



Analysis of the political landscape of Lebanon

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1. Introduction

In order to promote democratic values in the Lebanese electorate, we have compiled information on the common Lebanese parties. This information is purely a compilation of what we found on official web site. RCPL welcomes official additions and corrections of information on the available parties below and on additional parties. Our objective is to promote electorate interest in the mission, values and strategic orientation of the parties. The Lebanese electorate should be better informed of what these parties stand for before voting for them. It is important to note that RCPL is an independent research organization and is not affiliated or related to any of these parties.

2. List of political parties

2.1. Amal

Name of Party: Amal

Current head of party: Nabih Berri

Founder of party: Imam Musa as Sadr in 1975

Members in Parliament: TBD

Web site link: www.amal-mouvement.org.lb

2.2. Guardian of the Cedars

Name of Party: Guardians of the Cedar

Current head of party: Etienne Sakr

Founder of party: Said Akl & Etienne Sakr in 1969

Members in Parliament: TBD

Web site link: www.gotc.org

Mission

- Defend Lebanon - the geography, the history and the great heritage

Vision of Lebanon

A. The Liberation of Lebanon From Foreign Forces:

1. The Syrian occupation, which is the foundation of all other occupations. Syria has a historic greed to make Lebanon the western province of greater Syria
2. The occupation of the unfaithful Palestinians that destroyed Lebanon
3. The uncivilized Iranian occupation that seeks the destruction of Lebanon's cultural identity and push it backward to the old ages
4. Cutting down the number of foreigners in Lebanon after they have exceeded 50% of the total sum of Lebanon's population (internationally the average is 5%). Visas of entry must not be given without thorough checking and taking into consideration Lebanon's security and supreme interests
5. Confiscating the Palestinian properties, companies and stock shares in Lebanon as a compensation for the Lebanese losses during the Palestinian wars on them

B. Building A Modern State - Internal Affairs

1. Declaring that Lebanon is Lebanese without any other quality whether it is Arabic or non-Arabic
2. Declare Lebanon a secular country, eliminate sectarianism and open the door for all the qualified Lebanese to be part of government regardless of religion and sect
3. Exclude all the traditional politicians from government and form a special juridical panel to try them with the charge of destroying the country
4. A massive discharge of all the government employees who lived on bribery and corruption and open the door for new and specialized personnel
5. Ban all political parties that imported their ideologies and political programs from outside Lebanon
6. Abolish the law that entitles foreigners to buy and own land or property in Lebanon and produce a new decree that allows the

- government to retake the properties that were previously sold to foreigners
7. Abolish the normalization law. The honor of the Lebanese nationality must only be given to the distinct and those who served Lebanon well
 8. Solve the case of the Lebanese newspaper's submission to foreign financing (almost all the papers were pro-Palestinian during the war)
 9. Purify the juridical body and make it a truly independent authority. All Lebanese must be equal in front of the law
 10. Release a new electoral law that reflects the ambitions of the Lebanese and that opens the door for a wide participation in the electoral process
 11. Declare the Lebanese language as the official language of Lebanon
 12. Substitute the Arabic alphabet with the alphabet devised by the Lebanese philosopher Said Akl, who restored the letter to its Phoenician origins after liberating it from the defacement that was caused by the Arabic language. The Arabic language became very old and it does not respond to the rapid development in our age because it is abnormal to think in one language and write in another one. It is worthy to note that we have a superior command of the Arabic language and our decision to abandon it does not stem from an ignorance complex
 13. Finance the establishment of research centers in Lebanon to attract Lebanese intellectual brains both inside and outside Lebanon
 14. Organize and link the 12 million Lebanese expatriates to their homeland

C. Social

1. Demolish all shanty towns that surrounds the capital Beirut or the other big cities and ensure descent housing for those who receive minimum wages
2. Ensure free education for all Lebanese and place all state hospitals under the supervision of the medical school at the Lebanese University
3. Education should be free of charge for all the Lebanese from the elementary school up till the university and the Lebanese University must have branches in directorates
4. Education must also be compulsory up till high school and those who fail must be fined
5. Start an intensive program to eradicate illiteracy
6. Replace the old educational curriculums (schools and universities) with new and developed ones

D. Economic

1. Develop a new agricultural policy in the countryside

2. Lighten the taxes on newly built factories provided that these factories are in rural areas as a procedure to decrease pollution in the cities and resolve the problem of population density in them
3. Encourage the light industries at the level of the individuals and the families in order to raise the per capita income of the Lebanese individuals
4. Plan a new tourist policy that would promote the cultural value of Lebanon through the ages
5. Fight unemployment through cutting down the number of foreign hand in Lebanon

E. Security

1. Build a strong army with a firm Lebanese national doctrine

F. Foreign Affairs

1. Build normal relations with the international community and with neighboring countries that are firmly established on mutual respect and based on the Lebanese supreme interests. Reject any distinctive relationship under the slogans of fraternity or else that were used by the traditional politicians as a cover-up for their cowardice
2. Sign a comprehensive peace treaty with the state of Israel. Lebanon has no interest in the hostilities with Israel, on the contrary, the relationship between the two was based on friendship and cooperation
3. Withdraw Lebanon from the Arab League to eliminate the quality that designates Lebanon as an Arab country
4. The party calls for an alliance between all the people of the Mediterranean sea (MPA, Mediterranean People Alliance)
5. It is normal for the Lebanese to look to the sea when seeking alliances because historically speaking, the sea was the playground of the Phoenicians and on its beaches they spread their culture

2.3. Hezbollah

Name of Party: Hezbollah (Party of God)
Current head of party: Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah
Members in Parliament: 8
Web site link: www.hizbollah.tv

Note: This party is banned in Canada

Mission

- Islamic resistance movement to the Israeli occupation within numerous goals and ideals

Vision of Lebanon

A. Political:

1. Establishment of an "Islamic Government"
2. Wishes to implement Islam not forcibly but in a peaceful and political manner, that gives the chance to the majority to either accept or refuse
3. Wishes to implement Islam that is civilized one that refuses any kind of oppression, degradation, subjugation and colonization

B. Security:

1. Resistance against the Israeli occupation
2. Sees no legitimacy in the existence of Israel

Strategic relationships and foreign policy

- Close ties with Iran due to the Doctrinal ties between the Shiite of Lebanon and Iran
- No ties with US, opposes their support of Israel
- Strong ties and support with Iran and Syria (unofficial see <http://web.nps.navy.mil/~library/tgp/hizbalah.htm>)
- Considered a terrorist organization by the United States

2.4. Progressive Socialist Party

Name of Party: Progressive Socialist Party

Current head of party: Walid Jumblatt

Founder of party: Kamal Jumblatt in May 1949

Members in Parliament: TBD

Web site link: www.psp.org.lb

Mission

- "Building the society on democratic bases where social security, equality, welfare, peace and freedom prevail and in which the human rights, as adopted by the U.N are protected."

Vision of Lebanon

A. Political:

1. Abolish political confessionalism and decentralize government, giving more power to municipalities
2. Encouraging democratic reforms, which would increase civil rights and liberties.
3. Abolishing all forms of discrimination.
4. Protect freedom of speech and publication as well as the right to form parties, associations, and syndicates
5. Abolish capital punishment
6. Separate the executive authority from the legislative authority

B. Political:

1. Protect public property and especially the beaches
2. To protect the environment
3. To protect the Lebanese Arab identity and its civil Arab heritage.

C. Economic:

1. To reform the Tax law and to adopt the principle of progressive taxation
2. To reexamine the priorities of general spending and give priority to the return of the displaced people program
3. To set up an economic, social comprehensive plan, which takes into consideration the countryside development, therefore achieving balance in development. This allows the State to carry out its social role with regards to the poorest categories of the society and provide them with housing, education and hospitalization

Foreign policy

- Support of the Palestinian cause

2.5. Lebanese Forces

Name of Party: Lebanese Forces (banned)
Current head of party: Samir Geagea (currently jailed)
Founder of party: Bashir Gemayel in 1978
Members in Parliament: 0
Web site link: www.lebanese-forces.org

Note: This party is banned in Lebanon

Vision of Lebanon

A. Political:

1. Ensuring a sovereign, free, and secure Lebanon for all its citizens equally
2. Establishing a system of government whereas the superstructure (the government) is congruent with the infrastructure (the society) resulting in a fair, true and balanced political participation
3. Safeguarding Lebanon's independence, sovereignty and distinct identity within its internationally recognized borders
4. Founding the Lebanese Government on the basic principles of human rights
5. Establishing a democratic system whereas freedom and human rights of every citizen are protected and guaranteed
6. Promoting a political system built on three basic principles: diversity, freedom to foster development and democratic representative of the diversity that exists in the Lebanese Society
7. Halting support to any ideology or movement that works directly or indirectly to joining Lebanon to another country

Foreign policy

- Adopting a neutral foreign policy to provide for internal security and to allow for freedom to build foreign international relations

2.6. Lebanese Kataeb

Name of Party: Lebanese Kataeb

Current head of party: Karim Pakradouni and Amin Gemayel (claimed by both)

Founder of party: Pierre Gemayel in 1936

Members in Parliament: TBD

Web site link: www.kataeb.com

Mission

- Re-establishing the independence and sovereignty of Lebanon
- Maintaining an effective dialogue between Lebanon's different communities
- Restoring and modernizing the institutions of the state

Vision of Lebanon

A. Political:

1. Free, democratic, pluralistic
2. Elections include all Lebanese even those living abroad

B. Security and demographics

1. Withdrawal of all Foreign Forces from Lebanon
2. Permanent settlement of Palestinian refugees in Lebanon rejected