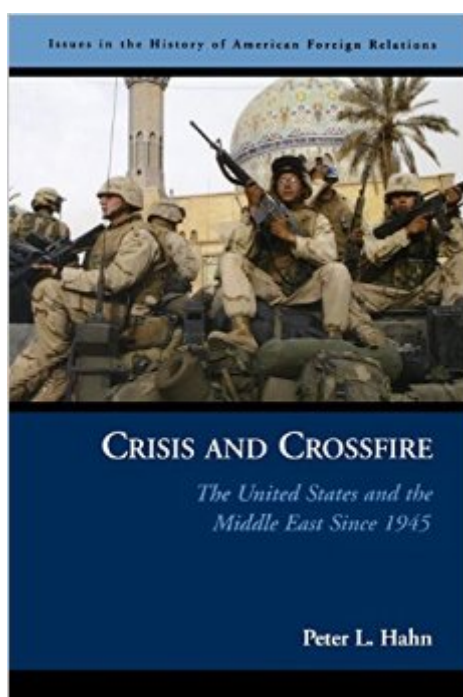


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# Crisis And Crossfire: The United States And The Middle East Since 1945 (Issues In The History Of American Foreign Relations)



## 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

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 issue 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.

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

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

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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