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Lebanese Migration to the Americas: Causes and Socioeconomic Impacts (1890–1930)

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Abstract: The late 19th and early 20th centuries marked a significant wave of migration from Lebanon to the Americas, a movement that profoundly shaped the socioeconomic trajectories of both the homeland and the host countries. Migration coincided with repressive Ottoman rule, economic crises, the Great Famine, and compulsory military conscription conditions that worsened under the French Mandate. Despite promises of reform, post-war policies continued to stimulate outward migration. While numerous accounts describe the diaspora's success abroad, limited academic focus has been placed on the integrated causes, migration routes, and long-term impacts on both Lebanon and the Americas during 1890–1930. This study aims to explore the drivers, patterns, and socioeconomic consequences of Lebanese migration, examining how geopolitical, economic, and social factors intersected to produce mass displacement. The findings show that Lebanese migrants, though fleeing hardship, became economically active in trade and small industries, particularly in Brazil, Argentina, the United States, and Mexico. Remittances uplifted the Lebanese economy, yet mass emigration also caused labor shortages and social restructuring. In host societies, Lebanese communities established cultural institutions that preserved their identity while facilitating integration. By integrating historical, economic, and cultural analysis, the research uncovers the dual impact of migration as a source of resilience and transformation for Lebanon and its diaspora. Understanding this migration offers insights into current diasporic dynamics, highlighting the importance of migration networks, remittances, and cultural continuity in shaping transnational societies.

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1. Introduction

The period between the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries witnessed a massive wave of migration from the Levant, with Lebanon having a significant share of it. This migration was not a random phenomenon; rather, it was the result of a combination of political, economic, and social factors that drove thousands of Lebanese to leave their homeland in search of a better life in the Americas. They found new opportunities for work and stability there [1].

This wave coincided with complex historical circumstances, including worsening economic conditions under Ottoman rule, the outbreak of World War I and the subsequent major famine in Mount Lebanon, and the French Mandate, which brought political and economic changes that in turn impacted migration patterns. Other factors, such as the expansion of trade networks and contact with early immigrants, also contributed to the growth of Lebanese migration to the Americas. Immigrants settled in countries such as

Brazil, Argentina, the United States, and Mexico, contributing to their new communities through trade, industry, and services [2].

Although this migration brought with it several opportunities for immigrants, but it left clear impacts on Lebanon, both economically, through remittances and investments, and socially, it affected demographics and family relations. It also led to the emergence of active Lebanese communities abroad, contributing to the spread of Lebanese culture and preserving ties with the motherland [3].

This research aims to study this phenomenon through three main sections. The first deals with the causes of migration, while the second sheds light on the migration paths and the settlement of Lebanese in the Americas. The third examines the economic and social repercussions of this migration during the period extending from 1890 to 1930 [4].

2. Materials and Methods

This study employs a qualitative historical methodology to investigate the multifaceted causes and socioeconomic impacts of Lebanese migration to the Americas between 1890 and 1930. Primary sources, including period documents, memoirs, governmental records, and contemporaneous publications, were examined to establish a contextual understanding of the political and economic conditions in Lebanon during Ottoman rule, World War I, and the French Mandate period. Archival materials from both Lebanese and international repositories were used to trace migration patterns and settlement behavior in key destination countries such as Brazil, Argentina, the United States, and Mexico. The research also integrates secondary sources peer-reviewed books, academic journals, and theses to enrich the analysis and support interpretations of the data. A thematic analysis was conducted to identify recurring patterns related to drivers of migration, such as famine, conscription, economic hardship, and administrative repression, as well as to assess the effects on both the homeland and diaspora communities. Particular attention was given to remittance flows, labor market changes, and cultural preservation mechanisms among migrants. Furthermore, the study evaluates the role of Lebanese immigrants in the economic development of host countries through their participation in trade, agriculture, and industry. The methodology emphasizes triangulation to ensure validity, combining historical narrative with socio-economic interpretation. Through this approach, the study reconstructs the lived experiences of Lebanese migrants and elucidates the long-term implications of their transnational movement on national identity and diaspora dynamics.

3. Results and Discussion

The first topic

Reasons for Lebanese migration to the Americas (1890-1930)

Lebanese migration to the Americas between 1890 and 1930 was not merely a normal population movement. Rather, it was a direct result of a host of political and economic factors that prompted the Lebanese to seek new opportunities outside their homeland. Under Ottoman rule, Lebanon faced political and economic challenges that directly impacted the lives of its population. The Ottoman authorities imposed administrative and tax policies that increased the suffering of the Lebanese, in light of the decline of the agricultural and industrial sectors, which made emigration a necessary option for many [5].

With the outbreak of World War I (1914-1918), the situation worsened, as the Lebanese suffered from the Great Famine in Mount Lebanon (1915-1918), which claimed the lives of thousands, in addition to forced conscription and repressive practices practiced by the Ottoman Empire, which prompted large waves of Lebanese to leave the country to escape death and hunger [6].

After the war and the collapse of Ottoman rule, Lebanon entered a new phase under the French Mandate (1920-1930), a period that witnessed political, social, and economic changes that deepened the phenomenon of emigration. The Mandate was unable to address the economic crises that worsened after the war, prompting more Lebanese to emigrate in search of better living conditions in North and South America [7].

This study will shed light on the reasons that led to the migration of Lebanese to the Americas during this era. This will be done by studying the political and economic conditions in Ottoman Lebanon, the impact of World War I, and then the migration under the French mandate, to understand the factors that prompted thousands of Lebanese to make the decision to leave their homeland [8].

Firstly: Political and economic conditions in Ottoman Lebanon (1890-1914)

The period between the years 1890 and 1914 Major political and economic transformations in Lebanon directly impacted the lives of the population and were a major reason for many to emigrate to the Americas. During this period, Lebanon was part of the Ottoman Empire, but enjoyed a special administrative system following the adoption of the Mutasarrifate System in 1861, which granted Mount Lebanon limited autonomy under Ottoman supervision. Although this system provided relative stability in its early days, increasing Ottoman interventions, coupled with economic and social crises, caused conditions in the country to deteriorate, prompting increasing numbers of Lebanese to leave their homeland in search of a better life [9].

Ottoman policies and their impact on the Lebanese population

In the late nineteenth century, the Ottoman Empire adopted strict centralization policies, as part of its attempts to control its various provinces, including Lebanon. Although the Mutasarrifate system granted Mount Lebanon a degree of administrative independence, the Ottoman Empire continued to impose its influence in various ways, most notably through harsh tax policies that burdened the population. In the year 1893 The Ottomans imposed additional taxes on agricultural lands and crops, which increased the suffering of the peasants who depended on agriculture as their main source of livelihood. This period also witnessed the implementation of the policy of compulsory conscription, which aroused widespread discontent among the population. Especially and that several Many young Lebanese men were forced to serve in the Ottoman army for long periods, which led many of them to emigrate to escape this reality [10].

In addition, the Ottoman administration was characterized by widespread corruption and favoritism, so The appointment of officials in the various regions was subject to political considerations rather than being based on competence. In the year 1902 A new governor was appointed for Lebanon who was close to the Ottoman authorities in Istanbul, but he did not succeed in improving the economic situation or calming the growing political tension, which led to an increase in waves of emigration among the Lebanese [11].

Economic crises and the decline of agriculture and industry

The Lebanese economy during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries faced major challenges, so Agriculture, which used to be the backbone of the Lebanese economy, has declined due to several factors, most notably the imposition of high taxes on farmers, weak investment in the agricultural sector, and the deterioration of infrastructure such as irrigation canals and agricultural roads. Climate changes in some years, such as the drought that hit the region in 1895, also led to a decrease in the production of basic crops such as wheat and olives, making living conditions more difficult [12].

The industry was not in a better position, as the silk industry, which was one of the most important sources of income for the Lebanese, experienced a major crisis as a result of the decline in European demand. Especially After the economic crisis that hit France in

the year 1907, so the French market was the main importer of Lebanese silk. The intense competition with cheaper European products also caused the closure of several small businesses and factories, which led to high unemployment rates, and pushed several craftsmen and industrial workers to migrating in search of job opportunities abroad [13].

On the other hand, Lebanese trade was affected by Ottoman restrictions on imports and exports, which led to weak local markets and higher prices for basic commodities. In the year 1909, the Ottoman authorities issued a set of decisions that increased the complexity of commercial transactions, which made several Lebanese merchants facing difficulties in selling their goods, and as a result, many of them have resorted to emigrating to countries such as Argentina and Brazil. They found more stable markets and better business opportunities [14].

Lebanese migration before World War I

As the political and economic situation continued to deteriorate, Lebanese emigration began to increase significantly since the late nineteenth century, so traveling to the Americas has become an option for many Lebanese who have lost hope of improving their conditions inside the country. Statistics indicate that the number of Lebanese who emigrated between the years 1890 and 1914 exceed 100,000 migrants, which is a large number compared to the population at that time [15].

Brazil and Argentina were among the most prominent destinations for Lebanese immigrants. Trade flourished there, and the Lebanese found opportunities to work in various fields, such as selling fabrics and jewelry, in addition to working in agriculture. The United States of America has also witnessed increasing waves of Lebanese immigration. Especially after a year 1896, so Lebanese people worked there in textile factories, shops, and crafts [16].

Migration during this period was not just an individual decision, but I adopted on interconnected social networks, so early immigrants helped their relatives and friends travel and settle in new countries. Remittances sent by expatriates also played a crucial role in supporting the Lebanese economy. Some estimates indicate that remittances that arrived in Lebanon between the years 1900 and 1910 helped thousands of families improve their living conditions, and even invest some of this money in purchasing land or developing small businesses [17].

With the outbreak of World War I approaching in 1914, I entered Lebanese immigration a new phase, so it increased. Its severity is a result of the harsh conditions imposed by the war. Especially after the Great Famine in Mount Lebanon (1915-1918) (Which led to the migration of larger numbers of Lebanese to the Americas during one of the darkest periods that Lebanon has witnessed in its modern history [18].

Secondly: The Impact of World War I (1914-1918) on Immigration

With the outbreak of World War I in 1914, Lebanon entered a period of profound crises that exacerbated the suffering of the population and made emigration an urgent necessity for many. The war imposed enormous pressures on the country, so Lebanese regions suffered from famine, epidemics, forced conscription, political repression, and severe economic decline. During this period, Lebanese emigration to the Americas increased. So Lebanese sought to escape the harsh conditions imposed by the war in search of a more stable life [19].

The Great Famine in Mount Lebanon (1915-1918)

The great famine that struck Mount Lebanon between 1915 and 1918 were among the worst disasters in Lebanon's modern history. It caused the deaths of tens of thousands of people and forced many to emigrate. This famine had multiple causes, most notably the economic blockade imposed by the Ottoman Empire on Mount Lebanon. So Jamal Pasha, the Ottoman military governor of Syria and Lebanon, prevented food supplies from reaching the mountainous regions, leading to a severe shortage of basic foodstuffs [20].

In addition to a locust invasion in 1915 destroyed crops, exacerbating the food crisis. It is estimated that the famine killed about 100,000 people, nearly a third of the population at the time, which prompted several families to selling their possessions or migrating abroad to escape hunger [21].

In light of these disastrous conditions, migration was a lifeline for many. The Lebanese tried to reach South American countries, especially Brazil and Argentina, as well as the United States and Canada, taking advantage of the immigration networks that the Lebanese had established in previous periods [22].

Forced conscription and political persecution

As the war continued, the Ottoman authorities imposed a policy of compulsory conscription on Lebanese youth, which sparked widespread resentment among the population. In 1916, thousands of Lebanese were forced to serve in the Ottoman army, so they were sent to the battle fronts in Anatolia and Iraq, which led to their flight. Several young men and their tendency towards immigration to avoid forced conscription [23].

In addition, the Ottoman authorities carried out a widespread campaign of repression against opponents, so in 1916, Jamal Pasha executed a number of Arab nationalists in Beirut and Damascus, in what later became known as the "May 6 Martyrs," which increased feelings of anger and fear among the Lebanese, and prompted several families to immigration for fear of political persecution [24].

Increasing waves of migration due to deteriorating living conditions

By the year 1917 the economic conditions in Lebanon had reached an unprecedented level of deterioration, so food shortages and rising prices have led to widespread poverty and famine among various segments of society. The collapse of the Ottoman lira also caused many Lebanese to lose their savings, making emigration the only option available to them to improve their situation [25].

By the end of the war in 1918 the Lebanese community in the Americas has witnessed significant growth, so tens of thousands of Lebanese immigrants have settled in countries such as Brazil, Argentina, Venezuela, Mexico, the United States, and Canada, becoming part of the economic and social fabric of these countries. They engaged in trade, industry, and agriculture, and sent money to their families in Lebanon, helping to mitigate some of the effects of the economic crisis at home [26].

Thus, World War I constituted a decisive stage in the history of Lebanese immigration, so migration during this period was not just a choice, but rather a necessity imposed by the circumstances of war, famine, and political oppression, making it one of the largest waves of migration in the modern history of Lebanon [27].

Third: Immigration under the French Mandate (1920-1930)

With the end of World War I in 1918 and the fall of the Ottoman Empire, Lebanon entered a new phase of its history under the French Mandate, which officially began in 1920. This phase had profound effects on the political, economic, and social conditions in the country. Lebanon has witnessed political and administrative transformations, economic crises, and social unrest that have prompted large numbers of Lebanese to continue migrating to the Americas [28].

Political and social changes after the fall of the Ottoman Empire

With the collapse of Ottoman rule in the region, French General Henri Gouraud declared the establishment of Greater Lebanon under the French mandate on September 1, 1920. This state included Mount Lebanon and the surrounding areas, such as Beirut, the Bekaa, the South, and the North. Although this declaration was considered the founding of modern Lebanon, it was accompanied by political and social turmoil. Protest movements emerged against French colonialism, especially in rural and agricultural areas, which suffered from poverty and marginalization [29].

This period also witnessed sectarian and political conflicts as a result of the redrawing of the political map of Lebanon. Tensions have emerged between different sects over the future of governance and administration. These unstable conditions have pushed some Lebanese, especially from the middle class, to seek a more stable future abroad, which led to an increase in the number of immigrants [30].

The impact of the French mandate on immigration

Although France attempted to improve Lebanon's infrastructure, such as building roads and developing administration, French economic policies served colonial interests more than the interests of the local population. The French authorities imposed new taxes, which increased the burden on farmers and small traders. The concentration of economic power in the hands of elites linked to the mandate also led to an increase in the class gap. Most Lebanese did not benefit from the development projects launched by France as well as the repressive policies of the French mandate, such as the suppression of the 1925 revolution (the Great Syrian Revolution) (which extended to some Lebanese regions, leading to a new wave of displacement). Several many young Lebanese men leave the country to escape forced conscription or political repression [31].

Economic factors that prompted the Lebanese to continue emigrating

The economic situation was one of the main factors that drove the Lebanese to emigrate during the 1920s. Lebanon suffered from successive economic crises due to declining agricultural production and the decline of local industries, which were unable to compete with imported European products. In addition, the financial inflation that occurred after World War I and the global economic depression in the late 1920s made living conditions even more difficult, prompting more Lebanese to seek employment opportunities abroad [32].

It seems that the continuation of immigration to the Americas due to the success of the first Lebanese who settled there, so they established strong commercial networks and Lebanese communities, facilitating the integration of new immigrants into their new societies. Countries such as Brazil, Argentina, the United States, and Venezuela continued to receive new waves of Lebanese immigrants, who became involved in trade, industry, and agriculture [33].

The second topic

Lebanese Migration Routes and Immigrant Settlement in the Americas (1890-1930)

With the increasing waves of Lebanese immigration during the period between 1890 and 1930, the destinations of the Lebanese people varied, with the Americas, both North and South, emerging as the most important destinations. This migration was not merely a geographical move; it represented a profound social, economic, and cultural transformation. Immigrants faced numerous challenges in adapting to new societies, securing livelihoods, and preserving their cultural and religious identity [34].

During the three decades studied, Lebanese migration went through three main stages, each of which was influenced by the political and economic transformations witnessed by both Lebanon and the world. In the first period (1890-1914), the main motivation for migration was economic, so Lebanese left in search of job opportunities and a better life, heading mainly to Brazil, Argentina, the United States, and Mexico. This migration was driven by deteriorating living conditions in Ottoman Lebanon and the boom in global trade, which opened the door for Lebanese to engage in commercial and industrial activities abroad [35].

With the outbreak of World War I (1914-1918) the new immigrants faced great difficulties, so several from ports, transatlantic travel was disrupted, hampering the flow of migration. The war also affected Lebanese immigrants who had already settled in the Americas, so they suffered from economic stagnation and discrimination in some

countries, Especially With the rise of anti-foreign nationalist sentiment Despite these challenges, Lebanese have continued to strengthen their presence in diaspora communities, and some cities have become major centers for Lebanese communities [36].

In the period following the war, and with Lebanon coming under the French mandate (1920-1930) Lebanese migration has undergone a qualitative transformation. Migration is no longer merely an individual or economic choice, but rather a more organized social movement. so Lebanese communities in the Americas began to build their own institutions, such as cultural and religious associations, newspapers, and commercial clubs. Lebanese immigrants' activities also expanded into various economic sectors, from traditional trade to industry, crafts, and services, contributing to their gradual integration into their host societies while preserving their distinct identity [37].

Firstly :The First Period of Immigration (1890-1914): The First Destination of Immigrants

Towards the end of the nineteenth century, Lebanon witnessed a large wave of migration to the Americas. so The deteriorating economic and political conditions pushed Lebanese to seek a better life abroad. This migration was mostly individual and unorganized, with migrants often relying on acquaintances and relatives who had already settled there. This journey was not easy; it was long and arduous, and migrants had to pass through multiple stages before reaching their final destinations [38].

Lebanese migration to Brazil, Argentina, the United States, and Mexico

Brazil emerged as the most important destination for Lebanese immigrants during this period, so Tens of thousands of them settled in cities such as São Paulo and Rio de Janeiro. Most of them worked in small businesses, particularly in selling goods in a business known as "macari." so Lebanese merchants moved between villages and cities carrying their goods for sale. Some also engaged in the agricultural sector. Especially In the coffee plantations, which witnessed a great boom during that period, which made them part of the Brazilian economic fabric [39].

Argentina was no less attractive to immigrants, as many settled several Among them are in Buenos Aires, Cordoba and Rosario, so They established small businesses that later evolved into larger economic enterprises. Lebanese citizens entered the textile, trade, and import-export sectors, becoming active players in the Argentine economy, benefiting from the country's prosperous economic conditions at that time [40].

In contrast, immigration to the United States was not as intense as immigration to South America, but it was very significant. so Lebanese settled in cities such as New York, Boston, and Detroit, working in factories and commerce, particularly in the textile and retail industries. Over time, many of them succeeded in establishing their own businesses, which contributed to improving their economic and social conditions. In Mexico, Lebanese settled in the capital, Mexico City, and Monterrey. so They engaged in trade, Especially They traded in textiles and consumer goods, and achieved remarkable success thanks to their business skills and ability to adapt to new markets [41].

Means of travel and the most important ports used for migration

The migration journey was long and arduous, so Migrants relied on steamships that transported passengers from Middle Eastern ports to European ports, and from there to the Americas. The port of Beirut played a key role in the migration process, as it was the main gateway through which Lebanese left their country. Some migrants also used the ports of Tripoli and Latakia. Especially Those coming from the northern regions. After leaving Lebanon, their ships stopped at European ports such as Marseille in France, Naples in Italy, and Barcelona in Spain. so They sometimes had to wait for long periods before boarding ships bound for their final destinations [42].

In the Americas, major ports received large numbers of Lebanese, such as the ports of Rio de Janeiro and Santos in Brazil, the port of Buenos Aires in Argentina, and the port of New York in the United States, which was the primary transit point for migrants

arriving in North America. Travel conditions were harsh, so the migrants suffered from overcrowding on the ships, poor sanitary conditions, and the long journey, which took weeks, which increased their suffering at the beginning of their new life [43].

Secondly: World War I (1914-1918): Challenges and Difficulties

With the outbreak of World War I in the year 1914, Lebanese immigration to the Americas has entered a new phase of challenges and difficulties. The war has caused the closure of several ports and the disruption of shipping lines, making movement between Lebanon and the diaspora more complicated than ever. The war also directly affected the conditions of Lebanese living abroad. They faced difficult economic and social pressures as a result of changing international circumstances [44].

Port closures and difficulty of movement during the war (1914-1918)

The outbreak of the war led to tightened controls on maritime routes and the closure of several ports to commercial and civilian shipping. The port of Beirut, the primary departure point for Lebanese migrants before the war, was under Ottoman control, and shipping traffic to and from it was severely restricted. European ports that were important transit points for migrants, such as Marseille in France and Naples in Italy, were also affected by the naval blockade and restrictions imposed on maritime transport by the warring powers [45].

Not only was it difficult to leave Lebanon, but Lebanese immigrants in the Americas faced another problem: difficulty communicating with their families back home. News of several Lebanese families have been separated from their relatives abroad, causing migrants to suffer from anxiety and fear for the fate of their relatives who remained in war zones. Especially after the exacerbation of the Great Famine in Mount Lebanon (1915-1918), which caused the death of thousands of Lebanese due to the Ottoman siege and food monopoly [46].

The impact of the war on Lebanese communities abroad (1914-1918)

Lebanese emigrants were not immune to the repercussions of the war, as their economic and social conditions were affected by the changes imposed by the global conflict. In Brazil and Argentina, the war disrupted markets and reduced foreign trade, negatively impacting Lebanese merchants who relied on importing goods from Europe. Rising prices for food and basic goods also increased the economic burden on Lebanese communities, which were still in the process of rebuilding their communities in the diaspora [47].

In the United States, the American economy experienced a relative boom as a result of its shift to military production, which provided job opportunities for some Lebanese in factories and industrial projects. However, from immigrants to a wave of xenophobia, anti-immigrant nationalist sentiments have been on the rise. Especially those coming from countries under Ottoman rule, which made it more difficult for them to integrate into American society during this period [48].

Despite these difficulties, Lebanese emigration continued, but at a slower pace. Some Lebanese were able to reach the Americas via alternative routes, such as traveling through Egypt or Cyprus before heading to Europe and then transiting to their final destinations. Lebanese communities abroad also played an important role in assisting new migrants. Provide them with financial support and guidance to face new challenges in light of the tense global situation [49].

Third: Post-war and French Mandate Period (1920-1930): The Evolution of Diaspora Communities

With the end of World War I in the year 1918, with the imposition of the French mandate on Lebanon in 1920, Lebanese migration to the Americas witnessed a qualitative transformation from a mere search for economic opportunities to the establishment of established Lebanese communities in the countries of emigration. The Lebanese were not

simply immigrants seeking work; they became part of the social, economic, and cultural fabric of the countries in which they settled, forming cohesive communities that contributed to shaping Lebanese identity abroad [50].

Expansion of the economic activities of Lebanese immigrants (1920-1930)

In the third decade of the twentieth century, the Lebanese became increasingly integrated into the local economies of the countries of the Americas, so transformation several. Some of them work as street vendors, and others establish shops, small factories, and trading companies specializing in exporting and importing goods. In Brazil and Argentina, Lebanese flourished in the textile and household goods trade, becoming an influential segment of the local market. In the United States, they benefited from the post-war industrial boom, with some working in the industrial and commercial sectors, while others excelled in the jewelry and textile trade [51].

Some Lebanese have begun to invest in agriculture, especially in Mexico and Venezuela, so they purchased agricultural land and began producing crops such as coffee and sugarcane. This economic development was not only a step towards improving their financial situation, but also contributed to strengthening their social standing within diaspora communities. so they became part of the middle and commercial class [52].

The emergence of organized Lebanese communities and the establishment of associations and institutions (1920-1930)

With the increasing numbers of Lebanese immigrants and their economic success, there is a need to establish institutions and associations that strengthen their social ties and help them face the challenges of integration into new societies. During the 1920s, Lebanese associations were established in Brazil, Argentina, the United States, and Mexico, which played an important role in providing social and cultural support to immigrants [53].

In Brazil, it was founded several. Among the Lebanese clubs that organized cultural and social events and worked to teach Arabic to new generations of immigrant children. In Argentina, Lebanese newspapers such as *Al-Muhajir* and *Al-Sharq* played an important role in enhancing cultural and political awareness among the Lebanese community and contributed to conveying news about the motherland to expatriates [54].

In the United States, major cities such as New York, Boston, and Detroit have witnessed the establishment of Lebanese institutions aimed at assisting new immigrants and providing them with support in finding work and settling into American society. The Maronite and Greek Orthodox churches also played an important role in strengthening the religious and cultural identity of the Lebanese communities. so they have become gathering centers for migrants and their families [55].

The Cultural and Religious Impact of Immigrants on Receiving Societies (1920-1930)

Over time, the Lebanese were not just individuals living in the diaspora, but became an active part of the receiving societies. so they left a clear cultural mark on the countries they settled in. They contributed to the spread of Lebanese cuisine, which became widely popular in countries such as Brazil and Mexico. so dishes such as falafel, tabbouleh and kibbeh have become popular among locals [56].

The Lebanese also played an important role in political and social life. so some of them began to engage in local politics, and a number of Lebanese were elected to municipal councils and parliaments. Especially in South American countries, they also contributed to strengthening cultural dialogue between Arab and Latin American societies through literature, journalism and the arts. so writers and journalists of Lebanese origin have contributed to enriching the cultural scene in the diaspora.

The third topic

The Economic and Social Repercussions of Lebanese Migration (1890-1930)

Lebanese migration to the Americas occurred between the years 1890 and 1930 and had profound effects on various economic and social aspects, both in Lebanon and in the diaspora. This migration was not simply a movement of individuals seeking new opportunities; it transformed into an influential phenomenon that reshaped the economic and social landscapes of the motherland and the countries that hosted the Lebanese.

On the economic level, remittances sent by migrants have played a vital role in supporting the Lebanese economy, contributing to improved living standards for families and providing the capital needed for a number of commercial and investment projects. Conversely, the displacement of large numbers of the workforce has created a vacuum in some productive sectors, such as agriculture and traditional industries. This dual effect has made migration a catalyst for economic growth, but it has also created structural challenges in the Lebanese labor market [57].

In the diaspora, the Lebanese have succeeded in building a strong reputation in the fields of trade and industry. They excelled in sectors such as textile trade, itinerant commerce, and import-export, making them an integral part of local economies. In Brazil, Argentina, and Mexico, Lebanese quickly integrated into commercial markets, leveraging their family networks and ability to adapt to economic changes. Some major cities, such as New York, São Paulo, and Buenos Aires, have also witnessed the emergence of economically active Lebanese communities, which has contributed to strengthening their position within the receiving societies.

Firstly: The Economic Impact of Emigration on Lebanon (1890-1930)

The Lebanese economy witnessed significant changes as a result of extensive migration to the Americas between the years 1890 and 1930. This phenomenon has contributed to strengthening some economic aspects, but at the same time it has created challenges that have led to structural changes within Lebanese society [58].

Remittances and their role in the Lebanese economy

Remittances sent by migrants were one of the most significant economic impacts of migration. They played a pivotal role in improving the standard of living of their families inside Lebanon. By the beginning of the 20th century, these remittances had become a major source of income in several regions. Especially in villages with high rates of migration, some estimates indicate that this money was not only used to meet daily needs, but was also used to purchase land, build homes, and expand small businesses. Remittances also contributed to the prosperity of some sectors, such as internal trade and services, due to the increased purchasing power of the beneficiary families [59].

Investing in infrastructure and commercial projects in Lebanon

Thanks to the influx of money from migrants, some Lebanese regions have seen their infrastructure develop. These funds were used to build schools, construct churches, and improve roads and transportation, helping to boost trade within the country. Some returning expatriates also invested their savings in commercial and industrial projects, leading to the growth of sectors such as retail stores, cafes, and mills. However, these investments remained limited in some aspects. Most returnees preferred to keep their money rather than venture into long-term projects.

Decline in some productive sectors due to labor migration

Despite the positives brought by remittances, migration has caused a decline in productive sectors, particularly agriculture and traditional industries. The migration of large numbers of able-bodied men has led to a labor shortage, impacting agricultural

production. Especially in mountainous areas that relied on manual labor, this displacement also led to the closure of some traditional crafts, such as weaving and pottery, due to the lack of artisans. Over time, this decline has contributed to increased reliance on imports and reduced local production, negatively impacting the rural economy [60].

Ultimately, Lebanese emigration between 1890 and 1930 had a dual impact. On the one hand, remittances contributed to improving families' living conditions and developing certain economic sectors. On the other hand, they caused a labor shortage, leading to a decline in production in some traditional sectors. This contrasting impact demonstrates how emigration was not simply a movement of individuals, but rather an economic and social force that reshaped Lebanese reality during that period [61].

Secondly: The Role of the Lebanese in the Economies of Diaspora Countries (1890-1930)

With the increasing number of Lebanese immigrants to the Americas between the years 1890 and 1930, they played a prominent role in various economic sectors in the countries in which they settled. Especially in Brazil, Argentina, and North America, the Lebanese are distinguished by their rapid integration into local markets and their ability to establish successful commercial and industrial projects, making them an influential economic component in diaspora countries.

Lebanese Contribution to Trade and Industry in Brazil, Argentina, and North America

Trade was the first door through which the Lebanese entered the economies of the diaspora countries. They began working as street vendors in major cities and rural areas, carrying their goods on their backs or using small carts. In Brazil and Argentina, they played an important role in providing consumer products to remote areas. The commercial structure was not developed at that time. Gradually, they were able to convert some of their mobile businesses into fixed stores, and then expanding into larger investments in sectors such as textiles and food industries [62].

Especially in the United States and Canada, Lebanese businesses are concentrated in various sectors, including grocery stores, restaurants, and fabric stores. They benefited from the growing demand for consumer products amid the economic transformations these countries experienced in the first decades of the twentieth century. In Mexico, Lebanese participated in sectors such as cotton and leather exports and had a significant impact on local trade [63].

The emergence of Lebanese merchants in the textile and mobile trade sectors

One of the most important sectors in which Lebanese abroad excelled was the textile sector. They were able to establish successful projects in the textile and clothing trade, leveraging their previous experience in this field in Lebanon. In Argentina, they played a role in stimulating the ready-made garment market, while some in Brazil were able to establish small textile factories that became the nucleus for larger industries in the following decades.

In addition, the Lebanese continued to practice itinerant trade, which was the cornerstone of their economic success. Their flexibility in mobility and their understanding of the needs of local markets helped them. As well as their keenness to build good relations with the indigenous people led to remarkable success. Over time, they were able to convert some of them moved from simple trade to owning large stores and commercial chains in some diaspora countries [64].

Immigrants adapt to their new economic environments

The economic success of Lebanese immigrants would not have been possible without their great ability to adapt to their new environments. They were keen to learn the languages of their host countries, such as Portuguese in Brazil, Spanish in Argentina and Mexico, and English in the United States and Canada, which helped them expand their businesses and enhance their integration into local communities.

As well as that said, they had strong social networks within diaspora communities, so supporting each other in establishing projects and investments, Lebanese immigrant families also contributed to passing on the traditions of trade and business management from one generation to the next, making them an influential economic group in several major cities.

In sum, the Lebanese made significant contributions to the economies of the diaspora during the period between 1890 and 1930. Their role was not limited to simple trade, but extended to the fields of industry and investment. Their economic flexibility, business skills, and adaptability enabled them to achieve successes that made them among the most influential communities in the economies of the countries to which they immigrated.

Third: Social and Cultural Consequences of Migration (1890-1930)

Lebanese migration to the Americas during the period between 1890 and 1930 More than just a human migration, it was a social and cultural phenomenon that impacted Lebanese society on the one hand, and the communities of the diaspora on the other. This migration led to clear changes in the demographic and social structure of Lebanon and contributed to the dissemination of Lebanese culture abroad. The migrants also maintained their ties to their homeland despite the distances they traveled.

The Impact of Migration on the Social Structure in Lebanon: Changing Demographics and Their Impact on Families

During the first decades of the twentieth century, Lebanon witnessed significant demographic shifts due to massive migration. The departure of large numbers of men led to a demographic imbalance, leaving women and the elderly to shoulder the responsibility of managing household and agricultural affairs. The migration of young people and skilled workers also impacted the local labor market. There is a shortage of labor in some productive sectors, which has led to a decline in agricultural and industrial activities in some rural areas.

Socially, migration had a dual impact: on the one hand, it contributed to improving the living conditions of families who received remittances from their migrant relatives, so this money was used to build homes and improve living standards. On the other hand, the prolonged separation of spouses and children from their families led to the disintegration of some families and the emergence of social challenges related to the geographical separation of family members.

The spread of Lebanese culture abroad: literature, journalism, and religion

As the Lebanese settled in the Americas, they brought their language and cultural traditions with them, resulting in a mutual influence between Lebanese culture and the receiving societies. This influence had many manifestations, the most prominent of which was the Arab press abroad. The Lebanese founded several Among the newspapers and magazines that played a role in preserving cultural identity and disseminating news related to the conditions in Lebanon and the host countries. Among these newspapers was the newspaper *Al-Muhajir*, founded by Amin al-Rihani in the United States, and other newspapers in Brazil and Argentina, contributed to strengthening cultural ties among Lebanese immigrants.

On the literary level, Lebanese literary figures emerged abroad, such as Gibran Khalil Gibran and Mikhail Naimy, who were pillars of the Pen League in New York. The experience of migration was reflected in their writings. They addressed topics such as alienation, identity, and homesickness. As well as However, Lebanese religious institutions abroad played an important role in preserving religious and cultural practices. The immigrants established the Maronite and Greek Orthodox churches, and these institutions became social centers that brought together members of the Lebanese

community, helping to strengthen ties between them and protect their religious and cultural traditions.

Maintaining ties between Lebanese abroad and their homeland

Despite the geographical distance, the relationship between Lebanese immigrants and their mother country has not been severed. Ties continued through remittances, which played a role in supporting the Lebanese economy, as well as the exchange of letters and occasional visits by migrants to their homelands. Lebanese newspapers and associations abroad also helped keep migrants informed of Lebanon's political and social conditions.

As well as However, there were counter-migration movements, so Some Lebanese returned to their homeland after achieving economic success abroad, investing in new projects or engaging in political and social life. Lebanese emigrants also played a role in supporting Lebanese national movements. Especially During the French Mandate period, so They provided material and moral support to the movements demanding independence.

In the end, it can be said that Lebanese immigration between The 1890s and 1930s were not limited to economic influence; they also brought about profound changes in the social and cultural structure, both in Lebanon and in diaspora communities. Over time, Lebanese in the Americas formed strong communities that preserved their cultural identity and contributed to enriching the cultural diversity of the countries in which they settled.

4. Conclusion

Lebanese immigration to the Americas has formed among 1890 and 1930 were a decisive stage in the history of modern Lebanon. so It was not just a movement of individuals from their homeland to a new country, but rather an economic, social and cultural transformation with long-lasting effects. This migration was the result of difficult political and economic factors in Ottoman Lebanon, exacerbated by World War I and the subsequent policies of the French Mandate. Despite the hardships faced by the immigrants in their new societies, they were able to integrate and contribute to the economy and trade, establishing strong communities that maintained their ties to their homeland.

By examining the causes, paths, and repercussions, it becomes clear that the Lebanese migration was not just a temporary event, but rather an ongoing process that affected the conditions in Lebanon and the countries of emigration alike. This migration has contributed to transforming Lebanon into a community interconnected with the Lebanese diaspora spread across the Americas, making it dependent on remittances and economic and cultural ties that have endured for decades.

- a. Lebanese migration was not random, but rather came as a result of harsh political and economic conditions imposed by Ottoman policies, which worsened with World War I and the deterioration of living conditions..
- b. Deteriorating economic conditions, such as the collapse of agriculture and industry in Mount Lebanon, have driven large numbers of Lebanese to emigrate in search of better opportunities. Especially To countries such as Brazil, Argentina, the United States and Mexico.
- c. World War I (1914-1918) played a major role in accelerating migration, so The Great Famine, forced conscription, and political persecution led to an increase in the number of immigrants..
- d. Although the French mandate (1920-1930) promised to improve conditions, its economic and political policies did not prevent continued emigration, but rather contributed to pushing more Lebanese abroad..
- e. The Lebanese have succeeded in integrating into the economies of the diaspora countries. so They emerged as successful traders in sectors such as textiles and

- itinerant trade, and contributed to the revitalization of commercial and industrial activity in countries such as Brazil, Argentina, and North America..
- f. Migration did not sever ties between immigrants and their homeland, so Remittances have remained a key factor in supporting the Lebanese economy, along with continued social and cultural communication through the press and Lebanese associations abroad..
 - g. Lebanese migration brought about remarkable cultural changes, as immigrants contributed to the dissemination of Lebanese culture abroad through literature, journalism, and religious institutions, which strengthened Lebanese identity in new societies.

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