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Group{2011a}

Lebanese {Beirut capital}

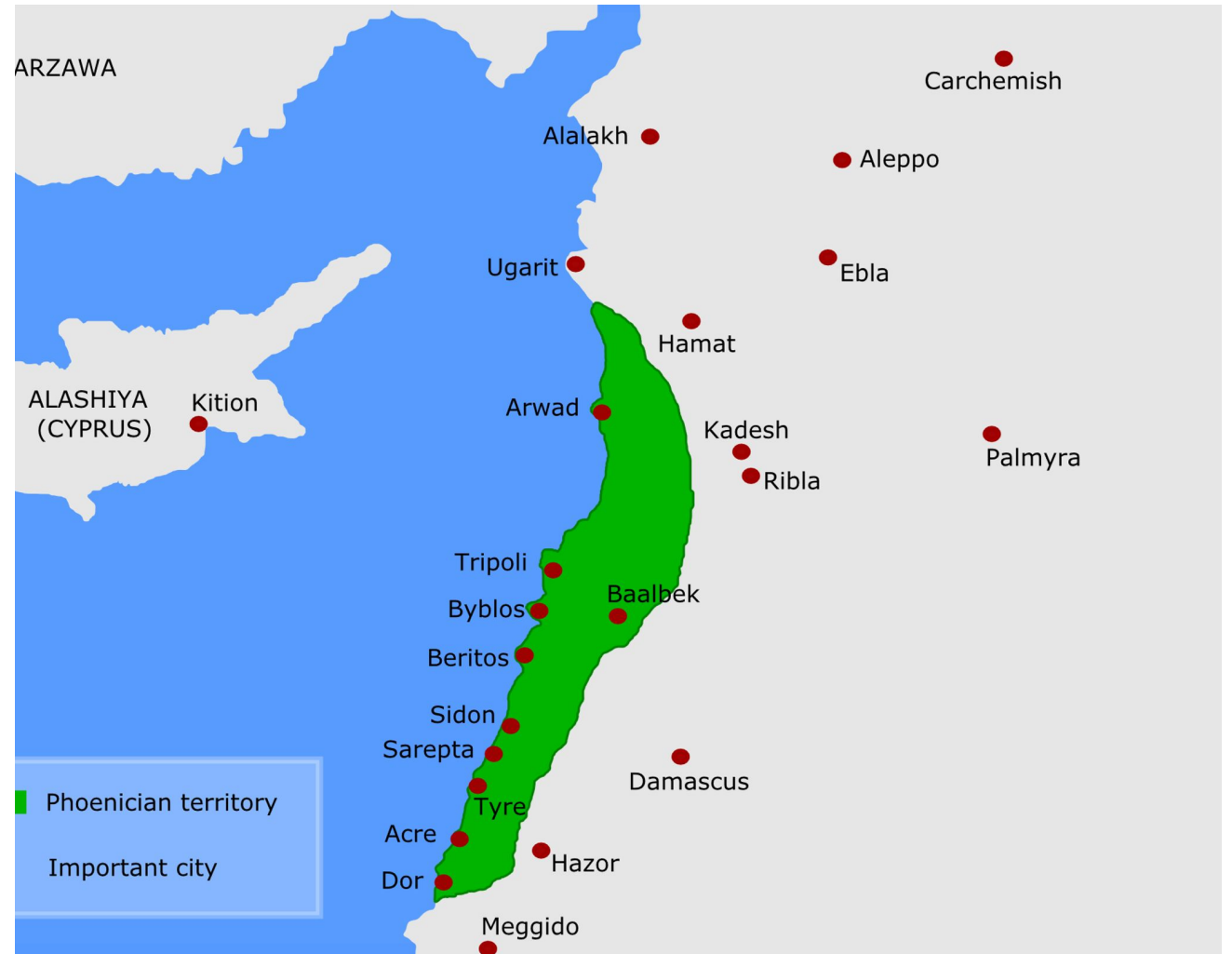
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Foundation of Lebanon

The earliest prehistoric cultures of Lebanon, such as the Qaraoun culture gave rise to the civilization of the Canaanite period, when the region was populated by ancient peoples, cultivating land and living in sophisticated societies during the 2nd millennium BC. Northern Canaanites are mentioned in the Bible as well as in other Semitic records from that period.

Canaanites were the creators of the oldest known 24-letter alphabet, a shortening of earlier 30-letter alphabets such as Proto-Sinaitic and Ugaritic. The Canaanite alphabet later developed into the Phoenician one, influencing the entire Mediterranean region.

The coastal plain of Lebanon is the historic home of a string of coastal trading cities of Semitic culture, which the Greeks termed Phoenicia, whose maritime culture flourished there for more than 1,000 years. Ancient ruins in Byblos, Beirut, Sidon, Sarafand, and Tyre show a civilized nation, with urban centers and sophisticated arts.

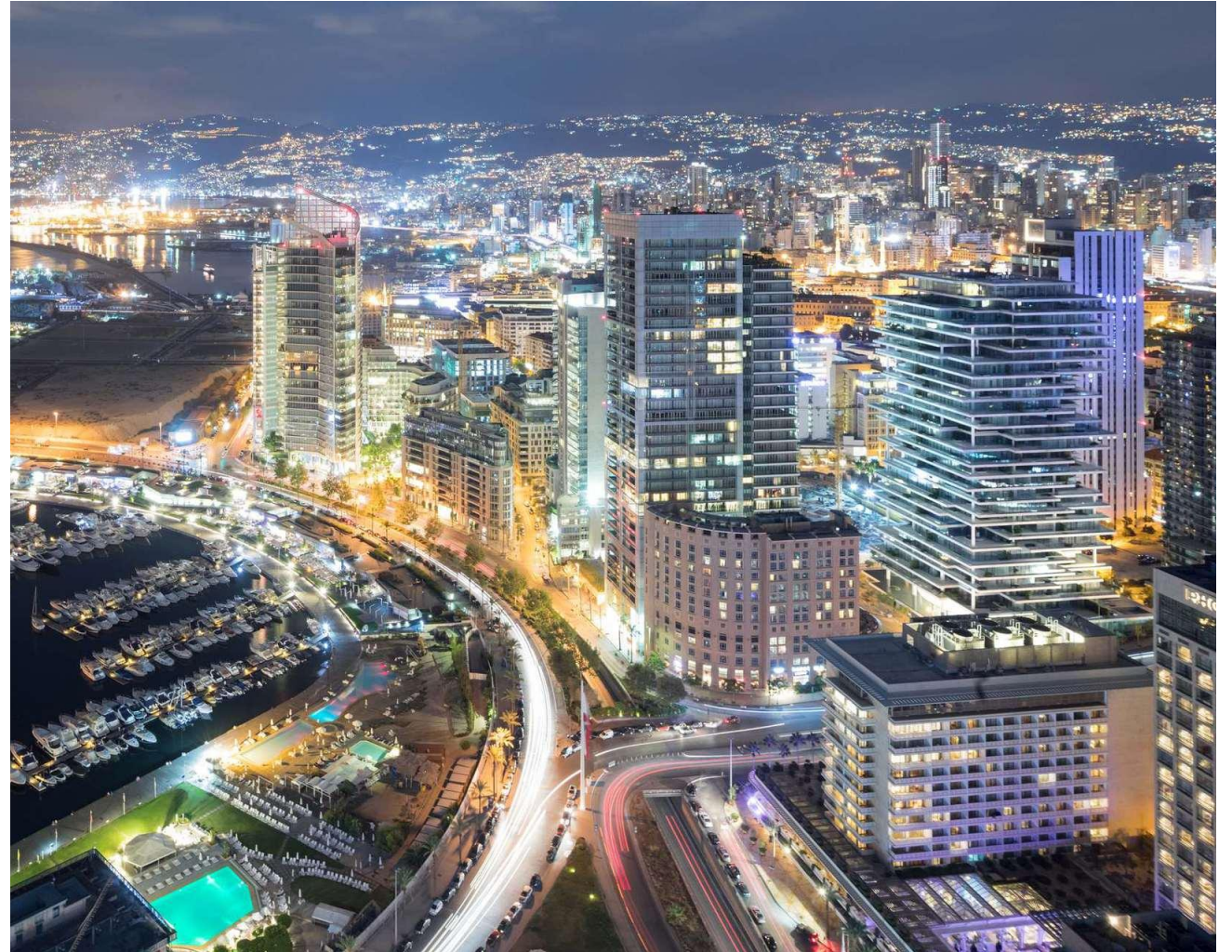


Development

Lebanese capital

Since World War II, Lebanon has followed free-enterprise and free-trade policies. The country's favorable geographical position as a transit point and the traditional importance of the trading and banking sectors of the economy helped make Lebanon prosperous by the early 1970s. Lebanon became a center of trade, finance, and tourism by means of a stable currency backed largely with gold, by a conservative fiscal policy, by various incentives for foreign investors, and by minimization of banking regulations

Lebanon embarked on the Horizon 2000 program in 1993. Areas of major activity targeted by the plan were the rehabilitation of telecommunications, electricity grids, highways, sewage, waste management, water networks, renovation of the Beirut International Airport, harbor, education, and housing. The plan also called for investment in commercial facilities that will reestablish Beirut as an international business center in competition with Hong Kong and Singapore. The government established a private company, Solidere, to carry out the reconstruction and development of downtown Beirut.



Territory of Lebanon

Lebanon, country located on the eastern shore of the Mediterranean Sea; it consists of a narrow strip of territory and is one of the world's smaller sovereign states. The capital is Beirut

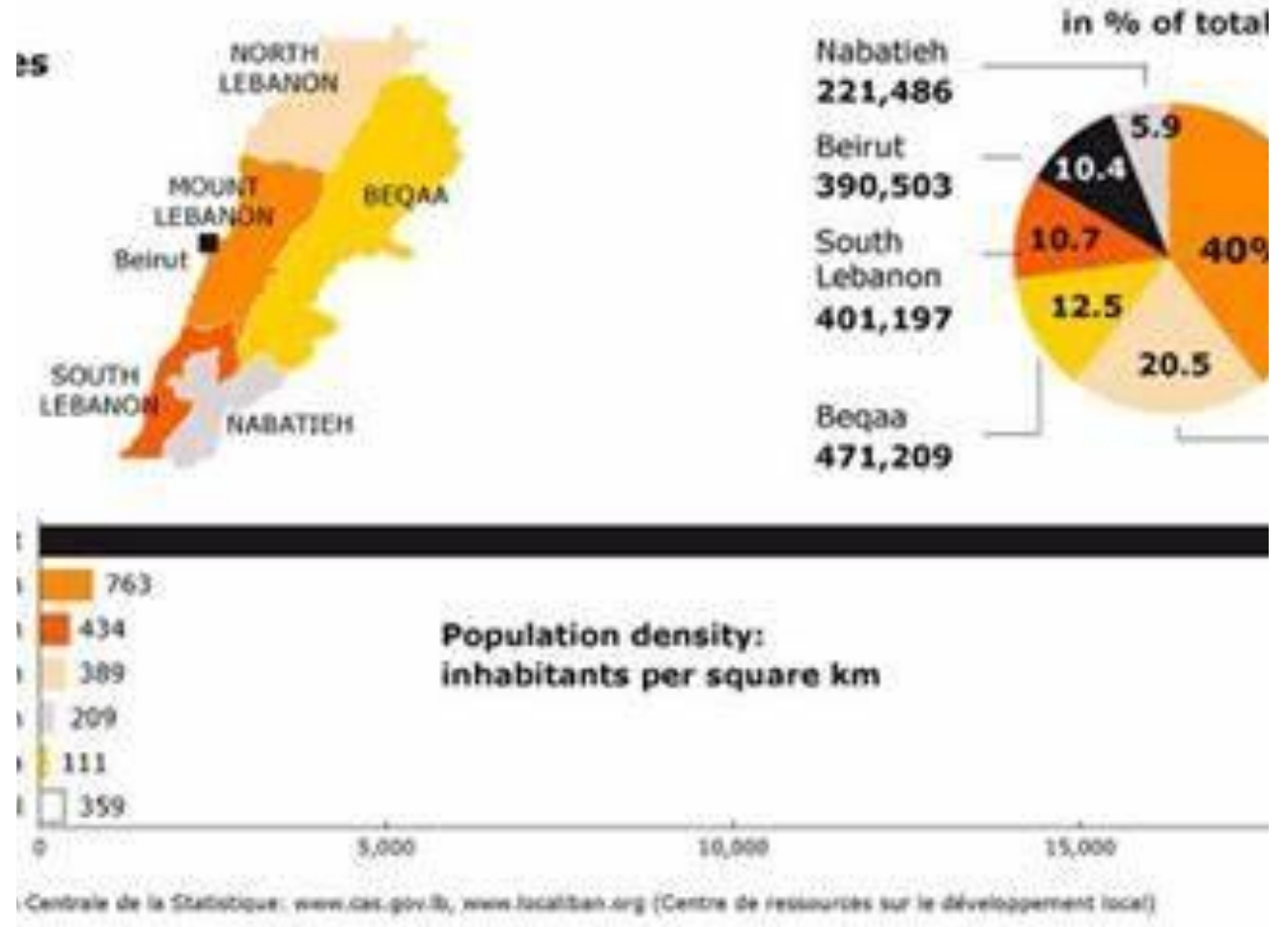
It was the site of some of the oldest human settlements in the world—the Phoenician ports of Tyre , and Byblos were dominant center's of trade and culture in the 3rd millennium BCE.



Lebanon Population Growth

There have been many migration waves in the country, as more than 1.5 million people emigrated from Lebanon between 1975 and 2011. Lebanon also hosts close to 1 million refugees and asylum seekers, most notably those from Palestine, Iraq and Syria. It's estimated that there are over 600,000 Syrian refugees (with recent sources now estimating 1 million refugees) in Lebanon escaping violence in their own country.

The capital of Lebanon is also the country's largest city, Beirut, which has a population close to 2 million and has an urban population density breaching more than 3,500 individuals per square kilometer. The religious capital of Tripoli is Lebanon's second-largest city, located in the northern portion of the country, with roughly 230,000 people living there. The agricultural hub of Sidon in Lebanon's third-largest city with 163,554 people living there.



Places of interest

Moussa Castle :is a castle between Deir el Qamar and Beit ed-Dine in Lebanon. It was built single-handedly by Moussa Abdel Karim Al-Mammary (born on July 27, 1931), a Lebanese visionary. It is the work of his life. He needed 60 years (of work.



Gibran Museum: is a biographical museum in Bsharri 120 kilometers from Beirut. It is dedicated to the Lebanese artist, writer and philosopher Khalil Gibran. Founded in 1935, the Gibran Museum possesses 440 original paintings and drawings of Gibran and his tomb. It also includes his furniture and belongings from his studio when he lived in New York City and his private manuscripts. Which a lot of people come to visit.



Zaitunay Bay: is a quayside commercial and tourist strip around the West Marina , The project is conceived as an urban beach, extending the existing Corniche Beirut and the new sea promenade in a series of overlapping platforms, reminiscent of sea waves, provide extensive outdoor spaces. These open public spaces in the Bay host cultural events, concerts, art exhibitions and a variety of seasonal celebrations.

