

Abstract

This bachelor thesis deals with contribution of Consociational theory for Lebanon in 1943 till 1975 and during a follow-up state's reconstruction in 1989 after a civil war.

In 1943 Lebanon becomes an independent state for the first time and its political system contained Consociational principles described by Netherland's political scientist Arend Lijphart. Those were present in order to keep the system stable despite wide religious fragmentation which was the Lebanon's case. The possibility of taking part in political decision making had all of the relevant groups. Institutional organization matched the basic Consociational conditions but the society was divided ideologically and socially. Arab nationals appeared among the Muslims whilst the Christians rather advanced the Lebanese nationalism. Problems were also brought together with a bad socioeconomic situation which was mostly a disadvantage for Muslims. Already a situation this difficult was intensified by a long-termed Arab-Israeli conflict and the Palestinian migration in Lebanon going along with it.

The aim of this thesis is to find out how the elites dealt with such a difficult situation in 1943 till 1975 then to evaluate the presence of Consociational principles and their contribution.