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STATUS CHRZEŚCIJAN W LIBANIE WEDŁUG RÈGLEMENT Z 1861 ORAZ 1864 ROKU

STATUS OF CHRISTIANS IN LEBANON ACCORDING *RÈGLEMENT* FROM 1861 AND 1864

Summary

Lebanon's experiment with power sharing dates back to 1861 and 1864. *Règlement*, the law regulating relations between of all the ethnic-religious groups of Lebanon (Maronite Christians, Sunni Muslims, Christian Greek Orthodox, Greek Catholics, the Shi'a Muslims, and the Druze) was a novel, very interesting solution for multi-ethnic society of Lebanon. This society was divided along confessional lines concentrating in distinct geographical regions. The Ottoman governor had to be appointed by Constantinople, non-Lebanese Catholic with the authorization of the five foreign guarantors (from England, France, Germany, Austria and Russia). Each of the six mentioned communities was allotted two seats on the twelve-member administrative council that helped the governor rule. According to the *Règlement*, all members of the administrative and judiciary councils as well as local officials of smaller counties were to be nominated and chosen by the leaders of the respective communities and appointed by the government. The *Règlement Organique* transformed Mount Lebanon into a fully autonomous Ottoman province with political institutions based on power sharing among its various denominations under an Ottoman-European consortium protectorate giving a half century communal peace (1864-1920) to Mount Lebanon.