

# The Lebanese Civil War

## INVOLVED COALITIONS, FACTIONS AND MILITIA GROUPS

### Christian (mainly Maronites)

**Lebanese Front:** Right-wing coalition of mainly Christian parties formed in 1976, during the Lebanese Civil War. It was intended to act as a counter force to the Lebanese National Movement (LNM) of Kamal Jumblatt and others. Its main participants were the Kataeb Party (Phalange) of Pierre Gemayel, Suleiman Franjeh and his Marada Brigade, the National Liberal Party (NLP) of Camille Chamoun and its Tigers Militia, the Guardians of the Cedars of Etienne Saqr, and the Al-Tanzim of Fawzi Mahfouz.

**The National Liberal Party (NLP):** Political party in Lebanon, established by President Camille Chamoun in 1958. Mainly supported by Christians, party has adopted a hard line in regard to the preservation of Lebanese independence, and to the safeguard of the distinctive liberal practices.

**Tigers Militia:** The Tigers was the military wing of the National Liberal Party (NLP).

**Lebanese Forces (LF):** Right-wing Lebanese political party founded by Bachir Gemayel. During the Lebanese Civil War, the movement fought as the main militia within the Christian-dominated Lebanese Front.

**Phalange:** The Lebanese Social Democratic Party (also known as Phalanges Libanaises in French or Kataeb in Arabic) is a right-wing Lebanese political party. Although it is officially secular, it is mainly supported by Maronite Christians.

**Al-Tanzim:** (Arabic for "The Organization") was the name of an ultra-nationalist secret military society and militia set up by right-wing Christian activists. Was integrated into the Lebanese Forces in 1977.

**Guardians of the Cedars:** A far-right ultranationalist Lebanese party and former militia in Lebanon. It was formed by Étienne Saqr and others along with the Lebanese Renewal Party in the early 1970s.

### Shiite

**Hizbullah:** Shi'a Islamist political and paramilitary organisation based in Lebanon, supported by Iran. Hezbollah is now also a major provider of social services, which operate schools, hospitals, and agricultural services for thousands of Lebanese Shiites.

**Amal Movement:** Amal was founded in 1975 as the militia wing of the Movement of the Disinherited, a Shi'a political movement. Amal grew strong with the support of, and through its ties with, Syria and the 300,000 Shi'a internal refugees from southern Lebanon after the Israeli bombings in the early 1980s. Amal's practical objectives were to gain greater respect for Lebanon's Shi'ite population and the allocation of a larger share of governmental resources for the Shi'ite-dominated southern part of the country.

### Sunni

**The Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO):** Political and paramilitary organization founded in 1964. It is recognized as the "sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people," by over 100 states with which it holds diplomatic relations, and has enjoyed observer status at the United Nations since 1974. In 1993 Israel also officially recognized the PLO as the representative of the Palestinian people.

### Druze

**Lebanese National Movement (LNM):** Front of parties and organizations active during the early years of the civil war in Lebanon. It was headed by Kamal Jumblatt, a prominent Druze leader of the Progressive Socialist Party.

**Progressive Socialist Party:** Under Kamal Jumblatt's leadership, the PSP was a major element in the Lebanese National Movement (LNM) which supported Lebanon's Arab identity and sympathised with the Palestinians. It is ideologically secular and officially non-sectarian, but in practice is led and supported mostly by followers of the Druze faith.

### Multinational forces / Mixed-confessional

**UNIFIL:** The United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon, or UNIFIL, was created by the United Nations, with the adoption of Security Council Resolution 425 and 426 on March 19, 1978, to confirm Israel withdrawal from Lebanon, restore international peace and security, and help the Government of Lebanon restore its effective authority in the area.

**Multinational Force in Lebanon (MNF):** An international peacekeeping force created in 1982 and sent to Lebanon to oversee the withdrawal of the Palestine Liberation Organization. The participants included contingents of United States Marines and Navy SEALs, French paratroopers, Italian soldiers, and British soldiers.

**The Arab Deterrent Force:** A military intervention force created by the Arab League. As the Lebanese Civil War escalated in 1976, the Arab League created an intervention force composed almost entirely of Syrian forces with token contributions from other Arab states, including Saudi Arabia and Libya. The ADF initially consisted of 30,000 troops of which 25,000 were provided by Syria.

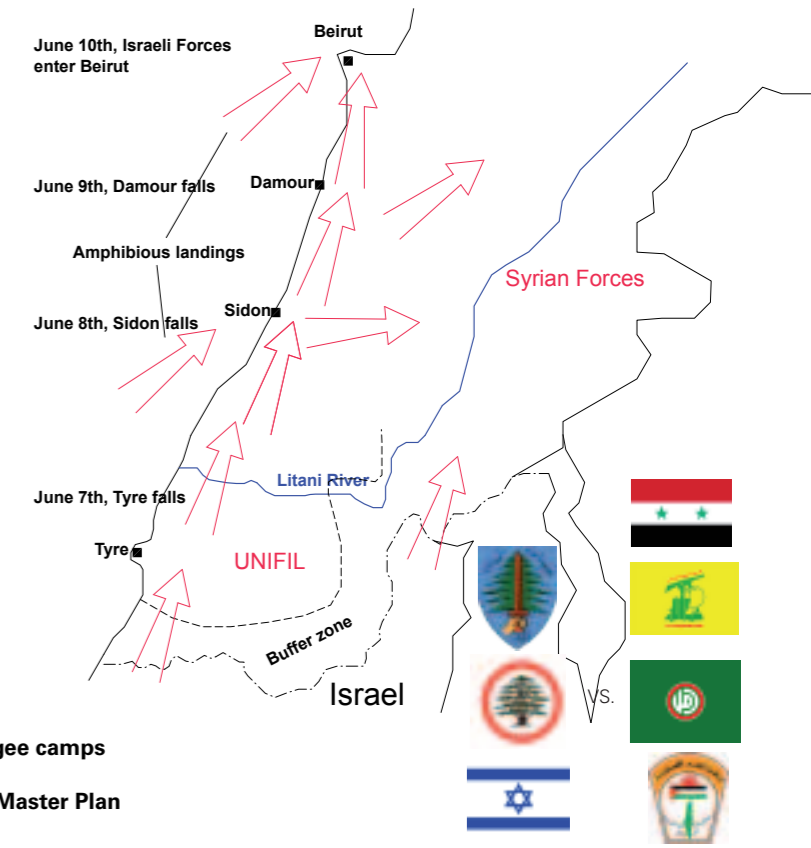
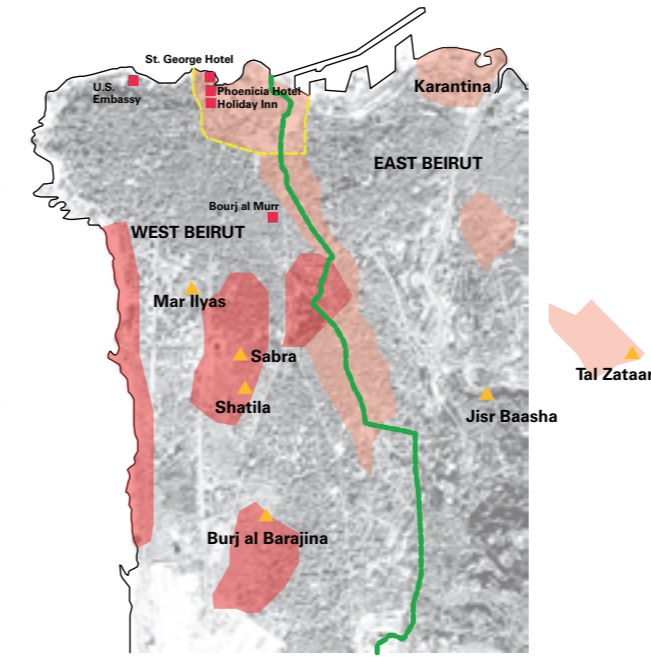
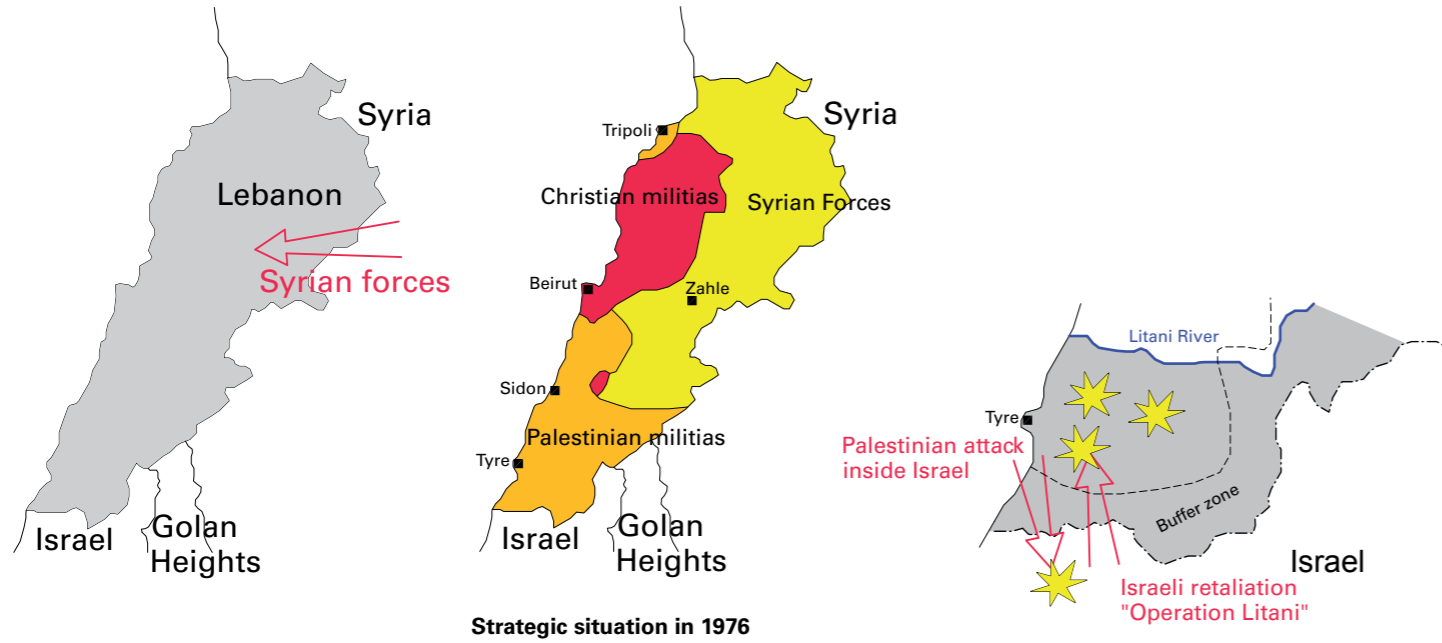
**Lebanese Army:** As the civil war escalated, Lebanese militias grew stronger and soon surpassed the regular army. Since the government was Christian-dominated, especially the officers' ranks, trust among Muslims for central institutions, including the army, was low. The disintegration of the Lebanese Army was eventually initiated by Muslim deserters declaring that they would no longer take orders from the Maronite generals.

**South Lebanon Army (SLA):** After 1979, the militia operated in southern Lebanon under the authority of Saad Haddad's Government of Free Lebanon. It was supported by Israel during the 1982–2000 South Lebanon conflict to fight against both the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and Hezbollah.

Economic, political, and demographic divisions caused the 1975 civil war. Christians dominated the Lebanese political and economic systems led by Western-oriented business men. Foreign capital helped build strong bonds between the economic and political institutions of the country. Those who benefited from the system denied basic social services to broad sections of the population through a common practice of exploitation and corruption. Communities in Beirut, and in mountainous areas north and south of the city prospered economically while communities in the Akkar region to the north, Jabal Amil in the South, and Bekaa Valley in the east, all largely populated by Shiites and Sunni Muslims, were financially depressed. Demographic changes in population affected the balance between rival factions. The Muslim population increased after the 1967 Arab-Israeli war, when Palestinian refugees settled in Lebanon and the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) carried its operations across the Lebanese borders. The Muslim population accounted for approximately 60% of the total population by 1975. Religious identification masked the root causes of the civil war. Lebanese society resided along communal lines of family loyalties, regional differences, economic rivalries, and generation vendettas. In 1975 the civil war erupted with attacks along religious lines, Muslim and Christian. It consisted of opposing militias defending self-claimed turf. The 1982 Israeli invasion of Lebanon further complicating the economic, social, and political situation, and conflicts continued to escalate between the Iranian supported Hezbollah groups and Israel in Southern Lebanon. The country failed to elect a president in 1988 after the end of President Amin Gemayel's tenure, leading to a constitutional crisis. The Tripartite Arab Committee attempted to bring peace to Lebanon in 1989, but it was the Taif Agreement that drafted a national charter of reconciliation. The war ended in 1992 with many conflicts still unresolved. However, the reforms established by the Taif Agreement asserted some semblance of peace in the country.

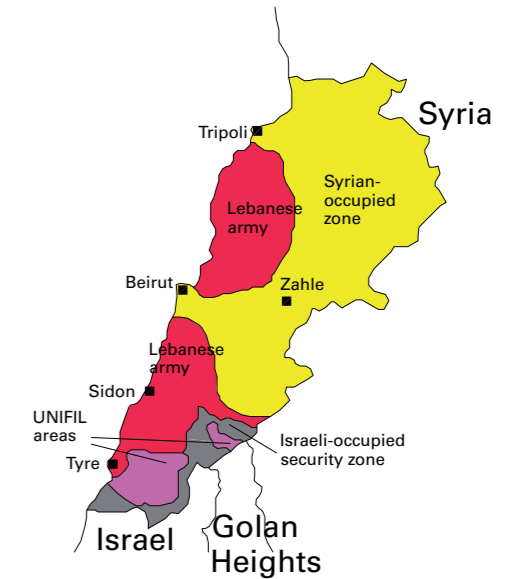
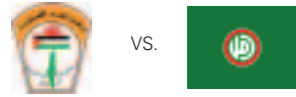
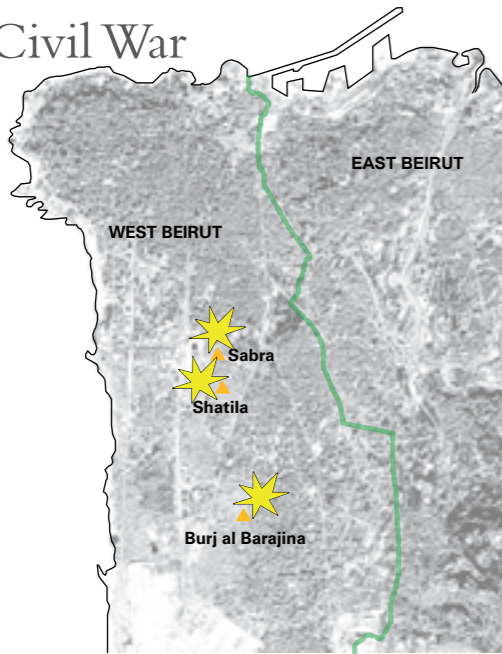
	1975	
	PRELUDE TO THE WAR	BATTLE OF THE HOTELS
EVENTS INSIDE LEBANON	<p>1958: Civil war erupts between pro-Western followers of President Chamoun and Arab nationalist supporters of Kamal Jumblatt</p> <p>1964: PLO is founded</p> <p>1969: Lebanese government signs an agreement with the PLO giving it certain rights inside Lebanon</p> <p>1970: The PLO sets up its headquarters in Beirut</p>	<p>26 February-1 March: A demonstration by Muslim fishermen in Sidon is put down by the army</p> <p>13 April: A retaliatory attack by the Phalangemilitia on a bus, killing twenty-seven Palestinians and Lebanese. The Lebanese National Movement is formed under the Leadership of Kamal Jumblatt</p> <p>October: Battle of the Hotels: Militias reach the city centre from the south-eastern and begin taking over the highest towers to gain vantage points for surveillance and for shooting ( among Hotel St. George, Holiday Inn, Phoenician, Murr Tower)</p>
INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES	<p>1967: Six Day Arab-Israeli War. Lebanon does not participate</p> <p>1968: Israeli commandos blow up thirteen civilian aircrafts at Beirut airport, after Palestinian attack a Israeli plane at Athens airport</p> <p>1970: Assad comes to power in Syria</p> <p>1970: Jordanian army defeats palestinian armed organizations. Many palestinian civilians and leaders flee to Lebanon</p> <p>1973: Arab-Israeli War. Lebanon does not participate</p> <p>1974: Arab League recognizes the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the palestinian people</p>	<p>31 October - 8 November: The First National Reconciliation Conference is held in Geneva</p>

# The Lebanese Civil War

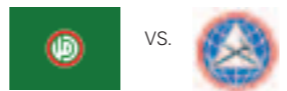
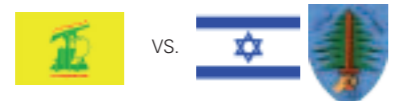


1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983
SYRIAN INTERVENTION AND HEGEMONY		FIRST ISRAELI INVASION		CHRISTIAN FRATRICIDE		SECOND ISRAELI INVASION	
<p>January: Unified military command of the Maronite militias, jointly called the Lebanese Forces, is formed under Bashir Gemayel. Lebanese army breaks up into Muslim and Christian segments.</p> <p>18 January: Karantina massacre. Karantina was overrun by the Lebanese Christian militias, resulting in the deaths of approx. 1,500 people.</p> <p>20 January: Damour, a Christian town on the main highway south of Beirut, was attacked by PLO units. Up to 600 death.</p> <p>12 August: Tel al-Zataar massacre. Christian militias had laid siege to the refugee camp for 7 months. When the camp fell, the victims numbered in the thousands.</p>	<p>16 March: Assassination of Kamal Jumblatt, leader of the Lebanese opposition in the war</p> <p>As retaliation, Druze forces overran Christian villages</p> <p>Opposition leader Kamal Jumblatt</p>	<p>11 March: A Palestinian group attacks a bus inside Israel, killing thirty-five persons</p> <p>14-20 March: Israeli invasion of south Lebanon ("Operation Litani", named for the Litani River). The invasion is designed to destroy PLO structures in South Lebanon</p> <p>July: Syrian troops, part of the Arab Deterrent Force, clash with Christian militias</p>	<p>First clashes between the Phalange and the National Liberal Party militias</p>	<p>3-4 and 7 July: The Phalange militia defeats NLP fighters</p> <p>27 October: The Phalange attacks the NLP in Beirut</p>	<p>April: In the fighting between the Phalange and its opponents, Israel intervenes and shoots down two Syrian helicopters. Syria deploys surface-to-air missiles in the Beqaa valley</p> <p>17 July: Israel bombs downtown Beirut</p> <p>23 May: Arab League members promise aid to Syria in its conflict with Israel</p>	<p>5 June: Operation "Peace of the Galilee." After the assassination attempt against Israel's ambassador to the United Kingdom, Israel invades Lebanon and besieges West Beirut, deploying 76'000 troops backed by naval and air support.</p> <p>August: Bombing of West Beirut</p> <p>23 August: Phalangist leader Bachir Gemayel is elected President.</p> <p>14 September: Israeli-backed Bashir Gemayel is assassinated, along with 26 others, by a bomb attack at the Phalange headquarters in Beirut</p> <p>UN Security Council Resolution 409 calls Israel to withdraw immediately to its borders with Lebanon</p> <p>Bachir Gemayel</p>	<p>18 April: Truck-bombing of the US embassy in West Beirut leads to sixty-three deaths, including seventeen American</p> <p>23 October: Truck-bombing of US and French military headquarters in West Beirut leaves 300 American and French troops dead</p> <p>11 November: Truck-Bomb kills sixty people, half of them Israeli, in the military headquarters in Tyre</p> <p>17-21 January: Symposium at the American University in Beirut about planning for reconstruction of the city</p>
<p>1 June: Syria intervenes with app. 30'000 troops in Lebanon and attacks LNM-PLO positions. The invasion is, in fact, Syria's attempt to claim Lebanon, which it never recognized when Lebanon won independence from France in 1943</p> <p>October: Egyptian, Saudi and other Arab troops in small numbers join the Syrian force as a result of peace summit brokered in Cairo</p>	<p>May: In Israel, Likud-led government, headed by Menachem Begin, takes office</p> <p>September: US-brokered ceasefire</p>	<p>19 March: UN Security Council adopts a resolution, calling on Israel to withdraw from South Lebanon and on the UN to establish a 4000-strong UN peacekeeping force in South Lebanon (UNIFIL)</p> <p>May: Maronite leaders Pierre Gemayel and Camille Chamoun visit Israel for arms supplies</p> <p>June: Israel withdraws, mostly, from the occupied territory, handing over authority to the South Lebanon Army</p> <p>September: Accords between Israel and Egypt, first Arab-Israeli peace</p>	<p>March: Egypt and Israel sign a peace treaty</p> <p>22 November: Arab summit adopts a resolution calling for pressures on Israel to cease attacks on south Lebanon</p>	<p>25 July: Three-way understandings between Israel, Syria and the PLO are brokered by the USA</p>	<p>11 and 12 June: Ceasefire between Israel and Syria and the PLO</p> <p>24 August: A multinational force of US Marines, French paratroopers and Italian Soldiers lands in Beirut to assist in the evacuation of the PLO</p> <p>15 September: Israeli troops invade West Beirut, the first time an Israeli force enters an Arab capital</p> <p>15-16 September: Massacre of Sabra and Shatila. Under the supervision of Israeli forces, Christian militiamen are bused into the two Palestinian refugee camps</p>	<p>31 October - 8 November: The First National Reconciliation Conference is held in Geneva</p>	

# The Lebanese Civil War



Strategic situation in 1992



1984                      1985                      1986                      1987                      1988                      1989                      1990                      1991

WITHDRAWAL AND CHAOS                      THE SYRIANS RETURN                      TWO RIVAL LEBANESE GOVERNMENTS                      WAR OF LIBERATION                      TAIF ACORD

7 February: The US withdraws its marines from Beirut. France, Britain and Italy, the other members of the Western Multi-National Force, follow suit

16 June: Shiite Muslim militias seize control of West Beirut. Kidnapping of American and European people. Posters of the Ayatollah Khomeini went up all over West Beirut

3-25 September: Following the Israeli withdrawal from the Shouf, fighting erupts between the Druze-PLO alliance and the Lebanese army. USA and France intervene with warplanes and warships on the side of the Lebanese army



8 March: A car bomb triggered by CIA agents to assassinate Shaikh Muhammed Hussein Fadlallah, the spiritual leader of the Hizbollah, kills eighty. Fadlallah is unharmed

20 May: Amal mounts a campaign against the Palestinian refugee camps Sabra, Shatila and Burj al Barajina in West Beirut (War of the camps)

6 June: Israel's military completes its withdrawal from Lebanon by handing over its positions in the border zone ("Security Zone") in south Lebanon so a Christian militia, called the South Lebanon Army. Attacks increased.

Shaikh Fadlallah

8-14 January: Internecine conflict in the LF leads to the fleeing of Hobeika to Syria, thus spelling the end of the National Agreement

3 November: Beirut-based Al Shira magazine reveals that the USA had sold arms to Iran clandestinely and that former US National Security Adviser, Robert McFarlane, had travelled to Iran on a goodwill mission


January: Fighting in Tripoli

February: Fightings in West Beirut between Amal and the Druze Progressive Socialist Party and other left-of-centre Lebanese groups

22 February: Syria sends its 85th Brigade to West Beirut to restore order

1 June: Prime Minister Rashid Karami is assassinated when a bomb explodes in his helicopter. He is replaced by Selim el Hoss, a Sunni Muslim

September: Amal clashes with Syrians in Beirut. Amal and PLO clashes.



April: Clashes between Amal and the Hizbollah in south Lebanon



28 May: Ceasefire between Amal and Hizbollah

22 September: Presidency of Amin Gemayel ends without a successor. Lebanon operates under two rival governments - a military government led by Michel Aoun, and a civil government headed by Selim el Hoss

General Aoun, named Prime minister

14 March: Aoun declares "war of liberation" against Syrian occupation

21 March: Syria imposes land and sea blockade of all West Beirut ports

30 May: Ceasefire in Aoun's war of liberation

22 November: President Muawad is assassinated. He is replaced by Elias Harawi

December: Amal-PLO agreement

Rafik Hariri

January: General Aoun attacks the Lebanese Forces militia, led by Samir Geagea. (inter-Maronite war)



Inter-shia war between Amal and Hizbollah. Battles raged in South Lebanon and the southern suburbs of Beirut



July: Reunification of administrative Beirut

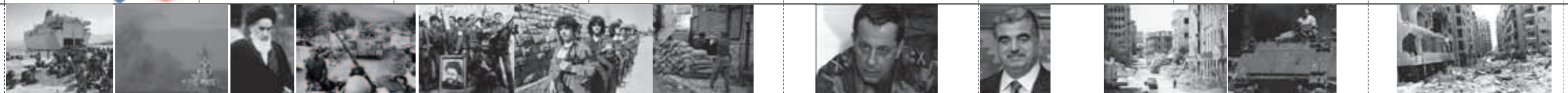
January: Lebanese army moves into the south

May: National Assembly expanded, equal representation in the parliament to Muslims and Christians

Treaty of Cooperation with Syria, which permitted Syrian troops to remain in Lebanon

August: General amnesty

September: Lebanese-Syrian Security Pact



12-18 March: The Second National Reconciliation Conference is held in Lausanne

16 March: William Buckley, the CIA station chief in Beirut, is abducted

7 February: The US withdraws its marines from Beirut. France, Britain and Italy, the other members of the Western Multi-National Force, follow suit

16 June: Hizbullah militants hijack a TWA flight to Beirut, demanding the release of Shiite prisoners in Israeli jails. Israel releases some 700 prisoners

30 June: Syria stops Amal's campaign against Palestinian camps in West Beirut

28 December: Nabih Berri, Walid Jumblatt and Elie Hobeika, the respective commanders of the Amal militia, the Druze militia and the LF, sign the National Agreement to solve the Lebanese Crisis, a detailed document describing political reform and relations between Lebanon and Syria

22 October: Amin Gemayel goes into exile

14 September: The Arab League Troika offers a seven-point peace plan which envisages the Lebanese MPs meeting outside Lebanon to discuss a National Reconciliation Charter

22 September: Lebanese and Arab leaders meet in Taif, Saudi Arabia, under the leadership of Lebanese Sunni leader Rafik Hariri. The Taif agreement (National Reconciliation Accord) effectively lays the groundwork for an end to the war by repartitioning power in Lebanon. Christians lose their majority in Parliament, settling for a 50-50 split, though the president remains a Maronite Christian, the prime minister a Sunni Muslim, and the speaker of Parliament a Shiite Muslim

13 October: Syrian forces are given green light by France and the US to storm Aoun's presidential palace once Syria joins the coalition against Saddam Hussein

Aoun choose exile in Paris. He was to return as a Hizbullah ally in 2005

17 January: US-led coalition starts war against Iraq

28 February: Gulf War ends after the Iraqis are expelled from Kuwait