

The Cedar Tree – The Symbol of a Country

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Abstract This lecture deals with symbols in Lebanon from the collapse of the Ottoman Empire after the First World War to the present day. The aim is to show the complexity of political developments and conflicts of interests of the population of the Middle East as well as the interests of the victorious Allies – the British and the French – amid increasing national awareness of the population and nationalist conflicts between different religions – especially pro-French Christian Maronites and nationalist Muslim Arabs. It shows the effort made first by the French colonial administration – and then by Vichy France and the Free French – to prevent Lebanon's independence and keep the country under a colonial yoke. It documents the emergence of the first official flag of Lebanon under French mandate administration, as well as the creation in 1943 of a flag for an independent Lebanon and the development of an unofficial coat of arms.

Historical overview



Fig. 1.

The word Lebanon appears in the Holy Bible¹. There, too, is found mention of the cedar tree (Fig. 1) associated with Lebanon², including its use in building the Temple in Jerusalem³. There are several possible reasons for this choice. The wood is not attacked by insect pests; it is free from knots; and it has remarkable lasting qualities.

The cedar forests in Lebanon were famous and people traveled great distances to see them. These trees grew to heights of 36 m and girths of 12 m. They often lived over 2,000 years. The cedars of Lebanon are now very rare; their glory has passed. Cedar wood was used to build not only the Temple, but also Solomon's house and other public edifices in Jerusalem. It was used for roofing the temple of Diana at Ephesus⁴, the temple of Apollo at Utica⁵, and other famous buildings.

The territory called Lebanon was a part of the Ottoman Empire from the 16th century AD until the end of the First World War. On 30 October 1918 the Ottoman Empire and the Triple Entente signed the Armistice of Moudros⁶, ending Ottoman operations in active combat theaters.

As the Ottoman Empire collapsed after the war, the League of Nations mandated to France the five provinces that make up present-day Lebanon; the division of the Arabic-speaking areas of the Ottoman Empire was to follow the 1916 Sykes-Picot Agreement. Formal negotiations began with the Paris Peace Conference on 18 January 1919, attended by a two-person delegation of Kingdom of Hejaz led by Emir Faisal (the second member was Rustum Haidar)⁷. The negotiation of the peace treaty con-

tinued at the Conference of London, and took definite shape only after the premiers' meeting at the San Remo Conference April 1920. There France, Italy, and Great Britain determined the mandates and their boundaries, purposes, and organization, which were ratified by the League in 1921 and became effective in 1922.

France thus controlled what was called Syria, recognizing that the French had taken Damascus in 1920. The French General Henri Gouraud⁸ divided the Mandate's territory to 6 "states" – Jabal Druze, Damascus, Aleppo, Sandjak of Alexandretta, Alawite State, and Greater Lebanon. Later Lebanon became its own administrative unit.

The leader of Arab Revolt against the Ottoman Empire, Emir Faisal, was proclaimed king of Syria on 8 March 1920. The Kingdom of Syria (Arabic: *al-Mamlakah al-Sūriyya al-'Arabīyah*), was the first modern Arab state, and although it lasted less than five months (8 March–24 July 1920), its existence has had a lasting impact in the Arab world to this day. It was led by Faisal bin Hussein⁹, the son of Sharif Hussein bin Ali. Faisal was a heroic figure in the Arab Revolt and is often remembered through the writings of T. E. Lawrence ("Lawrence of Arabia")¹⁰ and later as the first king of Iraq. The first constitution of Lebanon was adopted on 23 May 1926.¹¹

On 22 November 1943, amid the Second World War, the Free French General Georges Catroux¹² proclaimed the independence of Lebanon. After the war came other crises in Lebanon, such as the 1958 insurrection and the 1976–1992 civil war. Today Lebanon is still not quiet; its greatest problems are Hamas and Palestinian terrorists.

Flag of the Ottoman Empire (Fig. 2)

In 1514 the territory of today's Lebanon came under the rule of the Ottoman Empire. The flag of the Empire used in 1918 was introduced in 1844. Red and white are traditional colors of the Turks – red appeared for the first time on the flag of the Ottoman Empire in 1383; both first appeared on the naval ensign of the Ottoman Empire in 1793. In 1844, the eight-pointed star was replaced by a five-pointed star and the flag took the form of the present Turkish flag. Red was the color of the Western Turks.



Fig. 2.

Flag of the Arab Revolt (Fig. 3)

This flag was used by Arab nationalists during the Arab Revolt against the Ottoman Empire during the First World War. The flag was designed by the British diplomat Sir Mark Sykes¹³, in an effort to create a feeling of "Arab-ness" in order to fuel the revolt. Although the Arab Revolt was only very limited in scope and instigated by the British rather than by Arabs themselves, the flag influenced the national flags of a number of emerging Arab states after the First World War. Soldiers carrying the Flag of the Arab Revolt were pictured in the Arabian Desert. (Fig. 4)



Fig. 3.

The history of the origin of the flag is described well by Sulaiman Musa¹⁴. In his study, he wrote: "The newspaper Al-Qibla¹⁵ published an official decree that it had been decided to hoist the Arab flag with the four colors beginning on 30 May 1917 (9 Sha'ban 1335), the first anniversary of the revolt. The decree mentioned that the new flag would consist of a triangle of red, with three parallel horizontal stripes connected to it – from top to bottom black, then green, then white."¹⁶ Arab colors – white, black, green, and red – are first time mentioned in the poetry by Safi al-Din al Hilli¹⁷. The horizontal colors stand for the Abbasid¹⁸, Umayyad¹⁹, and Fatimid Caliphates²⁰. The red triangle refers to the Hashemite dynasty²¹. The Hashemites were



Fig. 4.



Fig. 5.



Fig. 6.



Fig. 7.



Fig. 8.



Fig. 9.

allies of the British in the conflict against the Ottoman Empire. After the war the Hashemites achieved or were granted rule in the Hejaz region of Arabia, Jordan (formally known as the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan), briefly in Greater Syria, and Iraq. Greater Syria was dissolved after only a few months, in 1920. The Hashemites were overthrown in the Hejaz in 1925 by the House of Saud, and in Iraq in 1958 by a coup d'état, but they retain power in Jordan.

A 98.5 x 197 foot (approximately 30 x 60 m) version of the flag flies from the fifth-tallest freestanding flag pole in the world, located in Aqaba, Jordan. (Fig. 5)

The Flag of Lebanon after the Fall of the Ottoman Empire (Fig. 6)

In the 18th century the cedar became a symbol of the Christian Maronites, who spread their influence mainly in Syria and Lebanon. By 1848 it had become the central charge on the unofficial flag of the territory of Lebanon, which was administered as a semi-autonomous country within the Ottoman Empire starting around 1860. The flag is white with green cedar tree in the center.

The rise of national self-confidence was reflected in Lebanese émigré circles. In Brazil in 1913, Shucri el-Khoury²², editor of *The Sphinx*, suggested “a white flag with a cedar tree in the center”, which was adopted by Lebanese immigrants in America and communicated to the Allied Powers²³. The same flag was adopted also in Lebanon, although at the war’s end el-Khoury proposed that it add the blue and red of the French tricolor. However, Rashid Nakhla²⁴, leader of the Lebanese renaissance movement, wrote in his memoirs that on 2 November 1918 a white flag with a green cedar in the middle was hoisted over the palace in Baabda²⁵, and remained there until May 1919²⁶.

Lebanese colonies abroad were pressured by events and diplomatic relations to change attitudes. On 3 July 1919 Mr. Briloun, the French consul in Santiago de Cuba, wrote to Pichon²⁷, the French minister of foreign affairs in Paris:

“I learned some time ago that there was an internal campaign within the Syrian colony of my district calling for the Lebanese to sever themselves from the Syrians under the cover of a request for a French protectorate separating Lebanon from the rest of Syria, using its ancient borders and under a flag of which group of Lebanese came to offer me a luxurious example....This national Lebanese flag is our national emblem bearing a cedar in its white part.”²⁸

Flag of the Kingdom of Syria – 8 March–24 July 1920 (Fig. 7)

The 2nd Syrian National Congress government of Hashim al-Atassi²⁹, which opened in Damascus on 8 March 1920, crowned Faisal I as king of Syria. He was not recognized by Britain or France, who claimed Syria (with Palestine and Lebanon). A similar flag to that of the Arab Administration (1918–1920) was adopted but with a seven-pointed white star in the red triangle³⁰. A color image of the flag appeared on the invitation to the coronation of Faisal I. (Fig. 8)

Royal Standard of Faisal, the King of Syria – 8 March–24 July 1920 (Fig. 9)

The flag was the flag of Kingdom of Syria with a yellow royal crown in the middle of the central green stripe. It was used from 8 March 1920 to the end of the kingdom in July 1920.

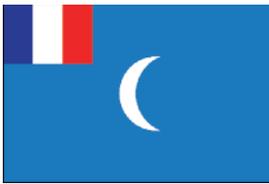


Fig. 10.



Fig. 11.

Flag of the French Mandate for Syria and Lebanon – July 1920–1 September 1920 (Fig. 10)

The flag was light blue with white crescent in the center and the French flag in the canton. A blue flag with crescent was the flag of Shehab emirate from 1697 to 1842. The Shehabite flag means “the love of peace”. This territory was later divided in six semi-autonomous administrative units, each with a flag of its own.

Flag of Lebanon – 1 September 1920–7 December 1943 (Fig. 11)

On 22 March 1920 demonstrations in Baabda protested against the Congress in Damascus. In addition to other demands in a 7-point memorandum, Article 7 declared the union of Lebanon and France and called for enforcing as a national emblem the tricolor with cedar on the central white stripe³¹.

On 1 September 1920, General Gouraud proclaimed the State of Greater Lebanon (Arabic: *Dawlat Lubnan Al-Kabir*; French: *État du Grand Liban*) with its present boundaries and with Beirut as its capital. The new territory was granted a flag, merging the French flag with the Lebanese cedar. This flag was officially adopted 6 years later.

The flag is described in Article 5 of the constitution of the Lebanese Republic³², promulgated on 23 May 1926, as follows: “The Lebanese flag is blue, white, and red in vertical bands of equal width, with a cedar on the white part.” The color of the cedar was not mentioned; most contemporary flag books showed the cedar tree as green with brown trunk³³.

This Lebanese flag was designed by Naoum Moukarzel³⁴, the president of the Lebanese Renaissance Movement. Moukarzel took an example of this flag from New York to the peace conference at Versailles in 1919. There he proposed it to the president of the French Republic, Raymond Poincaré, who accepted the idea with enthusiasm. The design became the official Lebanese flag under the League of Nations Mandate³⁵.



Fig. 12.

Flag of Independence – 7 December 1943–1994 (Fig. 12)

During the Second World War, Vichy French authorities allowed Germany to move aircraft and supplies through Syria and Lebanon; in response the British moved troops in; by late 1941 the Free French government supported independence. However, while elections were held in 1943 and in November the new Lebanese government unilaterally abolished the mandate, the French briefly imprisoned the new government before acquiescing to international pressure and accepting Lebanon’s independence weeks later. Descriptions of the flag’s development in this era vary.

Edmond Rabbath, in his book *La Constitution Libanaise (The Lebanese Constitution)*³⁶, explains that in the climate that followed the rebellion of 11 November, the constitution was suspended and government leaders were arrested: Sheikh Bechara el-Khoury³⁷, president of the republic; Riad el-Solh³⁸, the prime minister; and ministers Camille Chamoun³⁹, Selim Takla⁴⁰, Adel Osseyran⁴¹, and Abdel-Hamid Karami⁴². Only seven members were permitted to enter the Parliament, which was occupied by French troops. During the meeting, lasting only a few minutes, one of the deputies hastily devised a colored version of the flag, preserving the cedar as a permanent

symbol. His colleagues adopted this proposal immediately. Their spontaneous gesture, with the adoption of the traditional cedar and choice of colors not related to the history of Lebanon, was placed in the second amendment of the Constitution of 1943.

Today's flag was introduced into the Constitution on 7 December in 1943⁴³. The text reads: "The Lebanese flag shall be composed of three horizontal stripes, a white stripe between two red ones. The width of the white stripe shall be equal to that of both red stripes. In the center of and occupying one third of the white stripe is a green cedar tree with its top touching the upper red stripe and its base touching the lower red stripe." Ratio is not mentioned.

Mounir Takieddine⁴⁴, in his book titled *Naissance de l'indépendance* (Birth of Independence)⁴⁵, reports: "Around 10 AM, seven members able to meet in the precincts of Parliament, in the presence of the secretary general of the house (Khail Takieddine, who wrote the minutes), were unanimous in deciding the immediate change in national colors on the spot. Saadi Maunla drew it with a red pencil outline. The cedar tree was drawn with a gray pencil, because a green pencil was lacking. The document was signed by present members who took part in on the oath. They stood defending the new colors, a symbol of independence." The author, however, does not give the name of the member who made the proposal.

Henri Pharaon⁴⁶, in an interview with newspaper *Al Nahar*⁴⁷, asserted that he had proposed the design, influenced by his connections to Austria. The Austrian newspaper *Der Standard*⁴⁸ reported in 2005⁴⁹ that the Christian parliamentarian and repeated Lebanese foreign minister was an "enthusiastic friend of Austria". From his family, according to the report, had come several generations of Honorary Consuls of the Empire of Austria and the Austro-Hungarian Empire. Moreover, Pharaon was founder of the Lebanese-Austrian Friendship Association. He said that Saadi al-Mounla⁵⁰ and Mohamad al-Fadl⁵¹ helped him choose the new national flag.

Historical research gives us another account of the event. In a December 1970 television interview, Pierre Gemayel declared that the Kataeb Party conceived the design of the new Lebanese flag and, at his suggestion, the government of Bchémoun had adopted it.

On the morning of 11 November 1943, Pierre Gemayel⁵² presented to members the drawing of the new flag and asked them to formally adopt it. The details of this narrative are confirmed by the Beirut newspaper and other sources. The Lebanese flag was controversial among Lebanese communities. The Kataeb Party, demanding a change from the old flag, sought a formula acceptable all Lebanese. Pierre Gemayel consulted Maurice Chehab⁵³, director of antiquities of Lebanon, in his pharmacy at Place des Canons. "Can we create a national flag from our traditions?" And Chehab replied, "No doubt! All history of Lebanon is conflict between the Yemini⁵⁴ and Qaysi. Red is the color of the Qaysi, and white is the second party. If we combine the two colors in one flag with the cedar, we will confirm the agreement of the Lebanese national problems."⁵⁶ Whitney Smith confirms this interpretation in *Flags and Arms Across the World*⁵⁷.

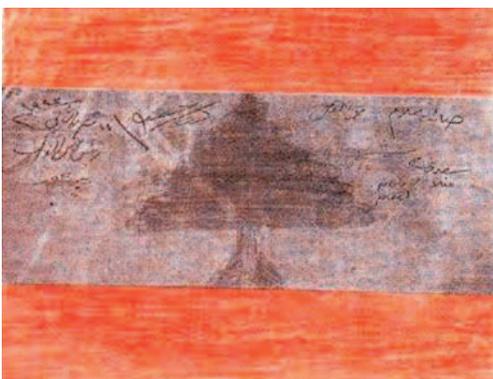


Fig. 13.

The original drawing of the flag was signed by seven men: Mohamad al-Fadl, mem-



Fig. 14.



Fig. 15.

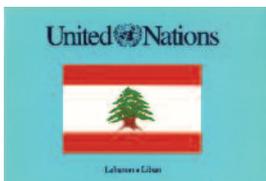


Fig. 16.



Fig. 17.



Fig. 18.



Fig. 19.



Fig. 20.

ber of parliament representing South Lebanon; Saeb Salam, prime minister; Saad al-Manla, member of parliament representing North Lebanon; Maroun Kenaan, member of parliament representing South Lebanon; Rachid Beidounn, member of parliament representing South Lebanon; Henri Pharaon, member of parliament representing Béqaa; and Sabri Hamade, speaker of parliament. On the flag appears the inscription "Chairman of the Parliament" and in the upper left the date "11 November 1943". The drawing was made by Saad al Manla based on the proposal by Henri Pharaon. (Fig. 13) Another source⁵⁸ says that the Phalangist Pierre Gemayel asked Sami Dahdah⁵⁹ to draw the new flag that, which was then sewn by the wife of Felix Hobeyka⁶⁰. (Fig. 14)

The constitution did not specify the color of the cedar tree's trunk, but from 1943 to 1995 it was depicted naturalistically. The original drawing of the flag shows a brown trunk. Similar versions of the flag were registered by World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)⁶¹ (Fig. 15) and on official postcards of United Nations with flags of the member states. (Fig. 16)

It was designed to be a neutral flag, not allied to any of Lebanon's religious groups. The red stripes symbolize the blood shed by the people of Lebanon during the struggle for independence against the Turks and the French. The white stripe symbolizes purity, peace, and the snow covering Lebanon's mountains. The green cedar (*Cedrus libani* or *Lebanon-Cedar*) symbolizes immortality and steadiness. Another color symbolism of the flag of Lebanon gives following explanation: The white inner band between two red outer bands represents the entire spectrum of colors of the rainbow in the sky. As a result, the white symbolizes the inner principle of the outward manifestation of colors in particular and everything in general.

In many traditions, white is the color of initiation. It depicts how the spiritual holds authority over the temporal or royal authority. This power is associated with red, the uppermost color of the rainbow. Green suggests the (eternal) present beyond the seasons and time. For Christians, green has always been the color of the theological virtue of Hope beside white (Faith) and red (Charity). It symbolizes the yearning for true knowledge, spiritual knowledge. Green is also the color of the Islamic flag and the Muslim symbol of salvation in the image of the Prophet⁶².

The Lebanese flag was raised in Bchamoun on 21 November 1943 at 11:20 PM⁶³. In 1979, the Minister of National Education, Boutros Harb⁶⁴, declared 21 November as National Flag Day.

Flag of Lebanon since 1994 (Fig. 17)

In 1994 the Lebanese government changed the color of the cedar tree to entirely green. This example was a gift of the Embassy of Lebanon in Prague, Czech Republic, showing very good detail in the cedar tree. (Fig. 18)

Coat of Arms of Lebanon (Fig. 19)

Lebanon has never officially adopted a coat of arms, but it has used an unofficial version since the proclamation of independence on 7 December 1943. It consists of a red shield with a white bend sinister bearing a cedar tree. It is very similar to the country's flag, with the exception of the Spanish fess on the flag being changed into a bend sinister. Many variants exist. Mostly it is the flag converted into a shield, horizontally or per bend. A variant also exists with a golden frame, with the name of the state in French and Arabic⁶⁵. (Fig. 20)

Some examples of using of the flag and coat of arms

The embassy of Lebanon in Rome, Italy, flies the flag of Lebanon and displays three shields with the coats of arms of Lebanon (in the center), the ex-Pope (left), and the Sovereign Military Order of Malta (right). (Fig. 21)

The embassy of Lebanon in Prague, Czech Republic flies the flag of the country and a shield with green cedar tree but with a brown trunk on white shield framed in maroon and "Ambassade du Liban" inscribed in white in French and Arabic. (Fig. 22)



Fig. 21.



Fig. 22.

Notes

- 1 "Lebanon" is mentioned 71 times in the Holy Bible.
<http://www.yazbeck.com/roger/lebanon/bible.html>.
- 2 Holy Bible—Psalm 92:12: "The righteous shall flourish like the palm tree: he shall grow like a cedar in Lebanon."
- 3 Holy Bible—I Kings 6:9–20.
- 4 The Temple of Diana at Ephesus is now commemorated by a rusty sign and some broken columns stacked on a crude cement base. However, during heyday of Ephesus, the temple was supported by 127 sixty-foot-tall Ionian columns and covered an area 130 x 60 yards. One of the seven Wonders of the Ancient World, the Temple of Diana at Ephesus was four times larger than the Parthenon in Athens. It was originally built in the 8th century BC and dedicated to Artemis, the Greek goddess. By the 1st century AD, however, the Romans ruled Ephesus and substituted their goddess Diana for the Greeks' Artemis, which appears to have been accepted by Ephesus' silversmiths as long as they could continue to sell miniature copies of the temple. Their profit margins appear to have been squeezed, however, when the Apostle Paul came to Ephesus and preached against idolatry.
- 5 A now-vanished city in Tunisia.
- 6 The Armistice of Moudros (Turkish: *Mondros Ateşkes Anlaşması*) ended the hostilities in the Middle Eastern theatre between the Ottoman Empire and the Allies of World War I. It was signed by the Ottoman minister of marine affairs Rauf Bey and the British admiral Somerset Arthur Gough-Calthorpe aboard HMS Agamemnon in Moudros harbor on the Greek island of Lemnos.
- 7 Rustum Haidar (1886–1940), a political leader, was deputy director of Salihiyyah College in Damascus; he visited Jerusalem frequently and met with Turjman during one of his visits to his teacher's home. He established the secret Arab society *Al-Jam'iyyah al-Arabiyyah al-Fatat* in 1911 with Awni Abdel Hadi and Ahmad Qadri. Haidar appears prominently in Turjman's diary as a friend of Sakakini and a fierce exponent of Arabism in the Ottoman state. In 1918, he escaped with Sakakini to Jabal Druze from Damascus to join the Arab Rebellion under the leadership of Prince Faisal.
- 8 Henri Joseph Eugène Gouraud (1867–1946) was a French general best known for his leadership of the French Fourth Army at the end of the World War I. After the war, Gouraud served from 1919 to 1923 as the representative of the French government in the Middle East and commander of the French Army of the Levant. There, his ongoing attempt to control King Faisal came to a head. Gouraud led the French forces which crushed King Faisal's short-lived monarchy at the Battle of Maysalun on 23 July 1920, occupied Damascus, defeated the forces of the Syrian Revolution, and established the French Mandate of Syria. These territories were reorganized a number of times by Gouraud's decrees, the most famous being the creation of the State of Greater Lebanon on 1 September 1920. Gouraud became the French high commissioner in Syria and Lebanon, the effective head of the colonial government there.
- 9 Faisal bin Hussein bin Ali al-Hashemi, (Arabic: *Fayṣal ibn Ḥusayn*; 1885–1933) was for a short time king of the Arab Kingdom of Syria or Greater Syria in 1920, and was king of Iraq from 23 August 1921 to 1933. He was a member of the Hashemite dynasty.
- 10 Thomas Edward Lawrence (1888–1935), known professionally as T. E. Lawrence, was a British Army officer renowned especially for his liaison role during the Sinai and Palestine Campaign and the Arab Revolt against Ottoman Turkish rule of 1916–18. The breadth and variety of his activities and associations, and his ability to describe them vividly in writing, earned him international fame as "Lawrence of Arabia".
- 11 The Constitution was published in: *League of Nations—Official Journal*, 11th Year, N° 9, September 1930, Geneva, page 1101. Constitution of the Lebanese Republic promulgated on 23 May 1926 amended by the Constitutional Laws of 17 October 1927, abnd 8 May 1929.



- 12 Georges Albert Julien Catroux (1877–1969) was a French army general and diplomat who served in both world wars and as grand chancellor of the Légion d'honneur from 1954 to 1969.
- 13 Colonel Sir Mark Sykes, 6th Baronet (born Tatton Benvenuto Mark Sykes; 1879–1919) was an English traveller, Conservative Party politician, and diplomatic adviser, particularly about matters respecting the Middle East at the time of the First World War. He is associated with the Sykes-Picot Agreement, drawn up while the war was in progress, regarding the apportionment of postwar spheres of interest in the Ottoman Empire to Britain, France, and Russia.
- 14 Sulaiman Musa (Arabic:) (1919–2008) was a Jordanian author and historian born in Al-Rafeed, a small village north of the city of Irbid. He wrote many books of which most prominent are *"The Biography of Sharif Hussein Bin Ali"*, *"Jordan in the 1948 War"*, *"The Great Arab Revolt"*, and *"History of Jordan in the 20th Century"*. He was the first and only Arab author to write about Lawrence of Arabia and show the Arab perspective.
- 15 Al-Quibla No. 82, dated 7 Sha'ban 1335 (28 May 1917), page 3. Al-Quibla was the official Arab Revolt newspaper, published in Mecca, Hejaz.
- 16 Sulaiman Musa: "Origins of the Arab Revolt Flag" in; *The Flag Bulletin*, Volume XXVI, No. 6 (123), Winchester November–December 1987, pages 266–273.
- 17 Safi al-Din al-Hilli Abdul Iziz ibn Saraya (1278–1349), a poet born in Al-Hillah (today's Iraq), contacted the princes of the Artiqiyah State in Mardin, then emigrated to Egypt and praised Sultan Ibn Qalauoun. He died in Baghdad. He produced voluminous writings in many fields of poetry.
- 18 Abbasids were the second dynasty in Islam, ruling from 750 to 1258, mostly from their capital of Baghdad. At its height (8th–9th centuries) the Abbasid realm extended from Central Asia in the east through North Africa in the west.
- 19 The Umayyad Caliphate (Arabic: , transliteration: *Al-Hilāfa al-umawiyya*) was the second of the four major Islamic caliphates established after the death of Muhammad. The caliphate was centered on the Umayyad dynasty (Arabic: , *al-Umawiyyūn* or *Banū Umayya*, "Sons of Umayya"), hailing from Mecca. The Umayyad family had first come to power under the third Caliph, Uthman ibn Affan (ruled 644–656), but the Umayyad regime was founded by Muawiya ibn Abi Sufyan, long-time governor of Syria, after the end of the First Muslim Civil War in 661 AD / 41 AH.
- 20 The Fatimid Caliphate (Arabic: / al-Fāṭimiyyūn) was an Isma'ili Shi'a Muslim caliphate that spanned a large area of the Arab World, from the Red Sea in the east to the Atlantic Ocean in the west. Originally based in Tunisia, the Fatimid dynasty extended its rule across the Mediterranean coast of Africa, and ultimately made Egypt the center of its caliphate. At its height, in addition to Egypt, the caliphate included varying areas of the Maghreb, Sudan, Sicily, the Levant, and Hejaz.
- 21 Hashemite (also Hashimite) is the Latinized version of the Arabic: , transliteration: Hāšimī, and traditionally refers to those belonging to the Banu Hashim, or "clan of Hashim", a clan within the larger Quraish tribe. It also refers to an Arab dynasty whose original strength stemmed from the network of tribal alliances and blood loyalties in the Hejaz region of Saudi Arabia along the Red Sea.
- 22 Shucri el-Khoury (sometimes also Chucri el-Khoury) was a Lebanese writer and journalist. He moved to São Paulo, Brazil, in 1896 and founded the newspaper *Abou el-Houl (The Sphinx)* in 1906. He died around 1930.
- 23 Dr. Jean Charaf: "Histoire du drapeau libanais", in *Masculin*, Beirut, August 2004, page 92.
- 24 Rachid Nakhla (1873–1939), a significant Lebanese poet, wrote the lyrics to the Lebanese national anthem, adopted 12 July 1927, seven years after the proclamation of the state of Greater Lebanon during the French mandate.
- 25 Baabda was then the capital of Lebanon, until after the French mandate was established on 1 September 1920 and Beirut became the capital.



- 26 Dr. Jean Charaf: "Histoire du drapeau libanais", in: *Masculin*, Beirut, August 2004, page 93.
- 27 Stephen Jean Marie Pichon (1857–1933) was a French politician and the country's minister of foreign affairs 1906–1911, 1913, and 1917–1920.
- 28 Dr. Jean Charaf: "Histoire du drapeau libanais"; in: *Masculin*, Beirut, August 2004, page 93.
- 29 Hashim Bay Khalid al-Atassi (1875–1960) (Arabic:) was a Syrian nationalist, statesman, and president 1936–1939, 1949–1951, and 1954–1955. He was elected chairman of the Syrian National Congress, the equivalent of a modern parliament. On 8 March 1920 that body declared the country's independence as a constitutional monarchy under Faisal I. He became prime minister during that short period; French occupation soon followed under the terms of the Sykes-Picot Agreement and the League of Nations mandate. Atassi's cabinet was dissolved on 24 July 1920, when the French defeated the Syrian Army at the Battle of Maysalun and imposed their mandate over Syria.
- 30 "Le Drapeau Syrien"; in: *Correspondance d'Orient*, 13^e Année, N^o 235, Paris, 15 April 1920, page 318.
- 31 "Le Liban réclame son indépendance"; in: *Correspondance d'Orient*, 13^e Année, N^o 237, Paris, 15 May 1920, page 413.
- 32 *League of Nations–Official Journal*, 11th Year, N^o 9, September 1930, Geneva, page 1101. Constitution of the Lebanese Republic promulgated on 23 May 1926 amended by the Constitutional Laws of 17 October 1927, and 8 May 1929.
- 33 e.g. "Marine Dienstvorschrift Nr. 377" – *Flaggenbuch, Bearbeitet und herausgegeben vom Oberkommando der Kriegsmarine*, Berlin 1939, page 109.
- 34 Noam Moukarzel was born in 1863 in Alfrickp, Mount Lebanon. He was publisher, poet, and dealer. He studied at the Maronite School of Wisdom and then at the College of St. Joseph in Beirut. He immigrated to the United States where he published the Guidance newspaper in 1898 in Philadelphia and moved to New York in 1903. He later returned to Lebanon and afterwards moved to France. He died in Paris in 1932.
- 35 Joseph Nehmé: "The Flag of Lebanon"; in: *Crux Australis*, Volume 12/2 No. 50, Melbourne 1996, page 88.
- 36 Edmond Rabbath: *La constitution libanaise, origines, textes et commentaires*, Beirut 1982.
- 37 Bechara el-Khoury was the first post-independence president of Lebanon, holding office from 21 September 1943 to 18 September 1952, apart from an 11-day interruption (11–22 November) in 1943. He had previously served two brief terms as prime minister, from 5 May 1927 to 10 August 1928 and from 9 May to 11 October 1929.
- 38 Riad al-Solh (1894–1951) was the first prime minister of Lebanon (1943–1945), after the country's independence. Al-Solh held the same post from 14 December 1946 to 14 February 1951 under the presidency of Bechara el-Khoury. Several months after leaving office, Riad al-Solh was assassinated at Marka Airport in Amman, Jordan, by members of the Syrian Social Nationalist Party.
- 39 Camille Nimr Chamoun (Arabic: *Kamil Sham'ūn*) (1900–1987) was president of Lebanon from 1952 to 1958, and one of the country's main Christian leaders during most of the Lebanese Civil War (1975–1990).
- 40 Selim Takla (1895–1945), Lebanese politician, minister of foreign affairs and deputy prime minister in the government of Abdel Hamid Karami.
- 41 Adel Osseyran (1905–1998) was a prominent Lebanese politician and statesman, a former speaker of the Lebanese parliament, and one of the founding fathers of the Lebanese republic. He played a significant role at various points in the history of modern Lebanon, such as the struggle for independence (1943), the mini-civil war of 1958, and the Lausanne Peace Conference (1984). The Osseyrans are a prominent family of notables based in Sidon and the Jabal Amel region of Lebanon. Adel Osseyran held several cabinet portfolios and retired from politics in 1992 to his home near Sidon.



- 42 Abdul Hamid Karami (1890–1950) was a Lebanese political and religious leader. Karami descended from one of the most prominent Sunni Muslim families in Lebanon. Members of his family traditionally held the position of mufti of Tripoli, Lebanon, as did he until removed by the French authorities. He was a leader of the Lebanese independence movement.
- 43 Constitutional Law of 7 December 1943 changed Article 5 of the Constitution of 1926.
- 44 Mounir Takieddine was in this time general director of Ministry of Defence.
- 45 Mounir Takieddine: *Naissance de l'indépendance*, Beirut, 1953.
- 46 Henri Philippe Pharaoun (or Henry Pharoun) (1901–1993), was a Lebanese art collector, sportsman, politician, and businessman. He played a crucial role in securing Lebanon's independence from France and served as foreign minister other Cabinet positions. He is also remembered as a champion of peaceful coexistence between Christians and Muslims. Pharaoun was murdered in his bedroom at the Carlton Hotel in 1993.
- 47 The newspaper Al Nahar is edited in Beirut, Lebanon.
- 48 Der Standard is an Austrian national daily newspaper published in Vienna .
- 49 Der Standard, issue of 6 March 2006.
- 50 Saadi al-Mounla was a former prime minister of Lebanon. He was member of parliament as representant of Sinites of North Lebanon from 1943 to 1947 and Tripoli from 1951 to 1953. In May 1946, President Beshara el-Khoury appointed him as prime minister. He left this position in December 1946. Previously, he served as minister of justice and of the interior, in the offices of Sami Solh, under the mandate of President Bechara el-Khoury.
- 51 Mohamad al-Fadl was in 1943 a member of parliament of Lebanon.
- 52 Sheikh Pierre Gemayel (1905–1984) (also spelled Jmayyel, Jemayyel or al-Jumayyil; Sheikh is an honorific title in Arab countries), was a Lebanese political leader. He is remembered as the founder of the Kataeb Party (also known as the Phalangist Party), as a parliamentary power broker, and as the father of Bachit Gemayel and Amine Gemayel, both elected to the presidency of the republic in his lifetime. He opposed the French Mandate over Lebanon in the late 1930s and early 1940s, and advocated an independent state, free from foreign control.
- 53 Emir (Prince) Maurice Chehab (1904–1994). During the early years of the French Mandate and Lebanese independence, the government designated him as head of the commission for archaeological research. Under his guidance it developed into a general directorate. He was appointed in 1928 and remained in his post until 1982. He worked as a professor of history at the Lebanese University as well as other universities and institutes.
- 54 The Qays and Yaman tribes define a historic and traditional split between two groups of clans in the Middle East in general and in Palestine in particular. The split began with the migrations that accompanied the Muslim conquest of Palestine in the 7th century, and officially ended by a decree of the Ottoman Empire in the year 1856. The Yaman tribe originated in Arabia, near Yemen.
- 55 The Qays tribe (also named after its patriarch-founder) is the "northern" tribe, but its origin is uncertain. According to one theory, the tribe migrated even before the Muslim period from Mesopotamia towards Syria, Lebanon, and Palestine, and therefore it is the more strongly based in Palestine.
- 56 Dr. Jean Charaf: "Histoire du drapeau libanais"; in: *Masculin*, Beirut, August 2004, page 97.
- 57 Whitney Smith: *Flags and Arms across the World*, New York, 1980, page 130.
- 58 Dr. Jean Charaf: "Histoire du drapeau libanais"; in: *Masculin*, Beirut, August 2004, page 98.
- 59 Sami Dahdah was a member of the Kataeb party.
- 60 Felix Hobeyka was an influential member of the Kataeb party.
- 61 The World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) is one of 17 specialized agencies of the United Nations. WIPO was created in 1967 "to encourage creative activity, to promote the protection of intellectual property throughout the world".
- 62 <http://users.skynet.be/lotus/flag/libano-fr.htm>
- 63 Joseph Nehmé: *Le drapeau libanais: A Travers les Siècles*, Dayr al-Qumr, Lebanon 1995.



- 64 Boutros Harb was born in Tannourine, Lebanon in 1944. A lawyer by profession and a member of parliament since 1972, he served 1979–1980 as minister for labour and minister of the national education and art schools, and again from 1990 to 1992 as education minister. In 2005, after the assassination of former Prime Minister Rafik Hariri, Harb joined the massive protests and demonstrations against the Syrian occupation of Lebanon and demanded that Syrian troops withdraw immediately.
- 65 E.g. in Ludvík Mucha's *Vlajky a znaky země světa*, Prague, 1974, page 64.

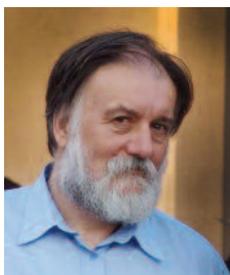
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About the Author

Roman Klimeš was born 1948 in Prague, emigrated in 1976 to Germany, and returned in 2003 to Prague, Czech Republic. He studied Slavonic philology and politics at the University of Bonn. Interested in flags from childhood, he has since 1980 been involved in the methodical study of flags, coats of arms, and seals.

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