

Forum: Historical Security Council
Issue: The Outbreak of the Lebanon War
Student Officer: James Simanowitz
Position: President of the Historical Security Council
Date: June 6, 1982

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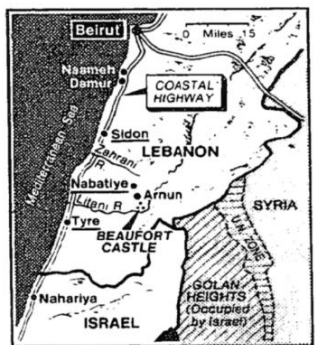
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Introduction

War has once again reared its ugly head in the Middle East. Following the shooting of Shlomo Argov, Israeli ambassador to the United Kingdom, Israel has launched a ground

invasion into an already war torn Lebanon¹. This follows days of Israel and the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) trading rocket attacks and bombings resulting in the loss of civilian life in northern Israel and southern Lebanon. The current conflict must be viewed within the broader context of decades of tensions, including the murder of Israeli athletes at the 1972 Munich Olympic Games, Israel's invasion of southern Lebanon in 1978, and the annexation of the Golan heights in 1981 by Israel². Although the PLO denies responsibility for the attempted assassination of Schlomo Argav, Israel claims that the assassins belonged to a splinter group, and thus Israel's stated intention is now to destroy the PLO.

Since Lebanon's descent into civil war in 1975, the country remains fragmented, sectarian conflict prevails and the central government lacks authority. In the course of the civil war, the fighting between Lebanese Christian militias and the PLO contributed to a pragmatic alliance between the PLO, various leftist groups, and Islamist forces.



The New York Times / June 6, 1982
Israeli jets and gunboats attacked targets along the coastal highway, including Nabatiye, Tyre, Sidon and villages just south of Beirut.

Image I: Israeli Soldiers march into Lebanon, Image II Map of the Region

¹ James Paul, Joe Stork "The War in Lebanon," *Middle East Report* 108 September/October 1982, <https://merip.org/1982/09/the-war-in-lebanon/> . Accessed December 9th, 2024

² Collins, Carole. "Chronology of the Israeli Invasion of Lebanon June-August 1982." *Journal of Palestine Studies*, vol. 11/12, 1982, pp. 135–92. *JSTOR*, <https://doi.org/10.2307/2538347>. Accessed 8 Dec. 2024.

Israel is allied with the Christian national government and its Militias³. As such, the Israeli invasion is more an intervention in the civil war than a conflict between nations.

The international community has responded overwhelmingly negatively to the violence. Both the United States and the USSR have called for the violence to immediately end in order to prevent the conflict from spreading further. Although US President Reagan has issued statements sympathizing with Israel, but the administration has at the same time urgently called for de-escalation in private letters⁴. Internationally, individual states as well as the United Nations have been quick to condemn the invasion, with the Security Council issuing a statement calling for a ceasefire in a late night session on June 5th⁵. Now on the 6th of June the Security Council has been called back into session to try to find a solution to this conflict.

Background Information

History of Lebanon

The early history of the state of Lebanon is a history of colonialism. Following World War I, France took control of the area following the collapse of the Ottoman Empire and in 1920 declared the formation of greater Lebanon. Lebanon gained independence from France in 1943. Although the state takes its name from the region around Mount Lebanon, it is a colonial construction, containing areas that were religiously, economically and culturally different from the area next to Mount Lebanon. As such, the state of Lebanon is extremely diverse. In 1943, the year of independence, Lebanon was about 50% Christian, 20% Sunni, 20% Shia, and 10% other religious groups⁶.

³ MAKDISI, SAMIR, and RICHARD SADAKA. "The Lebanese Civil War, 1975–90." *UNDERSTANDING CIVIL WAR: Evidence and Analysis*, edited by Paul Collier and Nicholas Sambanis, World Bank, 2005, pp. 59–86. *JSTOR*, <http://www.jstor.org/stable/resrep02484>.7. Accessed 8 Dec. 2024.

⁴ "Alexander Haig's Fall from Grace" Association for Diplomatic Studies and Training, copyright 2024, <https://adst.org/2016/06/alexander-haigs-fall-grace/> Accessed December 7th 2024.

⁵ Collins, Carole. "Chronology of the Israeli Invasion of Lebanon June-August 1982." *Journal of Palestine Studies*, vol. 11/12, 1982, pp. 135–92. *JSTOR*, <https://doi.org/10.2307/2538347>. Accessed 8 Dec. 2024.

⁶Albert H. Hourani, *Syria and Lebanon*, London:Oxford University Press, 1946, p.121

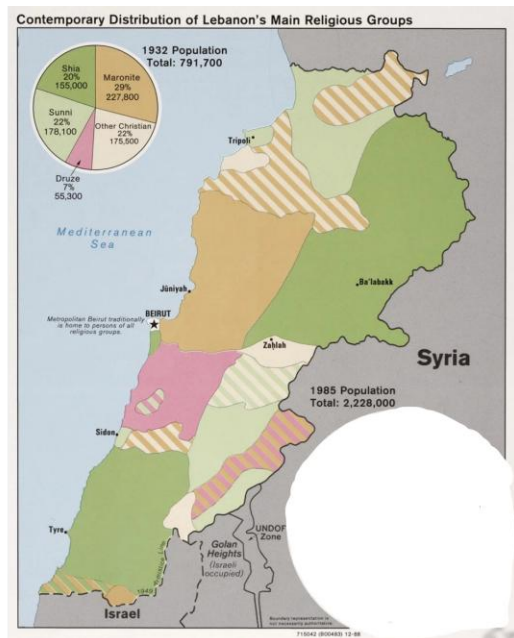


Image II: Map showing the distribution of religious populations in Lebanon

In order to avoid religious conflict, the 1943 Lebanese constitution outlines a complex system of power sharing including requirements that the President be Christian, the Prime Minister be Sunni and the Speaker of the House be Shia. In 1958, this system began to falter due to external pressures for Lebanon to align itself with either the United States or the Pan Arab movement and elections that were widely perceived as corrupt. Social and economic disparity contributed further to undermining stability. A significant divide in prestige and wealth exists in the country. From its establishment, Christians tended to dominate business and the upper ranks of the military, thus contributing to escalating tensions. This led to violent clashes in May 1958, which the US military worked with the Lebanese President to quell. Furthermore, the arrival of Palestinian refugees who fled Arab-Israeli wars added a negative force to Lebanese politics that radicalized Muslims and leftists, as shown by the PLO and the militias aligned with it. This culminated in a

wave of resignations in 1972 and 1974, and finally the collapse of Lebanon's power sharing political system in 1975⁷

The two parties engaged in the Lebanon war were on the one side the right wing Christian Maronite government and its allied Militias and on the other side the shaky coalition of the PLO, Muslims (particularly Shia and Druze parties), and left wing factions. Both sides had about 8,000 - 10,000 fighters. During the first phase of the war from 1975-1977, fighting was mainly between the PLO / Lebanese alliance and the Christian parties allied with the government. During this time, Beirut was divided. After a brief lull in the fighting, following the Arab reunification of Beirut in 1976, the conflict began to escalate in the period of 1978-1982 during which time Israeli and Syrian troops supported militias in regional fighting. In effect, the country was split up into regions controlled by Syria, the Lebanese Army, and the PLO/Lebanese alliance⁸.

History of Israel

Since its establishment in 1948, the state of Israel has been in a constant state of conflict with its neighbors. This history begins with the League of Nations granting the United Kingdom a mandate over the territory of Palestine following the collapse of the Ottoman Empire. In the following almost thirty years of British colonial rule, British authorities welcomed Jewish settlers in their attempts to establish a Jewish nation, much to the disapproval of the local Arab Palestinians⁹. The United Nations Partition plan for Israel and Palestine in 1948, created and drew the borders of two states: the Jewish state of Israel and the Arab state of Palestine¹⁰. No sooner had the state of Israel been established than it found itself at war

⁷ CHAMIE, JOSEPH. "THE LEBANESE CIVIL WAR: AN INVESTIGATION INTO THE CAUSES." *World Affairs*, vol. 139, no. 3, 1976, pp. 171–88. JSTOR, <http://www.jstor.org/stable/20671682>. Accessed 8 Dec. 2024.

⁸ MAKDISI, SAMIR, and RICHARD SADAKA. "The Lebanese Civil War, 1975–90." *UNDERSTANDING CIVIL WAR: Evidence and Analysis*, edited by Paul Collier and Nicholas Sambanis, World Bank, 2005, pp. 59–86. JSTOR, <http://www.jstor.org/stable/resrep02484.7>. Accessed 8 Dec. 2024.

⁹ "Timeline: Key Events In The Israel-Arab And Israeli-Palestinian Conflict" American Jewish Committee, <https://www.ajc.org/IsraelConflictTimeline> Accessed 7 December 2024

¹⁰ "Future Government of Palestine - UN General Assembly Resolution 181" United Nations Digital Library, <https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/210008?ln=en>. Accessed 7 December 2024.

with five of its Arab neighbors: Egypt, Syria, Lebanon, Jordan and Iraq¹¹. Despite having a significantly smaller fighting force, Israel successfully repelled the invaders and ended the war, gaining possession of 20% more land than it was granted under the UN partition plan. Rather than returning this land, it was added to the territory of the Israeli state. Following this war, Israel primarily focused on the construction of its government and society, as well as dealing with the influx of Jews¹². The perceived mistreatment of Palestinians at Israel's hands angered the Arab world and continued to add fuel to the already hostile relations between Israel and its Arab neighbors.

The Six-Day War (...) was a brief conflict between an Egyptian-led Arab coalition and Israel which resulted in a decisive Israeli victory. In addition to capturing the West Bank, East Jerusalem and the Gaza Strip, Israel also gained control of the Golan Heights and the Sinai Peninsula. The war transformed Israel from a state fighting for its survival to a regional power, as well as putting it in a position of power over Egypt and Syria. In 1973, Israel once again entered into conflict with Egypt and Syria in the Yom Kippur War (...). Although this war did not immediately change the dynamics in the region, it did pave the way for the return of the Sinai Peninsula and the Camp David accords in 1978, creating a lasting peace between Egypt and Israel¹³. The elimination of danger in the South allowed Israel to turn its attention elsewhere to the destruction of the PLO¹⁴.

Other Important Context

¹¹ "Timeline: Key Events In The Israel-Arab And Israeli-Palestinian Conflict" American Jewish Committee, <https://www.ajc.org/IsraelConflictTimeline> Accessed 7 December 2024

¹² Britannica, The Editors of Encyclopaedia. "Establishment of Israel". Encyclopedia Britannica, 7 Dec. 2023, <https://www.britannica.com/place/Israel/Establishment-of-Israel>. Accessed 7 December 2024.

¹³ Britannica, The Editors of Encyclopaedia. "Yom Kippur War". Encyclopedia Britannica, 14 Nov. 2024, <https://www.britannica.com/event/Yom-Kippur-War>. Accessed 9 December 2024.

¹⁴ James Paul, Joe Stork "The War in Lebanon," *Middle East Report* 108 September/October 1982, <https://merip.org/1982/09/the-war-in-lebanon/> . Accessed December 9th, 2024

In 1981 Israel annexed the Golan Heights which was widely seen as a provocation by Lebanon¹⁵, furthermore though the stated intention of Israel is to destroy the PLO, which the nation has felt particular hatred towards since the PLO took Israeli athletes hostage at the 1972 Munich olympics, there is also an alleged desire to install a more pro-Israeli government with a stronger grip on the country. It is also worth noting that while many Arab states support the PLO's conflict with Israel, they also feel a need to contain its power. This is evidenced by Syrian intervention on behalf of the Christian government forces against the PLO at the beginning of the Lebanese civil war.

Key Terms, Belligerents and Parties

Identity Fragmentation

The concept of Identity fragmentation is that a society can be splintered along religious, ethnic or racial lines. This happens when people start to identify strongly with their group, to the point of feeling superior to or threatened by those who are different from oneself. According to social scientists, this occurs due to economic inequalities or in-group bonding, instead of cross group exchange¹⁶.

Pan-Arabism

Pan-Arabism is a belief in the political and cultural unity of the Arab world. This idea developed in contradiction to the domination of the Arab world by Europe or the Ottoman Empire, and contributed to the independence of Arab states from these two external forces. There was a short-lived attempt at putting the idea into practice with the United Arab Republic of Syria and Egypt (1958-1961). One manifestation of Pan-Arab sentiment may be seen in the feelings of solidarity with Palestinians in the Arab world. Egyptian President Nassar, the most notable proponent of the idea, was motivated in

¹⁵ Yishai, Yael. "Israeli Annexation of East Jerusalem and the Golan Heights: Factors and Processes." *Middle Eastern Studies*, vol. 21, no. 1, 1985, pp. 45–60. *JSTOR*, <http://www.jstor.org/stable/4283045>. Accessed 8 Dec. 2024.

¹⁶ Fukuyama, Francis, "Social Capital and Civil Society" *International Monetary Fund*, copyright April, 2000 [Social Capital and Civil Society by Francis Fukuyama :: SSRN](#), Accessed via SSRN, June 16th, 2024

assisting and arming the PLO in part because of his Pan-Arabist ideals.¹⁷

Palestinian Liberation Organization

The Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) is a militant group that emerged as a sort of government in exile for Palestinians. Its stated goal is to establish a singular state of Palestine with religious equality, and it has frequently employed religious tactics. The PLO was first headquartered in Jordan, but following conflict with the Jordanian army, the PLO was expelled, finding a new home in Lebanon, where the large number of Palestinian refugees, the political instability of the country and the proximity to Israel primed the PLO to grow into a powerful and recognized actor that could do real credible damage to Israel.¹⁸

Multilateral vs. Bilateral Diplomacy

Multilateral vs Bilateral: Multilateral diplomacy is diplomacy between three, or more parties generally in an international forum about an issue, in which not all parties are necessarily directly affected by the issue. Examples for such international forums include the United Nations, African Union or World Health Organization (WHO). Bilateral Diplomacy tends to be talks between two nation states, often resulting in a treaty or other such bilateral agreement. A prominent example of Bilateral Diplomacy has been US-Soviet cooperation on a host of issues since 1945. Each have their own dynamics and advantages, with multilateral diplomacy generally leading to more diversity of opinion, balance and comprehensiveness, contrasted with bilateral diplomacy which allows for a swifter, more direct and more personalized processes¹⁹.

Soviet Union

¹⁷ Britannica, The Editors of Encyclopaedia. "Pan-Arabism". Encyclopedia Britannica, 15 Jun. 2024, <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Pan-Arabism>. Accessed 8 December 2024.

¹⁸ el-Khazen, Farid. "The Rise and Fall of the PLO." *The National Interest*, no. 10, 1987, pp. 39–47. JSTOR, <http://www.jstor.org/stable/42894480>. Accessed 8 Dec. 2024.

¹⁹ "What is the difference between Multilateral and Bilateral Diplomacy" Treatyteller, <https://treatyteller.com/what-is-the-difference-between-multilateral-and-bilateral-diplomacy/>. Accessed 7 December 2023.

The Soviet Union views the conflict in the context of the Cold War, with one of its primary goals being the prevention of further war. This is, however, balanced with a desire to maintain influence in the region and retain Arab allies. Since the Yom Kippur War of 1973, the United States has tried to position itself as the primary diplomatic mediator and peacemaker in the Middle East, as well as trying to poach allies such as Egypt from the USSR. As such, there is a faction of Soviet political elites that believe the United States is not interested in super power collaboration and that the Soviet Union should prioritize advancing its interests in the region over peace and collaboration. This is reflected in a turn towards Syria and the PLO, with Syria posing strategic interest and support of the PLO granting the Soviet Union credibility as a champion of Arab interests²⁰.

United States

The United States has been historically supportive of Israel by providing military, financial and logistical support. The US has also expressed sympathy following the shooting of Schlomo Argav, however the United States is strongly pressuring Israel both publicly and privately to halt the violence. Furthermore, the US views the conflict in the context of global rivalry with the Soviet Union, including trying to prove both diplomatic and technological superiority. Previously with the 1979 cease fire and the Camp David accords the US has exhibited diplomatic leadership, and was angered by the Israeli annexation of the Golan heights. The US as a strong economic, military and soft power interest in trying to prevent this conflict from spreading, and has willingness to exert some of its power over Israel as the states main ally, to avoid this scenario²¹.

Syria

Syria has been involved in previous conflicts with Israel such as the 1948 War, the Six

²⁰ Spechler, Dina Rome. "The Politics of Intervention: The Soviet Union and the Crisis in Lebanon." *Studies in Comparative Communism*, vol. 20, no. 2, 1987, pp. 115–43. JSTOR, <http://www.jstor.org/stable/45402305>. Accessed 9 Dec. 2024.

²¹ Spechler, Dina Rome. "The Politics of Intervention: The Soviet Union and the Crisis in Lebanon." *Studies in Comparative Communism*, vol. 20, no. 2, 1987, pp. 115–43. JSTOR, <http://www.jstor.org/stable/45402305>. Accessed 9 Dec. 2024.

Day War and the Yom Kippur War²². The relationship between these states has historically been antagonistic, and has not improved in the same way Israeli-Egyptian relations have. At the same time, the Assad Regime has been more accepting of UN resolutions and comprises than previous governments²³. Israel and Syria have clashed over Lebanon where Syria has been extensively militarily involved, in a manner same claim is akin to an attempt to control Lebanon, to a point where a sizeable portion of Lebanon is currently under Syrian control²⁴.

Major Players

Lenoid Breshnev

At the time of the conflict, the premier minister and General Secretary of the Soviet Union was Lenoid Breshnev. Breshnev for most of his seventeen years in office tended to prioritize countering American influence and dominance. After witnessing the Six-Day-War, he has switched to believing that the primary goal of Soviet policy in the Middle East should be avoiding escalating conflict. Though many share his views, some such as Soviet defense minister Andrei Grechko, disagree with putting peace over preventing American influence. Generally, the ultimate source on foreign policy has been the General Secretary, however due to his deteriorating health, specifically a stroke in April, Breshnev's iron grip on steering policy has weakened. Though the Soviet Union has a clear leader at the moment, there are also clear divisions in its foreign policy apparatus.²⁵

Menachem Begin

²² Rabinovich, Itamar. "Israel, Syria, and Lebanon." *International Journal*, vol. 45, no. 3, 1990, pp. 529–52. *JSTOR*, <https://doi.org/10.2307/40202688>. Accessed 9 Dec. 2024.

²³ Rabinovich, Itamar. "Israel, Syria, and Lebanon." *International Journal*, vol. 45, no. 3, 1990, pp. 529–52. *JSTOR*, <https://doi.org/10.2307/40202688>. Accessed 9 Dec. 2024.

²⁴ MAKDISI, SAMIR, and RICHARD SADAKA. "The Lebanese Civil War, 1975–90." *UNDERSTANDING CIVIL WAR: Evidence and Analysis*, edited by Paul Collier and Nicholas Sambanis, World Bank, 2005, pp. 59–86. *JSTOR*, <http://www.jstor.org/stable/resrep02484.7>. Accessed 8 Dec. 2024.

²⁵ Spechler, Dina Rome. "The Politics of Intervention: The Soviet Union and the Crisis in Lebanon." *Studies in Comparative Communism*, vol. 20, no. 2, 1987, pp. 115–43. *JSTOR*, <http://www.jstor.org/stable/45402305>. Accessed 15 Dec. 2024.

Menachem Begin is the first Prime Minister in Israel's history from the right wing Likud party. Previously, all Prime Ministers were from the Labor Party. Although Begin and his party are vehemently opposed to the idea of a Palestinian state, he is open to working to find peace, as evidenced by the Camp David accords. He is a clearly stated Zionist who believes that the PLO must be destroyed, furthermore making clear that this is his main justification for invading Lebanon. Begin is, however in a coalition government and has no political interest in a long and bloody war, meaning he may not be completely closed to making concessions and working for compromise²⁶.

Hafez al-Assad

Assad is the authoritarian leader of Syria, who came to power by rising through the ranks of the Ba'ath party in Syria and eliminating those who stood in his way. Under Assad, the country has assumed a leadership role in the Arab world, in part filling the vacuum left by Egypt "warming up" to Israel. Assad recently brutally repressed an uprising of the Muslim brotherhood in Hama, by massacring 25, 000 people. As a nationalist who seeks to expand Syrian influence, he has frequently received Soviet military aid, which he has used to intervene in Lebanon, first against the PLO and then as part of an Arab Peace keeping force. Aside from his military intervention, he has also attempted to take on diplomatic leadership, as evidenced by his close work with the Arab League²⁷.

Ronald Reagan

Ronald Reagan is a cold-war hawk who sees combating the Soviet Union as the United States' number one objective. At the same time, he does not want large scale war for economic as well as political reasons. Reagan also seeks to build on Jimmy Carter's work to establish the United States as a diplomatic mediator and leader. Reagan as well as almost the entire American political spectrum firmly supports Israel, and he has voiced his commitment to helping Israel.

²⁶ Britannica, The Editors of Encyclopaedia. "Menachem Begin". Encyclopedia Britannica, 12 Dec. 2024, <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Menachem-Begin>. Accessed 15 December 2024.

²⁷ Britannica, The Editors of Encyclopaedia. "Hafez al-Assad". Encyclopedia Britannica, 14 Dec. 2024, <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Hafiz-al-Assad>. Accessed 15 December 2024.

Timeline²⁸

1943	The state of Lebanon is founded, with a division of power between different social groups
1948	The formation of Israel and ensuing Arab-Israeli War leads to a mass emigration of Palestinian refugees to Lebanon
1958	The US deploys soldiers to help the Lebanese government quell an uprising of Sunni Muslims, this marks the beginning of the violent religious fragmentation of Lebanon
1967	The Six Day war causes another influx of Palestinian refugees
1969	Control of Palestinian Refugee Camps is handed over to a branch of the PLO
1970-71	The PLO is expelled from Jordan following a losing conflict with the Jordanian military, it establishes its new base in Lebanon
1975	The Lebanon Civil war begins with Christian and the government and Muslims and the PLO pitted against each other in violent conflict
March, 1978	Israel briefly invades Lebanon and agrees to withdraw under the condition that the UN creates a buffer zone, this begins UNIFIL (the United Nations Mission in Lebanon)
September 1978	The Camp David Accords create a

²⁸ "Timeline: Lebanon Civil War", *Geopolitical Monitor*, published November 19, 2024. <https://www.geopoliticalmonitor.com/timeline-lebanon-civil-war/> . Accessed December 8th, 2024

1982

substantive peace between Israel and Egypt

Israel launches a ground invasion of Lebanon

Previous Solutions

UN Intervention

When Israel previously invaded Lebanon in March 1978, its expressed goal was to create a six mile buffer zone of Lebanese territory under Israeli control. Within a few days, , Israel had secured this buffer zone and continued to move north. The United Nations responded with a Security Council Resolution which called for Israel to withdraw and created a UN mission to Lebanon. After Israel announced a ceasefire a few days later, the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) began to be deployed. This created a non-political buffer zone without encroachment by Israel into Lebanese territory. Although UNIFIL's charter was extended, it has failed to prevent the current invasion by Israel²⁹.

Camp David Accords

There have been instances of successful negotiations resulting in resolution of conflict, such as in the case of the Camp David accords. After decades of conflict, Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin and Egyptian President Anwar Sadat, participated in a summit hosted by US President Jimmy Carter. The key points of the agreement are as follows:

- Both Egypt and Israel are committed to finding a lasting peace which is in their respective interests. In order to achieve this, they will participate in UN

²⁹ Keesing's Record of World Events (formerly Keesing's Contemporary Archives), Volume 25, June, 1979 Israeli, Lebanon, Page 29648 © 1931-2006 Keesing's Worldwide, LLC - All Rights Reserved. <https://web.stanford.edu/group/tomzgroup/pmwiki/uploads/3994-1979-06-KS-A-AMS.pdf>

moderated peace talks.

- It outlines a period of transition of five years towards preparing for self-governance for the West Bank and Gaza; Israeli military and civilians will withdraw once the new independent government is in place.
- Negotiations are to take place between the newly elected government of the West bank and Gaza and other parties in order to determine the long term governance of these areas.
- No further military conflict or action is to take place between Israel and Egypt.
- Furthermore, it calls for:
 - Normalization of relations, including mutual state recognition,
 - Cessation of economic boycotts,
 - Full rights for citizens of both sovereign states.^{30, 31}

The Camp David talks also had knock on effects, with Israel announcing a ceasefire in its 1978 invasion of Lebanon the day the talks started. This breakthrough in relations has given hope that progress could be made elsewhere in the Middle East. Other instances of successful diplomatic negotiation include the brokering of a ceasefire to Israel's deployment of troops to Lebanon, by the United States and United Nations.

Possible Solutions and Questions to Consider

Met opmerkingen [1]: Do elaborate on all 3 sub-sections as they're lacking some depth here.

Leveraging of Superpower Support

Both Israel and its Christian Lebanese allies are reliant on US military support. Although the US has generally stood by its allies, it has the ability to exert extreme pressure on its regional partners. US Secretary of State Alexander Haig has signalled openness to taking a harsher approach to Israel³². On the PLO/Muslim side, they are reliant on

³⁰ "Camp David Accords and the Arab-Israeli Peace Process" *US State Department Historian*, <https://history.state.gov/milestones/1977-1980/camp-david> . Accessed December 9th, 2024

³¹ "The Camp David Accords of 1979" *Key Documents - The BBC*, published November 29th, 2001 http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/in_depth/middle_east/israel_and_the_palestinians/key_documents/1632849.stm . Accessed December 15th, 2024

³² "Alexander Haig's Fall from Grace" Association for Diplomatic Studies and Training, copyright 2024, <https://adst.org/2016/06/alexander-haigs-fall-grace/> Accessed December 7th 2024.

Soviet support, which could also be leveraged for peace. If this method were to be pursued, both superpowers would have to collaborate and present a unified front to their respective allies.

Relocation of or Negotiation with the PLO

The stated intention of the state of Israel is to destroy the PLO. Pursuing this goal regardless of whether it's successful would result in long and bloody conflict. More realistically, the PLO base could be moved further away from Israel or the PLO could agree to reforms and abandonment of terrorist tactics in exchange for improved conditions for Palestinians. This would be difficult because both the PLO and Israel would like to destroy one-another, however there is precedent for previously antagonistic relationships turning around for the better through well led negotiations and compromise.

Resolution to Israel-Palestine

The continued conflicts between Israel and Palestine pours flames on Arab-Israeli relations. This is another equally complicated and charged issue. Whether it be the so-called one state solution (establishment of a democratic state with religious freedom for all citizens, including Palestinians) or the establishment of an independent Palestinian state existing side by side with the Israeli state as outlined in the 1948 UN partition plan (the two state solution)³³, both options are fraught with problems and heated controversy.

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³³ Britannica, The Editors of Encyclopaedia. "one-state solution". Encyclopedia Britannica, 21 Aug. 2024, <https://www.britannica.com/topic/one-state-solution>. Accessed 9 December 2024.

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Table 3.1 War Period Militias

<i>Major militias</i>			
<i>Name</i>	<i>Dominant religious affiliation</i>	<i>Strength</i>	
		<i>Fighters</i>	<i>Total military and civilian personnel</i>
Amal	Muslim Shi'a	3,000–4,000 (1)	10,000 (3)
Hizbullah	Muslim Shi'a	4,000–4,500 (1)	18,000 (3)
Lebanese Forces	Christian Maronite	8,000–10,000 (1)	20,000 (3)
Palestinian Militias		8,000 (2)	
Progressive Socialist Party	Druze	5,000–6,000 (1)	16,000 (3)
South Lebanon's Army	Christian and Muslim Shi'a	2,000–2,500 (1)	
<i>Estimated Total</i>		<i>30,000–34,000</i>	<i>64,000</i>