
Acknowledgments

Every author incurs debts of gratitude, intellectual and otherwise, in the course of writing a book; mine span across more than a decade and extend across multiple continents.

This research project began its life many years ago as a master's thesis in the Committee on International Relations at the University of Chicago. My thesis advisors, John Schuessler and Matthias Staisch, read and commented on the very first words I ever put on paper about the Lebanese civil war. At Chicago I also first met Sarah Parkinson, who has provided important feedback at several steps of the project and continuously encouraged me to treat this complex case study with great respect. The University of Chicago provided a remarkable intellectual community with benefits that extended far beyond the short time I spent there. John Mearsheimer's colorful seminars and Charlie Glaser's analytical precision strikes shaped my thinking on international security, and their letters of recommendation took me to my next destination.

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During graduate school I also began the adventure of learning Arabic, a journey guided by Bill Granara and facilitated by the incredible Feryal Hijazi. Her first-year Arabic class enabled me to bypass second-year coursework altogether at Middlebury Summer Arabic School, where I completed third-year college-level Arabic in eight weeks of intensive classes, which included a “language pledge” prohibiting all communication in other languages. At this program I met fellow political scientists Rick McAlexander and Gerasimos Tsourapas, with whom I have luckily been allowed to speak English on our subsequent encounters. An Arabic Language Grant from Hilary Rantisi at the Middle East Initiative of Harvard Kennedy School helped me attend this unique summer program, as did generous financial aid from Middlebury College. The following summer I was grateful to receive the David S. Dodge Award covering tuition and housing costs for the summer Arabic program at American University of Beirut.

The most precious part of doctoral research was the opportunity to spend the 2013–2014 academic year in Lebanon as affiliated researcher at the Center for Arab and Middle Eastern Studies at the American University of Beirut, enabled by a generous research grant from Sixten Gemzéus Stiftelse in Stockholm. In Lebanon, my primary debt stands to the men and

women I interviewed and who shared their personal experiences and insights. Almost without exception, the people I contacted not only made time to talk to me but insisted on treating me to coffee or other sustenance sometimes on multiple occasions. Pertinence prohibits me from mentioning names, but several individuals also went above and beyond to facilitate further contacts or access to other resources to help me with my research. Without their tremendous generosity there would be no empirical material to base this book upon. Beyond my interlocutors I am also grateful to Youssef Shatila and his entire extended family, my landlords who became good friends, for providing a comfortable home in Beirut, where I have since returned to stay multiple times. For their friendship, camaraderie, and advice during my fieldwork I thank Dylan, Magnus, Maja, May, Lina, Alexandra, Mostafa, Soman, Welmoed, Konstantin, and Angela. In Lebanon I also first met Kelly Stedem, at the time a staff member at UMAM Documentation & Research, who subsequently became a valuable colleague in the Boston area. Yosra Al Ahmad taught me Syrian Arabic through her idiosyncratic but extremely effective program; I hope that Berlin provides her and her children with a life that Beirut could not, and that she no longer writes sad poems about the sea.

After defending my dissertation I moved to Princeton for a year as a postdoctoral researcher at the Niehaus Center, located in what was then known as the Woodrow Wilson School. I am grateful to all of my fellow fellows in this fantastic program—and in particular to Nikhar Gaikwad, Josh Kertzer, and Lauren Peritz—who saw multiple iterations of my presentation and provided valuable and constructive feedback. Helen Milner was extremely generous with the center's resources, including by providing funding for two month-long trips to Lebanon. Beyond the Niehaus Center I enjoyed the wider Politics Department community and learned many things from Carles Boix, Killian Clarke, Sharan Grewal, Amaney Jamal, Melissa Lee, Steve Monroe, Jake Shapiro, Dan Tavana, and Manuel Vogt. During this year I also met Dan Corstange and Abbey Steele, both of whom have been highly supportive and provided useful feedback. Finally, I had the pleasure of being invited to give a talk at the Program on Order, Conflict and Violence at Yale; I am grateful to Stathis Kalyvas and Libby Wood for inviting me and to Consuelo Amat and Stephen Moncrief for organizing the visit.

The next step of the journey brought me back to Boston and the Crown Center for Middle East Studies at Brandeis, where I spent a year as junior

research fellow. At the end of this year Eva Bellin generously organized a book conference for my project, and I am grateful to her and to Shai Feldman, David Siddhartha Patel, Roger Petersen, and Jonah Schulhofer-Wohl for reading and commenting on my work. Their comments revealed great interest in the project but also forced me to redesign and rewrite several chapters. On a related note, I later realized that most colleagues know down to the dollar how much it cost to organize their book conferences; in honest testament to Eva's support for junior scholars, I have no idea what expenses mine incurred.

Most of the final manuscript subsequently emerged during a spell of unemployment. After I filed my Green Card application, I spent almost five months in the United States in formal applicant status but without work or travel permits. For most of this time I spent my days squatting in empty office space at the Middle East Initiative in Mount Auburn Street. I thank Raissa Fabregas, Daniel Velez-Lopez, Avery Schmidt, and the MEI staff for their pleasant company and for sharing their printer and coffee maker. The Harvard Library issued me an alumni card that let me into the library buildings to browse and read, while my spousal library card at Boston College also came with thirty-day borrowing privileges. I am grateful to both institutions as I could not have completed the manuscript without access to their collections.

Once endowed with the legal right to work—as a freshly anointed permanent resident of the United States of America—I started a new post-doctoral position at the Center for Strategic Studies at the Fletcher School of Tufts. I am deeply grateful to Monica Toft for hosting me at the center, in various capacities over multiple years, and to her and Ivan for inviting the whole team into their home every semester. My research has benefited from input by all members of this vibrant community but I am particularly grateful to Thomas Cavanna, Bridget Coggins, Ben Denison, Karim Elkady, and Sidita Kushi for extensive comments on multiple projects and presentations. I also thank the center for finding room in its budget to pay for indexing this book.

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Briones, run a smooth and professional operation, and kindly enabled me to use a photograph I took during fieldwork (while walking along the infamous “Green Line” that divided Beirut during the war) as cover art for the book. Two anonymous reviewers combined a close and perceptive reading of the manuscript with a generous spirit, a constructive tone, and insightful recommendations that helped make the final product stronger, tighter, and more readable. I am grateful to all of them for their support and assistance in completing this project. Some of the material in the book previously appeared in “Ethnic Cleansing and the Politics of Restraint: Violence and Coexistence in the Lebanese Civil War,” *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 63, no. 1 (2019); and “Toxic Waste Dumping in Conflict Zones: Evidence from 1980s Lebanon,” *Mediterranean Politics* 26, no. 2 (2021), and I thank the publishers for permission to reuse relevant sections.

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FRIEND OR FOE

