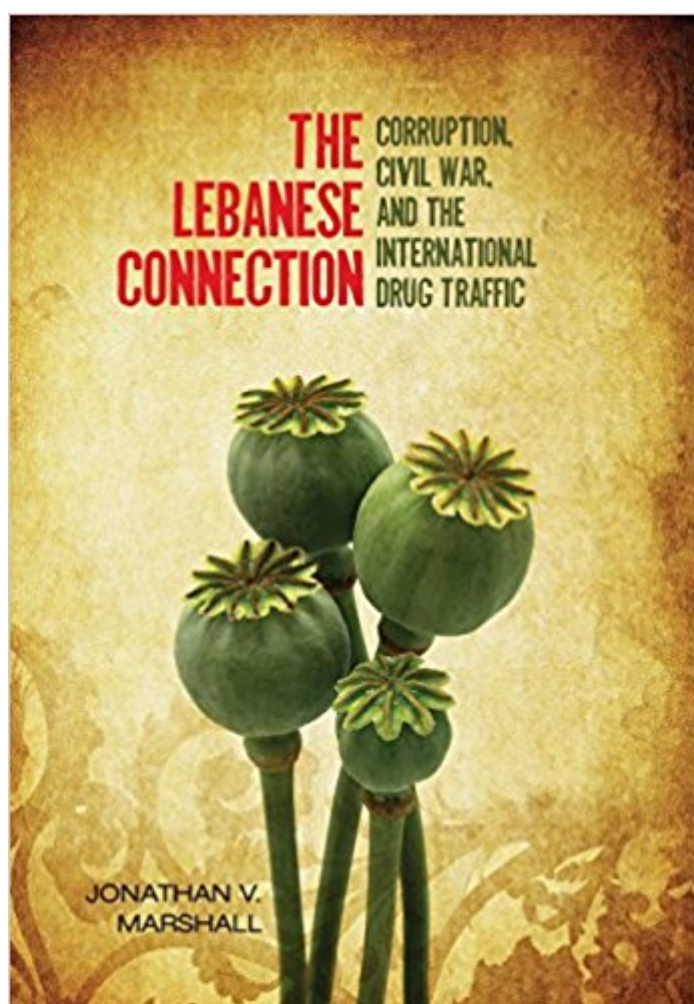


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# The Lebanese Connection: Corruption, Civil War, And The International Drug Traffic (Stanford Studies In Middle Eastern And Islamic Societies And Cultures)





## Synopsis

Long before Mexico, Colombia, and Afghanistan became notorious for their contributions to the global drug traffic, Lebanon was a special target of U.S. drug agents for harboring the world's greatest single transit port in the international traffic in narcotics. In the words of one American official, "certain of the largest traffickers are so influential politically, and certain highly placed officials so deeply involved in the narcotic traffic, that one might well state that the Lebanese Government is in the narcotics business." Using previously secret government records, *The Lebanese Connection* uncovers for the first time the story of how Lebanon's economy and political system were corrupted by drug profits and how, by financing its many ruthless militia, Lebanon's drug trade contributed to the country's greatest catastrophe, its fifteen-year civil war from 1975 to 1990. In so doing, this book sheds new light on the dangerous role of vast criminal enterprises in the collapse of states and the creation of war economies that thrive in the midst of civil conflicts. Taking a regional approach to the drug issue, Jonathan Marshall assesses the culpability of Syria, Israel, and of Palestinian factions and other groups that used Lebanon as their battleground. On the international level, he documents Lebanon's contribution to the hard drug problem of major consuming countries, from the days of the "French Connection" through the "Pizza Connection," as well as Lebanon's unrivaled place in the global hashish market.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"Challenging common misconceptions about sectarian civil war, narco-politics, and state failure in Lebanon, Jonathan Marshall sheds new light on how the shadowy realms of drug cultivation, the international arms trade, institutionalized corruption, and organized crime tragically overlapped in the twentieth century Middle East. Hard-hitting and hard-boiled investigative journalism that is cinematic in scope, *The Lebanese Connection* has troubling implications that should stimulate lively debate and future research." (Max Weiss Princeton University)"[T]he principal strength of this work is not that it is well researched or identifies people by their names, but that it is written in a manner which allows readers to appreciate the history, relevance and consequences of how drugs fueled the civil war. Instead of the accusatory tone that most are used to in their national publications, Marshall calmly and matter-of-factly shows how, not just today, but historically the Lebanese authorities have shirked their responsibilities." (Sami Halabi Executive Magazine)"[A] well-researched and original monograph . . . *The Lebanese Connection* is an important contribution to the historiography of Lebanon. Marshall makes excellent use of U.S. government sources that scholars of the Middle East overlook . . . Marshall also provides an important outline of the origins of drug cultivation and trafficking in Lebanon and their subsequent role in the civil war . . . [H]e provides rich foundations to broaden and complicate our understanding of Lebanon's early independence and civil war periods." (Donald Powell Cole International Journal of Middle East Studies)"Jonathan Marshall's *The Lebanese Connection* is an enthralling chronicle of Lebanon's rise to prominence as a narco-trafficking state. While serving as a drug enforcement agent in Lebanon from 1972-1974, I experienced firsthand many of the issues he documents. I highly recommend this detailed and informative book." (Jeffrey R. Kildow, Special Agent (Retired) Drug Enforcement Administration 1968-2001)"Marshall provides a historical backdrop to a critical contemporary problem—the power of the illicit economy and its corresponding organized criminal elements. In a richly detailed narrative, Marshall traces the origins, events, and aftermath of Lebanon's civil war, explaining how the financial allure of the drug trade exacerbated sectarian and regional cleavages and ultimately intensified and prolonged the violence of the war . . . Recommended." (M.-F. T. Malone CHOICE)"Using a vast range of sources, from interviews with former U.S. narcotics agents [to] journalistic research, Marshall especially drew from previously classified U.S. government records, both from the State Department and the Federal Bureau of Narcotics, now known as the Drug Enforcement Administration." (Olivia Alabaster)"*The Lebanese Connection* . . . is a sterling contribution to the academic literature on the global drug trade, having made a truly original contribution. It also opens a revealing view not only on the contemporary Middle East, but contemporary terrorism, covert operations by state and non-state actors, and the

making of narco-states and failed states." (Phillip Smith)"This is an original book of great importance for understanding not just the Middle East, but today's world of terrorism, covert warfare, and failing states. Few people have the knowledge necessary to decipher the central relevance of Lebanese drug trafficking to Middle Eastern politics, the games of intelligence agencies, and the history of international organized crime. Jonathan Marshall has produced an indispensable guide through this jungle." (Peter Dale Scott author of American War Machine: Deep Politics, the CIA Global Drug Connection, and the Road to Afghanistan)

Jonathan V. Marshall is an independent scholar living in the San Francisco Bay Area. He has published four books, including Cocaine Politics (1991), with Peter Dale Scott, and Drug Wars (1991). A former journalist, he has also published hundreds of articles in magazines and newspapers, including The New York Times, Wall Street Journal, and The Washington Post.

it names names. it is incredible fascinating view into the middle east war financing and narcotics trafficking. I recommend it, but it can get you frustrated especially if you have a emotional connection to the middle east

A serious and factual guide to Lebanon's disputed history. Very hard not to agree and be inspired by an accurate recollection of the events that puts the facts in front of you and then allows you to arrive to your own conclusions.

Very interesting full of information i enjoyed reading it

Excellent book packed full of information and facts only available to ones who have been there and done extensive research.

A+

Jonathan Marshall's The Lebanese Connection is that rare book that combines the thrill of drug deals with a behind the scenes look at the failed politics that allowed those deals to go down. As someone not well-schooled in the recent history of Lebanon, I was particularly interested in the factors that allowed one of the Middle East's most successful nations, that once boasted a healthy economy and tourist trade, to gradually descend into a major drug trafficking hub. Marshall builds a

convincing case on how a corrupt government opened the doors to the narcotics industry in Lebanon, leading to a political system, economy, and psyche that has yet to recover. Even more significant, The Lebanese Connection holds lessons for the current drug trade-induced carnage in Mexico, and is must reading for those following the plight of that rapidly disintegrating society.

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