

PalArch's Journal of Archaeology
of Egypt / Egyptology

**THE SIGNIFICANCE OF DOCUMENTS IN THE CODIFICATION OF
MODERN AND CONTEMPORARY LEBANESE HISTORY**

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**Instr. Bushra Ibrahim Salman (Ph.D.) , The Significance Of Documents In The
Codification Of Modern And Contemporary Lebanese History , Palarch's Journal
Of Archaeology Of Egypt/Egyptology 18(7). ISSN 1567-214x.**

Keywords: Documents, Lebanon, modern history, contemporary history.

Abstract:

Historical documents occupy a pivotal and distinct space on which researchers, historians and who is involved in the field of historical documentation and writing, especially those who specialize in modern and contemporary Lebanese history rely, as they are familiar with relevant and significant documents of specific time periods. Furthermore, documents of all kinds are among the most focal sources of knowledge and the evidence for proving or denying a historical event. In addition, they play a prominent role with the aim of linking the past with the future. Therefore, modern and contemporary Lebanese history is rich in the availability of unpublished and even published documents that presented its historical events in a chronological and in-depth manner.

Introduction:

It is beyond dispute that historical documents are of great importance, whether political, administrative or legal, which makes them a rich source of solid studies and the basis for scientific research in the field of writing and documenting modern and contemporary Lebanese history in particular. Thus, many countries of the world in the modern era have taken on the provision of centers for the preservation, tabulation, and indexing of documents along with the preparation of paper indexes for the classification of documents, as well as the introduction of technology in the field of documents preservation and archiving so as to facilitate the job of researchers and provide what they need. On a related note, historical documents have been made available in

French, English and Arabic with regard to the circumstances and events that have taken place in the Lebanese scene throughout the modern and contemporary eras.

The paper was divided into four sections, preceded by an introduction and followed by a conclusion which summed up the most significant findings. The first of which was entitled "The concept of Historical Document"; whereas the second discussed the "Preservation of Historical Document", the most important centers and the role of the preservation of documents. The third section presented a "Glimpse of Modern and Contemporary Lebanese History". Moreover, section four comprised "Documents on Modern and Contemporary Lebanese History".

The Concept of Historical Document:

History is based on historical document, which is an important basis for researchers in the field of history and the objective historian in his/her writings with the aim of reaching the historical truth of a specific subject in relation with his/her study and figuring out hidden issues as well as presenting events honestly and objectively, since historical document supports an opinion, denies another, proves a fact and denies another relying on material proofs and bases¹. If we know that history is but a living memory of peoples and nations and a rich scientific material preserved with honesty and objectivity², so, no researcher in the historical field can delve into a particular historical topic unless after ascertaining the availability of documents in relation to the historical event to be discussed in order to reach the historical truth.

Due to the notion that documents are the major pillar of reaching that historical fact, then it is necessary for us to ponder on the meaning of the document and to indicate its intent. History and document cannot be separated from each other as they meet in one crucial point; document is a consistent record of an event at the time of occurrence in a way that allows the preservation of the details of a topic and the protecting them from factors of change, distortion, addition or reduction which might take place due to various reasons; among which is the change in thoughts, visions, and/or inclinations³. Moreover, documents is a name given to treaties, international agreements, and official letters delivered by governors and presidents who are representative of official governmental institutions or the ones delivered to them, in addition to instructions, orders and regulations issued by responsible authorities and are enforceable⁴; as well as political documents, writings, inscriptions, tools, money, official records, etc.⁵The document may be in the form of a page, a piece, a set of serial or scattered papers, a file, a record, eyewitness codes, personal notes, etc.⁶On this basis, the written historical document is the one that is officially certified by an official entity or may be issued by a particular person, which, then, must include his/her personal signature. It is a written declaration of a historical event that is unique in its legal nature and formulated in a special template that commensurate with the circumstances of that event.

Historians believe that documents are divided into:

- Official Documents: Documents issued by a particular official office that follow consistent established rules in their formulation, writing style and sound written language, for example: Documents issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs or the French and British Ministry of War.
- Non-Official Documents: Documents issued by a particular body, institution or office which have specific characteristics and rules that differ from official documents, particularly in terms of wording, manner of statement and output. More clearly, it can be safely claimed that all public

documents are official documents according to the views of historians, whereas many private documents are non-official documents⁷.

In a similar vein, one can indicate the level of the difference in the meaning of the following terms (document, archival document, diplomatic document, documentation, archive), as follows:

- Document: It is regarded as the personal identity of nations and civilizations that is specialized in documenting patterns of societies and is an important source for researchers with the aim of enriching their researches and scientific writings, i.e., document is original content handwritten, printed or engraved on metal, stone or any documentary medium. Document is not only concerned with the political aspects, but also deals with various cultural, social and economic aspects, such as written texts, photographs, maps, charts, graphics or statistical figures⁸.
-Archival Document: a document organized during the performance of work and tasks directed by any party, as it is not limited to official government agencies who enjoy their legal capacity. This type may comprise documents belonging to associations, personalities or non-governmental bodies and include: papyrus coils, pens, and everything that carries news or trace within it⁹.
- Diplomatic Document: Diplomacy is the study of documents, which is interested in the study and analysis of the written records, which were formulated in accordance with the course of historical events. It specializes in the critical study of official literary sources of history, especially those that are tainted by doubts and are controversial and ambiguous, including, for instance: treaties, decrees, agreements, etc. As well, Diplomacy is interested in investigating the external and internal characteristics of a historical document, as the external form of a document includes what is related to the material written in the document as well as ink, calligraphy, signature or seals, whereas the internal features and characteristics of a document comprise all that is related to the language and style of the document, and the information it contains in terms of stating historical facts. According to the above, the diplomatic document is an authentic source of history, because the author of such document is not subject to personal factors, tendencies and subjective whims, whether political, social or cultural, to which the history writer may be subjected if he/she loses one of the historian's qualities relating to impartiality as well as total neutrality and absolute objectivity in the presentation of historical facts¹⁰.
- Documentation: this term means the process of collecting documents, data and pamphlets in preparation for the stage of criticism and scrutiny in order to reach a formula as close as possible to the original issued by either the author or the issuing entity¹¹. Furthermore, this term signals the provision of information and informing about them via systematic scientific methods and approaches, for such information is essential for decision-makers, particularly in the political, administrative and economic fields, as information services have always contributed to social and economic development¹².
- Archive: the body or entity responsible for the preservation of documents, records, registers and entries in an orderly manner, including public documents issued by official bodies and institutions or private documents owned by families and/or individuals connected to the intended historical event with the aim of preserving them and safeguarding everything related to the history of nations and peoples¹³.

The Preservation of Historical Documents:

Historical documents are considered among the finest types of sources of interest in the writing of history, as the value of a document increases according to its confidentiality and the way it is presented by researcher. Thus, most countries of the world are interested in the creation of

special centers and archives interested in the preservation of these documents and make them available to researchers in accordance with specific legal conditions¹⁴. As well, many documents are often preserved in a number of places of worship such as mosques, churches, archaeological monasteries and others, in addition to libraries of universities and scientific bodies that universities have already obtained from multiple sources or may be bestowed by a number of figures that were previously related to the course of historical events¹⁵.

More to the point, the role of documents in modern history became broadly concerned with national history and the compilation of historical research tools that help raise the levels of historical researches with the rare scientific documentary material they afford¹⁶. Thus, researchers can obtain historical documents from national archives which are usually classified in indexes according to topics, file-name or the name of persons or state concerned. There are some entities which document indexes by only recording the numbers of volumes and history of the documents preserved in them. Researchers or historians are allowed to view official documents preserved for pure scientific purposes as long as they have passed periods of time that may be between thirty and fifty years and until it is verified and confirmed that they do not infringe or infract the security and sovereignty of the State or the persons mentioned in them. Considering that these periods of time have passed, and national sovereign reasons that have called for their withholding, non-display or publication have ceased, and then they no longer affect the current events in that specific state¹⁷.

On a related level, it is pivotal to recognize the importance of what a researcher should know when he/she deal with historical documents. He/she must be familiar with the most important terms in relation to documents when they are preserved and stored, in order to facilitate his/her research mission along with the task of those who are in charge of and who are specialists in the process of preserving and storing those documents. So, it is necessary to be informed of the introductions and definitions of entries adopted by specialists in the preservation and classification of documents, especially in documents preservation centers, national archives and national documentation centers, which are primarily responsible for their continuing indexing, investigation, protection and maintenance as well as repairing damaged ones, issuing source studies in order to facilitate scientific research as they are among of the main sources of writing sober scientific research¹⁸.

Additionally, documents houses and scientific documentation centers are keen to provide specialists and technicians in this field in order to organize these documents and make it easier for researchers to benefit from them. Many developed countries have introduced technological development in the field of document preservation, indexing and classification. Also, a number of them have been linked to high-speed internet, and found a team specialized in treating significant documents which might be damaged due to either long spans of time and what accompany them of climatic conditions or mal-storage and mal-preservation, or even because of wars, sabotages and the like. Therefore, the methods of restoring documents have evolved to the extent of restoring them without any distortion. As well, governments of most countries of the world have been keen to provide microfilm devices to display tapes or so-called documents "jackets" in an orderly manner in addition to preserve documents when used by researchers¹⁹.

The most important preservation centers and national documentation archiving centers of historical documents include, but are not limited to:

- The Building of the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Cauterisation de Dorsey in France).
- National Library of Paris.
- The U.S. National Archive in the United States of America.

- Library of Oriental Studies in Durham, England.
- Documents House in London.
- Reports of the U.S. Embassy in Beirut.
- National Archives in Beirut.
- The National House of Books and Documentation in Baghdad.
- The Ottoman Documentation Archive in Istanbul.
- Egyptian Documents House in Cairo.
- Central Documents House in Khartoum.

An Overview of Modern and Contemporary Lebanese History:

Lebanon: An ancient Semitic word dating back to the third millennium B.C. and means (white, laban (milk), liban) and called on those mountain peaks covered with snow and cedar mountains and hence the origin of the name Lebanon²⁰. Lebanese history has been associated with the history of the Arab region. Since the Arab state of Beirut and its areas within the Lebanese coast, which were subordinate to the Syrian states within the Levant, was under Ottoman control for more than four centuries, its system underwent change several times and saw different eras, among them were; the Ma'n Dynasty, Shihab Dynasty, the era of the Two Qa'amqamiats, to the Mount Lebanon Mutasarrifate²¹, and then to begin the reign of the Greater Lebanon State and its submission to French protection and the French mandate under the Agreement of San Remo signed on April 25, 1920,

with the different contradictions in the positions of the Lebanese who were either supporters of the French guarantee, especially Christians who were encouraged by Catholicism, on the consideration of France as the mother state; or rejecting the French presence that removed them from their first state, Syria²², up to the French evacuation on December 31, 1946²³. After that period of time, Lebanon has witnessed the rule of the presidents of Lebanon, respectively²⁴, Bechara al-Khoury, two consecutive terms (1943-1952), Camille Chamoun (1952-1958), Fouad Chehab (1958-1964), Charles Helou (1964-1970), Suleiman Frangieh (1970-1976), Elias Sarkis (1976-1982), Amin Gemayel (1982-1988). In light of the events of the bloody civil war in Lebanon, an assuaging was declared and the Taif Agreement (The Taif National Accord) was signed²⁵.

The most important items included:

- Lebanon is a free and independent country, a homeland for all its citizens. One land, people and institutions, within the limits of the Lebanese Constitution which are internationally recognized.
- Lebanon is of an Arab identity and belonging, a founding and active member of the Arab League, and is committed to its charters. It is also a founding and active member of the United Nations and is committed to its charters. It is a member of the Non-Aligned Movement. The Lebanese State embodies these principles in all fields and areas without exception.

Documents on Modern and Contemporary Lebanese History:

It is now well-known that documents constitute a valuable opportunity to diversify the sources of historical research in terms of objectivity and scientific sobriety, with the aim of exploring new problems and absent information that were not previously written off. Therefore, modern and contemporary Lebanese history, which is being scrutinized in this paper, has had a share of those

documents, which varied from historical documents (unpublished), which are the most indispensable and important, as well as historical documents (published) which are not less preference and need than their unpublished predecessor. Then, it is focal to shed light on them to explicate them and indicate the significance of each:

Historical (unpublished) Documents:

First: Documents of the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs:

These are documents of the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which are preserved in (Quai d'Orsay) Building in Paris, abbreviated as (M.A.E.). They are divided with regard to the countries of the Levant; Syria and Lebanon, according to the time periods and subtitles contained. It is worth noting that among these documents is what was written and documented in Arabic in handwriting style by the Lebanese at the time, especially when they communicate to the French authorities, and therefore contribute significantly to the provision of historical research with confirmed information about those who assumed responsibility for the administration of government and authority within the time periods contained in them. Those documents, to name but a few, include documents of the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs (unpublished), with regard to modern and contemporary Lebanese history:

Petitions (1919-1920)

It means petitions and requests submitted by the Lebanese to the peace conference held at Versailles Palace- Paris in 1919, including the wishes and hopes of the Lebanese to remain within the Syrian states and their refusal to dislodge them from the mother state of Syria, and the insistence of others on the separation and the declaration of the Great State of Lebanon within French protection and mandate:

- 1- M.A.E, sery-E.levant- syrie-Liban, (1919-1920), Pétitions, Vol:44, a191.
- 2- M.A.E, sery-E.levant- syrie-Liban,(1919-1920),Pétitions, Vol:44.
- 3- M.A.E, sery-E.levant- syrie-Liban , (1919-1920), Pétitions, bergee DU mont hermon aux jeunes gens chrstigns, (Fevrier1919), vol:44.
- 4- M.A.E, sery- E. levant- syrie – Liban, (1919-1920), Petitions telegramme, Date 15/7/1919, No: 257, vol : 44.
- 5- M.A.E, sery - E. levant – syrie - Liban ,(1919-1920), Pétitions , vol: 44.
- 6- M.A.E, sery-E.levant- syrie-Liban ,(1919-1920), Pétitions,Date: (27Juillet1919), vol: 44.
- 7- M.A.E, sery-E.levant- syrie-Liban ,(1919-1920), Pétitions, vol: 44.
- 8- M.A.E, sery-E.levant- syrie-Liban ,(1919-1920), Pétitions, Ciete Orthodoxe de ST. Nicolas (rachana el-wadi), Date: (2Juillet1919), vol: 44.
- 9- M.A.E, sery-E.levant- syrie-Liban ,(1919-1920), Pétitions, societe de bienfaisance Pour chretiens Orthodoxe rachana el-wadi , Date: (1Aout1919), vol: 44.
- 10- M.A.E, sery–E.levant- syrie-Liban ,(1919-1920), Pétitions, vol:44.
- 11- M.A.E, sery-E.levant- syrie-Liban ,(1919-1920), Pétitions, Date: (7Aout1919), vol: 44.
- 12- M.A.E, sery-E.levant-syrie-Liban,(1919-1920), Pétitions,Date: (28Octobre1919), vol: 44.
- 13- M.A.E, sery-E.levant- syrie-Liban ,(1919-1920), Pétitions , Tripoli syrie32-6212-17H-30VMLT, vol: 44,E313-1.
- 14- M.A.E, sery-E.levant- syrie-Liban ,(1919-1920), Pétitions ,Newyork 692-58, vol: 44, E313-1.
- 15- M.A.E, sery-E.levant-syrie-Liban ,(1919-1920), Pétitions, Tripoli syrie 182-75-15-10H, vol: 44, E313-1.

- 16- M.A.E, sery-E.levant-syrie-Liban ,(1919-1920), Pétitions , Tripoli syrie 105-40-13-18H,vol: 44 , E313-1.
- 17- M.A.E, sery-E.levant-syrie-Liban ,(1919-1920), Pétitions, Tripoli syrie 565-88-13-18H, vol: 44, E313-1.
- 18- M.A.E, sery-E.levant-syrie-Liban ,(1919-1920), Pétitions , Batroune Liban896-56-20-11, vol: 44, E313-1.
- 19- M.A.E, sery-E.levant-syrie-Liban ,(1919-1920), Pétitions , Tripoli syrie 533-116-13-12-13H-15VMTE, vol: 44, E313-1.
- 20- M.A.E, sery-E.levant-syrie-Liban ,(1919-1920), Pétitions ,Boston: 133/29 90, vol: 44, E313-1.

General Affairs (1920)

These documents were concerned with the presentation and statement of the most important measures taken by the French authorities in preparation for the declaration of the Great State of Lebanon in 1920, with reference to decree No. (1304) which dissolved the administrative committee in Mount Lebanon following a verbal altercation between the chairman of the administrative committee, Daoud Ammon, and the representative of the French government, Monsieur Francis Petit, regarding the intention of the French Government to establish representative consultative councils without having legislative authority. This has led to the withdrawal of the French delegate and the disruption of the session of the administrative committee, which was dissolved and, instead, the Representative Council of the Great State of Lebanon was established.

- 1- M.A.E, Liban, (1920), Affaires generals, Ler shtembare 1920, vol: 37.
- 2- M.A.E, Liban , Affaires generals, 25Mai1922,vol:37.
- 3- M.A.E, Liban , Affaires generals,Mars1922 , vol:37.
- 4- M.A.E, Liban , Affaires generals17 Octobre1927, vol:37.
- 5- M.A.E, Liban , Affaires generals Octobre1933, vol:37.
- 6- M.A.E, Liban , Affaires generals Decembre1933, vol:37.
- 7- M.A.E, Liban , Affaires generals, 2Janvier1934, vol:37.
- 8- M.A.E, Liban , Affaires generals,20Janvier1936, vol:37.
- 9- M.A.E, Liban , Affaires generals, Ler Mars1936, vol:37.
- 10- M.A.E, Liban , Affaires generals,13Novembre1936, vol:37.
- 11- M.A.E, Liban , Affaires generals,Mars1937, vol:37.

Positions on the French Mandate in Lebanon (1920-1925)

These documents, for the duration (1920-1925), tackled the positions of the Lebanese on the imposition of the French mandate and were fluctuating between supporters and opponents. They also contained the text of the congratulations of the French General Henry Joseph-Gouraud to the Maronite Patriarch Elias Al-Hawick on the occasion of the Declaration of the Great State of Lebanon on September 1, 1920, "General Gouraud congratulated Patriarch Elias Al-Hawick on the declaration of the State of Greater Lebanon and sent him a French shooting battalion near the maronite patriarch's residence to celebrate this occasion and honor the patriarch's position and status".

- 1- M.A.E, sery-E.levant- syrie-Liban,(1920-a-1925), La Propagande contre le mandate de la France, Apropos dune letter de son Excellence V.le General GOURAUD, Haut-Commissaire de la Republlque en Syrie et au Liban, vol: 208-A215.
- 2- M.A.E, sery-E.levant- syrie-Liban,(1920-a-1925), La Propagande contre le mandate de la France, Apropos dune conversation a PARIS le (15-10-1922), avec M. le Comte Robert de CAIX, Secetaire General du Haut- Commissariat en Syrie et au Liban,vol: 208-A215.
- 3- Ministare Des Affaires Etrang eres Francaises, Syrie-Liban, Serie1918-1929, Volume 40.

Political Events (1940-1941)

They comprised the political events that took place in the Lebanese Republic, particularly in 1940, 1941, during the period of World War II and its impact on the Lebanese scene, as well as the period before the signing of the Lebanese national charter in 1943.

- 1- M.A.E, seri Londres Guerre (1939-1945) Comite Ntional Francais,(1940-1941),Principaux evenements politiques,Le: (25Juillet1941),vol: 39.
- 2- M.A.E, seri Londres Guerre (1939-1945) Comite Ntional Francais (1940-1941), Principaux evenements politiques, Le: (27Juillet1941), vol: 39.

Second: American Documents

Among the most important of these documents are the United States Department of State documents on international foreign affairs, namely Lebanon, known as (U.S State Department Lebanon: International Foreign Affairs), and abbreviated (U.S.S.D.L.I and F.A.). They are preserved in the National Archives of the United States of America on Middle East affairs, and filmed on microfilm tapes at the National Books and Documents House in Baghdad. They included information of great importance regarding the most important political developments and crises to which Lebanon has been subjected between 1951 and 1958,

Those documents are significant as they removed part of the ambiguity of many political events. The documents came in the form of reports, letters and daily notes sent by the U.S. Embassy in Beirut to the U.S. Department of State on the internal affairs of the Lebanese Republic, as well as documents from the American archives, which are preserved in the archives of Georgetown University in Washington, in addition to documents of the United States Congress which are preserved in the form of jacket tapes accessed through microfilm system. They cover the duration of modern and contemporary Lebanese history, specifically, 1835 to 1959.

A large part of them covered Lebanese provinces, as well as a comprehensive overview of the development of the situation in the Levant since the establishment of the consular services, with various reports containing developments in various political, economic, social, educational, cultural and other aspects. These documents provided an accurate and objective picture of those developments. It is also worth noting that these documents comprised secret reports of high confidential nature that were very important for they provided in-depth analyses in relation to the biographies of a large number of Lebanese personalities during the specified period. Moreover, they highlight the modernization of the city of Beirut in the second half of the nineteenth century, with its focus on the careful monitoring of the American authorities to the administration of the French Mandate in Lebanon, obliging them to submit periodic reports to the League of Nations, as well as the support of the American administration in the battle for the independence of Lebanon in 1943, in preparation for the evacuation of the British and French forces, which ended in 1946. It is also significant to refer to a detailed study by the Lebanese historian Massoud Dhahir which is entitled "Lebanon in the Documents of the American Archives (1835-

1959),"Series of Historical Studies no. (54), Beirut, Lebanese University publications, 2014. In this study, he included the titles of American documents relating to the history of modern and contemporary Lebanon within the period (1835-1959). To name but a few collections of American documents relating to Lebanese developments and events within modern and contemporary Lebanese history according to the files which are divided in terms of years:

U.S State Department Lebanon: International Foreign Affairs Lebanon (1950-1954)

- 1- U.S.S.D.L.I and F.A, (1950-1954), Lebanon, Telegram from the American Legation,Lebanon,Beirut, July17,1951,No:53, To the Secretary of state, Washington, Film:6.
- 2 -U.S.S.D.L.I and F.A, (1950-1954), Lebanon, Telegram from the American Legation,Lebanon,Beirut, July19,1951,No:30, To the Secretary of state, Washington, Film:6.
- 3 -U.S.S.D.L.I and F.A, (1950-1954), Lebanon, Telegram from the American Legation,Lebanon,Beirut, July 26, 1951, No: 63, To the Secretary of state, Washington, Film:6.
- 4 -U.S.S.D.L.I and F.A, (1950-1954), Lebanon, Telegram from the American Legation,Lebanon,Beirut, june2, 1951,No:42, To the Secretary of state, Washington, Film 7.
- 5 -U.S.S.D.L.I and F.A, (1950-1954), Lebanon, Telegram from the American Legation,Lebanon, Beirut, September23, 1952,No:602, To the Secretary of state, Washington, Film 8.

Lebanon (1955-1958):

- 1 -U.S.S.D.L.I and F.A, (1955-1958), Lebanon, Telegram from the American Legation,Lebanon, Beirut, july31, 1958,No:387, To the Secretary of state, Washington, Film 12.
- 2- U.S.S.D.L.I and F.A, (1955-1958), Lebanon, Telegram from the American Legation,Lebanon, Beirut, November15, 1958,No:444, To the Secretary of state, Washington, Film 12.

Third: Books and Documents House - Royal Court Files:

These documents include files of the Iraqi Royal Court, including those relating to recent Lebanese history. They are kept in the National Books and Documents House in Baghdad, abbreviated as (B.D.H) -Files of the Royal Court, which are jacket tapes that can be displayed on microfilm device, and are classified as documentary files with numbers. Each documentary file contains an excellent collection of documents with their numbers, dates and subtitles. Furthermore, they comprised daily reports and confidential correspondences of the Iraqi Commission in Beirut mainly, as well as daily reports of Iraqi commissions, embassies and consulates in Beirut, Jeddah and Washington, belonging to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Iraq in the Royal Covenant of Iraq(1921-1958).

Although these reports carry the Iraqi point of view, they are very important, as they contain important information that are not available in other sources as they are (unpublished) documents. They addressed the most important political developments in the Lebanese Republic²⁶, in addition to the views of the Lebanese Parliament on internal events. These documents presented many of the hidden aspects that accompanied the signing of the Joint Defense Project²⁷ and the Point Four Program²⁸ in addition to issuing decrees and resolutions on state administrations reform. They also made a mention of the resignation of politicians from their posts for various reasons.

According to the aforementioned data, one can monitor the most important documents of the Baghdad House of Books and National Documents - files of the Iraqi Royal Court that are relevant to recent and contemporary Lebanese history by showing documentary files and classifying them according to file numbers to make use of them as follows:

1. **File No. (311/730):** Includes the reports of the Royal Iraqi Consulate General in Beirut and the reports of the Iraqi Commission in Beirut to the Iraqi Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Confidential-Confidential and Urgent) during the years (1931-1932-1933).
2. **File No. (311/731):** Includes reports of the Royal Iraqi Consulate General in Beirut and the Reports of the Iraqi Commission in Beirut to the Iraqi Ministry of Foreign Affairs, as well as reports of the Iraqi Government, the Iraqi Ministry of Foreign Affairs- Special Office (Confidential- Confidential and Urgent) during the years (1932-1933-1934-1935).
3. **File No. (311/4811):** Reports from the Iraqi consulates in Damascus, Aleppo and Beirut. It also includes reports of the Iraqi Consulate in Beirut to the Iraqi Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the year (1940).
4. **File No. (311/733):** Includes reports of the Royal Iraqi Consulate General in Beirut and the reports of the Iraqi Commission in Beirut and Fiji to the Iraqi Ministry of Foreign Affairs - Special Office / Department of Politics, (confidential), in the year (1941).
5. **File No. (311/366):** The reports of the Iraqi Commission in Beirut to the Iraqi Ministry of Foreign Affairs/ Department of Politics (Confidential), as well as the report of the Presidency of the Iraqi Royal Court to the Iraqi Commission in Beirut, the report of the Iraqi Royal Commission in Egypt to the Head of the Iraqi Royal Court, and the report of the Acting Iraqi Commission in Beirut to the Iraqi Ministry of Foreign Affairs/ Department of Politics (Confidential and Urgent) in the year (1943).
6. **File No. (311/4808):** The reports of the Iraqi Commission in Beirut to the Iraqi Ministry of Foreign Affairs/ Department of Politics/Directorate of Protocols (Confidential- Very Urgent), the reports of the Royal Iraqi Consulate General in Beirut, and the reports of the Royal Iraqi Consulate General in Aleppo, to the Iraqi Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Confidential), during the years (1940-1945-1946).
7. **File No. (311/4809):** reports of the Royal Iraqi Consulate General in Beirut and the reports of the Iraqi Commission in Beirut to the Iraqi Ministry of Foreign Affairs/ The Secret Pen/Department of Politics/Directorate of Protocols, (confidential and urgent), and reports of the Lebanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs (2492), August 22, 1946, document No. 89, during the years (1942-1945-1946).
8. **File No. (311/2654):** reports of the Iraqi Commission in Beirut to the Iraqi Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the year (1949).
9. **File No. (311/2684):** reports of the Iraqi Commission in Beirut to the Iraqi Ministry of Foreign Affairs, during the years (1949-1951-1952).
10. **File No. (311/2649):** reports of the Iraqi Embassy in Jeddah to the Iraqi Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the year (1950).
11. **File No. (311/5028):** reports of the Iraqi Commission in Washington to the Iraqi Ministry of Foreign Affairs during the years (1949-1951).
12. **File No. (311/2689):** reports of the Iraqi Commission in Beirut to the Iraqi Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1952.

Historical Documents (published):

First: Minutes of the Lebanese Parliament:

They the parliamentary minutes of the sessions of the Lebanese Administrative Committee, the sessions of the First Representative Council and the Second Representative Council, as well as the minutes of the sessions of the Lebanese Senate, and the total minutes of the Lebanese Parliament for the span of time from (1922-2000). They are preserved on a CD including all the minutes from the year 1922, until 2000, comprising of (130) volumes, (72) thousand big-size sheets. It is worth-noting that the pages of the minutes on the CD differ from the pages of the original records, as each page is equal to more than four pages of the original records.

These minutes are important documents in the recording and documentation of the modern and contemporary history of Lebanon, as they constitute an essential source in the life of Lebanese society in all its aspects, and can be consulted to resolve many differences in the points of view, especially in the political and legislative fields. They comprise most of the political, economic and social views of Lebanese officials and deputies, as well as all discussions, interventions and data. Furthermore, these minutes include discussing and approving regulations and laws and to discuss the general budget. The significance of these records lies in the fact that they contain most of the political, economic and social views of Lebanese officials and deputies. They also contain the broad range of debates and views adopted by Lebanese deputies in their positions and views, as well as resolutions adopted, statements, notes, protests and demands made by the deputies in the interests of their own community first and foremost, then followed by the interests of the one nation. A number of minutes and sessions classified according to their dates are listed below:

- **Minutes of the Administrative Committee Sessions:** abbreviated (M.A.C.S). They include all the meetings held by the Administrative Committee represented by its chairman and members in 1920.

- **Minutes of the Representative Council:** abbreviated (M.R.C.), including minutes of (sessions), deliberations and discussions in 1922, as well as minutes of the first regular decade, the first and second special decades, as well as the minutes of the first legislative session, during the years (1923-1924-1925-1926).

- **Senate Minutes:** abbreviated (S.M.), beginning with the Senate session for the duration (1926-1927), including the names of the senators, and then the minutes of the first session held on (May 25, 1926), as well as the sessions of the first round/the first and second special decades and the sessions of the second regular decade for the duration (1927-1926)

Minutes of the Council of Representatives: abbreviated (M.C.R.), which include the minutes of the sessions of the Lebanese Parliamentary Assembly in 1927, the minutes of the sessions of the first, second, third, fourth and fifth legislative sessions, during the years (1927-1928-1929-1931-1934-1936-1937-1938-1939-1943-1944-1945-1946). In addition to the minutes of the meetings of the sixth legislative round, the first and second regular decades, the first and second special decades and the seventh legislative session during the years (1951-1953). They also comprise the parliamentary sessions of the first and second special decades, the first and second regular decades, the Eighth Legislative Session in the years (1953-1957). Therefore, the need for a more inclusive and inclusive approach to the development of the united states is a key element in the development of the international system. 1953-1957).

Furthermore, they contain the minutes of the sessions of the deputies in the first special decade, in addition to the ninth legislative round during the years (1957-1960). They also include the meetings of the first special decade and the minutes of the session on the election of President Fouad Chehab, which was held on July 31, 1958, and the minutes of the swearing-in session held on September 23, 1958. In addition, they made a mention of the sessions of the eleventh legislative round during the years (1964-1968), which included the sessions of deputies in the first, second and third special decades as well as the sessions of the first and second regular decades, along with the presentation of the minute of the session devoted to the election of the President of the Republic, which took place on August 18, 1964, as well as the minutes of the session devoted to the swearing-in of the President-elect Charles Helou, which took place on September 23, 1964. Lastly, they also comprised the minutes of the council of representatives in the 12th legislative round of the Lebanese Parliament during the years (1968-1972) in the first and second regular decades, and the second special decade in particular.

Second: The Arab Documentation House:

Includes the files of the Arab world, which are documents published in Arabic that are regarded published documents written in Arabic and which are included in the documentary files of the Arab World. These are available at the University of Baghdad/Central Library in al-Jadriya campus. These documents contain information on the most important and prominent political events and the accompanying the legislation of the Lebanese Constitution. They also presented many biographies and translations of the most prominent Lebanese political elites, which have been classified in numbered sequences, for example:

1. File of the Arab World (Lebanon), document No. (L.3/ 1201).
2. File of the Arab World (Lebanon), document No. (L.1/ 1201).
3. File of the Arab World (Lebanon), document No. (L.1/ 1201,9).
4. File of the Arab World (Lebanon), document No. (L.1/ 1906).
5. File of the Arab World (Lebanon), document No. (S.1/ 1301).
6. File of the Arab World (Lebanon), document No. (L.1/ 1302).
7. File of the Arab World (Lebanon), document No. (L.2/ 1302).
8. File of the Arab World (Lebanon), document No. (L.7/ 1201).
9. File of the Arab World (Lebanon), document No. (L.8/ 1201).
10. File of the Arab World (Lebanon), document No. (L.1/ 1107).
11. File of the Arab World (Lebanon), document No. (L.1/ 1101).
12. File of the Arab World (Lebanon), document No. (L.1/ 113).
13. File of the Arab World (Lebanon), document No. (L.4/ 1101).
14. File of the Arab World (Lebanon), document No. (L.1/ 1113).
15. File of the Arab World (Lebanon), document No. (L.1/ 1108).
16. File of the Arab World (Lebanon), document No. (L.1/ 1201).
17. File of the Arab World (Lebanon), document No. (L.1/ 1104).
18. File of the Arab World (Lebanon), document No. (L.1/ 1902).
19. File of the Arab World (Lebanon), document No. (L.2/ 1304).
20. File of the Arab World (Lebanon), document No. (L.3/ 1302).
21. File of the Arab World (Lebanon), document No. (L.1/ 1907).
22. File of the Arab World (Lebanon), document No. (L.1/ 1909).
23. File of the Arab World (Lebanon), document No. (L.1/ 1107).

Third: The Official Gazette of Lebanon:

It is well known that newspaper is regarded a living paper in documenting historical event by proving or denying it as well as presenting its details and the accompanying circumstances, occurrences or emergency incidents. So, the Lebanese Official Gazette is considered an important published document for the historical researcher when he/she writes down modern and contemporary Lebanese history. This gazette is available in paper-based format in the grand government building in Beirut, as well as electronically in the same numbers, years with the only difference between the two versions that might be in the sequence of pages of the pages. What is included in it is of great significance due to the presentation of acts, data and crucial decrees, especially those that were issued by the French Commission in the State of Greater Lebanon when it is proclaimed, and then by the Lebanese Republic and successive Governments on various political and constitutional issues. It is important to say that the Lebanese Official Gazette has been available electronically from 1918 on.

Fourth: Arab League Documents:

These documents are of great importance, as they carry details of the Arab League sessions, its verdicts and Lebanese participations. They are the backbone of the structure of any study on the Arab League and the role of the Arab member states, particularly the Lebanese Republic. Those documents contributed to information on Lebanon's activities and role in the Arab League, its position on the 1948 act of dividing Palestine and on the projects discussed by the League, including the joint defense project. Some of the beneficial Arab League documents are:

1. Arab League, General Secretariat, Palestine Administration, Department of Politics, Documents on the Question of Palestine, Cairo, Al-Misbah Press, ND.
2. The Arab League, the question of Palestine at the United Nations, a memorandum submitted to the Council of the Arab League at its (32nd) regular session.
3. Arab League, Council of Arab States Resolutions (1945-1955), Resolutions number (313,312,311), Vol.1, 12thRound, 6th Session held on April 13, 1950.
4. Arab League, Council of Arab States Resolutions, Vol.1, 13thRound, 3rd Session held on February 2, 1952.
5. Arab League, Collective Guarantee Charter, Cairo, 1953.

Fifth: Arab Documents - Arab Gazette:

(Arab Documents) and (Arab Gazette) issued by the American University of Beirut are among the Arabic published documents, containing valuable information, and presenting many political aspects in relation to the political events and circumstances in modern and contemporary Lebanese history. These documents and gazettes include, but not limited to:

1. Arab Documents of 1964, Department of Political Studies and Public Administration, American University of Beirut.
2. Arab Documents 1965, Department of Political Studies and Public Administration, American University of Beirut.
3. Arab Documents of 1966, Department of Political Studies and Public Administration, American University of Beirut.
4. Arab Documents of 1968, Department of Political Studies and Public Administration, American University of Beirut.

5. Arab Documents of 1969, Department of Political Studies and Public Administration, American University of Beirut.
6. Arab Gazettes of 1964, Department of Political Studies and Public Administration, American University of Beirut.
7. Arab Gazettes of 1965, Department of Political Studies and Public Administration, American University of Beirut.
8. Arab Gazettes of 1966, Department of Political Studies and Public Administration, American University of Beirut.

Conclusion:

The conclusion comprised the most prominent findings of the study, including; History is mainly based on documents, as has been said that there is no history of a nation without documents, and therefore historical documents are indispensable. Documents comprise various types and divisions, including official documents, and private documents. The name 'documents' is given to treaties, conventions, official communications, writings, official records, and many others. In the modern era, documents have been classified via adopting sophisticated mechanisms for the easy of preservation, archival and provision of documents. It is worth-mentioning that French unpublished documents have taken the first place in terms of unpublished official documents concerning the States of the Orient (Mashreq), Syria and Lebanon, essentially. The United States documents contained many documents of relation to modern and contemporary Lebanese history, as well as documents from the Iraqi National Books and Documents House in Baghdad – the files of the Royal Court. Moreover, one cannot overlook the significance of published documents cannot their scientific nature that review the most important events and record their details at all political, social and economic levels.

Notes:

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- (2) Nasir Faraj Raheel. The Importance of Historical Document for History Students and Researchers. The Historian Center for Historical and Archaeological Studies. An article published on the World Wide Web, 2013. Retrieved on Nov.5.2020.
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- (4) Shawqi al-Jamal & Abdallah Abdulrazak, Op.Cit, P.4.
- (5) Mohammed Kareem Ibrahim. The Emergence of Arabic Diplomatics. Al-Qadisiya Journal for Humanities, vol.12, No. (3), 2009, P.16; Shakir Mahmoud Abdel-Moneim. Documents and their Significance in Studying and Teaching of History. The Arab Historian Journal, No. (55), Baghdad, 1997, P.33.
- (6) Shawqi al-Jamal & Abdallah Abdulrazak, Op.Cit, P.4; Mohammed Abbas Hammoudah. The Scientific Concept of Documents and Documentation, P.223.
- (7) Mohammed Abbas Hammoudah. The Scientific Concept of Documents and Documentation. Qatar University: Periodical of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences, first issue, 1979, P.224; Lazim Mabjal al-Maliki. Diplomatics. Amman: al-Warraq Corp., 2009, P.17.
- (8) Suwayda-Sana. An article published on the World Wide Web, 2019. Retrieved on Nov.7.2020.

- (9) Mohammed Ahmed Hussein. Op.Cit. P.11.
- (10) Mohammed Abbas Hammoudah. Op.Cit. P.222.
- (11) Abdel-Majeed Aabdeen. Documentation: Its History and Tools. Arabic Gazettes, No. (3), Baghdad, 1977, P.63.
- (12) Mohammed Abbas Hammoudah, P.229.
- (13) Salim Abboud al-Alousi. Archive: Its History and Types. Arabic Gazettes, No. (3), Baghdad, 1977, P.1.
- (14) Wadeh Midani. The Importance of Historical Sources to the Historian. University of Algeria: al-Qurtas Journal, No. (10). December 2018, P.155.
- (15) Shawqi al-Jamal & Abdallah Abdulrazak, Op.Cit, P.10.
- (16) Mohammed Ahmed Hussein. Op.Cit. P.8.
- (17) Shawqi al-Jamal & Abdallah Abdulrazak, Op.Cit, pp.4,10.
- (18) Abdul-Majeed Mohammed al-Hwaej. Documents: Concept, Types, Classifications, and their Significance in Scientific Research. El-Zawiya University, College of Arts: Journal of the College of Arts, Vol. 2, No. (29), 2020, p. 215.
- (19) Shawqi al-Jamal & Abdallah Abdulrazak, Op.Cit, P.4.
- (20) Solafa Hajjawi. Lebanon: The Historical Past. Journal of the Center of Palestinian Studies, No. (17), June-July 1976, P.6.
- (21) For more information about the history of Lebanon during the Two Qa'amqamiats and Mutasarrifate, see, Shafeeq Suleiman. The History of Lebanon as it was: The Beginning of Sectarianism, the Two Qa'amqamiats, Mount Lebanon Mutasarrifate, French Mandate and the Rise of the Greater Lebanon State (1841-1920). Beirut: Al-Forat (Euphrates) House, 2013; Asad Rustum. Lebanon in the Mutasarrifate Era. Beirut: Al-Nahar (Morning) Publishing House, 1973; Antione al-Hakeem. Lebanon in the Twentieth Century: The Greater Lebanon State from Mutasarrifate to Republic (1918-1926). In Lebanon: History, Geography and Political Forces. Future Movement, 2008.
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- (25) The Lebanese Constitution Issued on (May 23, 1926), with all amendments approved in the Lebanese Council of Representatives in accordance with the Lebanese National Accord (Taif Agreement) 1991; The Taif Agreement: Document of Lebanese National Accord adopted by the Meeting of Representatives in Taif, Saudi Arabia, on October 22/ 1989, and ratified by the Council of Representatives at its session held in Qulay'at on November 15/ 1989, Lebanon: Beirut.
- (26) The promulgation of the Lebanese Constitution has brought about fundamental and essential changes in parliamentary and constitutional life, the most important of which are: it changed the naming of the Great Lebanon State to the Republic of Lebanon. For more

information, see, Arab World File. The Establishment of the Lebanese State. Document No. (L.1/ 1101); The Republic of Lebanon, the Lebanese Constitution (1926-1947). The Egyptian Journal of International Law, Vol.3, Egypt, 1947; M.R.C. the Lebanese Constitution in French; Shafiq Juha. The Lebanese Constitution: Its History, Amendments, and its Current Text (1926-2009), 5th ed. Beirut: Dar al-Elm, 2014; Ahmed Zain. Minutes of the Discussions of the Lebanese Constitution and its Amendments (1926-1990). Beirut: The Council of Representatives, General Directorate of Studies and Research, 1993.

- (27) For more information on the Joint Defense Project, see, Books and Documents House (B.D.H), Royal Court Files, file No. (311/2649), Reports of the Iraqi Embassy in Jeddah, Report of the Embassy to the Iraqi Ministry of Foreign Affairs on the Joint Arab Defense Treaty, numbered A/152/152/6, dated 17 June 1950, document No. 6, P.2; League of Arab States, Compilation of Resolutions of the Council of the League of Arab States, thirteenth session, 3rd meeting, 2 February 1951, Vol.1, P.73; The Arab League, Collective Guarantee Pact, Cairo, 1953, pp.3-5; League of Arab States, Compilation of Resolutions of the Council of the League of Arab States (1945-1955), Resolutions Numbered (311,312,313), Twelfth Session, 6th meeting, 13 April 1950, Vol.1, P.60; Haleem Saeed Abu Izz al-Din. The Lebanese Foreign Policy. Beirut: Dar al-Elm, 1966, pp.165-179.
- (28) For more information of Point Four Program, see, Books and Documents House (B.D.H), Royal Court Files, file No. (311/ 5028), Reports of the Iraqi Commission in Washington, Report of the Commission to the Iraqi Ministry of Foreign Affairs numbered (11/18/206), dated 30 May 1951, document No. 14, pp.7-8; Books and Documents House (B.D.H), Royal Court Files, file No. (311/ 5028), Reports of the Iraqi Commission in Washington, Report of the Commission to the Iraqi Ministry of Foreign Affairs, numbered (9/4/163), dated 20 January 1949, document No. 29, P.19; M.R.C. Seventh legislative session, Second Regular Decade, Minute of the 12th meeting, held on 27 November 1951, P.5; Rashid al-Barrawi. Point Four Program in Scale. Cairo, 1953; Suheil Yamout. Point Four Program: Presentation and Analysis. Beirut, n.d., pp.12-17; Herman Olden & Paul Flippis, Fourth Point Program, Promise or Threat. Trans. Fajr. Baghdad: Modern Thought House, n.d.; 39 (U.S.S.D.L.I) and F.A (1950-1954). Lebanon, telegram from the American legation, Beirut, June 2, 1951, No: 42, to the Secretary of state, Washington, film: 7, P.37.

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