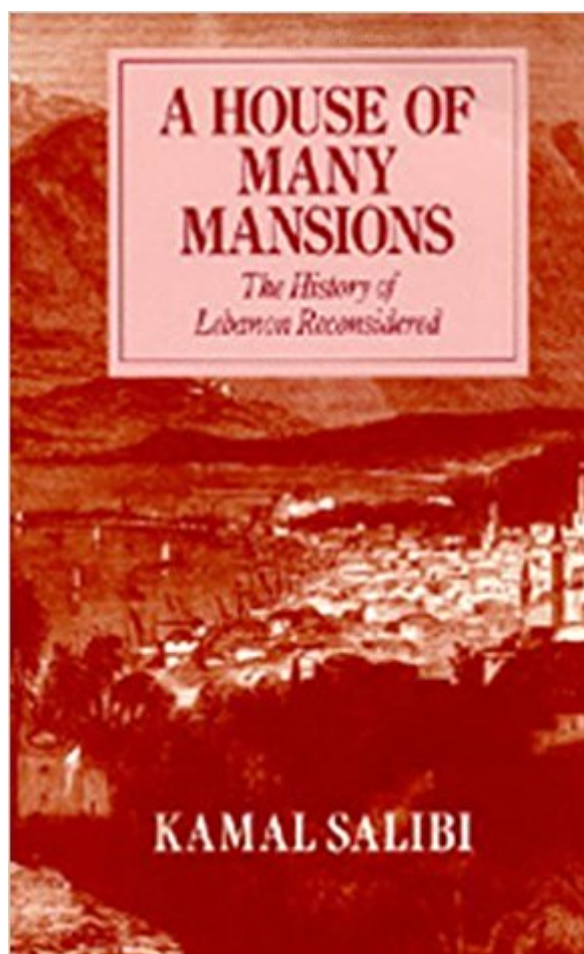


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A House Of Many Mansions: The History Of Lebanon Reconsidered



Synopsis

Today Lebanon is one of the world's most divided countries. But paradoxically the faction-ridden Lebanese, both Christians and Muslims, have never shown a keener consciousness of common identity. How can this be? In the light of modern scholarship, a famous Lebanese writer and scholar examines the historical myths on which his country's warring communities have based their conflicting visions of the Lebanese nation. He shows that Lebanon cannot afford this divisiveness, that in order to develop and maintain a sense of political unity, it is necessary to distinguish fact from fiction and then build on what is real in the common experience of both groups. Salibi offers a major reinterpretation of Lebanese history and provides remarkable insights into the dynamic of Lebanon's recent conflict. In so doing, he illuminates important facets of his country's present and future. This book also gives a masterly account of how the imagined communities that underlie modern nationalism are created and will be of interest to students of international affairs as well as Near Eastern scholars.

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Customer Reviews

"Kamal Salibi is the foremost living historian of Lebanon, and his new book is even more important than his earlier one because it throws light on the present and future of the country as well as its past."—Albert Hourani, author of *A History of the Arab Peoples* "Among Lebanese historians only Kamal Salibi has the credibility to write such a book. Its timely appearance signals a new era in Lebanese history. It will undoubtedly become a classic"—Nadim Shehadi, Director, the Centre for Lebanese Studies, Oxford

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Having just read Robert Fisk's "Pity the Nation", I wanted to learn more about the history of Lebanon ... and acquire more background on the various factions that shaped the area's history in the 1900's. But I was specifically interested in something of a non-partisan, more scholarly bent. Fortunately, Kamal Salibi's book filled the bill. I found it to be eminently readable (I am a layperson as far as history goes) ... but more importantly thoughtful. I would highly recommend it to anyone who would like to sort out the many disparate (and warring, unfortunately) groups who have inhabited the region.

Every single line in this book is a valuable piece of information. It clarifies many of the myths in our oriental history and presents it in real facts using logic and evidence free from bias and prejudice, unlike many historical books that have been written on a false basis in order to prove a political party correct in its effort to justify a non-existing nationalism. Anyone interested in the history of the Levant and every Arabic person must read this book.

The book was very good, hard to put down. It explained many of the reasons for the situation that existed in Lebanon at that time.

An excellent history of Lebanon which should be read by all interested in the Middle East conflict.

This book is very informative politically. I have not finished it and was warned that Salibi's work is great if you have a good foundation of the history of what you are reading. Each page is packed with information and takes a while to absorb, so it's a long read. I would recommend it for political knowledge. Excellent.

At the same time, a very professional scholarly work and an enjoyable read. Good at setting the middle eastern context of Lebanese history. However, the author seems to take sides when he is

deconstructing the classical Lebanist version of history (such as the muslim religious persecutions, the mountain refuge, and the Shehabi state), as all his arguments go in the same anti-Lebanist direction.

I did not read the whole book but that what I was looking for. the delivery was very good. thanks.

It is a good insight to Lebanon and its history. This book has mix followers, however all would agree that the writer is well reputed.

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