

A BEIRUT HEART: ONE WOMAN'S WAR
BY CATHY SULTAN
DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1 Cathy Sultan attempts to explain why she stayed in Beirut, why she kept her children in a war zone. Were you satisfied with the reasons she gave? What would you have done under similar circumstances?
- 2 Women are the unsung heroes in war. The author believes women should raise their collective voices to protest war at any cost. She stands with the Women in Black in her community. Around the world, WIB stand in silent vigil to protest war, rape as a tool of war, ethnic cleansing and human rights abuses. Would you consider starting a WIB group in your community?
- 3 Whether catalyst or cause, the Palestinian presence in Beirut was a major factor in the Lebanese civil war. Does the author explain this adequately? Do you think Arafat was justified in using Lebanon to attack Israel and if not, what should he have done differently?
- 4 If you lived in South Lebanon, how would you have dealt with the Palestinian presence on your land? Were the Israelis justified in retaliating the way they did?
- 5 Israel illegally occupied South Lebanon for twenty-two years. Some Lebanese chose to collaborate with the Israelis. Those who refused were thrown into the Israeli-run Khiam prison. What would you have done?
- 6 Hezbollah fought Israel's illegal occupation of South Lebanon, eventually forcing the Israeli Army to withdraw. Were they right to resist occupation? Would you have joined them?
- 7 The author has given an in-depth look at the various militias involved in the Lebanese civil war. Can you explain how otherwise civilized men can turn into cold-blooded killers seemingly overnight?
- 8 The author conducted herself, at times, irresponsibly. Did you sympathize with her or did you find her behavior outrageous?
- 9 In 1982-83, the US Marines in Beirut were on a peace-keeping mission. They were not allowed to carry weapons. Should they have been allowed to defend themselves?
- 10 In Spring 1983, another suicide bomber destroyed the American Embassy in Beirut. Do you think the US government learned any lessons from that tragedy?

(continued)

CONTACT
INFORMATION

David Unowsky
651.698.3178
david.unowsky@gmail.com

A BEIRUT HEART: ONE WOMAN'S WAR
BY CATHY SULTAN
DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

page 2

- 11** Lebanon, like other countries in the Middle East, was emerging as a place where centuries of Arab resentment toward the West were beginning to find voice and direction. Is America's behavior in Iraq encouraging stability or turmoil in the area?
- 12** In February, 2004, Lebanon's former Prime Minister, Rafic Hariri, was assassinated. If it was the Syrians who killed him, what did they hope to gain? If it was not the Syrians, who else stood to gain from continued turmoil in Lebanon and why?
- 13** After living war first-hand, the author now promotes peace. She sits on the Board of the National Peace Foundation, a Non-Governmental Organization in Washington, D.C. where she coordinates programs that educate people about the Middle East conflict. Would you be interested in working with the author on one of her projects? She can be reached at npf@nationalpeace.org.

