A Sovereign Lebanon Born Out of the Anomalies of the Spoils of WWI

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The French Colonialist Power created a new enlarged Lebanon in fulfillment of the wishes of the Lebanese Maronite Church at the time of the Splicing of the Arab Middle East at the Versailles Peace Conference in 1919 that bore the very dysfunctionality of its hasty makeup as an amalgamed hodgepodge of demographic of a supposedly much expanded politically dominated Christian Maronite territories in a larger State much in the current defined boundaries that was termed The State of Greater Lebanon (دولة لبنان الكبير Dawlat Lubnān al-Kabīr).

This is simultaneously as the other victorious European Powers at the end of First World War, Great Britain, was energetically at work setting the grounds for the creation of a Jewish State in fulfillment of the Balfour Declaration to the South of the new enlarged Christian Maronite Lebanese State of nowadays Lebanon. This further accentuated the very sources of dysfunctionality of a new Lebanese State by the very nature of the security and political contradictions the whimsical such colonialist-creations entailed.

Invoking the Description of New Lebanon as a Sustainable Sovereign State as Britain or France is, is more of a misnomer belied by the very inherent contradictions entailed in both the multi-sectarian makeup of the New Expanded Lebanon, simultaneously with constant vigilance, preparedness and deterrent military prowess beyond the inherent capabilities and resources that the creation of a totally foreign Spartan, bellicose Expansionist settlers-colonialist entity, Israel, to the South of The State of Greater Lebanon (دولة لبنان الكبير Dawlat Lubnān al-Kabīr) require.

The New Creations by the European Colonialist Powers at the closing of the Versailles Peace Conference post WW1, i.e. The State of Greater Lebanon in response to the wishes of the Lebanese Christian Maronite Minority; and, a Jewish State, a close neighbor to the south, in response to the wishes of the outreaching World Zionist Movement, carried all the seeds of permanent political and security
tensions rendering the sustainability of the newly created enlarged, rather fragile, Lebanese State a permanently very challenging proposition.

*This very much explains, and throws light on the roots of the current and forever recurring political impasse in a Lebanon forever invoking Sovereignty as a none convincing Cause Célèbre that is rather open to contestation and confusions.*

It all started with the anticipation by an insightful and a politically well-trained Lebanese Maronite Patriarch, Elias Peter Hoayek of the timeliness to jump on the occasion to get a piece of a larger pie, to share in the Grand Party among victorious European powers in the allocations of the Spoils of the Patrimony of the Stickman of Europe - The term first used in the mid-19th century to describe the Ottoman Empire – during the Versailles Peace Conference in the aftermath of the Balfour Declaration and the Sykes-Picot Plan.

Heading a delegation to the Versailles Peace Conference, the Maronite Patriarch Elias Peter Hoayek presented in a memorandum on October 27, 1919, the predominately Christian Mount Lebanon Mutasarrifate (the Governate of Jabal Lubnān’s) Aspirations for Edification out of the new Sykes-Picot Grand Plan of partition of the Ottoman Empire of a politically Christian Maronite dominated new enlarged Lebanese State under the name: The State of Greater Lebanon (دولة لبنان الكبير Dawlat Lubnān al-Kabīr).

Assured of the Sympathy and Support of the Vatican and the polity of co-religionist Catholic France as epitomized in the understandings of France’s powerful Prime Minister at the time, Georges Benjamin Clemenceau, the Lebanese Christian Maronite Delegation coming on the heels of the Sykes-Picot Partition Plan seemed assured of the granting of their request presenting their Memorandum at an opportune and a timely occasion.

The creation of the State of Greater Lebanon (دولة لبنان الكبير Dawlat Lubnān al-Kabīr) included a significant extension of the frontiers of the Lebanon Mutasarrifate, the enclave of the predominately Christian Maronite Mount Lebanon Governate, despite the fact that the Christian community would not be a clear majority in such an enlarged state as the Maronite Delegation sought a state that could better provide for its people with the arbitrary annexations of much larger adjacent territories that once belonged politically and administratively to the Governance of former Ottoman-Administered Vilayats.
However, the demographic makeup of the annexed territories was predominately of the Arab Muslims who naturally shared much of the aspirations and the ill-fate of their once compatriots in the larger expanded Arab Levant as the larger Levant was sliced simultaneously into new colonies by France and Britain (See attached, “French Mandate of Syria and Lebanon”).

The quest for the annexation of agricultural lands in the Bekaa and Akkar was fueled by existential fears following the death of nearly half of the Mount Lebanon Mutasarrifate population in the Great Famine; the Maronite church sought the annexation to the Mutasarrifate of the coastal towns of Beirut, Tripoli, Sidon and Tyre and their respective hinterlands, all of which belonged to the Beirut Vilayet, together with four Kasas of the Syria Vilayet (Baalbek, the Bekaa, Rashaya and Hasbya).

The State of Greater Lebanon was declared on 1st of September 1920, following Decree 318 of the 31st of August, 1920.

When the Ottoman Empire was formally split up by the Treaty of Sèvres in 1920, it was decided that four of its territories in the Middle East should be League of Nations mandates temporarily governed by the United Kingdom and France on behalf of the League. The British were given Palestine and Iraq while the French were given a mandate over Syria and Lebanon (See herewith attached, “French Mandate of Syria and Lebanon”).

French General Gouraud proclaimed the establishment of The State of Greater Lebanon on September 1, 1920. He outlined the country's boundaries to include the area from Ras-al-Naqurah in the South to Nahr-el-Kabir in the North; and from the Summits of the Anti-Lebanon Mountain in the East to the Mediterranean Sea in the West. The Declared State include Lebanon’s present boundaries after splitting few Syrian villages on the southern and western borders with Lebanon and adding them to Lebanon and with Beirut as its capital. The new territory was granted a flag, merging the French flag with the Lebanese Cedar.

Thus, interestingly, Patriarch Elias Peter Hoayek as the head of the Lebanese Maronite Church is hailed by some as the father of Lebanonism and the founder of the modern Lebanese state. Many Lebanese people hailed his patriotism as considered by some as the founder of Lebanon.

The French, totally indifferent to the fate and future of Syria and the Syrian people,
rather following the standard colonialis
st rule of “Divide and Rule,” divided Syria
along most sectarian lines into six different political enclaves as shown in the
attached document “French Mandate of Syria and Lebanon.” Eventually, and as
part of the lax and indifferent policies of the French Colonialist Power, the Sanjak
of Alexandaretta of the Syrian Territories to the Norther West was annexed by and
remains part of the new pro-Western Turkey.
Ironically, rather simultaneously, as the British assumed Mandate of Palestine
under the League of Nation in 1922, the Zionists, with the full support of the
British Colonialist power, set to work in earnest to systematically create a military
settlers-colonialist entity in Palestine. It was within the span of a mere quarter
century from the date of the granting Great Britain a Mandate over Palestine by the
League of Nations in 1922, the demographic, cultural and political makeup of
Palestine was dramatically transformed with the systematic influx of droves of
mass Jewish immigration from Europe and the Soviet Republics. Israel came to
existence in 1948 through the terror, the forced uprooting, expulsion and the
exodus as refugees of the majority of indigenous Arab Palestinian population. This,
along with never abating aggressive territorial expansionist policies and drives of
the Israelis in defiance of the stipulations of the International Law and UN
Resolutions.
Israel, from the very start of the Zionist Movement, being a mostly an illegal
construct under the International Law, espoused pre-emptive armed incursions in
well-conceived punitive raids to neighboring territories, and endeavored to build its
military capabilities and incessantly pursue bellicose and aggressive expansionist
policies towards its neighbors. This was particularly repeatedly carried out against
Syria, Lebanon and another newly created state, Jordan, intended to serve as a
potential buffer state to safeguard against encroachments against the newly created
Spartan Israeli State.
Israel, as in the words and ambitions of the real father of Zionism and one of its
founders, first Israeli President, Chaim Weissman, was intended to become, “As
Exclusively Jewish, as Britain is British and France is French.” Israel’s
Expansionist Territorial ambitions, as again expressed by Chaim Weissman,
followed on Ze'ev Jabotinsky’s “Iron Wall” Theory. Besides, as was in the
Zionists’ original plan, Israel’s territories would extend to the Litani river in the
South of Lebanon and to part of nowadays Jordan.
Israel, as the only nuclear power in the entire Middle East, disposing currently according to some estimates of more than 250 nuclear warheads pointing to Arab population centers; Arab military installations and bases; Arab economic and industrial centers; pursued, ever since its creation, an aggressive military expansionist program against its immediate neighbors in Jordan, with the occupation, colonization and annexation of the west Bank; in Syria, with the Occupation, colonization and the annexation of the Golan Heights; and in Lebanon in 1978, 1982, 2000 and 2006. Thus, in the proven true reality, Israel represents a permanent military and security threat to its neighbors.

The Lebanese people in the South of Lebanon of the mostly Shiite Sect experienced the horrors and most heinous punitive acts by repeated Israeli incursions and the Occupation of the South of Lebanon by Israel until the occupation Israeli forces and their recruits of Lebanese Mercenaries were forced to withdraw under the hammer of the popular forces of the Lebanese Resistance on May, 2000.

The Lebanese Army, very weak in its structure and capabilities, was and remains a No Match to Israel’s very powerful military. The Lebanese State is a very dysfunctional state that operates under the archaic mostly corrupt Political Tribal System. Lebanon perennially lacks the indigenous economic resources, the social cohesiveness and the transparency to act and operate as a truly effective Sovereign State to maintain a strong army capable of facing up Israel’s aggressive, expansionist and brutal powers.

It is an invitation of laughter when a young skin-deep in wisdom and history lessons Saad El-Hariri wants to dictate strategies to a Lebanon too weak to decide for itself and defend its territorial integrity.

As far Spartan Israel in defiance of World Peace and the International Law exists, the Lebanese people have no alternative but to consider remaining permanently alert and vigilant to repel recurring future Israeli incursions and potential occupations. All means to defend themselves, the Lebanese people, primarily those most affected in the South of Lebanon, as proven by a long history, are forced to try and look after themselves. A dysfunctional Lebanese State termed Sovereign is perennially incapable to undertake such a role.

Whoever experienced the brutality of the Israeli occupation, as in Sabra & Shatila and Al-Khiam, knows darn well, to rely on oneself and build one’s own deterrence.
capabilities to repulse any future Israeli incursions, as experience and history proven, is the ultimate guarantee at self-protection and self-preservation.

Israel to Lebanon remains the immediate and most imminent adversary warranting that the Lebanese people take their fate into their hands.