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**FRANCE AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE EDUCATIONAL
INSTITUTIONS CREATED BY THE ORDER OF ST. LAZARUS IN
SYRIA, PALESTINE AND LEBANON FROM THE MID 1830'S TO THE
FIRST WORLD WAR**

(Summary)

Cultural propaganda was an essential tool in the implementation of the Eastern policy of France. From the mid 1830's to the beginning of the First World War (1914–1918), relying on the religious protectorate over the Christians, the Western state gave political support and funded the educational activities of the priests of the Order of St. Lazarus and the nuns of St. Vincent in the eastern provinces of the Ottoman Empire. The religious communities built dozens of educational institutions, in which thousands of young people were educated in line with the French education system. Thus the Western state asserted its cultural influence in the strategically important region of Eastern Mediterranean.