

Arabic and US Television News Coverage of the 2006 Lebanon War

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The Hezbollah-Israel war of summer 2006 offers a unique case where US-Middle East ruptures—on various levels—became conspicuous and stark. The media coverage played a major role in influencing the direction of the war and foreign policies and diplomatic efforts, and designating victims, aggressors, winners, and losers. Consequences of that war continue to play out today, particularly in US-Mideast relations. There are still lessons to be learned about how the media covered the conflict, and how that compares to coverage of other Mideast conflicts. This study looks at how Arabic and U.S. TV news reported on the conflict: Where did they differ and where did they agree? Was the reporting in-depth and how balanced was it? What were the frames, meta-frames and labels that dominated? Did the pain and suffering of civilian and military casualties and the economic and environmental destruction make the news? How did the coverage change over time and what were the main events that influenced that change? The study content analyzed the coverage of four U.S. TV networks broadcast between July 12, 2006, and August 15, 2006, on ABC, NBC, CBS and CNN, and six Arabic TV news stations broadcasting during the same period (Al-Arabia, Future TV, Al-Jazeera, LBC, Al-Manar, and New TV).