The Beirut Port as a Trans imperial Hub in the Interwar Middle East

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This study adopts a trans imperial lens to examine the Beirut port not just as a colonial hub but as a site of interaction and competition among multiple imperial and local actors. The port’s strategic location made it a vital node in trans imperial trade routes, where overlapping interests of the French Mandate, British actors, and local elites created a dynamic and contested space. By mapping these interactions, the project reveals the complex interconnections between local and imperial actors, offering new insights into how Beirut served as a meeting point of global economic, social, and political currents.

Key questions:

1. How did the Lebanese elites leverage their relationships with government officials’ international institutions and foreign actors to participate in port activities?
2. What role did foreign companies play in shaping Lebanon economic system and Beirut port activity?
3. How did colonial policies influence public policies governing Lebanon and especially the Beirut port?