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The Lebanese Cedar: Historinal and Cultural Lebanon's Symbol

Summary

The Lebanese cedar is the best known Lebanese symbol which can be found in various spheres in Lebanon to such extent that Lebanon is synonymously being labeled as the *Land of Cedars*. The purpose of the article is to evaluate the historical and cultural meaning of Lebanese cedar and to evaluate the discourse of the use of Lebanese cedar in the modern times in Lebanon. The article is divided into four parts. The first part provides an explanation of the use of ancient past motives in the modern era in the modern collective identity construction. The second part provides an assessment of the historical

and cultural context of the use of Lebanese cedar. The third part analyses the use of Lebanese cedar motives in the travelogues prepared in the 16–19th centuries by European travelers. The fourth part analyses the use of the Lebanese cedar motives in the 20th century. The article suggests that the Lebanese cedar started to obtain its historical and cultural significance in the times of ancient civilizations of the Middle East while in the twentieth century these motives were revived aiming to find the core principles of the modern collective identity as reflecting the uniqueness of Lebanon.

Keywords: The Lebanese Cedar, The Maronites, The National Symbols, National Identity of Lebanon, Middle East.