

MCR MultiCultural Review

Dedicated to a Better Understanding of Ethnic, Racial, & Religious Diversity

Sultan, Cathy. *Tragedy in South Lebanon: The Israeli-Hezbollah War of 2006*. St. Paul, Minn.: Scarletta Press, 2008. 184 pp. ISBN 978-0-9798249-1-3, \$16.95 (pb).

Sultan tells the story of the people of Southern Lebanon during that short, but devastating war. She discusses the decisions and actions of the Israeli government, the United States government, the Lebanese government, and Hezbollah, but her focus is their impact on the civilians—both Lebanese and Israeli.

She argues that the West has a double standard for governments that intervene militarily in other nations. When Israel or the United States does it, it is deemed to be in the interest of self-defense and regional security, but when the likes of Slobodan Milosevic or Saddam Hussein do it, it is deemed to be crimes against humanity. Her point is not to justify Milosevic or Hussein, but to argue that it will be ever more difficult to gain international support for holding their ilk responsible for their actions if Israel and the United States are not also held to account.

Her brief book is extremely informative about Lebanon, its history, and its people, and is informed by the fact that the author lived in Lebanon for 14 years. She also includes a 23-page timeline of Lebanese history from 4000 B.C.E. through September 2007 and a 23-page in-depth glossary of relevant terms. Between the short length, useful appendices, and easy readability, this book is easily accessible and informative for the general reader and students alike.

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