

# ***Fault Lines: A Layman's Guide to Understanding America's Role in the Ever-Changing Middle East***

## **WHAT IS FAULT LINES?**

*Fault Lines* is the story of one man's journey to understanding America's role in the Middle East. Through a collection of writings and decades of travel to the region, Don Liebich examines the fault lines that have often plagued U.S. efforts to protect its national interests and discusses how these on-going relations have led to a precipitous decline in American influence in the region.

*Fault Lines* is written especially for those interested in understanding the often-convoluted history of American Middle East policy.

## **WHO WROTE IT?**

Don Liebich is a native of New York and a graduate of the University of Rochester and the Harvard Business School PMD program. He spent his career with the U.S. Navy Nuclear Submarine service and Sysco Corp. After retiring from Sysco Corp, he engaged in numerous consulting projects in various countries including Russia, Poland, Czech Republic, Ukraine, Indonesia and Venezuela. He has traveled extensively, for many years, to the Middle East and has been involved with economic development, citizen diplomacy and human rights projects in Jordan, Israel/Palestine including the West Bank, UAE and Iran.

## **WHY DID HE WRITE IT?**

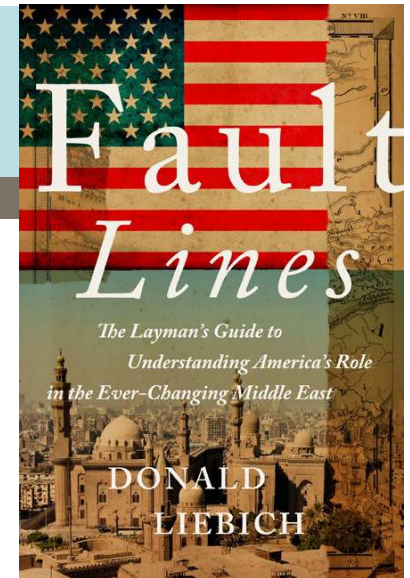
"These issues can be complex, confusing and rapidly changing. My goal in writing was and is not to break new scholarly ground or create a comprehensive treatise on any of the issues. Instead, my goal is to provide a resource for thoughtful Americans who are interested in a better understanding of the stories behind the headlines. I leave it to the reader whose interest is sufficiently peaked to dig deeper into the complexity of the issues."

## **WHO IS THE AUDIENCE?**

*Fault Lines* is written for those who are interested in what's happening in the Middle East, know that it's of the utmost importance, and know that they should have a deeper understanding ... but that also have a job, two kids and a dog and don't have the time to read a 600-page tome targeted at the academic community

## **BENEFITS TO READERS**

In the book, Liebich simplifies what is a very complex history and current situation, without making it simplistic. The book will give people an informed, personal, first-hand perspective on U.S. foreign policy in the volatile and ever-changing Middle East that they won't find in the mainstream media.



## **BOOK DETAILS**

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## **LIEBICH ONLINE**

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## WHY HE'S AN EXPERT & YOU'LL WANT TO TALK TO HIM

- Has spent many years traveling to and in the Middle East as a citizen diplomat
- Ability to summarize, simplify, communicate complex policies/history
- Conducts seminars, teaches courses on Islam, Christian fundamentalism, Iran and U.S. Middle East foreign policy
- Neither a politician or pundit, but a credentialed, unbiased and unaffiliated expert
- In his travels, Liebich has met with ordinary citizens, cultural leaders and political leaders, both those in power and opposition leaders. As a private citizen and citizen diplomat, he has traveled to Iran to meet with groups such as Hamas and Hezbollah that State Dept. officials cannot meet with, as they are classified as terrorist organizations or state supporters of terrorist groups. This access has afforded him a unique understanding of U.S. policy, to say the least.
- First-hand perspective of the impact of US policy on ordinary citizens throughout the Middle East, gleaned through countless personal relationships and hundreds of interviews.

## EXPERTISE

- Historical and current American foreign policy in the Middle East
- Islam
- Iran
- Christian fundamentalism
- Israel
- Human rights

## TOPICAL/RELEVANT SUBJECTS INCLUDED

- ISIS, Al Qaeda, radical Islamists, terror groups including Hamas, Hezbollah
- Iran
- Israel
- American foreign policy in the Middle East



*"...as I began the first of a series of trips to the Middle East, I discovered something curious ... what I was seeing and learning in my travels generally did not correspond with what was being fed to me by U.S. media sources."*

*"My perspective is based on first-hand experience -- not ideology."*

*"As we examine events in the first decades of the 21st century, we will find a waning of U.S. ability to influence events and a growing view in the region that the world's hegemon is, itself, no more than a paper tiger."*

## HOW IT'S DIFFERENT THAN OTHER BOOKS ON THE TOPIC

*Fault Lines* demonstrates the fault lines that have run through American Middle East policies over the years, shows how they have led to declining American influence in the region and proposes steps that might be taken to reverse the trend.

It begins with a brief history of American involvement in the Middle East and American policies in the region and is intended to give the reader an historical framework for understanding contemporary issues.

Liebich says “When Americans use the phrase ‘that’s history,’ the implication is that it is irrelevant. Throughout many regions of the world, and especially the Middle East, history is everything. Middle Easterners can remember exactly why they take issue with the United States, while Americans, on the other hand, are serial amnesiacs. We know that we are supposed to feel adversarial towards a particular country ... we just can’t remember why.”

## CHAPTERS INCLUDED, TOPICS FOR CONVERSATION

- How America’s effort to project power has clashed with the Middle Eastern desire for political independence
- The unintended consequences of American involvement and policies and how these consequences, in many cases, only have made the situation worse.
- How the U.S. desire for stability has clashed with its goal of promoting democracy
- The decline of American influence as a result of domestic, global and regional factors
- The other regional state and non-state actors, including Israel, Iran and other competing influences, that have arisen to challenge American dominance on the Middle Eastern stage.
- The global resurgence and rising power of new players, such as Russia, Turkey, China and others
- How the United States can restore its credibility and influence in the Middle East