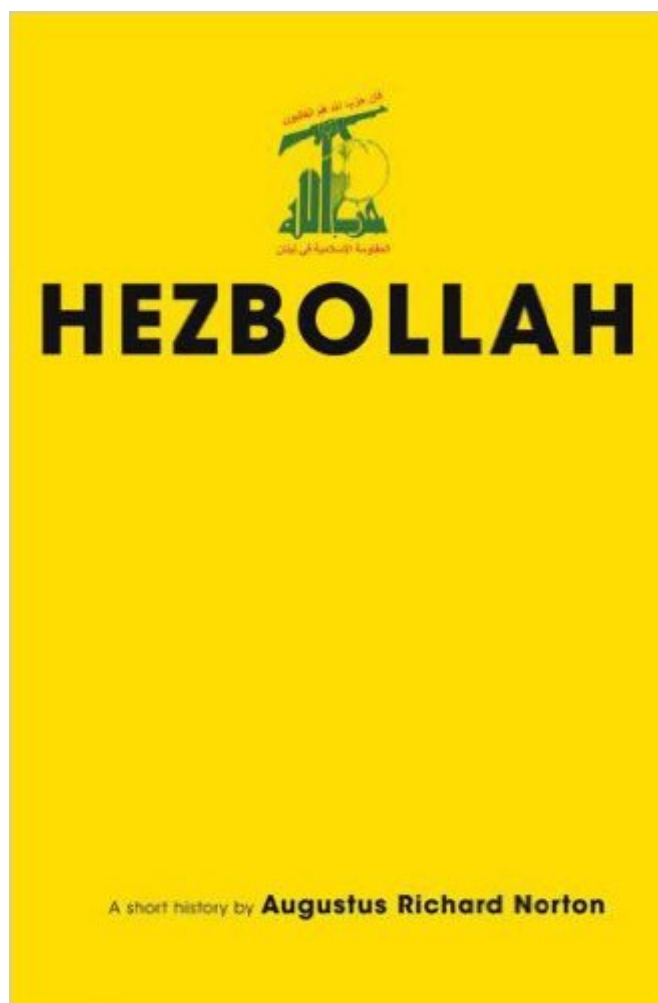


The book was found

Hezbollah: A Short History (Princeton Studies In Muslim Politics)



Synopsis

Most policymakers in the United States and Israel have it wrong. Hezbollah isn't a simple terrorist organization--nor is it likely to disappear soon. Following Israel's war against Hezbollah in the summer of 2006, the Shi'i group--which combines the functions of a militia, a social service and public works provider, and a political party--is more popular than ever in the Middle East while retaining its strong base of support in Lebanon. And Hezbollah didn't merely confront Israel and withstand its military onslaught. Hezbollah's postwar reconstruction efforts were judged better than the U.S. government's response to Hurricane Katrina--not by al-Jazeera, but by an American TV journalist. In *Hezbollah*, one of the world's leading experts on Hezbollah has written the essential guide to understanding the complexities and paradoxes of a group that remains entrenched at the heart of Middle East politics. With unmatched clarity and authority, Augustus Richard Norton tells how Hezbollah developed, how it has evolved, and what direction it might take in the future. Far from being a one-dimensional terrorist group, Norton explains, Hezbollah is a "janus-faced" organization in the middle of an incomplete metamorphosis from extremism to mundane politics, an evolution whose outcome is far from certain. Beginning as a terrorist cat's-paw of Iran, Hezbollah has since transformed itself into an impressive political party with an admiring Lebanese constituency, but it has also insisted on maintaining the potent militia that forced Israel to withdraw from Lebanon in 2000 after almost two decades of occupation. The most accessible, informed, and balanced analysis of the group yet written, *Hezbollah* is essential reading for anyone who wants to understand the Middle East.

Book Information

Series: Princeton Studies in Muslim Politics

Hardcover: 200 pages

Publisher: Princeton University Press (March 25, 2007)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0691131244

ISBN-13: 978-0691131245

Product Dimensions: 8.7 x 5.8 x 0.9 inches

Shipping Weight: 12.8 ounces

Average Customer Review: 3.8 out of 5 stars Â Â See all reviews Â (19 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #1,278,854 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #105 in Â Books > History >

Middle East > Lebanon #1161 in Â Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Politics & Government >

Customer Reviews

Dr. Norton's short history of Hezbollah provides a nice introduction to the birth, development, and evolution of this complex organization for American (and other English speaking) readers. The US media almost always portrays Hezbollah as an anti-Semitic, Islamofascist, terrorist organization that is opposed to Israel, America, and freedom because they are 'evil'. The reality is, of course, much more complex. If you are tired of reading the US media's propaganda about Hezbollah and want to learn a bit more about reality, this is a good place to start. There are several strengths to this book, and in particular, there are several key points that Norton addresses that I feel are especially significant. First, I think that the reader who is relatively new to Hezbollah and/or Lebanese history and politics in general will better understand the complexities and non-linearities amongst the various confessional groups. The relationships, both internal and external, between the various actors in Lebanon CANNOT be simply understood in terms of the Arab/Israeli, Shi'ite/Sunni, Muslim/Christian, and pro/anti Syrian forces. The alliances among all the major players inside Lebanon (e.g. Hezbollah, AMAL, the various Maronite and Orthodox groups, etc.) as well as with the outside players (primarily Syria, the US, France, and Israel) are constantly changing. Second, I think that the centrality of the Palestinian issue will become clearer to most readers. There are hundreds of thousands of Palestinian refugees living as non-citizens in Lebanon, and this was the most important (but certainly not only) cause of the disintegration of the Lebanese govt in the mid-70s. This problem still hangs over everything else in Lebanon.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

Hezbollah: A Short History (Princeton Studies in Muslim Politics) Princeton Readings in Islamist Thought: Texts and Contexts from al-Banna to Bin Laden (Princeton Studies in Muslim Politics) Powerplay: The Origins of the American Alliance System in Asia (Princeton Studies in International History and Politics) States and Power in Africa: Comparative Lessons in Authority and Control (Princeton Studies in International History and Politics) Threading My Prayer Rug: One Woman's Journey from Pakistani Muslim to American Muslim The Princeton Field Guide to Dinosaurs: Second Edition (Princeton Field Guides) How Policies Make Citizens: Senior Political Activism and the American Welfare State (Princeton Studies in American Politics: Historical, International, and Comparative Perspectives) When Movements Matter: The Townsend Plan and the Rise of Social Security (Princeton Studies in American Politics: Historical, International, and Comparative

Perspectives) Reforms at Risk: What Happens After Major Policy Changes Are Enacted (Princeton Studies in American Politics: Historical, International, and Comparative Perspectives) Warriors of God: Inside Hezbollah's Thirty-Year Struggle Against Israel The 188th Crybaby Brigade: A Skinny Jewish Kid from Chicago Fights Hezbollah--A Memoir Hezbollah: The Global Footprint of Lebanon's Party of God 34 Days: Israel, Hezbollah, and the War in Lebanon Muslim Tradition: Studies in Chronology, Provenance and Authorship of Early Hadith (Cambridge Studies in Islamic Civilization) A Short History of the Ismailis: Traditions of a Muslim Community (The New Edinburgh Islamic Surveys) Nationalism and the Genealogical Imagination: Oral History and Textual Authority in Tribal Jordan (Comparative Studies on Muslim Societies) Bastardy and Its Comparative History: Studies in the History of Illegitimacy and Marital Nonconformism (Studies in social and demographic history) The Struggle for Pakistan: A Muslim Homeland and Global Politics The Many Faces of Political Islam: Religion and Politics in the Muslim World Religion and State: The Muslim Approach to Politics

[Dmca](#)