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Sommario/riassunto	Written during the first years of the reconstruction of the Lebanese capital following the civil war, this work by May Davie undertakes to retrace in its entirety the urban expansion of Beirut between 1840 and 1940. The author has carried out a precious work of synthesis publications that have already addressed this subject and also relied on unpublished documents - family, parish and other records - in order to shed original light on the history of the city through the genesis of its suburbs. A simple small coastal town for a long time, Beirut has seen its population increase from 20,000 to 160,000 inhabitants in less than a hundred years. Driven by the industrial revolution and a series of administrative reforms carried out by the Ottoman power, it enters a deep urban transformation phase from the middle of the XIX th century and is transformed into "bourgeois city of the Mediterranean". The second historic turning point, the French Mandate contributes to the modernization of infrastructure and the expansion of Beirut. But the historian is also keen to highlight the negative impacts of French

policy. According to Davie, the establishment of a national and republican model in Lebanon has disrupted the self-regulating community balance at work within the city for centuries and, as a consequence, favoured the emergence of poorly integrated peripheries and places of exclusion and conflict.

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