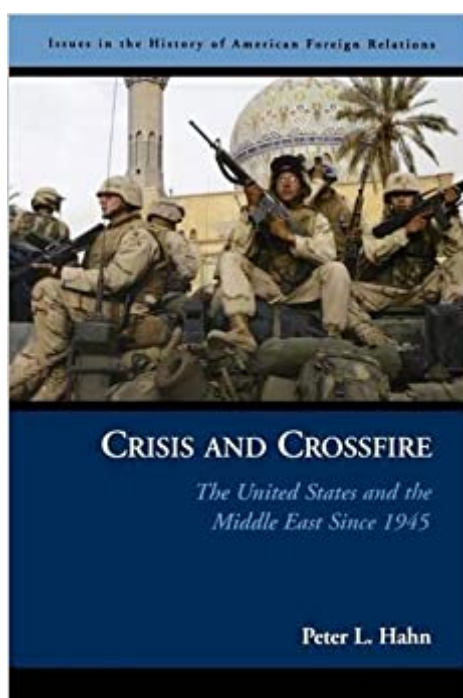


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Crisis And Crossfire: The United States And The Middle East Since 1945 (Issues In The History Of American Foreign Relations)



Synopsis

Although it seems almost incredible today, the United States had relatively little interest in the Middle East before 1945. But the dynamics and outcome of World War II elevated the importance of the Middle East in the American mind, and the United States has viewed the region with vital interest to its security and economy ever since. The projection of American power into the region has had consequences that have forever changed the United States and the Middle East, with the rise of al Qaeda and the turbulent occupation of Iraq being the latest examples. *Crisis and Crossfire* surveys and analyzes the broad contours of U.S. involvement in the region. It probes the reasons why the United States implemented various policies and assesses the wisdom of American leaders as they accepted greater responsibilities for preserving stability and security in the Middle East. Major themes include U.S.-Middle East policy in the context of the Cold War, the rise of Arab and Iranian nationalism, decolonization, the U.S. approach to the Arab-Israeli conflict, the politics of Western dependence on Middle Eastern oil, and America's military interventions, particularly its two wars against Iraq. This book's concise narrative and selection of primary-source documents make it an ideal introduction to U.S.-Middle East relations for students and for anyone with an interest in understanding the history behind today's events.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"Few historians have the background that Peter Hahn brings to this project. A well-respected author of major monographs on American diplomacy in the Middle East, Hahn brings years of archival work

to bear on this cogent overview of U.S. policies in the area during the decades after World War II. The result is a well-grounded survey that focuses on the strategic dimension of American policy from the Truman Doctrine to the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. This book is perfect for use in the classroom and for educated readers who need an introduction to this important and complex subject."

—Michael J. Hogan, provost and F. Wendell Miller Professor of History, University of Iowa

"Crisis and Crossfire is a balanced and measured tour through the U.S. encounter with the Middle East since 1945. A survey with a point of view, it's interpretive without being polemical. And it's made even more valuable through the inclusion of a thoughtfully selected collection of relevant primary-source documents. In brief, Crisis and Crossfire is engaging from start to finish and simply perfect for classroom use at the college level."

—Mary Ann Heiss, associate professor of history, Kent State University, and author of *Empire and Nationhood: The United States, Great Britain, and Iranian Oil, 1950-1954*

"Peter Hahn offers a balanced, accessible, and economical survey of American involvement in the Middle East since World War II. . . [He] provides an informative background for students of foreign policy, the newcomer to the region, and scholars in search of a quick reference. . . . Crisis and Crossfire succeeds in weaving a thorough, compelling, and concise narrative of the causes and outcomes of U.S. policy in the Middle East over the past sixty years."

—Middle East Journal

Provides a concise and insightful introduction to the turbulent history of U.S.-Middle East relations. Examines the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, U.S. oil interests in the region, America's two wars against Iraq, and other critical issues that continue to make headlines. Includes photos, maps, and an appendix of key documents. --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

I had the privilege of learning from Professor Hahn last semester at The Ohio State University by taking his U.S. Diplomacy in the Middle East course. He is an incredibly balanced, thoughtful, and conscientious scholar and educator. Crisis and Crossfire was one of the six or so books assigned for the course, and he utilized it as a foundation for his instruction, delving into more detail than covered in this book. This work is a comprehensive overview from WWII-Second Intifada in the 2000's, and the it flows in a unique way as it is organized both chronologically by and events, not by country. It's also worth noting that Professor Hahn donated the royalties from student purchases to a scholarship fund in the History Department. Couldn't recommend this highly enough.

Book was exactly what I ordered. Came in the right amount of time and the right condition. Would

recommend to anyone.

As part of Potomac Books' Issues in the History of American Foreign relations, Crisis and Crossfire provides a brief (135 pages of text) exploration of America's Middle East policy since 1945. The book's main audience is most likely readers with very little background knowledge who are looking for an introduction to the subject. This does not mean however, that people well-versed in American foreign policy won't find the book useful on at least a very basic level. The book is organized chronologically, with four chapters devoted to broader Middle East policy, and three devoted to the Arab-Israeli conflict. Hahn does skim over a lot of complex issues, but the book isn't meant to be an all-inclusive history. The only real complaint that can be made in terms of ignoring an issues is perhaps the absence of a discussion of the Iraqi revolution in 1958. Chapter 3 is titled "Tumultuous Decades: Nationalism and Counterrevolution, 1950s-1960s. In this chapter, Hahn discusses Iran and Egypt, but there should have been a section devoted to Iraq. This is perhaps somewhat remedied by a significant appendix of government documents, something that doesn't normally get published in such large numbers in these types of books. All in all, Crisis and Crossfire is a great and quick read that serves its purpose as an introduction to newcomers, but also as a quick refresher to those with a background in the subject. Hahn writes in a clear style and the book could easily be read in a day if necessary.

college book

This is a very good book for basic information on the past 60 years of Americas involvement in the Middle East. 1945- 2005

Peter L. Hahn's CRISIS AND CROSSFIRE: THE UNITED STATES AND THE MIDDLE EAST SINCE 1945 joins the 'Issues in the History of American Foreign Relations' studies in examining the history of U.S. encounters with the Middle East since 1945. Primary-source documents serve as the foundation of a survey of intentions, politics, diplomacy, and underlying influences on encounters in a text perfect for classroom adaptation.

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