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Nota di contenuto	Front Cover; Lebanon; Copyright Page; Contents; Chronology of Lebanon; Map of Lebanon; Introduction; 1. The formation of the modern Lebanese state; 1.1 The birth of the Lebanese state; The seeds of modern Lebanon (up to 1860); The Mutasarrifiyya (1860-1918); The French mandate period (1919-46); The creation of Le Grand Liban; The institutional foundations of the modern state; Developments during the mandate period; The end of the mandate; The National Pact and the creation of the modern state; 1.2 The functional state; The main features of the political order (1946-75) The confessional elites and the patron-client system The consociational democracy; Susceptibility of the system to external pressures; Dominant themes in the functional state context (1946-75); Adherence to specified institutional norms; Fixed locus of elite politics; Economic prosperity; Presidential ascendancy; Major political developments

(1946-75); Khoury's Presidency (1946-52); Chamoun's Presidency (1952-58); Chehab's Presidency (1958-64); Helou's Presidency (1964-70); Franjeh's Presidency (1970-76); Increased PLO presence in Lebanon and the collapse of the Lebanese state.

1.3 Understanding the collapse of the Lebanese state The different schools of thought; A critical assessment; The weakness of the Lebanese state; Demographic shifts and the power-sharing arrangements; External penetration of the Lebanese system; 2. The civil war: 1975-90; 2.1 Major developments during the civil war period; Phase I: 1975-76 - the decline of the Lebanese state and Syrian intervention; Phase II: 1976-82 - sectarian entrenchment and shifting alliances; Phase III: 1982-85 - the 1982 Israeli invasion and subsequent events; Phase IV: 1985-88 - militia rule.

Phase V: 1988-90 - "dual government" and the end of the civil war 2.2 Critical systemic implications of the civil war; The loss of state authority; Change within the Lebanese elites; Penetration by external actors; Lebanon becomes a pariah state; Economic devastation; 3. The post-war political system; Part I: The Lebanese Political System from 1990 to 2005; 3.1 Continuity and change in the post-war context; Analysis of the Ta'if Accord and its implementation; Systemic weaknesses in the Lebanese political context and the provisions of the Ta'if Accord; Implementation of the Ta'if Accord

Conclusion 3.2 The essential characteristics of the 1990-2005 post-war political system; Syrian hegemony in the Lebanese context; Syria, South Lebanon and the Arab-Israeli conflict; Syria's role in Lebanon and the international community; Other Syrian interests and domestic factors in the Lebanese context; The post-Ta'if character of state institutions; Overview; The Chamber of Deputies; The cabinet; The troika system; Extra-institutional elements in the post-war system; 3.3 Major political developments in the post-war period; The first two post-war governments: 1990-92

The 1992 parliamentary elections and the accession of Hariri

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## Sommario/riassunto

Written in a clear and systematic manner, this highly topical read fills a conspicuous gap in existing academic literature on the contemporary political environment and society in Lebanon. Divided into two parts, Part One examines the pre-civil war system, the circumstances of its formation, its unique characteristics, its weaknesses and dynamics and Part Two analyses how circumstances resulting from the civil war combined with essential pre-war elements to define the contemporary political processes in Lebanon.

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