israel resolved their differences) [S16].

— **October 31:** Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir and representatives of the Jordanian, Palestinian, Lebanese and Syrian delegations addressed the Madrid Mideast peace conference. Palestinian delegate Haidar AbdelShafi declared, "We are willing to live side by side on the land" with Israel [S21].

— **November 8:** The oldest and most renowned of the American University of Beirut buildings, the College Hall, was destroyed by a powerful blast.

1992

In August and September 1992 the first parliamentary elections in 20 years were held, but were boycotted by 87 % of Lebanese.

— **July 7:** The National Assembly passed a law raising the number of Deputies from 108 to 128, and reconfirming the 4-year term of the office [S16].

— **July 23:** Secretary of State Baker drove from Damascus to Zahleh to meet with Lebanese officials for discussions about the peace process [S16].

— **September 15:** Boutros Khawand, a prominent member of the Phalangist party, was kidnapped from his house in the suburbs of Beirut. He is allegedly thought of be jailed in Syrian jails.

— **October 20:** The newly elected Lebanese parliament chose Amal militia leader and Syrian ally, Nabih Berri, as speaker for the coming four years [S21].

— **October 22:** The Lebanese President, Elias Hrawi, named the billionaire Rafik Al-Hariri as the country's new prime minister [S21].

— **October 25:** In southern Lebanon, five Israeli soldiers were killed and another five wounded in an attack by Hezbollah forces [S21].

— **October 26:** Israeli forces bombed and shelled Lebanese villages north of Israel's self-declared "security zone" in retaliation for Hezbollah attacks on Israeli troops in southern Lebanon [S21].

— **December 16:** Israel began deporting 415 Palestinian members or suspected members of Hamas (Islamic Resistance Movement) from the occupied territories into southern Lebanon. Lebanon refused to allow the deportees to leave the Israeli security strip and enter Lebanese-controlled territory. The last of the deportees returned to Israeli prisons on December 15, 1993 [S16].

1993

— **July 1:** The U.S. Senate passed Security Council Resolution 28 stating that Syria had violated the Taif agreement by not withdrawing from Lebanon in September 1992 [S16].

— **July 25:** Israel began a seven-day air, artillery, and naval bombardment of southern Lebanon in retaliation for the death of seven Israeli soldiers. In the ensuing exchange, three Israelis were killed and 28 wounded, and 130 Lebanese were killed and 525 wounded. The Israeli Prime Minister, Isaac Rabin, said the bombardment was intended to drive civilians north to Beirut where they would force the government to stop Hizbullah. As a result of the Israeli bombardment, about 250,000 Lebanese became refugees. [S16]

1994

— **February 27:** A bomb exploded killing at least 10 people in Sayedat Al-Najat Church in Zouk.

— **April 21:** The government dissolved and banned the Lebanese Forces and arrested more than one hundred of its members, including the leader Samir Geagea, before the prosecution's indictment in the case was issued.

— **July 1996:** Samir Geagea was acquitted of the church bombing charge, but sentenced to 10 years' imprisonment for "maintaining a militia in the guise of a political party, and for dealing with military weapons and explosives".

1995

The restructuring of Beirut met an archaeological ground, halting important parts of the plans.

— **October 11 :** The Syrian President announced that the Lebanese President Hrawi's term of office would be extended for 3 years [S16].

— **October 19 :** The Lebanese parliament passed an amendment to the constitution permitting the extension. President Hrawi was sworn in for an additional 3 years on November 25 [S16].

1996

The second postwar parliamentary elections, in August and September 1996, confirmed support of the ruling troika, but the openness of the elections was questioned. Many Lebanese again boycotted the elections.

The elections for the National Assembly increased the number of Muslims. The Hizbullah won 8 seats.

— **April 11:** Israel launched what it referred to as "Grapes of Wrath Operation". Israeli attacks were localized in southern Lebanon, Beirut, and the southern half of the coast in an attempt to root up positions of the Hizbullah, who had been conducting attacks on settlements in northern Israel. The one-sided fights continued for two weeks. Over the next 15 days, between 150 and 200 Lebanese were killed, another 300 to 400 were

wounded, and between 400,000 and 500,000 Lebanese fled north to avoid the fighting. 50 Israelis were wounded and 20,000 Israelis evacuated in northern Israel [S16].

— **April 18:** Israeli started shelling Qana, a northern village. 100 civilians were killed and 150 were wounded.

— **April 26:** The US Secretary of State negotiated a cease-fire between Israel and Hizbullah. The two sides agreed not to fire on civilian populations. As part of the agreement, Israel, Lebanon, Syria, France, and the United States formed an observer group to report on violations of the agreement [S16].

— **April 27:** Fights end, after the reach of an agreement the day before. More than 150 civilian Lebanese have been killed, and much material damage has been inflicted.

— **November:** Rafiq Hariri formed a new government, following the general elections starting in August.

— **November 24:** The former Lebanese President Elias Hrawi publicly announced that there were 210 Lebanese prisoners in Syria, but no information was forthcoming regarding the identity of these detainees, their whereabouts, the reasons for their detention and whether they had been brought before a court of law [S19].

— **December:** At a conference in Washington, USA, Lebanon was promised US\$ 3 billion by the international community to rebuild the country's infrastructure.

1997

The former leader of Hizbullah, Sheikh Subhi Al-Tufayli, re-emerged from political obscurity in the summer of 1997, by launching a "hunger revolt" in the Bekaa valley to press the government to help the poor. He called on Bekaa residents to prevent government ministers and officials from visiting the area until his demands were met, a move that prompted the army to strengthen its presence in the area [S 17].

— **January:** New fighting started in the south between Hizbullah and Israeli forces, lasting for 2 months.

— **October 26:** The Lebanese army declared that it has arrested twenty-three protestors in the town of Baalbek in the Bekaa valley, after machine-guns were fired during a demonstration calling for greater social security benefits. The demonstration was organised by Sheikh Sobhi Tufaili, the former leader of the pro-Iranian Hezbollah party [S20].

— **December 12:** The Lebanese authorities asked Murr Television MTV not to broadcast Aoun interview planned for Sunday [S20].

— **December 14:** Security forces used tear gas and clubs to disperse Aoun supporters who had gathered at a television station which the authorities had barred from broadcasting an interview with the former army commander. Sixty-three people were detained during the protest, all of whom were released the next day.

— **December 16:** Lebanese lawyers announced a three-day strike, to protest against the arrest on Sunday of dozens of supporters of General Michel Aoun [S20].

1998

Israel offered to withdraw from the security zone if Lebanon would guarantee that the area would not be used for attacks on Israel. The Lebanese government rejected the offer, calling instead for an unconditional withdrawal and maintaining that no security guarantee would be provided without a comprehensive peace treaty between Israel and Lebanon and Syria.

— **January 30:** Tufayli and about 200 of his followers then seized a Hizbullah religious seminary in Baalbek Hizbullah decided to refrain from engaging in a military confrontation with Tufayli and his supporters, and left the Lebanese army to deal with the occupation. The gunmen ignored an ultimatum to evacuate the building and surrender to the authorities, which led to heavy fighting in which at least 8 people died with many more wounded [S17].

— **March :** 121 Lebanese nationals were released from Syrian prisons and handed over to the Lebanese authorities. Eighteen of these remained in the custody of the Lebanese authorities and were subsequently referred to the office of the Prosecutor General in connection with criminal charges in Lebanon [S19].

— **April:** A riot erupted in Rumieh Central Prison in Beirut, the country's largest facility, with prisoners complaining of overcrowding and ill treatment. The incident sparked calls from human rights organisations for urgent reform in prison conditions [S17].

— **April 8:** The Lebanese Interior Minister, Michel Murr, has been to the country's main prison on the outskirts of Beirut to try to calm prisoners who have been rioting in support of their demands for better conditions [S20].

— **August 10:** Israeli warplanes have attacked a suspected guerrilla base in southern Lebanon. The raid came hours after Hezbollah forces killed a militiaman from the Israeli-backed South Lebanon Army in a roadside bomb attack [S20].

— **July 9:** The authorities in Lebanon charged eighteen people in connection with a series of bombings and other attacks over the past two years. A statement by the military prosecutor said the group had contacts with Israel and was linked to the banned Christian militia, the Lebanese Forces. It accused the group of killing several people, trying to assassinate politicians and trading in drugs [S20].

— **October 15:** General Emile Lahoud was elected president by a unanimous National Assembly, except Walid Jumblatt and his supporters who boycotted the assembly. Aoun also protested against the appointment [S6].

— **October 6:** The Syrian President, Hafez al-Assad, and his Lebanese counterpart, Elias Hrawi, agreed to back the military commander-in-chief, General Emile Lahud, as President Hrawi's successor [S20].

— **October 27:** A member of the Islamic Jihad Palestinian militant group, Mahmoud Majzoub, was injured in a car bomb explosion in the southern Lebanese port of Sidon [S20].

— **November:** As a protest against extension of the powers of the president, Hariri resigns as prime minister.

— **December:** Salim El-Hoss was appointed as a prime minister.

1999

— **May 4:** Israeli planes attacked a building in the middle of the city of Baalbek, allegedly used by Hezbollah. [S20]

— **June 3:** The South Lebanon Army withdrew from the enclave of Jezzine, a predominantly Maronite Christian town/area just outside the 'security zone', which had been controlled by the SLA for 17 years. Some 220 SLA militiamen and support workers decided to remain and voluntarily surrender themselves to the Lebanese authorities, rather than to relocate with the rest of the contingent into the 'security zone. They were tried before a military tribunal in Beirut. Of the 151 who had been sentenced by mid-September, the vast majority had been given prison sentences of one year or less [S17].

— **June 8:** Unidentified armed men opened fire on the hall of the criminal court in the Justice Palace in Sidon city, south Lebanon on Tuesday afternoon. Four judges were killed immediately: Hassan Othman, the first president for the criminal court, judge Asem Abu Daher, judge Walid Harmoush and judge Imad al-Shehab [S20].

— **October 10:** One person was killed in a bomb explosion at a Saint-Georges church in Dekwaneh East Beirut, minutes after 1,000 worshippers left the building. [S20]

— **December 26:** Five Lebanese Hezbollah guerrillas set free by Israel in a deal negotiated by Germany arrived to Beirut [S20].

2000

— **January:** The mountainous area of Dinnieh northeast of Tripoli suffered a 4-day "war" between the Lebanese Army units and a group of 150-200 Sunni fundamentalist

militants, in which 11 troops (including one officer), 5 civilians and 27 attackers were killed, and 6 soldiers, 12 civilians and 20 attackers wounded.

— **January 3:** A Palestinian gunman armed with rocket-propelled grenades fired at the Russian embassy at Beirut from a nearby building [S20].

— **March 5 :** The Israeli cabinet voted to withdraw from Lebanon by July 7 [S16].

— **March 26 :** The Lebanese president, Emile Lahoud, reaffirmed that Syria's military presence in his country is legal and temporary [S20].

— **April 18:** For the second day running, members of a Lebanese opposition group demonstrated in Beirut, demanding that Syrian troops leave the country. One report said they were sprayed with water cannon and then fought with riot police. A number of protesters were injured [S20].

— **April 19:** Thirteen Lebanese released by Israel after being held for over a decade returned home. [S20]

— **May 20:** The Israeli air forces attacked a military base of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine General Command near Deir al-Ghazal in the Bekaa Valley.

— **May 24:** Israel withdrew its troops from southern Lebanon. Fearing reprisal attacks (a "bloodbath") from Hizbullah and possible arrest by the Lebanese authorities, about 6500 residents of southern Lebanon sought refuge in Israel. These included many former SLA militiamen and their families, and other people who were never in the SLA but many also have feared being branded as "collaborators". A couple of hundred have since returned to face trial in Lebanon, but most are still in Israel or have sought refuge abroad [S16], [S17].

— **May 27:** Christian man, Girgis Hajj, was shot by a Hizbullah member in the village of Rmeish, and later died. Police arrested the gunman [S17].

— **May 31:** The United Nations special envoy, Terje Roed-Larsen, has said Syria accepts that Israel has fully withdrawn from Lebanon [S20].

— **June:** UNIFIL presented a delineation called the "Blue Line", a border line behind which Israeli forces would have to have withdrawn in order to meet with international recognition that their withdrawal from Lebanon was now complete [S17].

— **June 2:** The Commissioner for the Military Court declared that a total of 2277 people had been charged with offences under the Penal Code. Trials commenced on 5 June 2000. The Lebanese Bar Association and human rights organisations were critical of the manner in which the trials have been conducted, and there was alleged abuses of some detainees prior to trial [S17].

— **June 7:** Human Rights Watch reported that 20 men were seized on the night of 6-7 June in the village of Aitaroun by armed kidnappers who identified themselves as members of Hizbullah. Five were later released after being interrogated for a week, but another 15 apparently have yet to be accounted for [S17].

— **June 16:** The United Nations confirmed that Israeli troops have completely withdrawn from south Lebanon. But the Lebanese Government rejected the UN verification, saying Israeli forces were still in control of some part of Lebanese territory. UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan said Israel had complied fully with 1978 UN resolutions demanding an end to the occupation of its self-proclaimed security zone inside Lebanon [S20].

— **July 7:** Following Lebanese Government objections to certain details, UN Special Envoy Larsen presented a map with a revised Blue Line [S17].

— **July 16:** Two Hezbollah fighters were killed in a clash with a rival Muslim group, Amal, as signs emerge of a power struggle in southern Lebanon following the Israeli withdrawal [S20].

— **July 25:** UN Secretary General Kofi Annan said in a letter of 25 July 2000 that he was satisfied that Israel was no longer encroaching into Lebanese territory, following a number of earlier complaints of border violations [S17].

— **September:** President Lahoud reacted to a statement by the Maronite Patriarch on the need for a pull-out of Syrian forces from Lebanon by stating that the continued presence of Syrian troops was legal and served the country's strategic interests. (At that time there was an estimated 30 to 35,000 Syrian troops currently stationed in Lebanon.) Now that Israel is out, the average Lebanese wants Syrians out, too [S17].

— **September 20:** The largest Christian community in Lebanon, the Maronite Catholic church, has called for Syrian troops to leave the country following the end of the Israeli occupation [S20].

— **September 22:** Syria's state media have rallied to defend the country's role in Lebanon following a call by Lebanese Christian leaders for Syrian troops to withdraw [S20].

— **October 7:** Hezbollah kidnapped three Israeli soldiers at Shebaa Farms on the Lebanese border with Israel.

— **November 2:** The Lebanese Prime Minister, Rafik Hariri, rejected a new appeal by the United Nations to deploy further government troops to the border with Israel to reinforce security [S20].

— **November 10:** Lebanon accused the Israeli navy of harassing a boat in Lebanese territorial waters and firing shots in its direction [S20].

— **November 14:** The UN called on Lebanon to abide by its commitment to replace Hezbollah forces in the south of the country with government troops. Lebanon refused to deploy its own troops in the area, saying it does not want to serve as Israel's border guard in the absence of a comprehensive peace treaty [S20].

— **December 2000:** Syria freed about 50 Lebanese prisoners, some of whom were held in detention for more than a decade.

2001

— **January 23 :** UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan criticises Lebanon and Israel for the continuing tension on the border between the two countries [S20].

— **March 13:** The Lebanese army warned supporters of General Michel Aoun, not to stage a protest tomorrow against Syrian troops in the country. A statement said the army would oppose any attempt to endanger the security of the state. The demonstration was planned to coincide with the fourteenth anniversary of General Aoun's attempt to drive Syrian troops out of Lebanon [S20].

— **April 14:** Hizbullah fighters destroyed an Israeli tank in a cross-border missile ambush, prompting Israeli jets, helicopter gunships, tanks, and artillery to blast the outskirts of Shebaa and Kfar Chouba in south Lebanon with sustained fire.

— **April 16:** Israel struck Syrian positions in Lebanon. Israeli jets bombarded a Syrian radar station in the mountainous region of Dahr al Baydar.

— **April 23:** Supporters of the imprisoned Lebanese faction leader, Samir Geagea, held a general strike in his hometown, Bcharre. The strike was called after four of Mr Geagea's supporters were arrested at the weekend during a demonstration marking the seventh anniversary of Mr Geagea's detention [S20].

— **May 24:** Israeli forces shoot down a light aircraft it says had crossed into its territory from Lebanon, near the port city of Haifa, killing its pilot [S20].

— **June 14:** About 6,000 Syrian troops began withdrawing from Beirut [S16].

— **July:** UN Secretary General Kofi Annan asked Lebanon to deploy its army in the south on the Israeli border, where clashes between Israelis and the Hezbollah insurgency continue. In a report to the United Nations Security Council, Annan said that the government of Lebanon had continued to let Hezbollah operate close to the Blue Line - the de facto border since the Israeli withdrawal in May 2000 [S17].

— **August 8:** In a crackdown on anti-Syrian activists, Lebanese authorities jailed as many as 200 people over the course of a week, including journalists, lawyers and engineers. When relatives and other supporters gathered outside the Palace of Justice to demand their release, plainclothes officers broke up the rally with kicks and punches.

— **August 11:** A military court in Lebanon began hearing the cases of more than 20 Christian activists opposed to Syria's role in the country who were charged in connection with violent protests last week [S20].

— **August 20:** Seventy-five Lebanese Christians arrested two weeks ago were fined \$2,000 and released after appearing before a military court [S20].

— **July 1:** Israeli warplanes attacked a Syrian radar station in eastern Lebanon's Bekaa Valley, injuring three Syrian soldiers and a Lebanese. An Israeli government statement said the air raid was in retaliation for a rocket attack by Hezbollah guerrillas two days ago in which two Israeli soldiers were wounded [S20].

— **September 6:** The Council of Maronite Bishops in Lebanon strongly attacked the influence Syria exerts in Lebanon. In their strongest criticism of Syria for a year, the Christian bishops said the presence of thousands of Syrian troops imposed Syrian domination over Lebanese affairs, prevented democratic life, and stifled freedoms [S20].

— **November 8:** Lebanon rejected the U.S. request to freeze Hizbullah assets following the November 2 U.S. listing of Hizbullah as a terror organization [S16].

2002

— **January 24:** Elie Hobeika and his bodyguards were instantly killed by a car explosion.

— **March 3:** The Syrian president made a landmark visit to Lebanon to discuss the deteriorating Israeli-Palestinian situation. This was the first visit by a Syrian president to Beirut since 1947 [S20].

— **March 20:** Some 500 students staged an anti-Syrian demonstration in the streets of Beirut Wednesday, a week before the Arab summit opens in the presence of Syrian president Bashar Assad.

— **April 5:** The Syrian army has dismantled its forward-most lines on South Lebanon's Awali river near Sidon and pulled out Saturday toward the Bekaa Valley in the course of a final redeployment operation designed to conform with the Taif Accord.

— **April 9:** Hezbollah fired rockets and mortars at Israeli troops in a new flare-up on the border [S20].

— **April 12:** About 2000 demonstrators clash with police outside US Embassy. Approximately 10 people were injured Friday during a two-hour pro-Palestinian demonstration in Awkar organized by the Communist Party and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine.

— **May 7:** A senior activist of the Lebanese Forces Ramzi Irani has vanished in mysterious conditions in Beirut.

— **May 9:** A bomb has ripped through a US fast food restaurant (KFC) in northern Lebanon injuring at least one person.

— **May 20:** The son of radical Palestinian guerrilla leader Ahmed Jibril was killed in a booby-trapped car explosion in a busy street in west Beirut, police said. The explosion happened when the driver started his car, a police officer said.
The decomposed body of Ramzi Irani was found in Beirut's Caracas neighborhood, some two weeks after the pro-Lebanese Forces engineer disappeared.

— **June 4:** Interior Minister Elias Murr confirmed at a mid-afternoon news conference, giving his uncle Gabriel Murr a 17-vote edge over his sister Myrna Murr for the Greek Orthodox seat in Parliament left vacant by Dr. Albert Mokheiber's old-age death.

— **June 23:** An international conference held in Los Angeles from June 20-23, dominated by Maronites living in the United States and south America, called on the United Nations and the United States to help Lebanon restore its sovereignty from Syrian political, military, judicial and economic hegemony.

The conference also declared support for draft bill before congress called Accountability Act, HR4463 Syria, which calls for sanctions against President Bashar Assad's regime if it fails to withdraw its armed forces from Lebanon in line with U.N. resolution 520.

— **June 24:** A bomb exploded in Sidon on Monday, completely destroying a Mercedes parked near the Ain al-Hilweh Palestinian refugee camp but causing no injuries.

— **July 11 :** Three Lebanese army intelligence officers were shot dead by unidentified gunmen in the southern port city of Sidon. They were killed during a raid on the home of a member of an obscure Palestinian militant group which is based in the nearby Ain al-Helweh refugee camp [S20].

— **July 18 :** Four people have been arrested in Tripoli after allegedly opening fire on an Internal Security Forces patrol transferring a convict from one prison to another.

— **July 19 :** A number of mainly Sunni Muslim clerics and officials gathered to lash out at the Maronite World Congress resolutions, which they perceived to be a departure from Lebanon's Arabism; Accusing the congress of serving Israeli interests by backing an anti-Syrian bill introduced in the US Congress in April, the participants of the meeting lent their support to Damascus and its controversial role in Lebanon.

— **July 24 :** Berri rejects UN demands to deploy army in South : I say to all the Lebanese, especially after the report by (Annan), that the state does not have problems in the border districts.

— **July 26** : Hezbollah and IDF troops exchanged gun fire near the Lebanese border, close to kibbutz Sasa in the eastern Galilee. There were no reported casualties.

— **July 31**: Eight people died and five were wounded after a gunman (Ahmad Mansour) opened fire at an education ministry building in Beirut.

— **August 7**: The Maronite Council of Bishops called on the government to respect human rights, in a statement that coincided with the one-year anniversary of a security clampdown on pro-sovereignty activists.

— **August 12**: Four Palestinians were killed and five others wounded in faction fighting early Tuesday in Lebanon's largest Palestinian refugee camp.

— **September 3**: The Lebanese army clashed with Abu Nidal guerrillas near Baalbek on Wednesday and media reports said four people were killed and 12 wounded in the daybreak firefight. The army was tipped about the existence of an armed depot belonging to Abu Nidal's Fatah-Revolutionary Council faction at the Al Jaleel Refugee camp near Baalbek.

— **September 4**: The Lebanese authorities shut down the opposition television station (MTV) owned by a Christian member of parliament after a court ruled that it had violated the law on election broadcasts.

— **September 6**: Lawyers across the country staged a one-day strike to protest against the closure of a MTV station owned by an opposition politician [S20].

— **September 17**: The Constitutional Council informed senior leaders Tuesday that Metn MP Gabriel Murr had effectively lost his seat in Parliament because he failed to declare his personal holdings within three months of his June 2 victory in the Metn by-election.

— **September 22**: A one kilogram of high-powered explosives went off in Jounieh early Monday, devastating the car of a Lebanese engineer working in Germany right in front of McDonald's takeaway restaurant and gutting two other parked vans.

— **October 13**: Some two dozen Free Patriotic Movement supporters were arrested by the army Sunday as they headed to a memorial service in honor of those who died on Oct. 13, 1990 when Syrian and Lebanese armies ousted former Army Commander Michel Aoun, then heading an interim government. The FPM supporters were released almost seven hours later, after having been taken to the Karantina army barracks.

— **October 16**: A pro-sovereignty demonstration at the Law Faculty of Universite Saint Joseph (USJ) in Achrafieh saw five protesters arrested and another three hospitalized on Wednesday. The students had planned to march to the Phoenicia Inter-Continental Hotel, where the three-day Francophone summit begins Friday, but were prevented by scores of Internal Security Forces (ISF) and soldiers who blockaded the campus.

— **October 17:** About 25 Free Patriotic Movement supporters staged a demonstration Thursday at the French Cultural Center in Beirut over UN Resolution 520, which calls for the withdrawal of all foreign forces from Lebanon.

Francophone summit opened in Beirut with Iraq high on agenda.

— **October 19:** The Francophone Summit concluded three days of deliberations with a strong statement in support of an effective role for the United Nations, rejection of unilateralism in dealing with threats to global peace, and implementation of international resolutions related to all conflicts, especially Iraq and the Arab-Israeli conflict.

— **October 30:** Riot police and army troops clashed in fist fights with student supporters of General Michel Aoun over the main gate of the Lebanese University Science Faculty in Al-Fanar on Thursday and police said 3 students were hospitalized and 11 arrested. Helmeted policemen doused student protestors with water hoses from nearby fire engines to stop them from breaking out of campus to stage street demonstrations.

— **November 4:** The Constitutional Council stripped opposition media baron Gabriel Murr from the parliament seat he won in the Metn by-elections and proclaimed lawyer Ghassan Mokheiber the new deputy of the district that constitutes President Lahoud's hometown power base.

— **November 7:** Christian politicians of many stripes flocked to Bkirki on Thursday, one day after the Maronite bishops rebuked the government's performance and the Constitutional Council's decision to annul the June election of Metn MP Gabriel Murr.

— **November 11:** Three explosions targeted Tuesday morning three American restaurants in Jounieh and Tripoli causing materiel damages, but no casualties. Two of the explosions occurred near a Pizza Hut restaurant along the Maamltein highway at 4:30 a.m. and the Winners restaurant near the Ghazir exit at 5:00 a.m.

— **November 20:** Bonnie Penner Whitherall, 31, who worked as a volunteer gynecologist assistant in the Evangelist-run missionary Ittihad center at the southern entrance of Sidon, was shot three times in the head as she arrived at the clinic about 7:30 a.m. She was declared dead shortly after coworkers discovered the body.

— **December 6:** Ramzi Nahra, 40, and his 29-year-old nephew Eli Youssef Issa, a Lebanese civilians, accused by Israel of collaborating with the Lebanese resistance during its occupation of south Lebanon, were killed when a bomb destroyed their car in south Lebanon.

— **December 11:** Canada added Hezbollah and two other groups to list of banned terrorist.

— **December 23:** A Lebanese judge Fadi Nachar was shot by Khalil Sinno at his chambers in Beirut's Justice Palace.

2003

— **January 2:** The authorities cut the satellite link of private station New Television on Wednesday and banned a program on Saudi Arabia from being broadcast locally under the pretext that it would harm Lebanese-Saudi relations.

— **January 21:** Hizbullah fighters shelled Israeli positions in the Shebaa Farms on Tuesday, provoking Israeli air strikes and artillery fire that wounded two civilians.

— **January 26:** Antoine Shahine believed to have been wanted by the police was shot dead in Hazmieh on Sunday night after he threw a hand grenade at the officers raiding his brother's home.

— **February 6:** Lebanon has been quietly beefing up army presence along its southern border and setting up physical obstacles ostensibly to prevent Israel from capitalizing on anticipated Middle East chaos in the event of war on Iraq to "transfer" Palestinians to neighboring countries.

— **February 10:** Mosque preachers across Lebanon marked Islam's Adha feast Tuesday by calls for a pan-Arab uprising to smother the "executioner of Iraq" George W. Bush and the "executioner of Palestine" Ariel Sharon, proclaiming both of them the "earth's worst murderous terrorists who have to be internationally hunted down."

— **February 18:** Some 25,000 Lebanese and Palestinians gathered in Sidon Tuesday to protest US policies in the region and war against Iraq, with some describing President George W. Bush as the enemy of humanity.

— **February 25:** The Syrian army has completed its redeployment out of north Lebanon, complying with the 1989 Taif Accord that halted Lebanon's 15-year civil war, An Nahar reported Wednesday. The last stage of the 6-day operation was completed Tuesday evening, when Syrian troops evacuated their last positions in the Batroun and Koura districts. Up to 4,000 troops were reported to have left north Lebanon to re-base in central Syria.

— **March 1:** Nimr Nouredine, Hizbullah's top official in the neighborhood of Sabra was shot dead in his house at point-blank range in Beirut. An Egyptian Muslim fundamentalist was killed and two other people were wounded Saturday in an explosion inside a Palestinian refugee camp in south Lebanon.

— **March 2:** Some 1,500 demonstrators gathered at the US Embassy in Awkar Saturday afternoon to protest against a possible war against Iraq. However, police in riot gear and fire fighters kept the protesters several hundred meters from the heavily fortified compound. There were no clashes between the demonstrators.

— **March 7:** More than 6,000 demonstrators took to the streets of Tripoli after Friday prayers in solidarity with Iraq and the Palestinians, demanding the expulsion of American and British ambassadors from Arab capitals and burning an effigy of US President George W. Bush. The demonstration, organized by Lebanese and Palestinian parties, organizations and factions, was led by several MPs and officials.

— **March 25:** A demonstration against the war on Iraq Tuesday saw violent clashes between demonstrators and security forces protecting the British Embassy in downtown Beirut. More than a dozen demonstrators were detained for hurling stones and for attacking security forces at the embassy. The demonstration included members and supporters of Hizbullah, Amal Movement, Progressive Socialist Party (PSP), Syrian Social Nationalist Party, and Palestinian factions.

— **March 27:** The Amal Movement has officially expelled six members from its ranks, with two current government ministers among them. Energy and Water Minister Mohammed Abdel-Hamid Beydoun, Agriculture Minister Ali Abdullah and Western Bekaa MP and former minister Mahmoud Abu Hamdan have all been dismissed, according to a statement by the movement's presidency issued Thursday.

— **March 28:** More than 75,000 people staged a peaceful anti-war demonstration in Tripoli on Friday, joining protests across the country against the US-led war on Iraq.

— **March 29:** Lebanese police have arrested an anti-war protester, Samir Abdel Karim Berro, who held customers and staff hostage in a UK-linked bank in the capital, Beirut, threatening to detonate explosives strapped to his body.

— **April 5:** A bomb has exploded in a McDonald's restaurant in Lebanon, wounding at least three people.

— **April 21:** Over 8,000 people marched from Bkirki to Harissa to commemorate the ninth anniversary of Samir Geagea's imprisonment Monday, despite tight measures to prevent supporters from gathering for the event.

— **April 29:** France has drawn a de facto 'Roadmap' of its own for an overall Middle East peace based on Syria's military withdrawal from Lebanon, Israel's pullout from the Golan Heights and an establishment of a Palestinian state within a shortened timetable.

— **May 3:** A violent clashes between anti-Syrian supporters of Gen. Aoun and the Beirut riot police stole much of the Lebanese media steam Sunday shrouding Colin Powell's demands that Hizbullah be disarmed and the regular army be deployed along the entire border with Israel. An Nahar spoke of 25 arrests made among hundreds of protesting students form Free Patriotic Movement, who also suffered dozens of injuries from rifle butts and baton charges made by riot police to disperse the demonstrators. Police said one officer and three policemen were hospitalized.

— **May 7:** A bomb exploded outside the home of a Dutch Christian missionary couple overnight in Qubba, an eastern neighborhood of Tripoli, killing Jamil Rifai, a Jordanian Muslim convert to Christianity, and injuring another.

— **May 18:** At least seven people have been killed in fighting between rival groups in the Palestinian refugee camp of Ain al-Hilweh in southern Lebanon.

— **June 15:** Two rockets, connected to a timer and concealed in the trunk of a stolen car, blasted into the Beirut offices of Future TV early Sunday in an attack that caused no casualties.

— **June 16:** Australia joins U.S., Canada in ban on Hezbollah.

— **June 30:** A detained Lebanese cab driver has died in jail after an 11-year imprisonment in Syria. His body was delivered hush-hush to his family in Zahleh last Wednesday and was also buried hush-hush at midnight the same day, the human rights organization Solid reported.

— **July 6:** Both Christian and Muslim members of the opposition met in the Our Lady of the Mountain Monastery in Adma this weekend for the third annual conclave of the monastery's gathering, held this year under the slogan Together for Lebanon.

— **July 10:** A Canadian national, Bruce Balfour, was arrested upon his arrival in Beirut on charges of spying for Israel, State Prosecutor Adnan Addoum announced.

— **July 14:** Syria pulled its last remaining troops from south Beirut and thinned out its military presence in northern Lebanon in the fourth redeployment operation staged by the Syrian army in less than three years. Convoys of military buses have been moved some 1,000 Syrian soldiers from south Beirut's suburbs of Khaldeh and Aramoun via the Beirut-Damascus highway in the direction of Damascus.

— **August 9:** Israeli aircraft have carried out a raid in southern Lebanon just hours after a civilian was killed in northern Israel by shell-fire blamed on Hezbollah guerrillas.

— **September 1:** A Beirut military court has acquitted two Canadian pastors of spying for Israel, but were convicted of inciting sectarian animosities among Lebanon's Christian and Muslim communities.

— **September 5:** Clashes between Amal, Hizbullah in Beirut left 1 dead, 6 wounded.

— **October 17:** Hizbullah has prevented at gunpoint a U.S. Embassy convoy from climbing to the highest border peak in South Lebanon for an on-the-spot view of northern Israeli settlements, prompting a strong protest from the Bush administration.

— **October 23:** Around 4,000 workers protested Thursday against what they described as the government's policy of impoverishing middle and low classes, demanding that the state increase public sector wages and stop tax hikes.

— **October 27:** The United States has urged Lebanon, Syria and Israel to harness violence along their common borders in keeping with their commitments to the U.N. Security Council to help the cause of peace in the Middle East.

— **November 23:** Supporters of the Free Patriotic Movement (FPM) and the disbanded Lebanese Forces (LF) staged two separate protests Friday, calling for total Syrian withdrawal from the country and describing it "as the best way to celebrate Independence Day."

— **December 3:** Samir Geagea has fired Tawfic Hindi as his political advisor and as representative of the Lebanese Forces in the Qornet Shahwan coalition of right-wing Christian politicians functioning under Patriarch Nasrallah Sfeir's wing.

— **December 7:** The owner of the Beirut leftist NTV network Tahseen Khayat has been released from prison at the defense ministry in Yarze after a 25-hour detention for questioning about alleged contacts he recently made with Israeli officials in Qatar.

— **December 10:** Israeli troops have shot dead two Lebanese hunters who lost their way on the common border, charging on Wednesday that they could have been Hizbullah infiltrators on a hostage-taking or suicide bombing mission across the Blue Line.

Lebanese soldiers arrested Abed Mreish, a Lebanese man, carrying a bag filled with explosives as he tried to enter the US Embassy.

— **December 16:** Information Minister Michel Samaha suspended Tuesday the broadcasting of news bulletins and political programs as well as the reading of newspaper headlines on New Television (NTV) satellite and terrestrial channels for two days.

2004

— **February 8:** Activists of Nabih Berri's Amal Movement and Hassan Nasrallah's Hizbullah have clashed in running battles with sticks and mechanical tools in South Lebanon, signaling a violent resurgence of their undying rivalry for control of the Shiite sect, the largest in Lebanon. At least eight combatants were hospitalized, four from each side.

— **March 5:** South Lebanon's police chief, Jean Akl, survived an assassination attempt early Friday, but lost his right foot in a bomb blast that wrecked his car as he was driving through Zahle in the Bekaa.

— **March 8:** Clashes between residents and security forces took place in the Ouzai area on Monday after residents prevented Electricite du Liban (EDL) inspectors from removing illegal connections.

— **March 10:** A peaceful student sit-in protesting the emigration of young Lebanese because of political corruption turned violent on Wednesday when a mass of security forces descended upon the demonstrators at the Saint Joseph University (USJ) in Achrafieh. The students were beaten with rifle butts, three were arrested, and several injured, including Sami Gemayel, former President Amin Gemayel's son.

— **March 12:** A mass grave containing the remains of five Palestinian fighters who died in June 1982 in a clash with Israeli troops was discovered in Hay al-Sharifah in Nabatieh. 20 activists were injured and hospitalized and many others were detained when a demonstrations staged by students of Gen. Aoun's Free Patriotic movement to mark the 15th anniversary of a "liberation war" he waged against the Syrian army in Lebanon in 1989.

— **March 13:** The United States was reported Sunday to have demanded the withdrawal of the Syrian army and Iranian Revolutionary Guards contingents from Lebanon at once, emphasizing the need to have the Beirut parliament elect a president representing the will of the Lebanese people without external interference.

— **March 24:** Two Palestinians have been killed in an Israeli air raid on south Lebanon after firing rockets toward the Jewish state to avenge the killing of Hamas founder Sheikh Ahmed Yassin, Lebanese sources say.

Up to 15,000 people took to the street in Tripoli Tuesday to protest the previous day's assassination of the leader of the Hamas Movement, Sheikh Ahmed Yassin, along with seven others.

— **May 2:** Several voters and representatives of opposition candidates on Sunday were arrested and beaten up in Metn areas, which is considered former Interior Minister Michel Murr's turf. Clashes and confrontations took place between the opposition and the authorities, especially in the municipalities of Jdeideh-Boushrieh-Sadd, Zalka-Amarat Shalhoub, whereas other areas did not even witness an electoral battle, such as Bourj Hammoud, where the authority-supported list won uncontested.

— **May 5:** Israeli aircraft have bombed suspected Hezbollah outposts in south Lebanon, Lebanese security sources say.

— **May 16:** Lebanese female lawyer Iman Mansour has been found shot dead at her apartment in Beirut's Mar Elias residential neighborhood.

— **June 7:** Syrian troops will not withdraw from neighboring Lebanon before a final Mideast peace settlement is reached and Israel is no longer a threat, Syrian President

Bashar al-Assad said in comments published Monday, the Middle East News Agency (Mena) reported.

— **July 18:** A senior commander of Hizbullah's military arm, the Islamic Resistance, was assassinated in a booby-trap car blast in south Beirut's Moawad residential neighborhood on Monday and an obscure group calling itself Jund El Sham claimed responsibility.

— **August 28:** White House press secretary Scott McClellan urged Syria to stop interfering in Lebanese affairs, saying Lebanon should be free to make its own choice, "without pressure or interference from any outside party." Washington's comments came on the same day German Foreign Minister Joschka Fischer insinuated that the Lebanese Constitution should be respected, and a day after similar comments by the French Foreign Ministry.

— **September 1:** Maronite bishops accused Syria of turning Lebanon into a Syrian province.

The United States and France prepared Wednesday to introduce a resolution at the U.N. Security Council supporting Lebanon's sovereignty.

— **September 2:** The UN Security Council narrowly adopted a resolution (1559) telling Syria to withdraw from Lebanon, calling for the disbanding of Hezbollah and warning against outside interference in Beirut's upcoming presidential election.

— **September 3:** Lebanon's Parliament voted to extend the presidential term by another three years.

— **September 9:** The head of the Maronite Church has publicly defended the U.N. Security Council for telling Syria to quit Lebanon, saying the international body had "intervened to stop foreign intervention" in Lebanese affairs.

A senior U.S. diplomat, William J. Burns, urged Syria's president Saturday to withdraw his country's troops from Lebanon and stop interfering in internal Lebanese affairs, a message delivered at a time when Syrian-American relations have been particularly strained.

— **September 13:** The new U.S. Ambassador to Lebanon Jeffrey Feltman stressed Lebanon's independence and sovereignty and called for the withdrawal of all foreign troops from its territory.

— **September 14:** Arab League foreign ministers approved at their 122nd meeting in Cairo on Tuesday a draft resolution under which they backed Lebanon's sovereignty and its right to have the closest relations with its Arab friends, especially Syria.

— **September 21:** Syria began a long-awaited redeployment of its troops in Lebanon in the face of heavy international pressure for Damascus to end its political and military domination of its tiny neighbour. Syrian forces evacuated four small posts situated on a

hilltop in Aramoun, about 15 kilometers (nine miles) south of Beirut, as part of the troop pullback eastwards towards the Syrian border.

— **September 21:** A car bomb exploded in Beirut early Friday, wounding former Lebanese Cabinet minister Marwan Hamadeh and killing his driver, security officials said. The explosion occurred in the Lebanese capital's corniche area where the American Community School and the International College, both U.S. organizations, are located, the officials said on condition of anonymity.

— **October 26:** The French government urged the new Lebanese government to implement UN Security Council resolution 1559, which calls for the complete withdrawal of foreign forces from Lebanon and respect for its sovereignty.

— **November 18:** Thousands of Lebanese students and activists defied government warnings Friday and demonstrated against Syria's domination of their country.

— **November 30:** Thousands of people marched Tuesday to express condemnation of U.N. Security Council Resolution 1559 and to show gratitude and support to Syria, the main power broker in Lebanon. The protesters brandished pictures of Syrian President Bashar Assad, President Emile Lahoud and Lebanese flags.

— **December 1:** Lebanon's Christian Maronite church Wednesday denounced the Hezbollah-led demonstration held Tuesday in support of Syria's presence in Lebanon.

— **December 13:** The French government has banned broadcasts by a satellite TV channel run by the militant Hizbullah organisation on the grounds of anti-semitism.

— **December 17:** Some 1000 students and other Hizbullah supporters protested Thursday outside the French Embassy in Beirut calling France to lift a ban on Hizbullah's al-Manar television.

The State Department on Friday designated Hezbollah's al-Manar television as a terrorist organization, a notice published in the Federal Register said.

— **December 30:** Ex-premier Salim Hoss has thrown his weighty prestige behind the opposition drive to the excessive meddling of Syria's Moukhabarat secret service in Lebanon's domestic affairs, urging a speedy redeployment of the Syrian army into the Bekaa Valley.

REFERENCES

- B1 Liban Guerre ou Génocide?
La situation au moyen orient de 644 à nos jours
Hanna Ghanem - Editions Naaman -1979
- B2 Christ Au Liban
De Moise aux Palestiniens
Virgil Gheorghiu – PLON – 1979
- B3 Beyrouth
Les soldats de l’Islam
Gilles Delafon – Stock – 1989
- B4 Le Liban, le courage d’exister
Jean-Francois Haddad – Editions Maisonneuve – 1978
- S1 Microsoft Encarta Online Encyclopedia (july 27, 2002)
<http://encarta.msn.com/find/concise.asp?mod=1&ti=761564963&page=6#s33>
- S2 Lebanon's History (july 27, 2002)
http://www.rimbaud.freemove.co.uk/lebanon_phoncia.htm
- S3 Catholic Center of Information (july 27, 2002)
<http://www.opuslibani.org.lb/Lebanon/ppframe.htm>
- S4 Lebanon Advisor (july 27, 2002)
http://www.lebanonadvisor.com/downloads/english/tourism_chapter.pdf
- S5 Cedarland- The Lebanese War (July 27, 2002)
<http://www.geocities.com/CapitolHill/Parliament/2587/war.html>
- S6 Encyclopedia of the orient (July 27, 2002)
http://i-cias.com/e.o/lebanon_5.htm
- S7 Syria's Bloody Record in Lebanon
<http://www.algonet.se/~arz/guardians/statements/OtherOrgs109.html>
- S8 Lebanon's History
<http://www.ghazi.de/history.html>
- S9 <http://www.cedarsclub.org/historyoflebanon.html>

- S10 History of the Maronite Patriarchate
<http://www.opuslibani.org.lb/egliseeng/002/antioch1.html>
- S11 The Massacres of 1840-1860
<http://www.geocities.com/CapitolHill/Parliament/2587/1860.html>
- S12 The US Marines in Lebanon
http://www.wesleyan.edu/gov/us_marines_in_lebanon.htm
- S13 Lebanon 1982-84
<http://www.britains-smallwars.com/RRGP/Lebanon.html>
- S14 <http://www.gotc-se.org/statements/Albani/Warcrimes.html>
- S15 Religion around the world
http://atheism.miningco.com/library/world/KZ/bl_LebanonIslamHizballah.htm
- S16 Lebanon
Clyde R. Mark
Foreign Affairs, Defense, and Trade Division
<http://fpc.state.gov/documents/organization/11631.pdf>
- S17 Home Office, Immigration and Nationality Directorate
<http://www.ind.homeoffice.gov.uk/default.asp?pageid=600>
- S18 Air disaster
<http://www.airdisaster.com/features/hijack2/hijack.shtml>
- S19 Amnesty
<http://www.web.amnesty.org/ai.nsf/index/MDE240011999>
- S20 BBC News
http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/world/middle_east
- S21 Washington Report on Middle East Affairs
http://www.washington-report.org/Washington-Report_org/www/html/backissues.html
- S22 WorldRover (04-05-2003)
http://www.worldrover.com/history/lebanon_history.html
- S23 THE WAR (04-05-2003)
<http://www.veteranen.info/~cedarsouthlebanon/orlog/war.htm>
- S24 Lebanon History (09/05/2003)
http://workmall.com/wfb2001/lebanon/lebanon_history_index.html

- S25 Politics in Lebanon (07/07/2003)
http://www.rimbaud.freemove.co.uk/lebanon_pol.htm
- S26 The Maronites and Lebanon (09/05/2003)
<http://www.geocities.com/CapitolHill/Parliament/2587/maronite.html>
- S27 Lebanon
<http://www.cartage.org.lb/en/themes/GeogHist/histories/history/hiscountries/L/lebanon.html>
- S28 Naharnet
<http://www.naharnet.com>
- S29 Daily Star
<http://www.dailystar.com.lb>
- S30 LebanonWire
<http://www.lebanonwire.com>
- S31 Timeline: Lebanon , A chronology of key events
http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/world/middle_east/819200.stm
- S32 History of airliner hijackings
http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/world/south_asia/1578183.stm
- S33 Profile of Lebanon
http://www.lebanonembassyus.org/country_lebanon/history.html