The Lebanon War - 1982 - 2000

Background:

- Egyptian- Israeli peace treaty - decision to give up 100% of the Sinai in exchange for peace.
- Implications of Egyptian peace agreement - Israeli Hawkish foreign policy, and Ariel Sharon appointed as minister of defence.
- Sharon failed to achieve the highest rank in the Israeli army, and in being made minister of defence - on a personal level an important appointment.
- Southern Lebanon and Beirut.
- Planning what became known as the Grand Strategy- ambitious document which called for an Israeli military operation in Lebanon to defeat once and for all PLO forces, to inflict the defeat on Yasser Arafat, and to help install a pro-Israel Christian government in Lebanon - which would seek a peace agreement with Israel.
- Methodology of planning - if they made their ambitious aims public that there would be little support for them - so instead they planned a phased operation in which the majority of the Israeli political elite would not be aware of what the intrinsic aims and intentions/ objectives were of the plan. Executed peace by peace.
- Lebanese civil war - fracturing of Lebanon - ungovernable and the PLO to operate a state within a state - much in the same way as it had done in Jordan prior to September 1970.
- Goes beyond the scope - causes of the Lebanese civil war - regards to AI conflict - increasing influence of Syria within Lebanon - political and military influence - Syrian troops who were stationed in Lebanon.
- Manage levels of violence between the two sides to acceptable levels.
- Americans had had some success in achieving this - but they had been unable to translate any ceasefire into tangible negotiations and long-standing peace, could secure a ceasefires for short to medium term but could not resolve intrinsic - that conflict - large numbers of PLO fighters were based in southern Lebanon facing a large number of Israeli fighters in the north of Israel.
- PLO wished to remain in Lebanon to coordinate attacks.
- American aim - wished to resolve the Lebanese civil war - were not successful - Lebanese civil war did not come to a conclusive end.

- Plan - seemed to be a relevant plan from an Israeli perspective - after speaking to Christian marlines - appeared that there was the potential - regime change.
- Ambitious plan - the two major participants believed that it has a reasonably good chance of succeeding.
- Plan needs a trigger - the problem that Sharon had was finding a trigger to begin the operation.
- Israelis and PLO agreed to a ceasefire - was not perfect but more or less held - Americans remained content with the conditions of the Ceasefire and that it was still being successfully implemented.
- Curious series of events in London - Assassination attempt of Israeli ambassador to London, British policy shot assassin and captured accomplices - members of a Syrian sponsored Palestinian group who had broken away from the PLO.
- Ceasefire had broken down - Sharon now had their mandate from the Israeli government.
- This event was the catalyst for the start of Israelis military operation into Lebanon.
- Forced architect of the war to leave the defence ministry - polarisation of Israeli society.
- Increase in Israelis extra-parliamentary activity - increased scrutiny in Israel of the IDF and in particular senior officers.
- Wider consequences of the war - Israeli operation in the end led to a strengthening of control of Damascus over Beirut. But did not lead to the destruction of the PLO.
- Longer term - led to the development of Hezbollah and armed campaign against Israel.
- In effect - led to a proxy war between Israel and Syria in Lebanon that lasted almost for 2 decades.