

## TIMELINE FOR LEBANON AND ITS COMMUNITIES

- 636–644 Arab Islamic conquest of the Levant
- Late 650s Probable arrival of Maronite monks and followers in Mount Lebanon from the Orontes Valley during the first Arab civil war.
- 677 Byzantine military auxiliaries known as Mardaites infiltrate Mount Lebanon.
- 758 Abbasid Caliph Mansur commissions Arab Tanukhs to guard Beirut hills.
- 845 Clash between Tanukhs and Kisrawan Christians.
- 980s Isma’ili Shia Fatimids of Cairo assert lordship over Mount Lebanon.
- 1021 Tanukh chiefs accept “call” to acknowledge Fatimid Caliph al-Hakim as divine, thereby founding Druze sect in Mount Lebanon.
- 1099 First Crusade inaugurates Frankish Christian rule of Levant coast.
- 1110 Franks devastate Tanukhs in Beirut hills; Buhturs thereafter emerge to lead Druze.
- 1190s Twelver Shia chief Husam al-Din Bishara controls Jabal Amil.
- 1215 Maronite patriarch Irmia accepts papal investiture.
- 1289 Mamluk Sultan Qalawun takes Tripoli from Franks; Buhtur chiefs submit to Mamluk service.
- 1305 Mamluks purge Kisrawan Alawites and Shia and introduce Sunni Turcoman settlers.
- 1348–1349 “Black Death” cuts population by one third in a few months.
- 1422–1438 Druze Buhtur peak under Mamluk Sultan al-Ashraf Barsbay, with Iz al-Din Sidqa made governor of Beirut.
- 1505 Biqa Shia scholar Ali al-Karki backs Safavid conversion of Iran to Twelver Shi’ism.

- 1516–1517 Ottoman Sultan Selim I conquers the Levant from the Mam-luks; Druze Buhturs offend Selim for not submitting.
- 1540s Maronite al-Khazens and Gemayels migrate into Kisrawan and Matn districts.
- 1585 Ottoman punitive expedition against Druze.
- 1593 Fakhr al-Din Ma'n made sub-governor of Sidon.
- 1606–1607 Fakhr al-Din joins Ali Janbulad of Aleppo to defeat Sayfas of Tripoli.
- 1633 Ottomans overthrow Fakhr al-Din.
- 1660 Ottomans send expedition against the Ma'n, Shihab, and Hamade chiefs.
- 1697 Ahmad Ma'n dies without heir; Druze chiefs select his Sunni nephew Bashir Shihab as their paramount lord.
- 1711 Haydar Shihab with al-Khazens and Junblats destroys Ottoman-backed Yamani faction at Ayn Dara.
- 1736 Maronite church reforms under papal oversight.
- 1764 Yusuf Shihab and his Maronite manager backed by Ottomans to destroy Shia Hamade hold on northern Mount Lebanon.
- 1780 Ottoman governor al-Jazzar represses Jabal Amil Shia.
- 1789–1790 Al-Jazzar awards Bashir II Shihab Mount Lebanon tax contracts.
- 1820–1821 Maronite peasants rise against tax demands.
- 1831 Egyptians seize the Levant in alliance with Bashir II and Maronites.
- 1838 Bashir II mobilizes Maronites to repress Druze.
- 1840–1841 Maronites rebel against Bashir II; British expel Egyptians from Levant; Bashir II exiled; first Druze/Maronite sectarian war.
- 1845 Ottomans introduce first sectarian representation in administration of Mount Lebanon.
- 1860 Druze/Maronite sectarian war brings European intervention.
- 1861–1864 Ottoman/European agreement for new special province of Mount Lebanon with Christian governor and elected sectarian administrative council.
- 1915 Ottomans abolish special province in midst of war with Britain and France; famine in Mount Lebanon.
- 1918 Ottoman defeat and loss of the Arab provinces.
- 1920 France follows Maronite wishes in setting extended boundaries for new Lebanese state with bare Christian majority.
- 1926 France gives Shia legal separation from Sunnis.
- 1926–1929 French/Lebanese establishment of Lebanese constitution.
- 1943 Maronite/Sunni agreement on National Pact for independent Lebanon, with Maronite president and Sunni prime minister.
- 1948 120,000 Palestinian Arab refugees arrive in Lebanon.

- 1958 Disagreements on Lebanese relations with the West and with external Arab nationalists feed into brief civil war.
- 1967 Israeli defeat of Arabs sparks Palestinian militarization in Lebanon.
- 1975 Lebanese state breaks down as Maronites fight Palestinians and Leftist/Muslim National Front.
- 1976 Mutual massacres, Syria intervenes to hold line between sides.
- 1978–1982 Mobilization of Shia in response to disappearance of their leader Musa al-Sadr.
- 1982 Israeli invasion; Arafat's PLO forced to depart; Syria humiliated; Bashir Gemayel elected president and assassinated; Israel retreats after massacre of Palestinians at the hands of its militia allies.
- 1983–1984 Syria recovers leading role with surge of its Shia and Druze allies.
- 1984–1990 Lebanon fragments among and within communal territories.
- 1989 Ta'if agreement of Lebanese parliamentarians for modest constitutional revision in favor of Muslims.
- 1990–2004 Lebanese state reemerges under U.S.-approved Syrian hegemony; Sunni Premier Rafiq al-Hariri promotes economic revival; Shia Hezbollah resists Israeli occupation of far south, with Israeli departure in 2000.
- 2004–2005 Sunnis, Christians, and Druze backed by United States and France repudiate Syrian hegemony; Syrian army departs amid outcry after assassination of Rafiq al-Hariri; pro-Western "March 14" camp faces Hezbollah-led "March 8" camp.
- 2006 Hezbollah hostilities with Israel in July/August.
- 2007 UN Security Council establishes Special Tribunal for Lebanon (STL) to deal with political murder.
- 2011 STL indicts Hezbollah members for Hariri assassination; Lebanon's future tied to outcome of uprising in Syria.