

Chapter 1 : INDONESIA Double defeat for Yasmin Church: Parliament and Yudhoyono deny them right of

The most responsible nation-states that use them, however, "double fuse" their munitions to cut down on the failure rate of the "bomblets" after they have been deployed.

The main Sunni bloc, meanwhile, led by Prime Minister Saad Hariri, is experiencing financial and political crises amid cooling relations with backer Saudi Arabia. The prime minister dominated the Sunni vote in the last parliamentary elections, but that was in Hezbollah, for its part, maintains that it is not looking to dominate Lebanon, and that it sent its fighters to Syria to protect the Lebanese people from the threat of "terrorism". The leadership acted like it was defeated and pursued choices contrary to those of the community it represents. My alternative is the state, not a militia. Damascus had dominated Lebanese affairs since the end of its civil war in

However, the alliance began crumbling as Hezbollah found an ally in Aoun, formerly a staunch opponent of the Syrian government. On 7 May, Hezbollah deployed armed men in Beirut to protest against a decision by the 14 March-led government to remove an internal phone network the group had set up. Hezbollah argued that the phone network was an essential part of its arsenal against Israel. Those events of 7 May changed the balance of power in Lebanon going forward. Allouch, an outspoken leader within the Future Movement, said Hezbollah has had its way by using its weapons or threatening to use its weapons against political opponents. Feeling like a minority Allouch said that since the beginnings of Islam, Sunnis had been in power and considered themselves an integral part of the Islamic umma nation, rather than a fringe community. But when the Ottoman Empire collapsed at the end of World War I, they were shocked by the loss of their centre of power in the world. The war in Syria, Allouch said, has furthered that perception. He said Sunnis feel there is a global war against them involving the West, Russia and Iran. Conspiracy theories about Tehran secretly working with Washington against Sunni Muslims have long fuelled anti-Iran and anti-Shia feelings in the region. The frustration of Sunnis in Lebanon is also part of a wider feeling of repression since the demise of the Arab spring. Victimisation Allouch noted the double standards of the state in dealing with Lebanese people who fought in Syria. Since the beginning of the Syrian conflict, Lebanon has witnessed the rise of Sunni militant groups, including the emergence of Sheikh Ahmad al-Assir, who was sentenced to death on 28 September over deadly clashes with the Lebanese army. Allouch said "militant extremism" only strengthens its counterparts, emphasising that Hariri did not encourage or approve of such groups. Rifi also dismissed militant Sunni movements and figures, saying they do not represent the "moderate" community. He said "extremists" had been overrepresented among Sunnis because they filled the public squares, while moderates stayed at home. Allouch warned that picking up arms against Hezbollah would not be effective. Still, Rifi dismissed the notion that standing up to Hezbollah would lead to a civil war. Abdul Ghani Imad, a sociology professor at Lebanese University, said the shifting balance of power, weakness of the state and unprecedented sectarian tensions have made Sunnis feel they are victims of injustice. The former security chief denies that he receives funds from Doha. It was a sign that the kingdom is moving away from participating in Lebanese affairs towards considering the country a hostile state within the Iranian orbit. However, despite a receding Saudi role, Qatar has yet to gain a firm foothold in the Lebanese political landscape. Saudi is now operating more as an observer than a player in Lebanon, without putting its weight behind Hariri, Imad said.

Chapter 2 : How Hezbollah Defeated Israel: II. Winning the Ground War : Conflicts Forum

Lancaster Catholic hands Northern Lebanon 'gut punch' double OT defeat. With a chance to tie up Lancaster Catholic for first place in Lancaster-Lebanon League Section 3, the Vikings lost a

Yet it has received virtually no assistance from any Arab state. After the Syrians withdrew from combat, following several days of disastrous fighting in early June, no other state has offered to help the PLO - no cuts in oil sales to the West, no withdrawals of funds from the U. Indeed, the only public rally calling for an Israeli withdrawal took place in Tel Aviv! The silence has been deafening. It is also surprising. The Palestinian cause has received wide vocal backing for so many years that an outside observer could be excused for thinking the PLO enjoyed the support of all Arab peoples and governments. A PLO spokesman, alluding to criticism within Israel of the siege of Beirut, called the Israeli people "our best ally. Deserting the PLO fits a pattern, which goes back 50 years, of extravagant rhetoric but weak action. Though often explained by the Arab love of words, this pattern results from reasons more subtle and complex. A Lightning Rod of Passions The rhetoric goes back to the s, when the establishment of a Jewish state in Palestine became a real possibility; ever since, the Zionists have served as a lightning rod of Arab passions. In part, the Arabs really wanted to control Palestine; in part, this issue served as a vehicle to create a consensus among a fractious group of states which - and this is the key point - felt they ought to be politically united, if not physically joined as states. Though currently divided into more than 20 states, the Arabic-speaking peoples still feel they should unify. While all concrete efforts in this direction have failed, the conflict with Israel represents an easy way to create the sense of unity, if not the substance. With this reversal, the states surrounding Israel gave up the idea of destroying Israel; since then they have limited themselves to getting back the lands they lost in One state, Egypt, made this explicit; the others have signaled it clearly enough. They lacked sovereign rights, international recognition, money and arms. Within a few years, the PLO ruled large parts of Lebanon, enjoyed international prestige, built up well-stocked infantry and artillery, and acquired an income of hundreds of millions of dollars a year. All this, however, came at a cost. Controlling Lebanese territory meant displacing the local authorities. Tacit threats to Saudi Arabia and the other Persian Gulf states brought income, but it came as a kind of ransom money. Cooperation with the Soviets on a wide range of issues was the political price for receiving armaments from them. The combination of support on the rhetorical level and animosity in practice relegated the PLO to a curious double life in the Arab world - much acclaimed and widely backed, yet deeply resented. The PLO served a vital function as the symbol of the Arab cause but created no end of problems. Each state cultivated the PLO as a way to protect itself from charges of indifference to the Arab cause, though not one of them truly supported it. At present, the Arab states stand as follows: The Syrian government cares much more about preserving its dominion over the part of Lebanon closest to its borders than about the fate of Yasser Arafat and his men. Iraq is preoccupied with its war with Iran, now more dangerous than ever. Jordan not only remembers the war with the PLO but is in direct competition with the organization for control over the West Bank, should the Israelis leave it; and hints coming from Israel that the PLO should set its sights on Jordan have not created a warmer relationship between the PLO and King Hussein. In the end, no country offers the PLO aid, or even refuge. If asked publicly for asylum to save the lives of the men trapped in Beirut, no Arab state could deny the PLO entry, but it would only do so on the basis of stringent terms which would emasculate the organization. Will There Now Be Peace? The weeks of confrontation in Beirut have largely obscured the larger implications of this war for the PLO and the Arab states. It probably will not matter much who wins in Beirut that is, whether the PLO stays or goes , for regardless of that outcome, the fighting almost certainly marks the defeat of the PLO as the embodiment of the idea of destroying Israel. The Arab states gave up this hope as a result of the war; the PLO will most likely do so in the aftermath of Lebanon. The siege of Beirut overshadows another key development that we can expect to emerge in the months to come: The devastation of the PLO and Syrian forces will probably diminish Arab reliance on the Soviet Union which can only supply them with more arms and increase the influence of the United States which has diplomatic leverage over Israel. This is probably the last major Arab-Israeli military

confrontation for a long time to come, maybe ever.

Chapter 3 : Boko Haram leader releases video days after Nigeria claims defeat | Arab News

"There is a feeling of defeat," Mustapha Allouch, a former member of parliament, told Middle East Eye in reference to Lebanon's Sunnis, in spite of their numbers being roughly equal to Shia in the.

While Israeli Defense Forces IDF units had been making forays into southern Lebanon during the second week of the conflict, the Israeli military leadership remained undecided over when and where – even whether – to deploy their ground units. The hesitation was also the result of the experience of small IDF units that had already penetrated beyond the border. Special IDF units operating in southern Lebanon were reporting to their commanders as early as July 18 that Hezbollah units were fighting tenaciously to hold their positions on the first ridgeline overlooking Israel. At this point, Prime Minister Ehud Olmert made a political decision: Olmert determined that Israel should not tip its hand – it would accept the deployment of a United Nations force, but only as a last resort. In keeping with this strategy, Israeli reserve forces were called to the front on July 19. The surprise call-up of the IDF was to defeat Hezbollah first from the air, and then – if that failed – use its regular forces, with no reserve forces to be called. The initial deployment of the reserves hurried and uncoordinated. It is, to repeat, likely that Israel did not believe it would have to call on its reserves during the conflict, or it would have called them much earlier. Moreover, the decision to call the reserves took key senior reserve officers, usually the first to be notified of a pending call-up, by surprise. It also helps to explain why Israeli reserve troops arrived at the front without the necessary equipment, without a coherent battle plan, and without the munitions necessary to carry on the fight. Throughout the conflict, Israel struggled to provide adequate support to its reserve forces: The effect of this was immediately perceived by military observers. What we must do is disrupt the military logic of Hezbollah. I would say that this is still not a matter of days away. But other IDF commanders were upbeat – while the IAF had failed to stop Hezbollah rocket attacks on Israeli cities, fewer rockets were fired at Israel from July 19 than at any other time a very small number on July 19, perhaps as few as 40 on July 20 and 50 on July 21. July 22 also marks the first time that the United States responded militarily to the conflict. Late on the day of the 21st, the White House received a request from Olmert and the IDF for the provision of large amounts of precision-guided munitions – another telltale sign that the IAF had failed in its mission to degrade Hezbollah military assets significantly during the opening rounds of the war. The request was quickly approved and the munitions were shipped to Israel beginning on the morning of July 22. But there was little grumbling in the Pentagon, though one former serving officer observed that the deployment of US munitions to Israel was reminiscent of a similar request made by Israel in – at the height of the Yom Kippur War. And for good reason: Brown was enraged that US weapons and munitions were being sent to Israel at the same time that American commanders in Vietnam were protesting a lack of supplies in their war in Southeast Asia. The current JCS chairman, Peter Pace, who remained notably silent during the Israeli-Hezbollah war, understood history, saluted, and remained silent. This would remain true throughout the war – Al-Manar never went off the air. While the IDF claimed at the end of the day that it had taken the town, it had not. The fighting had been bloody, but Hezbollah fighters had not been dislodged. IDF detachments continually failed to flank the defenders, meeting counterpunches toward the west of the city. Special three-man hunter-killer teams from the Nasr Brigade destroyed several Israeli armored vehicles during the fight with light man-made anti-tank missiles. We would do the same thing if someone came into our country. Nor did Hezbollah ever feel the need to call up its reserves, as Israel had done. Hezbollah never felt the need to reinforce it. Much to their surprise, Hezbollah commanders found that Israeli troops were poorly organized and disciplined. The only Israeli unit that performed up to standards was the Golani Brigade, according to Lebanese observers. The reserves were worse, and IDF commanders hesitated to put them into battle. His words were accompanied by a threat: The report was not true. Abu Jaafar made public comments after the end of the war. The fight for Bint Jbeil went on for nine days. But it remained in Hezbollah hands until the end of the conflict. By then, the town had been destroyed, as Hezbollah fighters were able to survive repeated air and artillery shellings, retreating into their bunkers during the worst of the air and artillery campaign, and only emerging when IDF troops in follow-on operations tried to claim the city.

Cluster munitions are an effective, if vicious, combat tool and those nations that use them, including every single member of NATO as well as Russia and China, have consistently refused to enter an international agreement banning their use. The Israeli munitions may well have been purchased from aging US stockpiles that were not double-fused, making the United States complicit in this indiscriminate targeting. Such a conclusion seems to fit with the time-line of the resupply of munitions to Israel on July. The IDF may well have been able to offload these munitions and deploy them quickly enough to have created the cluster-munitions crisis in Lebanon that plagues that nation still and that started on July. After failing to take the town from Hezbollah in the morning, IDF commanders decided to send in their elite Golani Brigade. In two hours in the afternoon, nine Golani Brigade soldiers were killed and 22 were wounded. On July 27, in response to the failure of its units to take these cities, the Israeli government agreed to a call-up of three more reserve divisions – a full 15, troops. By July 28, however, it was becoming clear just how severe the failure of the IAF had been in its attempts to stop Hezbollah rocket attacks. On that day, Hezbollah deployed a new rocket, the Khaibar-1, which hit Afula. On that day, Mossad officials leaked information that, by their estimate, Hezbollah had not suffered a significant degradation in its military capabilities, and that the organization might be able to carry on the conflict for several more months. The IDF disagreed, stating that Hezbollah had been severely damaged. The first cracks in the Israeli intelligence community were beginning to show. It will not render Hezbollah powerless, because it is simply impossible to eliminate thousands of small, mobile, hidden and easily resupplied rockets via an air campaign. They well know the limits of their own power and they know how it can be abused. Hezbollah had secreted upwards of 18, rockets in its arsenals prior to the conflict. These sites were hardened against Israeli air strikes and easily survived the air campaign. Hezbollah officials calculated that from the time of firing until the IAF was able to identify and deploy fighters to take out the mobile rockets was 90 seconds. Hezbollah fired about 4, rockets at Israel a more precise, though uncertain, figure calculates the firing of 4, rockets, bringing its stockpiles down to 14, rockets – enough to prosecute the war for at least three more months. In some cases, Israeli units were defeated on the field of battle, forced into sudden retreats or forced to rely on air cover to save elements from being overrun. Even toward the end of the war, on August 9, the IDF announced that 15 of its reserve soldiers were killed and 40 wounded in fighting in the villages of Marjayoun, Khiam and Kila – a stunning casualty rate for a marginal piece of real estate. The robust Hezbollah defense was also taking its toll on Israeli armor. With a range of 3 kilometers, the Sagger proved enormously successful in taking on Israeli tanks, a fact that must have given Israeli armor commanders fits, in large part because the Sagger missile deployed by Hezbollah is an older version developed and deployed in of a more modern version that is more easily hidden and deployed and has a larger warhead. The decision was apparently made to convince the international community that the rules of engagement for a UN force should extend from the Litani south. Such a claim could not be made unless Israel could credibly claim to have cleared that part of Lebanon to the Litani. A significant number of Israeli forces were airlifted into key areas just south of the Litani to accomplish this goal. The decision might well have led to a disaster. Most of the Israeli forces airlifted to these sites were immediately surrounded by Hezbollah units and may well have been decisively mauled had a ceasefire not gone into effect. Israel now claims that it killed about Hezbollah fighters, while its own losses were significantly less. But a more precise accounting shows that Israeli and Hezbollah casualties were nearly even. Fewer than funerals have been held for Hezbollah fighters – nearly equal to the number killed on the Israeli side. That number may be revised upward: Research for this article was provided by Madeleine Perry. This article originally appeared in Asia Times.

Near the end of this movie, just before the final defeat of the super-arch-villain General Zod, that super villain said "No matter how brutal and deadly I was I did it for the greater good." That is the common mindset of many villains including those of ISIS.

Thus, once again imperialist powers threaten to reignite their campaign to overthrow the legitimate Syrian government. All the more timely is it that Workers World publish this article by anti-war analyst Joachim Guilliard, published Jan. The article exposes the double standards of the corporate media in Germany – the same would apply to the U. These double standards are used to justify the U. This term usually refers only to fictitious or highly falsified messages that are politically motivated and specifically designed to deceive. But looking back in history, we find that the false reports that did the worst damage came from mainstream politicians and media. This story was then widely circulated by most media and was instrumental in influencing public opinion in the U. However, far more frequently than with mere false reports, unilateral or greatly exaggerated contributions attempt to create a desired mood. Even if it is not so valued by the mainstream, the omission of essential parts of a story – which are necessary for understanding and how the story is presented – ultimately also spreads disinformation. The extent to which such disinformation is used to enforce prevailing politics can be seen very well in the way politicians and the media deal with the battles over Mosul and Aleppo. These are not only drastic examples of the brutality of the wars in Iraq and Syria, but also of an extreme double standard of evaluation and reporting that is far more geared to promoting the strategic interests of the ruling circles in their own countries rather than to describing actual warfare. A second Rwanda The initial situation was similar in the two major cities. Both East Aleppo and Mosul were under the control of Islamist forces. Both cities were besieged, bombed and eventually stormed by government forces with foreign support. However, the portrayal by politicians and the media could hardly have been more different. During the Battle of Mosul, 7, to 10, reactionary fighters in the Islamic State IS had placed themselves in among approximately 1. According to Western intelligence estimates, this battle was consistently greeted favorably. Had the reactionary militias actually succeeded in bringing the entire metropolis under their control, the regime-change alliance would have been well placed to intensify the war against the Assad government. On the other hand, the defeat of the local militias actually meant the end of this campaign – and with it a shattering defeat for the NATO countries and their allies. With the start of the government offensive in September, the coverage in the West almost unanimously expressed only one opinion: Government troops and the Russian Air Force sent the city to hell. These were the headlines for the storming of Mosul: Samantha Power, then the United States ambassador to the United Nations, even compared the events in East Aleppo with Rwanda and Srebrenica, almost one-to-one with the propaganda of the reactionary group, Ahrar Al-Sham. This gave the false impression that all of Aleppo was about to collapse. These groups are barely more acceptable to the population than the Islamic State in terms of reactionary ideology and brutality. Western media, however, did not shy away from publicly backing these forces, despite their well-known backgrounds. For example, in an Aug. The enclave had not come into being as a result of an uprising in the city itself. In Aleppo, there were no significant protests against the government in The metropolis was considered a stronghold of government supporters and was spared over a year of unrest. Its fate was determined by its proximity to Turkey. Reactionary militias were established in the border region, and from there conquered the eastern part of the city. The majority of the population fled, most of them to neighborhoods that the Syrian army held in the western part of the city. According to reports of those affected who do not sympathize with the reactionary Islamists, the militias established a terror regime, which required compulsory wearing of veils and Sharia courts. They used East Aleppo as a base from which to push into the other neighborhoods, using car bombs and suicide squads. So the majority of residents considered the expulsion of terrorists as liberation. Both groups carried out extensive campaigns to delegitimize the Assad government, based almost entirely on information from the opposition groups. As a result, HRW repeatedly showed pictures of destroyed buildings and streets that allegedly demonstrated the effects of barrel bombing

but which actually had been recorded elsewhere” i. Whether it was reports of alleged barrel bombings, attacks on hospitals or other similar allegations, the primary sources in most cases were exclusively opposition groups, such as the Aleppo Media Center, which were more or less closely tied to the militias. On the other hand, independent journalists could rarely enter the areas controlled by opponents of the Syrian government. Often, what appeared to be the spontaneous establishment of an independent media bureau by local activists was, in reality, a news source built by Syrian exile opposition groups and Western nongovernmental organizations in close cooperation with Western government agencies. In the case of Aleppo, the media aimed to create opinion mainly directed against the actions of the Syrian and Russian armed forces. This was done with extreme one-sidedness and omission of essential facts. The first step was the media giving large coverage to the offensive” in relation to other war events in the world. Then, the media compounded this by playing up the consequences of the offensive with incessant repetition of the reports, images and videos of opposition groups. This inevitably gave the impression that the attacks by government forces and their Russian allies were consistently directed at civilian targets. Almost all the casualties and war damage were blamed on Syria and Russia, as if they were the only ones using weapons. When looking over the media coverage of Aleppo, it becomes apparent that a significant part was published purely for its emotional impact, with particular emphasis on reports involving children. There was hardly a newspaper that did not publish the picture. He adamantly said his son had been only slightly injured and not during an air raid. Later, little was reported about an interesting aspect of this story: It was founded with the help of the Syrian Expatriates Organization SEO, which is headquartered in Washington and probably receives substantial sums from U. It was founded by a former British military officer and is headquartered in Britain. By the end of , the Foreign Office of the Federal Republic of Germany had already transferred 12 million euros. While state support for established aid organizations declined in the past four years, this strange civil defense force has received more than million euros in total. According to their own publicity, they have saved the lives of tens of thousands. By the end of , its count reached 99,, they said. This number, however, is unverifiable. But it is clear that they are only active in areas under the control of anti-government militias, and even there, obviously do not feel responsible for the entire population. They did not provide care for those who urgently needed help after the fighting ended. Instead, they made sure they were evacuated along with the anti-government fighters. On the other hand, these ethereal civilian activists are very familiar with the local reactionary groups, with whom they are closely intertwined. In numerous pictures and videos, they are seen with Al-Nusra flags, as they celebrate success with Islamist fighters or are posing over Syrian soldiers who had been fatally shot. In addition, some of their activists can be seen in videos wearing their white uniforms, and in other photos they can be recognized as armed fighters. However, all of this did little to detract from their reputation in the West. According to UNESCO, after the four-year fighting ended, 60 percent of the Old Town, through which the front ran, was badly damaged and up to 30 percent completely destroyed. However, it is deliberately misleading to exclusively blame the Syrian and Russian forces for the destruction. Contrary to the impression conveyed by the media, he estimates that, at most, 10 percent of the destruction can be attributed to air raids. The Iraqi city of Mosul was even more severely destroyed. Up to 80 percent was destroyed in the storming of the city. The United Nations Organization says that the extent of the damage overshadows all previous war damage in Iraq. Of the 54 residential districts of West Mosul, 15 were completely razed to the ground, destroying nearly 32, houses. In the 23 partially destroyed districts and 16 slightly damaged districts, another 16, buildings were totally destroyed. It is likely that the homes of over half a million people were demolished. No compassion shown after U. The rest here” as in Aleppo” is the responsibility of the reactionaries. In the final weeks, the U. In total, more than a million people fled the city over the nearly nine-month attack. The number of victims is difficult to estimate. Iraqi Kurdish intelligence agencies estimate at least 40, civilians died. Human Rights Commission investigation reports that at least one in four civilians who died in the fighting was killed by the U. Reports of the Mosul bombing show a complete lack of compassion for the trapped people, with estimates given of low numbers of casualties. There were almost no photos of Mosul, including of dead or wounded children, and no reports of the devastation caused by the bombing or stories of the suffering of those affected. The Western media mainly showed celebrating soldiers and Shiite or Kurdish militiamen. Hardly any

mention was made of conflicts with the Sunni population. It was only because of their background and the resulting dislike of the Shiites and Kurds that it was possible for the reactionary Islamists to establish themselves in the big city and other areas. The media were absolutely uncritical, portraying the battle for Mosul as the struggle of a democratically elected government against the Islamic State. There was no controversy in media or political reports about the fact that sectarian Shiite forces led this struggle, that they dominated the Iraqi government, provided the bulk of the troops, or that the battle was largely carried out as one against the insubordinate Sunnis. Also largely ignored were the expulsions of Sunnis from ethnically and religiously mixed areas carried out in the wake of the reconquest. Reality turned on its head. If one compares the struggles of Aleppo and Mosul, one finds that in the different characterizations of the warfare, the actual conditions were reversed. In reconquering Syrian cities, the Russians and Syrian troops tried to avoid waging decisive battles in urban centers. Fighters who willingly gave up their weapons were offered impunity. Those who did not were offered safe escort out of the area. In Aleppo, too, the Damascus government allowed thousands of reactionary militia fighters with their light weapons and their families to leave the contested neighborhoods unmolested. In Iraq, on the other hand, there was no effort to use negotiations to avoid devastating battles to the end. In Aleppo, the takeover of control did not lead to major government retaliation. Members of two militias, not the army, murdered 85 government opponents. These incidents were prosecuted in the courts. In Iraq, on the other hand, the recapture of each city was followed by revenge actions on the remaining population.

Chapter 5 : After Embarrassing Defeat, NATO, EU and the West Try to Alter Reality in Macedonia

Lebanon junior Grace Gressly had two homers in a defeat of Lakota East in a high school softball D-I regional semifinal at Centerville on Wed., May 23,

Israeli troops examine destroyed Egyptian aircraft. Operation Focus was mainly conducted using French built aircraft. Initially, both Egypt and Israel announced that they had been attacked by the other country. On 5 June at 7: Most of the Israeli warplanes headed out over the Mediterranean Sea , flying low to avoid radar detection, before turning toward Egypt. Others flew over the Red Sea. Sidqi Mahmoud, who were en route from al Maza to Bir Tamada in the Sinai to meet the commanders of the troops stationed there. In any event, it did not make a great deal of difference as the Israeli pilots came in below Egyptian radar cover and well below the lowest point at which its SA-2 surface-to-air missile batteries could bring down an aircraft. The runway at the Arish airfield was spared, as the Israelis expected to turn it into a military airport for their transports after the war. Surviving aircraft were taken out by later attack waves. The operation was more successful than expected, catching the Egyptians by surprise and destroying virtually all of the Egyptian Air Force on the ground, with few Israeli losses. Only four unarmed Egyptian training flights were in the air when the strike began. In addition, Egyptian radars and SAM missiles were also attacked and destroyed. The Israelis lost 19 planes, including two destroyed in air-to-air combat and 13 downed by anti-aircraft artillery. Attacks on other Arab air forces by Israel took place later in the day as hostilities broke out on other fronts. The large numbers of Arab aircraft claimed destroyed by Israel on that day were at first regarded as "greatly exaggerated" by the Western press. However, the fact that the Egyptian Air Force, along with other Arab air forces attacked by Israel, made practically no appearance for the remaining days of the conflict proved that the numbers were most likely authentic. Throughout the war, Israeli aircraft continued strafing Arab airfield runways to prevent their return to usability. Meanwhile, Egyptian state-run radio had reported an Egyptian victory, falsely claiming that 70 Israeli planes had been downed on the first day of fighting. Overall, Egypt had around , troops and " tanks in the Sinai, backed by 1, APCs and 1, artillery pieces. Israeli forces concentrated on the border with Egypt included six armoured brigades , one infantry brigade, one mechanized infantry brigade, three paratrooper brigades, giving a total of around 70, men and tanks, who were organized in three armoured divisions. They had massed on the border the night before the war, camouflaging themselves and observing radio silence before being ordered to advance. The Israeli plan was to surprise the Egyptian forces in both timing the attack exactly coinciding with the IAF strike on Egyptian airfields , location attacking via northern and central Sinai routes, as opposed to the Egyptian expectations of a repeat of the war, when the IDF attacked via the central and southern routes and method using a combined-force flanking approach, rather than direct tank assaults. They advanced swiftly, holding fire to prolong the element of surprise. The Egyptians had four divisions in the area, backed by minefields, pillboxes, underground bunkers, hidden gun emplacements and trenches. The terrain on either side of the route was impassable. The Israeli plan was to hit the Egyptians at selected key points with concentrated armour. The Israeli plan called for the 7th Brigade to outflank Khan Yunis from the north and the 60th Armored Brigade under Colonel Menachem Aviram would advance from the south. The two brigades would link up and surround Khan Yunis, while the paratroopers would take Rafah. Gonen entrusted the breakthrough to a single battalion of his brigade. A second battalion was brought up, but was also pinned down. Meanwhile, the 60th Brigade became bogged down in the sand, while the paratroopers had trouble navigating through the dunes. The Israelis continued to press their attack, and despite heavy losses, cleared the Egyptian positions and reached the Khan Yunis railway junction in little over four hours. Rafah itself was circumvented, and the Israelis attacked Sheikh Zuweid , eight miles to the southwest, which was defended by two brigades. Though inferior in numbers and equipment, the Egyptians were deeply entrenched and camouflaged. The Israelis were pinned down by fierce Egyptian resistance, and called in air and artillery support to enable their lead elements to advance. Many Egyptians abandoned their positions after their commander and several of his staff were killed. By nightfall, the Israelis had finished mopping up resistance. Israeli forces had taken significant losses, with Colonel Gonen later telling reporters that "we left many of our

dead soldiers in Rafah, and many burnt-out tanks. On 5 June, with the road open, Israeli forces continued advancing towards Arish. Already by late afternoon, elements of the 79th Armored Battalion had charged through the seven-mile long Jiradi defile, a narrow pass defended by well-emplaced troops of the Egyptian th Infantry Brigade. In fierce fighting, which saw the pass change hands several times, the Israelis charged through the position. The Egyptians suffered heavy casualties and tank losses, while Israeli losses stood at 66 dead, 93 wounded and 28 tanks. Emerging at the western end, Israeli forces advanced to the outskirts of Arish. The following day, 6 June, the Israeli forces on the outskirts of Arish were reinforced by the 7th Brigade, which fought its way through the Jiradi pass. After receiving supplies via an airdrop, the Israelis entered the city and captured the airport at 7: The Israelis entered the city at 8: Company commander Yossi Peled recounted that "Al-Arish was totally quiet, desolate. Suddenly, the city turned into a madhouse. Shots came at us from every alley, every corner, every window and house. The Egyptians fired from the rooftops, from balconies and windows. They dropped grenades into our half-tracks and blocked the streets with trucks. Our men threw the grenades back and crushed the trucks with their tanks. All of them were taken after fierce fighting. Gonen subsequently dispatched a force of tanks, infantry and engineers under Colonel Yisrael Granit to continue down the Mediterranean coast towards the Suez Canal , while a second force led by Gonen himself turned south and captured Bir Lahfan and Jabal Libni. The Egyptians also had a battalion of tank destroyers and a tank regiment, formed of Soviet World War II armour, which included 90 T tanks, 22 SU tank destroyers, and about 16, men. Two armoured brigades in the meantime, under Avraham Yoffe, slipped across the border through sandy wastes that Egypt had left undefended because they were considered impassable. Israeli infantry would clear the three trenches, while heliborne paratroopers would land behind Egyptian lines and silence their artillery. An armoured thrust would be made at al-Qusmaya to unnerve and isolate its garrison. Israeli Armor of the Six Day War: The Israeli advance, which had to cope with extensive minefields, took a large number of casualties. A column of Israeli tanks managed to penetrate the northern flank of Abu Ageila, and by dusk, all units were in position. These movements were unobserved by the Egyptians, who were preoccupied with Israeli probes against their perimeter. Israeli infantrymen assaulted the triple line of trenches in the east. To the west, paratroopers commanded by Colonel Danny Matt landed behind Egyptian lines, though half the helicopters got lost and never found the battlefield, while others were unable to land due to mortar fire. Egyptian reinforcements from Jabal Libni advanced towards Um-Katef to counterattack, but failed to reach their objective, being subjected to heavy air attacks and encountering Israeli lodgements on the roads. Egyptian commanders then called in artillery attacks on their own positions. The Israelis accomplished and sometimes exceeded their overall plan, and had largely succeeded by the following day. The Egyptians took heavy casualties, while the Israelis lost 40 dead and wounded. The main thrust at Um-Katef was stalled due to mines and craters. After IDF engineers had cleared a path by 4: The battle ended in an Israeli victory, with 40 Egyptian and 19 Israeli tanks destroyed. Meanwhile, Israeli infantry finished clearing out the Egyptian trenches, with Israeli casualties standing at 14 dead and 41 wounded and Egyptian casualties at dead and taken prisoner. The defending Egyptian battalion, outnumbered and outgunned, fiercely resisted the attack, hitting a number of Israeli tanks. However, most of the defenders were killed, and only three Egyptian tanks, one of them damaged, survived. Israeli Defense Minister Moshe Dayan had expressly forbidden entry into the area. The force was immediately met with heavy artillery fire and fierce resistance from Palestinian forces and remnants of the Egyptian forces from Rafah. By sunset, the Israelis had taken the strategically vital Ali Muntar ridge, overlooking Gaza City , but were beaten back from the city itself. Twelve members of UNEF were also killed. The fighting was fierce, and accounted for nearly half of all Israeli casualties on the southern front. However, Gaza rapidly fell to the Israelis. Two Egyptian armoured brigades counterattacked, and a fierce battle took place until the following morning. The Egyptians were beaten back by fierce resistance coupled with airstrikes, sustaining heavy tank losses. They fled west towards Jabal Libni. Throughout the last four days, Egyptian aircraft flew sorties against Israeli units in the Sinai. Many of the Egyptian units remained intact and could have tried to prevent the Israelis from reaching the Suez Canal , or engaged in combat in the attempt to reach the canal. This order effectively meant the defeat of Egypt. Meanwhile, President Nasser , having learned of the results of the Israeli air strikes, decided together with Field Marshal Amer to order a

general retreat from the Sinai within 24 hours. No detailed instructions were given concerning the manner and sequence of withdrawal.

Chapter 6 : Six-Day War - Wikipedia

Hezbollah's military defeat of Israel was decisive, but its political defeat of the United States - which unquestioningly sided with Israel during the conflict and refused to bring it to an end - was catastrophic and has had a lasting impact on US prestige in the region.

The Neo-Babylonian Empire at its greatest extent of power. It was not, however, the first occasion the southern tribes had dominated the whole of southern Iraq, for Nebuchadnezzar I, Eriba-Marduk, and Marduk-apla-iddina II had each, for a time, united the leading families against their more powerful northern neighbours. Nabopolassar, aware of the dangers of any lack of central control, followed up the unity shown against their former enemy Assyria with a new alliance with the Medes before taking his army further afield. At an early stage Nabopolassar began renovation work on the palace, ziggurat, and walls of Babylon to make the city of Babylon the capital of the newly independent state. Since there was no principle of dynastic succession in Babylonia, the king by this means indicated his wish and brought the crown prince into public affairs. Meanwhile the prince led his own army into the mountains of Za[mua], seizing forts, setting them on fire and gaining much loot from a three-month campaign, the aim of which might have been to thwart incursions from Elamite territory. Then, while his father marched to Kimuhu Samsat on the upper Euphrates, setting up garrisons against expected Egyptian attacks, Nebuchadnezzar remained at home. The Egyptians soon retaliated, besieging the Babylonians who were garrisoning Kimuhu, thus preventing their use of Carchemish as a forward base, and pressing the Babylonians to withdraw from Quramati and posts further south on the Euphrates. Nebuchadnezzar took personal command of the whole army and marched direct to Carchemish, where the Egyptians had fallen back from Quramati. Near his objective he crossed to the west bank to cut the Egyptians off from their direct line of retreat and force them out to battle. The tactic worked and a contest ensued in which the retreating Egyptians were completely overwhelmed. Sensitive opinion there, as in Judah, advocated submission Jer. These operations were notable for the presence of Greek mercenaries on both sides, attested by finds from Carchemish, pottery evidence from a fort at Mesad Hashavyahu on the Mediterranean coast, and the statements about Antimenidas, brother of Alcaeus, fighting for Nebuchadnezzar. As far as the Egyptian border, hostages were taken as pledges to the new regime, among them Daniel and his companions from Judah. Berossus records that when Nebuchadnezzar shortly after heard the news, he arranged affairs in Egypt and the remaining territory. He ordered some of his friends to bring the Jewish, Phoenician, Syrian, and Egyptian prisoners together with the bulk of the army and the rest of the booty to Babylon. He himself set out with a few companions and reached Babylon by crossing the desert. The phrase implies that he took it in his own right and was supported by the agreement of the leading tribes and palace officials. There is no basis for the view that the date of the succession was made retrospective, for documents were dated in Babylon by his accession within twelve days. Nor is there any indication of schism following the introduction of the new regime, for Nebuchadnezzar was sufficiently confident of his position to return to Syria Khati almost immediately. If the procedures adopted for the coronation of Nabopolassar were used, the new appointment may have involved a double ceremony within the palace and before an assembly of the princes and palace officials who made their loyalty oaths outside for public acclamation. Among these was Jehoiakim of Judah who entered into a vassalage he was to keep for three years. Ashkelon presumably refused to pay tribute, for its king was captured and thereafter Babylon reinforced key places to the south such as Arad level VII to thwart any possible Egyptian response. Opposition in the west was, however, not fully overcome, for in the following year the Babylonians had to call up stronger military forces and siege equipment for use against an unknown city. A seventh century Aramaic letter found at Saqqara is an appeal from one Adon to his overlord in Egypt for help, since Babylonian forces had reached Afek. Their ultimate target is not specified and has been variously judged to be Gaza, Ekron, Ashdod, Lachish, or even Sidon or Tyre. In the month of Kislimu December Nebuchadnezzar took personal command of the Babylonian army, which clashed with the enemy south west of Pelusium on the road from Egypt to Gaza. Losses were so heavy that the Babylonians had to devote the whole of the next year to re-equipment and retraining at home. Though the Egyptians may

have penetrated as far as Gaza, the battle effectively ended any Saite control by land in Asia. The sole records to the contrary are contained in two passages of Herodotus, one of which The other passage 1. In the Babylonian Chronicle for B. In this mention can be found the first positive evidence of the Egyptian involvement in Asiatic politics since the start of the Twenty-sixth Dynasty – an involvement on the side of Assyria which would in due course develop, at times promisingly, but ultimately, disastrously. It is easy to find in the actions of the successive Egyptian rulers a foolhardy attraction towards the complicated politics of their Asiatic neighbours, but it should be remembered that for one thousand years Asia had been the source of repeated danger for Egypt. The lesson, which had never been learned, was that small-scale intervention in the affairs of the small states of Palestine and Syria provided no long-term solution for the aggressive intentions of the powerful empires which lay further east. Egyptian activity in Asia Minor attracted hostile attention; it was no effective deterrent. This active policy was continued by his successor, Necho II, who became king in No doubt the Egyptian army had been sent while Psammetichus I was still alive, but its ignominious withdrawal probably took place after the new king had assumed the double crown. In the following year Harran was retaken, Ashur-uballit again receiving substantial Egyptian help; but neither Babylonian nor Egyptian records provide any information about the immediate sequel of this action. Josiah was killed, his army defeated, and his son and successor, Jehoahaz, replaced after a reign of three months only, by his own brother Jehoiakim. Necho is said to have secured this change, taking Jehoahaz captive to Egypt, and extracting a substantial tribute from Judah. Attention has been drawn to the relatively generous attitude of Necho towards Judah in comparison with the subsequent severe treatment meted out by the Babylonian king. Apart from the fact that the Egyptian king did not seek to establish an empire in the conventional sense in Asia Minor, he had far more to gain in his expected confrontation with Babylon by retaining an undestroyed state of Judah with a compliant king. For a few years, therefore, Necho may have been able to maintain a general, but loose, control over a large part of Asia Minor, extending from the Mediterranean as far eastwards as the Euphrates in the north at Carchemish, including Judah and possibly some of the former Assyrian tributary states lying between. The sudden collapse of the Assyrian domination after resulted in a serious void of power which threatened to be filled by the aggressive forces of Babylon. Egyptian arms had overcome a Babylonian force in ; the opposition therefore could not have seemed invincible. Subsequent events were to some extent encouraging. In , to counter aggressive moves in the region of Carchemish, an Egyptian army laid siege to, and captured, the town of Kimuhu, south of Carchemish, with its Babylonian garrison, and later in the year the same, or another, Egyptian force left Carchemish, crossed the Euphrates, and defeated the Babylonian army at Quramati, forcing it to withdraw. These provocative acts stimulated the Babylonians into quick and decisive action. The Babylonian Chronicle describes, in its laconic manner, the campaign in which the crown prince, Nebuchadrezzar, destroyed the Egyptian army in comprehensive manner. Early in he led his force north, crossed the Euphrates, and engaged the Egyptians who were encamped at Carchemish. His victory was complete, and he followed it up by destroying a second Egyptian force at Hamath, to the south west of Carchemish. The massive defeat of the Egyptian forces led to the rapid abandonment of Asia Minor by Necho, and to the occupation of the whole region by the Babylonians. Whether or no Necho himself led his army in this disastrous campaign, its outcome surely convinced him of the futility of trying to maintain an Egyptian imperial presence in Asia. In the aftermath of Carchemish Egypt was spared an immediate attack on its eastern frontier by the death of Nabopolassar, which brought Nebuchadrezzar back to Babylon to claim his throne. The Babylonian king, however, campaigned regularly in Western Asia in the following years, and Necho wisely seems to have refrained from engaging in ill-considered interventions. A letter from the ruler of a Phoenician city requesting help against the Babylonians, and invoking some treaty between his city and Egypt, almost certainly belongs to this time. Necho in the meanwhile reserved his forces for the inevitable assault by Nebuchadrezzar, which came eventually in To that extent, therefore, the encounter may be counted an Egyptian victory, for Necho had successfully preserved his kingdom from invasion with all its dread accompaniments.

Chapter 7 : Why Won't the Arabs Help the Palestinians? :: Daniel Pipes

Conservatives in the west of England went down to a double defeat in the latest council byelections, including a loss to Liberal Democrats at North Somerset in the Woodspring constituency of the.

Transjordan , under the Hashemite ruler Abdullah I , gained independence from Britain in and was called Jordan in , but it remained under heavy British influence. Lebanon became an independent state in , but French troops would not withdraw until , the same year that Syria won its independence from France. Iraq and Transjordan coordinated policies closely, signing a mutual defence treaty, while Egypt, Syria, and Saudi Arabia feared that Transjordan would annex part or all of Palestine, and use it as a steppingstone to attack or undermine Syria, Lebanon, and the Hijaz. In Palestine, violence erupted almost immediately, feeding into a spiral of reprisals and counter-reprisals. The British refrained from intervening as tensions boiled over into a low-level conflict that quickly escalated into a full-scale civil war. They consolidated their presence in Galilee and Samaria. Having recruited a few thousand volunteers, al-Husayni organized the blockade of the , Jewish residents of Jerusalem. While the Jewish population had received strict orders requiring them to hold their ground everywhere at all costs, [33] the Arab population was more affected by the general conditions of insecurity to which the country was exposed. Up to , Arabs, from the urban upper and middle classes in Haifa, Jaffa and Jerusalem, or Jewish-dominated areas, evacuated abroad or to Arab centres eastwards. The British, on the other hand, decided on 7 February , to support the annexation of the Arab part of Palestine by Transjordan. David Ben-Gurion reorganized Haganah and made conscription obligatory. Every Jewish man and woman in the country had to receive military training. Operation Balak allowed arms and other equipment to be transported for the first time by the end of March. Palmach M4 Sherman tank leading a convoy. Ben-Gurion invested Yigael Yadin with the responsibility to come up with a plan of offense whose timing was related to the foreseeable evacuation of British forces. This strategy, called Plan Dalet, was readied by March and implemented towards the end of April. Both sides acted offensively in defiance of the Partition Plan, which foresaw Jerusalem as a corpus separatum , under neither Jewish nor Arab jurisdiction. The Arabs did not accept the Plan, while the Jews were determined to oppose the internationalization of the city, and secure it as part of the Jewish state. During this time, and independently of Haganah or the framework of Plan Dalet, irregular fighters from Irgun and Lehi formations massacred a substantial number of Arabs at Deir Yassin , an event that, though publicly deplored and criticized by the principal Jewish authorities, had a deep impact on the morale of the Arab population and contributed to generate the exodus of the Arab population. At the same time, the first large-scale operation of the Arab Liberation Army ended in a debacle, having been roundly defeated at Mishmar HaEmek , [40] coinciding with the loss of their Druze allies through defection. The Palestinian Arab society was shaken. The situation pushed the leaders of the neighbouring Arab states to intervene, but their preparation was not finalized, and they could not assemble sufficient forces to turn the tide of the war. He was playing a double-game, being just as much in contact with the Jewish authorities as with the Arab League. The inconclusive meeting between Golda Meir and Abdullah I, followed by the Kfar Etzion massacre on 13 May by the Arab Legion led to predictions that the battle for Jerusalem would be merciless. On 14 May , David Ben-Gurion declared the establishment of the State of Israel and the Palestine war entered its second phase with the intervention of the Arab state armies and the beginning of the Arab-Israeli War. An Israeli Avia S, in June The Yishuv managed to clandestinely amass arms and military equipment abroad for transfer to Palestine once the British blockade was lifted. In the United States , Yishuv agents purchased three Boeing B Flying Fortress bombers, one of which bombed Cairo in July , some Curtiss C Commando transport planes, and dozens of half-tracks, which were repainted and defined as "agricultural equipment". In Western Europe, Haganah agents amassed fifty 65mm French mountain guns, twelve mm mortars, ten H light tanks, and a large number of half-tracks. By mid-May or thereabouts the Yishuv had purchased from Czechoslovakia 25 Avia S fighters an inferior version of the Messerschmitt Bf , heavy machine guns, 5, light machine guns, 24, rifles, and 52 million rounds of ammunition, enough to equip all units, but short of heavy arms. The airborne smuggling missions were carried out by mostly American aviators - Jews and non-Jews

led by ex-U. Air Transport Command flight engineer Al Schwimmer. They were inaccurate but had a spectacularly loud explosion that demoralized the enemy. A large amount of the munitions used by the Israelis came from the Ayalon Institute, a clandestine bullet factory underneath kibbutz Ayalon, which produced about 2. The munitions produced by the Ayalon Institute were said to have been the only supply that was not in shortage during the war. Locally produced explosives were also plentiful. It had a mobile force, the HISH, which had 2, full-time fighters men and women and 10, reservists all aged between 18 and 25 and an elite unit, the Palmach composed of 2, fighters and 1, reservists. The reservists trained three or four days a month [citation needed] and went back to civilian life the rest of the time. Guard Corps, composed of people aged over Five days later, a General Mobilization order was issued for all men under However, as Israel mobilized most of its most able citizens during the war while the Arab troops were only a small percentage of its far greater population, the strength of the Yishuv grew steadily and dramatically during the war. As the war progressed, the aim of expanding the Jewish state beyond the UN partition borders appeared: If no resistance was met, the residents could stay put, under military rule. N sponsored Jewish state, several concentrations of Jewish population outside those areas West Jerusalem and Western Galilee, and areas along the roads where the invading Arab armies were expected to attack. The Yishuv perceived the peril of an Arab invasion as threatening its very existence. The Arab League before partition affirmed the right to the independence of Palestine, while blocking the creation of a Palestinian government. We will sweep them into the sea. In 1947, Abdullah said that he had no intention to "resist or impede the partition of Palestine and creation of a Jewish state. In order to keep their support to his plan of annexation of the Arab State, Abdullah promised to the British he would not attack the Jewish State. While repeating assurances that Jordan would only take areas allocated to a future Arab State, on the eve of war Tawfik Abu al-Huda told the British that were other Arab armies to advance against Israel, Jordan would follow suit. He saw himself as the "supreme commander of the Arab forces" and "persuaded the Arab League to appoint him" to this position. The other Arab states King Farouk of Egypt was anxious to prevent Abdullah from being seen as the main champion of the Arab world in Palestine, which he feared might damage his own leadership aspirations of the Arab world. All-Palestine Government Following rumours that King Abdullah was re-opening the bilateral negotiations with Israel that he had previously conducted in secret with the Jewish Agency, the Arab League, led by Egypt, decided to set up the All-Palestine Government in Gaza on 8 September under the nominal leadership of the Mufti.

Chapter 8 : Double defeat for Tories in the west of England | Society | The Guardian

Jakarta (AsiaNews) - There is anger and dismay among the faithful of the Yasmin Church in Bogor, West Java, driven from a special sitting of Parliament and ignored by the Indonesian President.

Chapter 9 : The war and the media " Double standards for Mosul, Iraq, and Aleppo, Syria " Workers V

Ashley West was one of the few players who hadn't done much hitting when she stepped to the plate in the bottom of the seventh inning Wednesday. Then the Lebanon High School sophomore got in the.