



PRESS RELEASE

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**LEBANON'S HISTORY, HEZBOLLAH'S IDEOLOGY, AND BACKGROUND
TO CURRENT MID-EAST CRISIS EXPLORED IN SCHOLARLY BOOKS**

*"Books for Understanding: Syria & Lebanon" Bibliography
Guides Librarians, Journalists, and Researchers to Valuable Information*

July 31, 2006 (New York, NY)—Lebanon's civil infrastructure is being destroyed, its still-fragile democracy is endangered, and a tragic loss of life in both Israel and Lebanon continues. The violence between Israel and the Hezbollah militia that controls southern Lebanon, sparked by a Hezbollah cross-border raid and abduction of Israeli soldiers, has roots and ramifications in the history, politics, and culture of the Middle East.

Books for Understanding offers a broad and deep compilation of scholarly resources on Lebanon and Syria to provide background to the breaking news.

<http://aaupnet.org/news/bfu/syria/list.html>

This bibliography is a free service from the Association of American University Presses, intended for librarians, journalists, researchers, and teachers, as well as concerned members of the public.

The current bibliography grows out of an earlier list that focused on Syria and Syria's long occupation of Lebanon. The book list has nearly doubled in size and been fully revised to represent Lebanese history and culture, as well as books that examine the origins and tactics of Hezbollah. Additional relevant resources can be found in the newly updated "**Israel and Palestine**" book list, <http://aaupnet.org/news/bfu/israel/list.html>.

Titles include: *The Shifts in Hizbullah's Ideology: Religious Ideology, Political Ideology, and Political Program*, by Joseph Alagha, Amsterdam University Press, 2006; *Civil and Uncivil Violence in Lebanon: A History of the Internationalization of Communal Conflict*, by Samir Khalaf, Columbia University Press, 2002; *Inheriting Syria: Bashar's Trial by Fire*, by Flynt Leverett, Brookings Institution Press, 2005; *Nationalism and Minority Identities in Islamic Societies*, edited by Maya Shatzmiller, McGill-Queen's University Press, 2005; and *Syria and the Palestinians: The Clash of Nationalisms*, by Ghada Hashem Talhami, University Press of Florida, 2001.

The Books for Understanding program, <http://www.booksforunderstanding.org>, was created shortly after the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks to help readers find necessary information on terrorism, trauma, Afghanistan, and Islamic fundamentalist movements. That original list eventually grew to include close to 1,000 books from more than 65 university presses, and is still available as an archived list on the site. Today, AAUP continues this service for many topics of immediate public interest.

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