

Lebanon

Ethnicity in Lebanon

Group selection

The politically relevant ethnic groups are mainly selected according to their mentioning in the Ta'if Agreement and Fearon's list, their sizes are mainly determined on the basis of Fearon's list, the CIA World Fact Book ⁽¹⁷⁷⁶⁾ and the Fischer Weltalmanach ⁽¹⁷⁷⁷⁾: Shi'a Muslims (Arab): 32%; Sunni Muslims (Arab): 20%; Maronite Christians: 16%; Druze: 6%; Greek Orthodox: 5%; Greek Catholics: 3%; Armenian Orthodox: 4%; Palestinians: 10%; Armenian Catholics, Protestants, Alawites: 1% each.

¹⁷⁷⁶ [CIA]

¹⁷⁷⁷ [Fischer Weltalmanach]

With no official numbers available, the demographic constellation in Lebanon has changed tremendously as a result of the Civil War, which is why the group sizes in the second coding period (1971-1991) differ from the group sizes in the first coding period (1946-1970).

Historical overview

General: Lebanon gained independence in 1943 from the French. Since then, the political situation has alternated between periods of stability, turmoil and prosperity. The country's history has been marked by the civil war of 1975-1990, caused by tension between Christian groups and Muslim militia, exacerbated by pressures of rapid urban development and resulting in the creation of the Ta'if Agreement of 1990. In recent years recent conflicts in the neighbouring region (notably Syria), and the Cedar Revolution in an attempt to overthrow the Syrian-influence-heavy government have also triggered political turbulence.

1975-1990: From 1975-90, Lebanon dealt with a civil war that resulted in an estimated 120,000 fatalities, and was followed by years of social and political instability. ⁽¹⁷⁷⁸⁾ The war was a result of both internal and external factors. According to Krayem, socio-political tensions fueled rural uprisings and workers' strikes, and the emergence of a militant student protest movement. Tensions between the Nationalist/Leftist forces that shaped the Lebanese National Movement and the Christian Kata'ib Party formed Lebanese Front were further complicated by the Palestinian resistance. During the years of civil war there had been many indications that the majority of ordinary citizens and many social, cultural, and popular organizations

¹⁷⁷⁸ [CIA]

were against the separation of citizens, regions and cities, and these internal changes met regional and international developments in favour of a political settlement in Lebanon. These growing pressures led to the signing of the Ta'if agreement of 1989. (¹⁷⁷⁹, 411- 35)

¹⁷⁷⁹ [Krayem, 1997]

Ta'if Agreement of 1989 and the Ruling Troika: The Ta'if Agreement, signed on 22 October 1989 in Saudi Arabia by the Lebanese parliamentarians, inaugurated a process that put an end to the Lebanese civil war and set the country on the path to peace and reconstruction. The Ta'if Agreement introduced a new system of proportional representation, a sectarian distribution of deputies of the parliament (cf. Traboulsi 2007: 240). The proportions are as follows: Shi'a Muslims (Arab): 27 of 128 seats (21%), Sunni Muslims (Arab): 27 of 128 seats (21%), Maronite Christians: 34 of 128 seats (27%), Druze: 8 of 128 seats (6%), Greek-Orthodox: 14 of 128 seats (11%), Greek-Catholic: 8 of 128 seats: 6%, Armenian Orthodox: 5 of 128 seats (4%), Armenian Catholics, Protestants, Alawites: 5 of 128 seats (4%). In addition to that, by custom, the President is a Maronite, the Prime Minister is a Sunni Muslim and the Speaker of the Parliament belongs to the Shi'a Muslim group (cf. ¹⁷⁸⁰).

¹⁷⁸⁰ [Federal Research Division]

Power relations

Shi'a Muslims (Arab): This group is coded as a senior partner in government since it holds a significant portion (21%) of parliament seats and because a senior government office (Speaker of the Parliament) is always held by a member of this group.

Sunni Muslims (Arab): This group is coded as a senior partner in government since it holds a significant portion (21%) of parliament seats and because a senior government office (Prime Minister) is always held by a member of this group.

Maronite Christians: This group is coded as a senior partner in government since it holds a significant portion (27%) of parliament seats and because a senior government office (President) is always held by a member of this group.

Druze, Greek-Orthodox, Greek Catholics, and Armenian Orthodox: These groups are recognized in the Ta'if Agreement and are all assigned between 4 and 10% of the parliamentary seats. Each of these groups plays a distinct role in Lebanese politics despite the fact that their votes are not sufficient to block policies. They are still labeled as junior partners.

Armenian Catholics, Protestants, Alawites: This group contains all remaining ethnic groups in the country, who did not amount to a significant share on their own. In a largely symbolic move, they have been regarded in the Ta'if Agreement and are therefore assigned the remaining 4% of the parliamentary seats. This group is therefore coded as powerless.

Palestinians (Arab): Approximately 100000 Palestinians fled to Lebanon in 1948 because of the Arab-Israeli war, and have been living there since. "As Palestinian refugees are not citizens, they have no political rights" (¹⁷⁸¹) in Lebanon, and are not mentioned in Ta'if Agreement. Due to their long habitation in Lebanon, they do not hold a claim to rights in Palestine either. "In Lebanon, domestic legal discrimination against the refugees was instituted in the 1960s and refined after 1990, robbing them of basic civic rights. The main source legitimizing these restrictions is the threat of permanent settlement and naturalization of refugees. The fact that Palestinian refugees in Lebanon are campaigning for civic rights, not naturalization, is ignored" (¹⁷⁸², 68) especially in light of the length of their habitation there. As a result, Palestinians are coded as discriminated.

¹⁷⁸¹ [US Department of State, 2013]

¹⁷⁸² [Knudsen, 2009]

Post 2009: There is general agreement that the 2009 elections were "peaceful, free and fair" (¹⁷⁸³; ¹⁷⁸⁴). "As the constitution and political tradition provide for the inclusion of all communities in government and administration, and as most Lebanese communities have been homogenized behind a unified political leadership – with the notable exception of the Christians – nearly all major players within this political elite wield de facto veto powers. (¹⁷⁸⁵) According to the US Department of State, "regardless of the number of its adherents, every government-recognized religion, except Coptic Christianity, Ismailism, and Judaism, was allocated at least one seat in parliament. Three parliamentarians representing minorities (of which two are) Alawites) were elected in the 2009 elections." However, it is improbable that this power is executive. The status of minority groups therefore remains the same.

¹⁷⁸³ [US Department of State, 2013]

¹⁷⁸⁴ [Bertelsmann-Stiftung]

¹⁷⁸⁵ [Bertelsmann-Stiftung]

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Political status of ethnic groups in Lebanon

From 1946 until 1970

Group name	Proportional size	Political status
Maronite Christians	0.29	SENIOR PARTNER
Sunnis (Arab)	0.22	SENIOR PARTNER
Shi'a Muslims (Arab)	0.2	JUNIOR PARTNER
Palestinians (Arab)	0.1	POWERLESS
Druze	0.07	JUNIOR PARTNER
Greek Orthodox	0.05	JUNIOR PARTNER
Greek Catholics	0.03	JUNIOR PARTNER
Armenian Catholics	0.01	POWERLESS
Armenian Orthodox	0.01	JUNIOR PARTNER
Alawites	0.01	POWERLESS
Protestants	0.01	POWERLESS

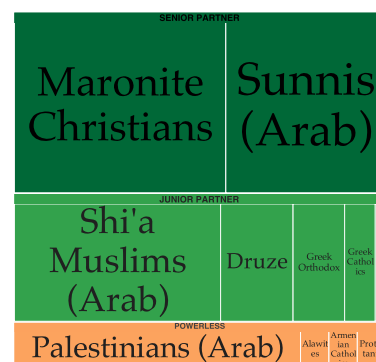


Figure 433: Political status of ethnic groups in Lebanon during 1946-1970.

From 1971 until 1991

Group name	Proportional size	Political status
Shi'a Muslims (Arab)	0.32	JUNIOR PARTNER
Sunnis (Arab)	0.2	SENIOR PARTNER
Maronite Christians	0.16	SENIOR PARTNER
Palestinians (Arab)	0.1	DISCRIMINATED
Druze	0.06	JUNIOR PARTNER
Greek Orthodox	0.05	JUNIOR PARTNER
Armenian Orthodox	0.04	JUNIOR PARTNER
Greek Catholics	0.03	JUNIOR PARTNER
Protestants	0.01	POWERLESS
Alawites	0.01	POWERLESS
Armenian Catholics	0.01	POWERLESS

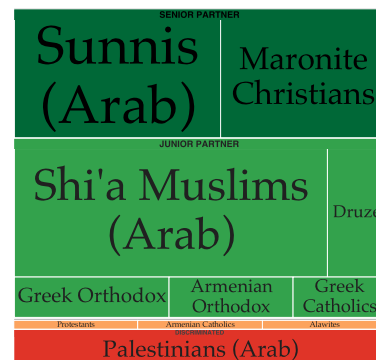


Figure 434: Political status of ethnic groups in Lebanon during 1971-1991.

From 1992 until 2012

Group name	Proportional size	Political status
Shi'a Muslims (Arab)	0.32	SENIOR PARTNER
Sunnis (Arab)	0.2	SENIOR PARTNER
Maronite Christians	0.16	SENIOR PARTNER
Palestinians (Arab)	0.1	DISCRIMINATED
Druze	0.06	JUNIOR PARTNER
Greek Orthodox	0.05	JUNIOR PARTNER
Armenian Orthodox	0.04	JUNIOR PARTNER
Greek Catholics	0.03	JUNIOR PARTNER
Alawites	0.01	POWERLESS
Protestants	0.01	POWERLESS
Armenian Catholics	0.01	POWERLESS

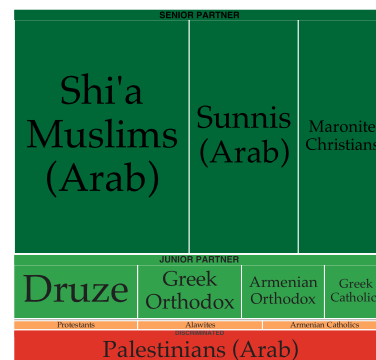


Figure 435: Political status of ethnic groups in Lebanon during 1992-2012.

From 2013 until 2013

Group name	Proportional size	Political status
Shi'a Muslims (Arab)	0.32	SENIOR PARTNER
Sunnis (Arab)	0.2	SENIOR PARTNER
Maronite Christians	0.16	SENIOR PARTNER
Palestinians (Arab)	0.1	DISCRIMINATED
Druze	0.06	JUNIOR PARTNER
Greek Orthodox	0.05	JUNIOR PARTNER
Armenian Orthodox	0.04	JUNIOR PARTNER
Greek Catholics	0.03	JUNIOR PARTNER
Alawites	0.01	POWERLESS
Protestants	0.01	POWERLESS
Armenian Catholics	0.01	POWERLESS

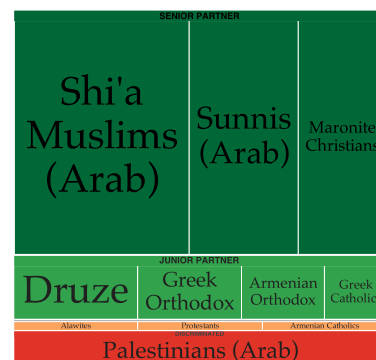


Figure 436: Political status of ethnic groups in Lebanon during 2013-2013.

Geographical coverage of ethnic groups in Lebanon

From 1946 until 1990

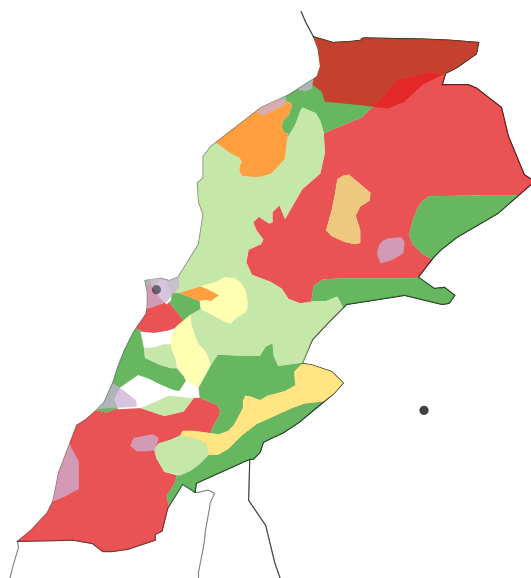


Figure 437: Map of ethnic groups in Lebanon during 2013-2013.

Group name	Area in km ²	Type
Shi'a Muslims (Arab)	4454	Regional & urban
Sunnis (Arab)	2411	Regional & urban
Maronite Christians	2173	Regional & urban
Alawites	756	Regional & urban
Greek Orthodox	685	Regional & urban
Druze	627	Regional & urban
Palestinians (Arab)	312	Regional & urban
Greek Catholics	173	Regional & urban
Armenian Catholics		Urban
Armenian Orthodox		Urban
Protestants		Urban

Table 131: List of ethnic groups in Lebanon during 1946-1990.

From 1991 until 2013

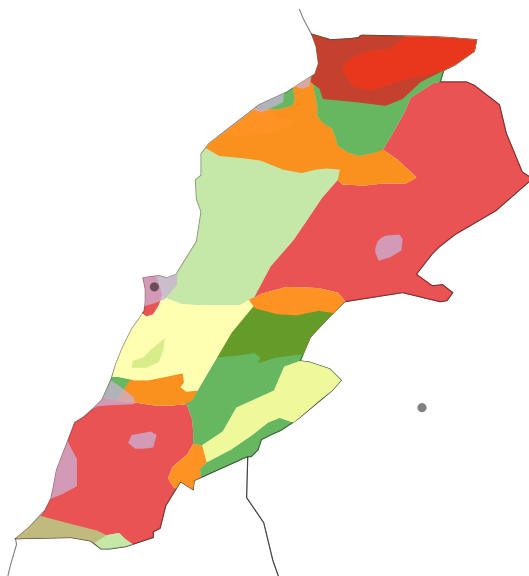


Figure 438: Map of ethnic groups in Lebanon during 2013-2013.

Group name	Area in km ²	Type
Shi'a Muslims (Arab)	4273	Regional & urban
Maronite Christians	3264	Regional & urban
Greek Catholics	1972	Regional & urban
Greek Orthodox	1972	Regional & urban
Sunnis (Arab)	1745	Regional & urban
Druze	1158	Regional & urban
Alawites	756	Regional & urban
Palestinians (Arab)	312	Regional & urban
Armenian Catholics		Urban
Armenian Orthodox		Urban
Protestants		Urban

Table 132: List of ethnic groups in Lebanon during 1991-2013.

Conflicts in Lebanon

Starting on 1948-04-15

Side A	Side B	Group name	Start	Claim	Recruitment	Support
Government of Egypt	Government of Israel		1948-04-15			
Government of Iraq	Government of Israel		1948-04-15			
Government of Jordan	Government of Israel		1948-04-15			
Government of Lebanon	Government of Israel		1948-04-15			
Government of Syria	Government of Israel		1948-04-15			

Starting on 1958-05-15

Side A	Side B	Group name	Start	Claim	Recruitment	Support
Government of Lebanon	Independent Nasserite Movement/Mourabitoun militia	Sunnis (Arab)	1958-05-15	Explicit	Yes	Yes
Government of Lebanon	NSF	Sunnis (Arab)	1975-09-02	No	Yes	Yes
Government of Lebanon	NSF	Druze	1975-09-02	No	Yes	Yes
Government of Lebanon	LAA	Sunnis (Arab)	1976-01-20	Explicit	Yes, from EGIP	
Government of Lebanon	Amal	Shi'a Muslims (Arab)	1983-09-01	Explicit	Yes, from EGIP	
Government of Lebanon	Lebanese Forces	Maronite Christians	1985-03-31	Presumed	Yes, from EGIP	
Government of Lebanon	NUF		1985-08-11			
Government of Lebanon	Lebanese Forces - Hobeika faction	Maronite Christians	1986-01-06	Presumed	Yes, from EGIP	
Government of Lebanon	Forces of Michel Aoun	Maronite Christians	1989-03-11	Explicit	Yes	Yes