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Sommario/riassunto	<p>Eight years after the end of the Lebanese war, the municipal elections of 1998, the first since 1963, are perceived as a stake of representation by all social and political forces in the sense that they sanction in the short term the emergence new political staff in local authorities. They are also seen as a means of giving municipalities a role in local development, within the more general framework of the reconstruction of state structures and the return to civil peace. The re-establishment of municipal authorities through the ballot box immediately raised the question of changing the methods of exercising local power: Do they strengthen or call into question the processes underway at the national level? Are they producing new values and representations of politics? Do the relationships that are forged between these newly elected officials and their constituents reproduce clientelist, bureaucratic, community-type forms of allegiance, or are they characterized by the emergence of another model of "citizenship"? What is the nature of the relationship between elected municipal officials and national elites (deputies, traditionally masters of local space), between municipal authorities and state services (decentralized bodies, responsible before the elections to directly administer the dissolved municipalities , but also delegations from ministries and bodies directly attached to the</p>

Presidency of the Council of Ministers)? Do local institutions and elected representatives act as mediators between the society they are supposed to represent and the national power? Consequently, do the forms of territorialisation of power specific to the Lebanese political regime in the post-war period allow the development of notabiliary strategies or do they favour the extension of militia practices? Finally, is the re-establishment of "local administration" (al-idaraal-mahalliyya) accompanied by new modes of public action? These questions were dealt with from three lines of thought: that of local representation, that of participation practices and that of negotiation mechanisms around the implementation of public policies within the municipal framework. This CERMOC book is the result of a one-and-a-half-year collective research program led by a team of sociologists, political scientists, anthropologists, geographers and historians led by Agnès Favier. Some studies focus on cross-cutting themes based on a quantitative approach (questionnaire that covers all municipalities in Lebanon): the profiles of municipality presidents elected in 1998, the internal functioning of municipal councils, communication and communication practices. information of municipal authorities, the bipolar logics which characterize the re-composition of local power in a village of displaced persons (Joun) or the functioning of the federation of municipalities of the caza of Jbayl. Several interpretations emerge from this sociology of municipalities two years after the elections: the renewal of local political staff, the variety of strategies for legitimizing elected municipal officials, the still timid dynamism of municipal structures and the weaknesses of municipal autonomy, or even the legacy of war in the structures of local societies.
