

CHRONOLOGY OF PRINCIPAL EVENTS IN SYRIA AND LEBANON, 1914–1946



1914	World War I begins
1915	Famine starts in Mount Lebanon
1918	Faysal and the Entente powers occupy Syria and Lebanon
1920	Women's suffrage debate languishes in the Syrian Congress French occupy Syria after battle of Maysalun Greater Lebanon proclaimed by High Commissioner Henri Gouraud
1922	French mandate for Syria and Lebanon assigned by League of Nations
1923	Maxime Weygand named high commissioner
1924	Lebanese Representative Council rejects women's suffrage First major Islamic populist group, al-Gharra, founded Maurice Sarrail named high commissioner
1925	Syrian Revolt begins Sarrail dismissed, Henry de Jouvenel becomes high commissioner Syrian-Lebanese Communist Party founded
1926	Lebanese constitution adopted Henri Ponsot named high commissioner
1927	Syrian Revolt ends
1928	Nazira Zayn al-Din publishes <i>Unveiling and Veiling</i> Syrian constituent assembly convenes Syrian-Lebanese women's union conference, Beirut
1930	Syrian constitution decreed by Henri Ponsot Women's union conference, Beirut First Eastern Women's Conference, Damascus
1931–32	First Syrian elections
1932	Lebanese constitution suspended

- Antun Sa'ada founds Syrian National Party
- 1933 First employee-only labor unions founded, Beirut
Damien de Martel becomes high commissioner
Syrian parliament suspended
- 1935–36 Protective labor laws enacted for women and children
- 1936 Syrian general strike restarts treaty negotiations
Constitutional life resumes and National Bloc elected in Syria
Rise of proto-fascist youth groups
- 1937 Lebanese constitution reinstated
Mandate labor report reveals high unemployment among artisans and women homeworkers
Labor movement unites in campaign for comprehensive labor codes
- 1938 Gabriel Puaux named high commissioner
French parliament rejects independence treaties
- 1938–39 Labor codes rejected in Syrian and Lebanese parliaments
- 1939 Protests force repeal of personal status law reforms
Parliaments suspended and military rule imposed as World War II begins
- 1940–41 Hunger marches and bread riots against wartime shortages
Puaux replaced by Vichy supporter Henri Dentz
- 1941 Free French and British oust Vichy government, promise independence
Georges Catroux heads the renamed Delegation General
- 1941–43 Mass mobilization of nationalist, proto-fascist, Islamic populist, women's, labor and Communist movements
State adoption of new social welfare commitments
- 1943 Nationalists win elections
Shukri al-Quwwatli elected president of Syria and Bishara al-Khuri elected Lebanese president
National Pact declared in Lebanon
New French Delegate General, Jean Helleu, arrests Lebanese government leaders, sparking mass protests and violence
- 1944 French transfer control of civilian administration to nationalist governments
Revolt by Islamic populists in Damascus
Women's suffrage rejected by Lebanese parliament
Arab women's conference in Cairo

- 1945 Violent revolt in Syria
 Syrian Muslim Brotherhood founded
- 1946 French and British troops evacuate
 Full independence achieved
 Labor codes adopted

