

War and Memory in Lebanon

From 1975 to 1990, Lebanon endured one of the most protracted and bloody civil wars of the twentieth century. Sune Haugbolle's timely and poignant book chronicles the battle over ideas that emerged from the wreckage of that war. While the Lebanese state encouraged forgetfulness and political parties created sectarian interpretations of the war through cults of dead leaders, intellectuals and activists – inspired by the example of truth and reconciliation movements in different parts of the world – advanced the idea that confronting and remembering the war was necessary for political and cultural renewal. Through an analysis of different cultural productions – media, art, literature, film, posters and architecture – the author shows how the recollection and reconstruction of political and sectarian violence that took place during the war have helped in Lebanon's healing process. He also shows how a willingness to confront the past influenced the popular uprising in Lebanon after the assassination of Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri.

Sune Haugbolle is Assistant Professor of Arabic in the Department of Cross-Cultural and Regional Studies at the University of Copenhagen. He is the coeditor (with Anders Hastrup) of *The Politics of Violence, Truth and Reconciliation in the Arab Middle East* (2009).

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Note on Transliteration

The transliteration from Arabic generally follows the format of the *International Journal of Middle East Studies*. *Hamza* is rendered with ' , *ʿayn* with ʿ , and no note is made of the difference between long and short vowels. For practical reasons of recognition, well-known Lebanese names follow the most conventional spelling (e.g., Aoun rather than ʿAun). Colloquial usage in conversation and songs is rendered freely to convey the exact pronunciation.

Acronyms

Amal	Legions of the Lebanese Resistance (Afwaj al-Muqawama al-Lubnaniya)
DL	Democratic Left Movement (Harakat al-Yasari ad-Dimuqrati)
FPM	Free Patriotic Movement (al-Tayyar al-Watani al-Hurr)
LBC	Lebanese Broadcasting Company
LCP	Lebanese Communist Party (al-Hizb al-Shuy'ui al-Lubnani)
LF	Lebanese Forces (Forces Libanais, al-Quwat al-Lubnaniya)
NLP	National Liberal Party (Hizb al-Wataniyin wal-Ahrar)
NM	Lebanese National Movement (al-Haraka al-Wataniya al-Lubnaniya)
OCAL	Organisation Communiste pour l'Action du Liban (Munazzama li 'Amal al-Shuyu'i fi Lubnan)
PSP	Progressive Socialist Party (al-Hizb al-Taquadummi al-Ishtiraki)
SSNP	Syrian Social National Party (al-Hizb al-Suri al-Qawmi al-Ijtima'i)
SLA	South Lebanese Army

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