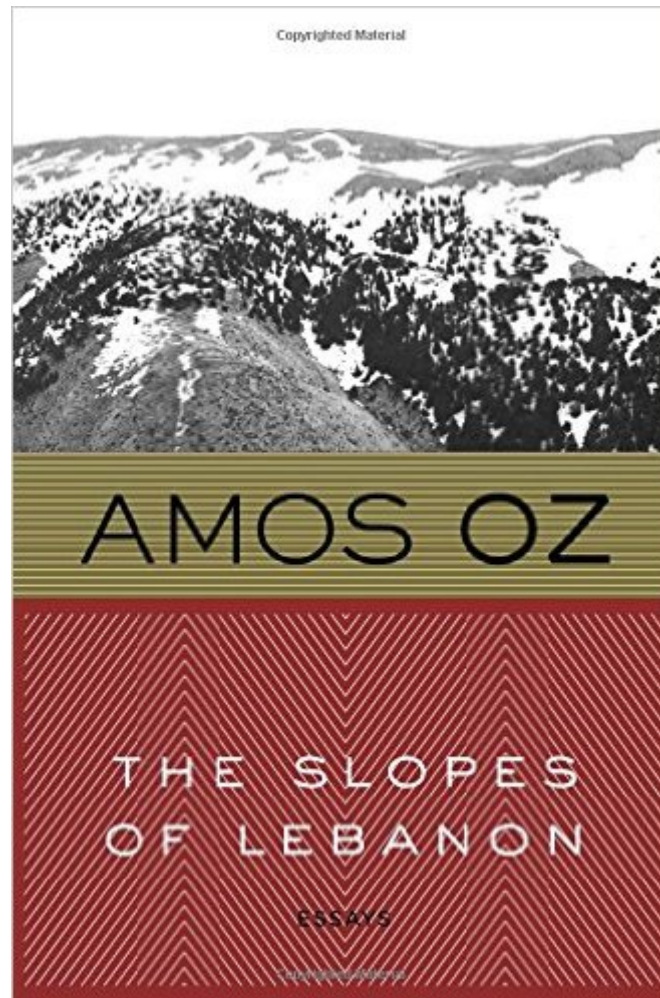


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The Slopes Of Lebanon



Synopsis

As well as being one of Israel's preeminent writers of fiction, Amos Oz was one of the first voices of conscience in Israel to advocate the creation of a Palestinian state and has been a leading figure of the Peace Now movement since 1977. This superb collection of essays offers Oz's cogent views on Israel's offensive into Lebanon in 1982; fanaticism of all stripes; the PLO; Israeli terrorism; the new militarism and the growing intolerance toward the Arab population in Israel; Jewish attitudes toward the Holocaust, and its misappropriation by the right and left alike; Claude Lanzmann's film Shoah; the dream of Zionism and its failures; and much more.

Book Information

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...belong to all of us, but those who died in Lebanon belong only to their mother's now." Oz's acerbic observation is on the first page of this collection of 32 essays, published in 1987, five years after the Israeli invasion of Lebanon, Menachem Begin's "war of choice." As in every other country on earth, "victory has a hundred fathers," and are the cause of many a celebration, whereas the hustle is to change the subject on the morasses and quagmires, leaving the mom's, to bury their child. Five years provides the "decent interval" for some early observation about the fiasco that the Lebanese invasion and occupation would prove to be, though it would take another 13 years for the Israeli leadership to decide to "declare victory" and pull out. Amos Oz was born in Jerusalem, British mandate of Palestine, in 1939, the son of Jewish immigrants from Eastern Europe. He remains, along with David Grossman, a writer who is the conscious of Israel. I've read (and reviewed) one of his novels, Fima, as well as another collection of political essays In the Land of Israel. This

collection of essays continues his excellent, incisive critiques of Israeli society. In terms of skewering the cant, hypocrisy and self-serving rationalizations justifying the invasion, it is simply impossible to beat the following: "He said that there was going to be a blitzkrieg in Lebanon and, as a result of the quick and easy victory, Lebanon would become West Bank Number 2. First they'd occupy half of Lebanon to prevent Katyusha attacks.

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