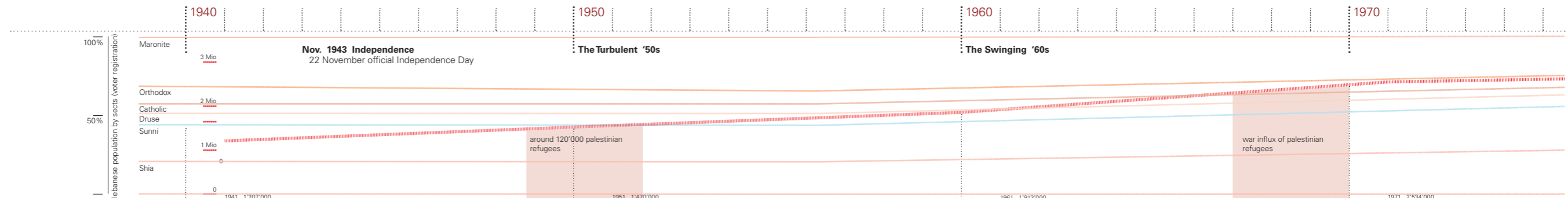


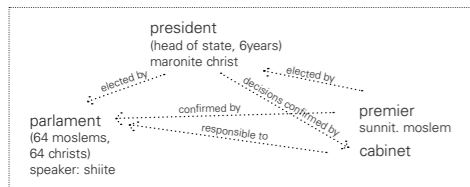
The History of Lebanon after Independence



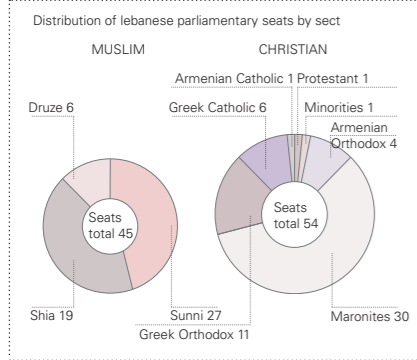
DEMOGRAPHY



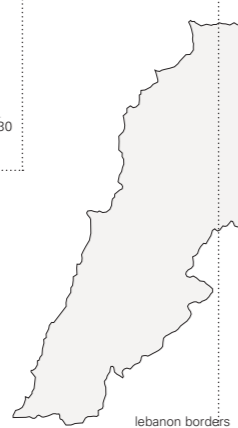
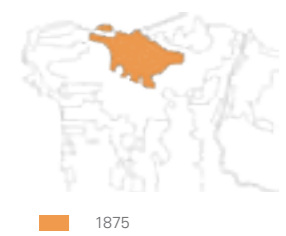
Number of inhabitants in Lebanon



POLITICS



Parliamentary seats are split in relation 6:5 between Christian and Muslim sects. The president (always is a Maronite Christian) is the head of the state and elected by a two-thirds majority of the National Assembly for a single term of six years. The Prime Minister must be a Sunni Muslim and the speaker of parliament a Shiite Muslim. The cabinet also reflects the sectarian mix. The country is divided into governorates, which in turn are divided into districts and smaller municipalities, all of which have elected officials.



The constitution (formal) contains a fundamental dichotomy: it establishes the judicial, civic and political equality of all Lebanese as citizens (muwatatinin), inasmuch as it institutionalises their judicial and political inequality as subjects (lahlin) belonging to hierarchised religious communities with unequal access to political power and public office. It defines Lebanon as an 'independent State enjoying indivisible unity and integral sovereignty'.

The National Pact (an informal verbal understanding between Bishara al-Khuri and Riad al-Sulh) The National Pact laid the foundation of Lebanon as a multi-confessional state. Key points of the agreement are for: the Maronites not to seek foreign intervention and accept Lebanon as an "Arab" affiliated country, instead of a "Western" one; the Muslims (Shi'a and Sunnis) to abandon their aspirations to unite with Syria; it confirmed the power-sharing formula of the constitution: the President (with exceptional executive and legislative powers) of the Republic always to be Maronite; the President of the Council of Ministers (prime minister) always to be Sunni; the President of the National Assembly always to be Shi'a; the deputy speaker of the Parliament always to be Greek Orthodox; Parliament members to be in a ratio of 6:5 in favour of Christians to Muslims.



President Béchara el-Khoury



President Kamil Sham'un, who pushed his power to the limits of autocracy



President Fu'ad Shihab



President Charles Hilu



President Sulayman Franjijeh

1951 April: General elections give sizeable representation to anti-Khuri opposition

1952 17 September: general political strike forces resignation of Bishara al-Khuri

1953 23 September: Kamil Sham'un elected president of Lebanese republic

already in the 1950's tension between arabic nationalists and prowest christians

1957 President Kamil Sham'un accepts the Eisenhower Doctrine announced in January

May-June: parliamentary elections; major Muslim leaders fail to be reelected

1960 June/ July: general elections for a 99-seat parliament

1964 Charles Hilu elected for president of republic

1969 3 November: Cairo Agreement between Lebanese government and PLO which aims to control Palestinian guerrilla activities in Lebanon.

26 November: Karami forms Government of National Union

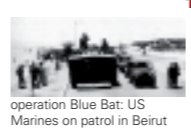
1970 September: election of Sulayman Franjijeh president of republic

1973 10 April: Israeli commandos raid Beirut and kill three Palestinian leaders, close associates of Arafat. The Lebanese government resigns the next day.

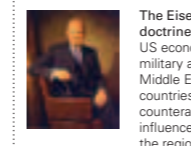


1949 June: renewal of Khuri's mandate

Lebanese-Israeli truce treaty



operation Blue Bat: US Marines on patrol in Beirut



The Eisenhower doctrine offers US economic and military aid to Middle Eastern countries to counteract Soviet influence in the region.

1958 May: armed revolt against Kamil Sham'un

Faced with increasing opposition which develops into a civil war between Maronite Christians and Muslims President Shamun asks the US to send troops to preserve Lebanon's independence.

31 July: election of Fu'ad Shihab president

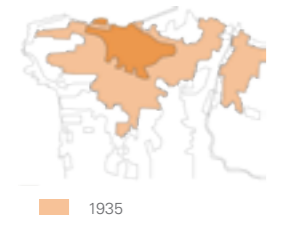
In 1956, Camille Chamoun, then President of the Republic, founded the "Baalbeck International Festival", which takes place in the Roman ruins of the Baalbek Temples managed by twelve benevolent members. It became one of the government's institutions whose mission would patronize and encourage the country cultural and touristic life.

1967 Lebanon plays no active role in the Arab-Israeli war but is to be affected by its aftermath when Palestinians use Lebanon as a base for activities against Israel.

December 1959 grand opening of the Casino du Liban

The International Fair, designed by Oscar Niemeyer was launched in 1962 by the government under its program for "great works" to set the guideline of the countries urban development

KEY EVENTS



World War II (1939-45)

1948

14 May: Creation of the state of Israel

15 May: Arab-Israeli War, Lebanon participated symbolically

1949 March: Husni Za'im's 'coup d'etat' in Syria

1956

26 July: nationalisation of Suez Canal; 30 October: Suez War

1958

8/22 February: declaration of United Arab Republic (UAR)

1961

28 September: breakup of UAR

1964

development plan under Hilu which included the building of popular housing units, clinics, laboratories, technical schools and a university campus, among others.

1968

First Palestinian commandos enter Lebanese territory

28 December: In retaliation for an attack by two members of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) on an Israeli plane in Athens, Israel raids Beirut airport, destroying 13 civilian planes.

ECONOMY



1949

Lebanon's service economy was the main beneficiary of the Arab economic boycott of Israel. exports to Palestine greater than exports to France, Great Britain and the US combined

1950

Breakup of Syrian-Lebanese customs union

Liberated from the confines of the franc zone and economic union with Syria, the Lebanese commercial/ financial oligarchy established itself as an intermediary between Western markets and the entire Arab hinterland. Lebanon witnessed a period of economic prosperity. But whereas the oligarchy made enormous profits on speculation in currency and goods, the population suffered a dramatic rise in its cost of living and unemployment

1960

Under president Shihab the state played an active role in **regional development and in the modification of the social distribution of economic growth.** Sizeable funds were spent on building an economic infrastructure and unifying the domestic market via road construction and bringing water and electricity to remote villages. Hospitals were built in rural areas and medical dispensaries in villages. The dam for the Litani river was built and then there was the Green Plan for clearing land for cultivation. Another Shiabist reform was development of public education. In 1959, a law school was added to the Lebanese University

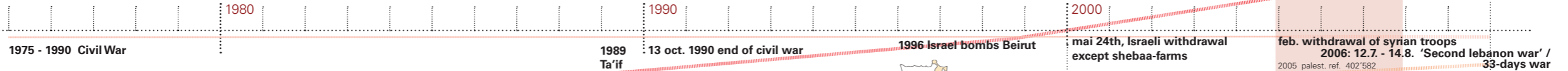
1965

Intra Bank crash



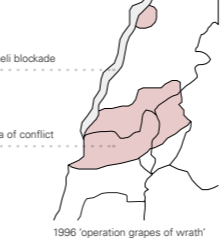
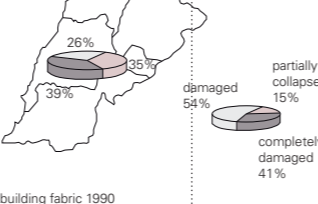
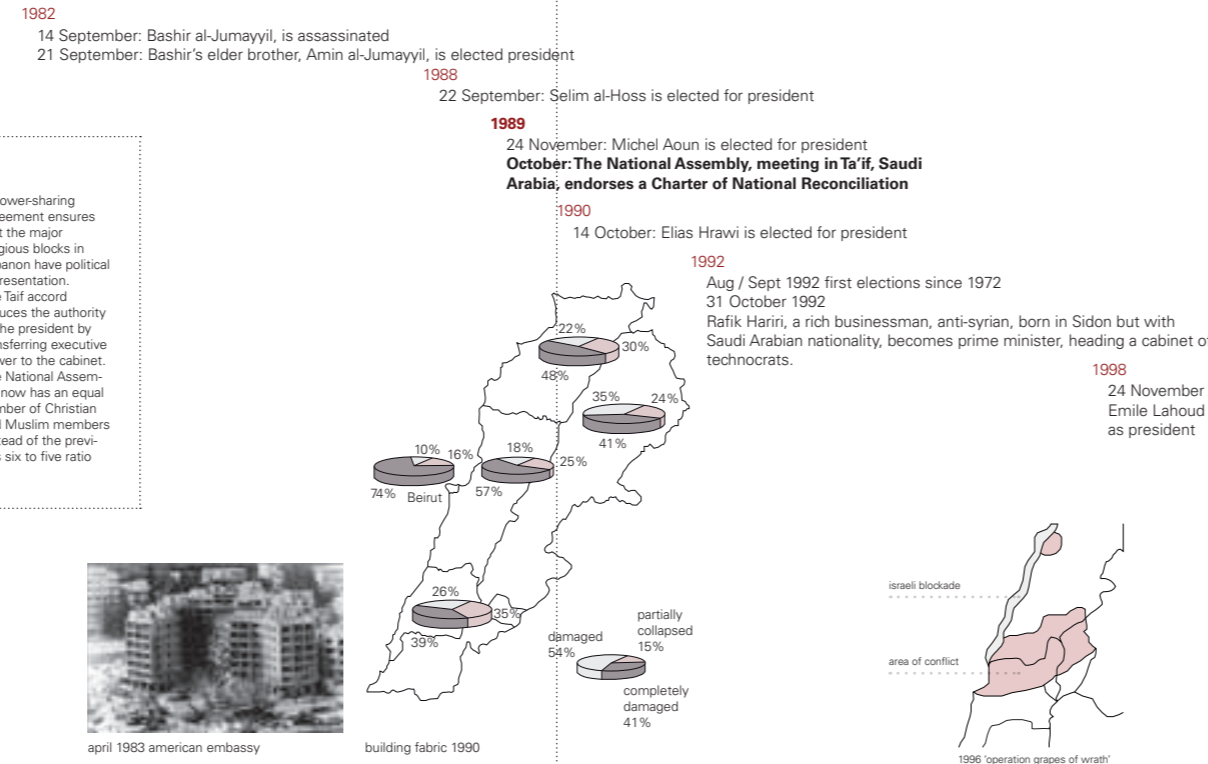
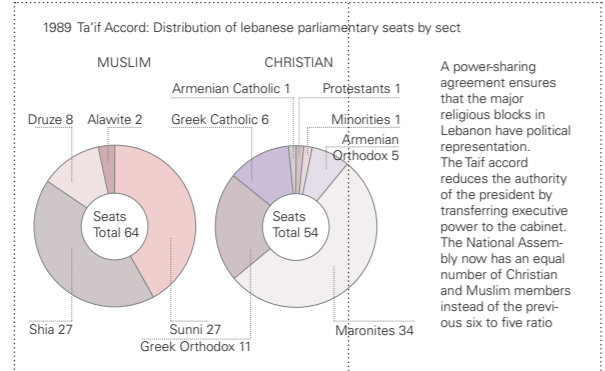
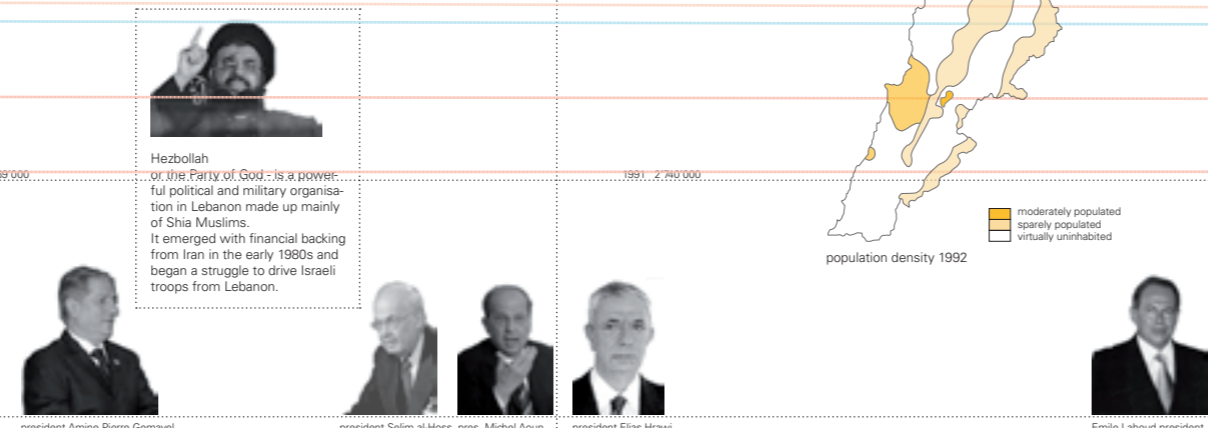
Beirut 1964

The History of Lebanon after Independence



DEMOGRAPHY

POLITICS



KEY EVENTS

1975
Conflict eruptet in April 1975 after a bus attack by Christian militia

1976
June: Syrian troops enter Lebanon to restore peace but also to curb the Palestinians
October: Following Arab summit meetings in Riyad and Cairo, a ceasefire is arranged

1978
Israel controls south

1982
Israel attacks

1982
17 May: Israel and Lebanon sign an agreement on Israeli withdrawal, ending hostilities and establishing a security region in southern Lebanon

1990
13 October: The Syrian air force attacks the Presidential Palace at B'abda and Awn takes refuge in the French embassy. This date is regarded as the end of the civil war

1991
The National Assembly orders the dissolution of all militias by 30 April but Hezbollah is allowed to remain active and the South Lebanon Army (SLA) refuses to disband.
22 May: A Treaty of Brotherhood, Cooperation and Coordination is signed in Damascus by Lebanon and Syria and a Higher Council, co-chaired by their two presidents, is established.

1993
25 July: Israel attempts to end the threat from Hezbollah and the Ppopular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command (PFLP-GC) in southern Lebanon by launching "Operation Accountability", the heaviest attack since 1982.

1996
11 April : "Operation Grapes of Wrath", in which the Israelis bomb Hezbollah bases in southern Lebanon, the southern district of Beirut and the Beqaa.
26 April: US negotiates a truce and an "understanding" under which Hezbollah and Palestinian guerrillas agree not to attack civilians in northern Israel, and which recognises Israel's right to self-defence but also Hezbollah's right to resist the Israeli occupation of southern Lebanon. Lebanon and Syria do not sign the "understanding" but the Israel-Lebanon Monitoring Group (ILMG) with members from the US, France, Israel, Lebanon and Syria, is set up to monitor the truce.

2006
February Denmark's embassy in Beirut is torched during a demonstration against cartoons in a Danish paper satirising the Prophet Muhammad.
July: Israel launches air and sea attacks on targets in Lebanon after Lebanon's militant Hezbollah group captures two Israeli soldiers
14, August: UN-Resolution 1701 truce between israel and hezbollah
Dec.: Thousands of opposition demonstrators in Beirut demand the resignation of the government.

2007
March : Tent town which sprang up in central Beirut as part of the opposition sit-in to demand more say in government, remains in place 100 days after start of protest.
24 November: Fouad Siniora elected for president

2008
October: Lebanon establishes diplomatic relations with Syria for first time since both countries gained independence in 1940s.

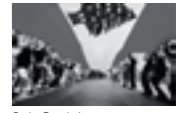
2009
June: The pro-Western March 14 alliance led by Saad Hariri wins 71 of 128 seats in parliamentary elections while the rival March 8 alliance, led by Hezbollah, secures 57. Saad Hariri is nominated as prime minister.
September: Having spent more than 10 weeks negotiating with the various political factions on the formation of a national unity government, Saad Hariri says he is abandoning the attempt.

ECONOMY

coalitions of the March 2005 rallies



- March 8 some of the pro-syrian coalitions
- hezbollah (islamism, shi'a muslims)
- lebanese democratic party (feudalism, officially secular - mainly друз)
- lebanese communist party (communism, secular)
- amal movement (islamism, shi'a muslim)
- armenian revolutionary party (socialism-democracy, nationalism, armenian secular)
- Sa'ith Arab Socialist Party (socialism-arab nationalism, secular)
- Worker's League (communism-arab nationalism, secular)
- El Marada (feudalism, mainly maronite-christian)
- Syrian Social Nationalist Party (syrian nationalism, secular)
- Free Patriotic Movement (centrist, officially secular-traditionally christian)



- March 14 some of the anti-syrian coalitions
- Future Movement (capitalism/nationalism, officially secular - mainly sunni muslim)
- Progressive Socialist Party (officially secular, mainly друз)
- democratic renewal (reformism, secular)
- Phalangist /Kataeb (right wing - lebanese nationalism, mainly maronite-christian)
- Lebanese democratic left movement (secular)
- Lebanese Forces (lebanese nationalism, officially secular mainly maronite christian)
- Armenian Democratic Liberal Party (liberalism, armenian secular)
- Social Democrat Hunchakian Party (Socialist, Armenian Secular)