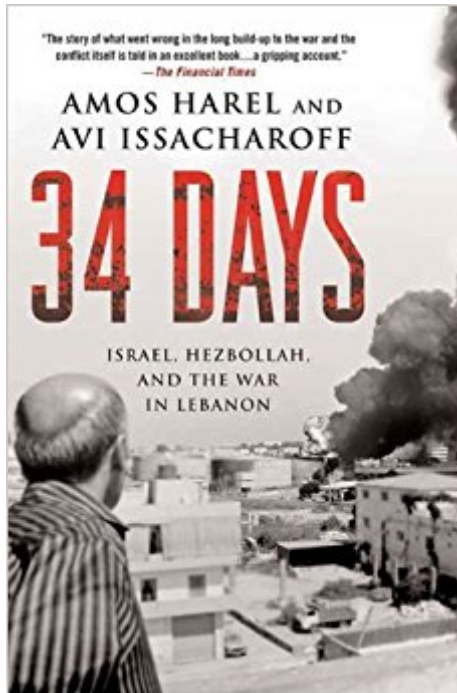




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34 Days: Israel, Hezbollah, And The War In Lebanon



Synopsis

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

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Customer Reviews

A really fascinating account of the 2006 war. A real page turner. This is really a topic that hasn't been covered much outside of Israel. The authors did a great job of turning this page in Israeli

history into a fluid, fascinating story. I think often about parts of the book, where mistakes were made and consequences suffered by the Israeli army. The authors used great quotes to move the story along and drew from the actual government report on the war extremely well. I highly recommend the book.

Trace the commander of this organization and the many operation that was conducted against israel by this terroist organization One interesting part is the infighting conducted by the organization on how to set its goals out and who is the majoe leader in this organization.

Excellent book, well-written and informative. The author researched and presented the topic well.

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

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

This conflict has clearly put a dent in the legend of the IDF's fighting prowess. This book chronicles the frequent missteps by the Israeli government and the IDF high command in the "Second Lebanon War" on the diplomatic and tactical levels. While some of these mistakes can easily be put down to "the fog of war", others can only be described as negligence; especially in regards to the ignorance of the state of the IDF's ground forces by Defense Minister Peretz (no clue), Prime Minister

Olmert (also no clue), and IDF Chief of Staff Halutz (not interested in getting a clue). The initial airstrikes mounted by the IAF successfully took out Hezbollah's medium range missiles. Hezbollah was politically "on the ropes" in Lebanon and was under intense pressure to disarm. However the Israeli government gave up its high ground with the 2nd Qana massacre and its inability to decide on the actual goals of its military campaign. This dithering resulted in wasteful operations against Hezbollah that did little real damage and squandered the lives of IDF servicemen (and 1 woman) in order to achieve objectives that sometimes merely symbolic. This account is also reminiscent of the book "Israel's Lebanon War" in that the Israeli cabinet appears to be willfully ignorant of the military operations that it authorizes. This book focuses primarily on the political and diplomatic aspects of the war. Many of the military references are vague. Despite this, the book still gives a clear picture of a great opportunity that was lost by people who should have known better.

This is not a military study but a political study of a short war between a divided democratic government and a paramilitary political group Hezbollah with very limited support from the locals. The problem often that democracies have is that they have too many decision makers. I am reminded of a general who said "With one leader, I can do wonders and with many nothing." What seemed to have happened according to this book is that too many Israeli leaders went into Lebanon with different views on what was to be done. As the conflict progressed Israel kept changing the goal post. No where was an overall achievable objective goal made. As such Israeli troops were killed for nothing. As such to their credit officers in the Israeli army sometimes refused to carry out some of their orders. Since no achievable goal was established, Israel finally ended with what many argued was a defeat. One point I was struck about in the book was a comment that no other government would have gone to war over the kidnapping of its soldiers. This says much about Israel. Another point the writers do not make through that should be made, is that no-one has kidnapped Israeli soldiers since and it also ended much of Hezbollah's independence in Lebanon so it was not as useless a conflict as the writers seem to feel. However, the clear lesson from this book is that before going to war a country should have a unified leadership with an achievable aim.

An insightful book, which appears to be modeled after Bob Woodward's "Bush at War" series, tackling the Lebanese War 2006 primarily from the the offices of the Israeli Prime Minister. The book covers all aspects of the war from UN negotiation, events leading to the war, minimal details of what happened militarily during the war, and how it ended. The entire book moves chronologically:

Prewar, war, Ceasefire, future. I was looking for something providing details on the actual military excursion, but that was not forthcoming in this text. I gave a 3 star rating because the book was confusing at times, jumping back and forth in time and place. So organization was a problem. As well, the focus on Olmert was annoying. I was not interested in why Olmert did this or Olmert did that. Many times, his actions were recorded which had only minimal relation to the war.

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