

Palestinian Refugees Languish in Lebanon

by [David Schenker \(/experts/david-schenker\)](/experts/david-schenker)

Nov 26, 2012

ABOUT THE AUTHORS



[David Schenker \(/experts/david-schenker\)](/experts/david-schenker)

David Schenker is the Taube Senior Fellow at The Washington Institute and director of the Linda and Tony Rubin Program on Arab Politics. He is the former Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs.



Articles & Testimony

Not only is discussion of settlement of the Palestinian refugees currently within the Lebanese borders taboo, since 1990 it has also been unconstitutional.

"In all but name, Lebanon today is a non-country," wrote the Lebanese historian Kamal Salibi in 1989. A weak state racked with sectarian and political divisions, there is little on which Lebanese people can agree. One rare issue on which they seemed to have formed an enduring consensus, however, is that of the Palestinians. While Sunnis, Shiites, Christians, and Druze alike condemn Israel and support the "liberation" of Palestine with alacrity, few of them have historically supported expanding rights and improving the dire conditions of the estimated 400,000 Palestinian refugees within Lebanese borders. Not only is discussion of *tawtin* -- or settlement -- of these refugees in Lebanon a taboo, since 1990, it has also been unconstitutional. As one Palestinian wryly noted, the Lebanese "are all with Palestine, but against the Palestinians."...

David Schenker is the Aufzien fellow and director of the Program on Arab Politics at The Washington Institute. ❖

Middle East Quarterly

RECOMMENDED



BRIEF ANALYSIS

An Israel-Lebanon Agreement May Not Be Worth the Costs

May 14, 2024



David Schenker

(/policy-analysis/israel-lebanon-agreement-may-not-be-worth-costs)



BRIEF ANALYSIS

Tracking Anti-U.S. Strikes in Iraq and Syria During the Gaza Crisis

May 14, 2024



Michael Knights,

Amir al-Kaabi,

Hamdi Malik

(/policy-analysis/tracking-anti-us-strikes-iraq-and-syria-during-gaza-crisis)



ARTICLES & TESTIMONY

The Arab Approach to Mediation—Reshaping Diplomacy in a Multipolar World

Spring 2024



Nickolay Mladenov

(/policy-analysis/arab-approach-mediation-reshaping-diplomacy-multipolar-world)

TOPICS

Arab & Islamic Politics (/policy-analysis/arab-islamic-politics)

Arab-Israeli Relations (/policy-analysis/arab-israeli-relations)

Peace Process (/policy-analysis/peace-process)

REGIONS & COUNTRIES

Lebanon (/policy-analysis/lebanon)

Palestinians (/policy-analysis/palestinians)