

## **CASE RANGERS BOOK FILE**

### **RESEARCH OF MOROCCO**

#### **1.GENERAL HISTORY**

Morocco literally means place the sun sets. It is officially the kingdom of Morocco (The Western Kingdom). It is a country located in the Maghreb region of North Africa and is about the same size as the state of California. Morocco's capital city is Rabat but the largest city is Casablanca with nearly 4 million people. It was made a French protectorate in 1912 and gained independence in 1956. It is the only monarch in North Africa. The first inhabitants of Morocco were Phoenicians around 800 BC.

When Romans came in the 4th century BC they called the expanse of Morocco and Western Algeria 'Mauretania' and indigenous people 'Berbers' meaning barbarians. Medieval Arab historians and geographers sometimes referred to Morocco as 'kingdom of the west' (al-Mamlakesh Al Maghribiyyah) to distinguish it from neighbouring historical regions. The English name Morocco is an anglicisation of the Spanish "Marruecos" from which also derives the Tuscan "Morocco" the origin of the Italian "Morocco"

North Western Africa and Morocco were slowly drawn into the wider emerging Mediterranean world by Phoenicians who established trading colonies and settlements in the early Classical period. Substantial Phoenician settlements were at Chellah, Lixus and Mogador. Mogador was a Phoenician colony as early as the 6th century. Morocco later became a realm of the North Western African civilization of ancient Carthage as part of its empire. The earliest known independent Moroccan State was the Berber kingdom of Mauretania under King Baga. This ancient Kingdom (not to be confused with the present state of Mauritania) dates at least to around 225 BC. Mauretania became a client kingdom of the Roman Empire in 33 BC. Emperor Claudius annexed Mauretania directly as a Roman province in 44 AD under an imperial governor.

During the crisis of the 3rd century parts of Mauretania were reconquered by Berber tribes. Direct Roman rule became confined to a few coastal cities such as Septum (Ceuta) in Mauretania Caesariensis by the late 3rd century. The Roman Empire lost its remaining possessions in Mauretania after the area was devastated by the Vandals in AD 429. After this point, local Mauro Roman Kings assumed control of the Eastern Roman Empire under Byzantine control re-established direct imperial rule of Septum and Tingi in the 530s. Tingis was fortified and a church erected.

#### **FOUNDATION AND EARLY ISLAMIC ERA**

The Muslim conquest of the Maghreb (the west) that started in the middle 7th century was achieved by the Umayyad Caliphate early into the following century. It brought both the Arabic language and Islam to the area. Although part of the larger Islamic empire, Morocco was initially

organized as a subsidiary province of Ifriqiya with the local governors appointed by the Muslim governor in Kairouan. The indigenous Berber tribes adopted Islam but retained their customary laws. They also paid taxes and tribute to the new Muslim administration. The first independent Muslim state in the area of modern Morocco was the kingdom of Nekor an emirate in the Rif Mountains. It was founded by Sahil 1 Ibn Mansur in 710 as a client state to the Umayyad Caliphate. After the outbreak of the Berber revolt in 739 the Berbers formed other independent states such as the Miknasa of Sijilmasa and the Barghawata.

According to medieval legend, Idris Ibn Abdallah had fled to Morocco after the Abbasid's massacre of his tribe in Iraq. He convinced the Awraba Berber tribes to break their allegiance to the distant Abbasid Caliphs in Baghdad and he founded the Idrisid dynasty in 788. The Idrissids established Fes as their capital and Morocco became a centre of Muslim learning and a major regional power. The Idrissids were ousted in 927 by the Fatimid Caliphate and their Miknasa allies. After Miknasa broke off relations with the Fatimids in 932 they were removed from power by the Maghrawa of Sijilmasa in 980.

## DYNASTIES

From the 11th century onwards a series of Berbers DYNASTIES arose. Under the Almoravid dynasty and the Almohad dynasty, Morocco dominated the Maghreb much of present day Spain and Portugal and the western Mediterranean region. From the 13th century onwards the country saw a massive migration of the Baby Hilal Arab tribes. In the 13th and 14th centuries the Merinids held power in Morocco and strive to replicate the successes of the Almohads by military campaigns in Algeria and Spain. They were followed by the Wattasids. In the 15th century, the Reconquista ended Muslim rule in central and southern Spain and many Muslims and Jews fled to Morocco. Portuguese efforts to control the Atlantic sea trade in the 15th century did not greatly affect the interior of Morocco even though they managed to control some possessions on the Morocco coast but not venturing further afield inland.

## EARLY MODERN PERIOD

In 1549 the region fell to successive Arab DYNASTIES claiming descent from the Islamic prophet, Mohammed: first the Saadi dynasty who rules from 1659 and then the Alaouite dynasty who remained in power since the 17th century. Under the Saudi dynasty the country repulsed Ottoman incursions and a Portuguese invasion at the battle of Ksar El Kebir in 1578. The reign of Ahmad Al -Mansur brought new wealth and prestige to the Sultanate and a large expedition to West Africa inflicted a crushing defeat on the Songhay Empire in 1591. However managing the territories across the Sahara proved too difficult. After the death of al- Mansur the country was divided among his sons.

In 1631 Morocco was reunited by the Alaouite dynasty who have been the ruling house of Morocco ever since. Morocco was facing aggression from Spain and the Ottoman Empire allies pressing westward. The Alaouites succeeded in stabilising their position and while the kingdom

was smaller than previous ones in the region, it remained quite wealthy. Against the opposition of local tribes Ismail Ibn Sharif(1672-1727) began to create a unified state. With his Jayshd'Ah al- Rif(The Rifian Army) he seized Tangier from the English in 1684 and drove the Spanish from Larache in 1689. Portuguese abandoned Mazagão, their last territory in Morocco in 1769. However the siege of Melilla against the Spanish ended in defeat in 1775. Morocco was the first nation to recognise the fledgling United States as an independent nation in 1777. In beginning of the American Revolution, American merchant ships in the Atlantic Ocean were subject to attack by the Barbary pirates. On 20th December 1777, Morocco's sultan Mohammed 3 declared that American merchant ships would be under the protection of the Sultanate and could thus enjoy safe passage. The Moroccan- American treaty of friendship signed in 1786 stands as the US oldest non- broken friendship treaty.

#### FRENCH AND SPANISH PROTECTORATES:1912-1956

As Europe industrialised, Northwest Africa was increasingly prized for its potential for colonisation. France showed a strong interest in Morocco as early as 1830 not only to protect the border of its Algerian territory but also because of the strategic position of Morocco with coasts on the Mediterranean and the open Atlantic. In 1860 a dispute over Spain's Ceuta enclave led Spain to declare war. Victorious Spain won a further enclave and an enlarged Ceutian settlement. In 1884, Spain carved out zones of influence in Morocco. Recognition by the United Kingdom of France's sphere of influence provoked a strong reaction from the German Empire and a crisis loomed in 1905. The matter was resolved at the Algeciras Conference in 1906. The Agadir Crisis of 1911 increased tensions between European powers. The 1912 Treaty of Fez made Morocco a PROTECTORATES of France and triggered the 1912 Fez riots. Spain continued to operate its coastal protectorate. By the same treaty, Spain assumed the role of protecting power over the northern and southern Saharan zones.

Tens of thousands of colonists entered Morocco. Some bought up large amounts of the rich agricultural land, others organised the exploitation and modernisation of mines and harbours. Interest groups that formed among these elements continually pressured France to increase its control over Morocco- a control which was also made necessary by the continuous wars among Moroccan tribes, part of which had taken sides with the French since the beginning of the conquest. Governor general Marshall Hubert Lyautey sincerely admired Moroccan culture and succeeded in imposing a joint Moroccan- French administration while creating a modern school system. Several divisions of Moroccan soldiers( Goumiers or regular troops and officers) served in the French Army in the Spanish Civil War and after. The institution of slavery was abolished in 1925.

Between 1921 and 1926 a Berber uprising in the Rif Mountains, led by Abd el- Krim led to the establishment of the republic of the Rif. The Spanish lost more than 13,000 soldiers at annual in July-August 1921. The rebellion was eventually suppressed by French and Spanish troops. In 1943 the Istiqlal Party ( independence party) was founded to press for independence with

discreet US support. That part subsequently provided most of the leadership for the nationalist movement. France's exile of Sultan Mohammed V in 1953 to Madagascar and his replacement by the unpopular Mohammed Ben Aarafa sparked active opposition to the French and Spanish protectorates. The most notable violence occurred in Oujda where Moroccans attacked French and other European residents in the streets. France allowed Mohammed V to return in 1955 and the negotiations that led to Moroccan independence began the following year. In March 1956 the French protectorate was ended and Morocco regained its independence from France as the "Kingdom of Morocco". A month later Spain forsook its protectorate in Northern Morocco to the new state but kept its two coastal enclaves ( Ceuta and Melilla) on the Mediterranean Coast which dates from earlier.

Upon the death of Mohammed V, Hassan II became King of Morocco on 3 March 1961. Morocco held its first general elections in 1963. However Hassan declared a state of emergency and suspended parliament in 1965. In 1971 there was a failed attempt to depose the king and establish a republic. A truth commission set up in 2005 to investigate human rights abuses during his reign confirmed nearly 10,000 cases ranging from death in detention to forced exile. Some 592 people were recorded killed during Hassan's rule according to the truth commission. The Spanish enclave of Ifni in the south was reformed to Morocco in 1969. The Polisario movement was formed in 1973 with the aim of establishing an independent state in the Spanish Sahara. Some 350,000 civilians were reported as being involved in the "Green March". A month later Spain agreed to leave the Spanish Sahara, soon to become Western Sahara and to transfer it to joint Moroccan- Mauritanian control, despite the objections and threats of military intervention by Algeria. Moroccan forces occupied the territory. Moroccan and Algerian troops soon clashed in Western Sahara. Morocco and Mauritania divided up Western Sahara. Fighting between the Moroccan military and Polisario forces continued for many years. The prolonged war was a considerable financial drain on Morocco. In 1983 Hassan cancelled planned elections amid political unrest and economic crisis. In 1984 Morocco left the Organization of African Unity in protest at the SADR's admission to the body Polisario claimed to have killed more than 5,000 Moroccan soldiers between 1982 and 1985.

Algerian authorities have estimated the number of Sahrawi refugees in Algeria to be 165,000 diplomatic relations with Algeria were restored in 1988. In 1991 a UN monitored ceasefire began in Western Sahara but the territory's status remained undecided and ceasefire violations and reported. The following decade saw much wrangling over a proposed referendum on the future of the territory but the deadlock wasn't broken. Political reforms in the 1990s resulted in the establishment of a bicameral legislature in 1997 and Morocco's first opposition- led government came to power in 1998. King Hassan II died in 1999 and was succeeded by his son, Mohammed VI. He is a cautious moderniser who was introduced some economic and social liberalisation.

Mohammed VI paid a controversial visit to the Western Sahara in 2002. Morocco unveiled an autonomy blueprint for Western Sahara to the United Nations in 2007. The Polisario rejected the plan and put forward its own proposal. Morocco and the Polisario Front held UN sponsored talks

in New York City but failed to come to any agreement. In 2010 security forces stormed a protest camp in the Western Sahara, triggering violent demonstrations in the regional capital El Aiùn. In 2002 Morocco and Spain agreed to a US brokered resolution over the disputed island of Perejil. Spanish troops had taken the normally uninhabited island after Moroccan soldiers landed on it and set up tents and a flag. There were renewed tensions in 2005 as hundreds of African migrants tried to storm the borders of the Spanish enclaves of Melilla and Ceuta. Morocco deported hundreds of the illegal migrants. In 2006 the Spanish Premier Zapatero visited Spanish leader in 25 years to make an official visit to the territories. The following year, Spanish King Joan Carlos I visited Ceuta and Melilla, further angering Morocco which demanded control of the enclaves.

During the 2011-2012 Moroccan protests thousands of people rallied in Rabat and other cities calling for political reforms and a new constitution curbing the powers of the king. In July 2011 the king won a landslide victory in a referendum on a reformed constitution he had proposed to placate the Arab Spring protests. Despite the reforms made by Mohammed VI demonstrators continued to call for deeper reforms. Hundreds took part in a trade Union rally in Casablanca in May 2012. Participants accused the government of failing to deliver on reforms.

## POLITICS

Politics of Morocco takes place in a framework of a parliamentary constitutional monarchy whereby the Prime Minister of Morocco is the head of government and of a multi-party system. Executive power is exercised by the government. The Prime Minister of Morocco (officially Head of Government) is the head of government of Kingdom of Morocco and serves in a position akin to a Prime Minister in other constitutional monarchies. Dâr - Al Makhzen is the primary and official residence of the king of Morocco. It is situated in the Touaraga commune of Rabat, the national capital. Its official name is the El Mechouar Essaid Palace which means the venue of happiness palace. The king has executive branch powers according to the constitution which gives him extensive powers. He is both the secular political leader and the Commander of the Faithful as a direct descendant of the prophet Mohammed. He presides over the council of Ministers appoints the Prime Minister from the political party that has won the most seats in the parliamentary elections and on recommendations from the latter, appoints the members of the government. The Moroccan constitution provides for a monarchy with a parliament and an independent judiciary. With the 2011 constitutional reforms the King of Morocco retains less executive powers whereas those of the Prime Minister have been enlarged. The previous constitution of 1996 theoretically allowed the king to terminate the tenure of any Minister and after consultation with the heads of the higher and lower Assemblies to dissolve the parliament suspend the constitution call for new elections or rule by decree. The only time this happened was in 1965. The King is formally the commander-in-chief of the armed forces.

Morocco was an authoritarian regime according to the Democracy Index of 2014. The freedom of the press 2014 report gave it a rating of "Not Free". This has improved since however in 2017 Morocco was upgraded to being a "hybrid regime" according to the Democracy Index in 2017

and the Freedom of the Press report in 2017 found that Morocco was "partly free". Following the March 1998 elections, a coalition government headed by opposition socialist leader Abderrahmane Youssoufi and composed largely of Ministers drawn from opposition parties was formed. Prime Minister Youssoufi's government was the first ever government drawn primarily from opposition parties and also represents the first opportunity for a coalition of socialists left of centre and nationalists parties to be included in the government until October 2002. It was also the first time in the modern political history of the Arab world that the opposition assumed power following an election. The current government is headed by Saadeddine Othmani.

## LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

Since the constitutional reforms of 1996, the bicameral legislature consists of two chambers. The Assembly of Representatives of Morocco (Majlis an- Nuwwàb/ Assemblée Des Représentants) has 325 members elected for a five year term 295 elected in multi seat constituencies and 30 in national lists consisting only of women. The Assembly of Councillors (Majlis al- Mustasharin) has 270 members elected for a 9 year term, elected by local council's (162) seats professional chambers (91 seats) and wage earners (27 seats)

The parliament's powers though still relatively limited were expanded under the 1992 and 1996 and even further in the 2011 constitutional revisions and include budgetary matters, approving bills, questioning Ministers and establishing ad hoc commissions of inquiry to investigate the government's actions. The lower chamber of parliament may dissolve the government through a vote of no confidence. The latest parliamentary elections were held on November 25, 2011 and we're considered by some neutral observers to be mostly free and fair. Voter turnout in these elections were estimated to be 43% of registered voters.

## MILITARY

Compulsory military service in Morocco has been officially suspended since September 2006 and Morocco's reserve obligation lasts until age 50. Morocco's military consists of the Royal Armed Forces this includes the Army (the largest branch) the Navy, the air Force, the Royal Guard, the Royal Gendarmierie and the Auxiliary Forces Internal Security is generally effective and acts of political violence are rare (with one exception the 2003 Casablanca bombing which killed 45 people). The UN maintains a small observer force in Western Sahara where a large number of Morocco's troops are stationed. The Saharawi group Polisario maintains an active militia of an estimated 5000 fighters in Western Sahara and has engaged in intermittent warfare with Moroccan forces since the 1970s

## FOREIGN RELATIONS

Morocco is a member of the United Nations League, Arab Maghreb Union (UMA) Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) the Non-Aligned Movement and the Community of Sahel-Saharan States (CEN-SAD). Morocco's relationships vary greatly between African, Arab and Western

States. Morocco has had strong ties to the West in order to gain political and economic benefits. France and Spain remain the primary trade partners as well as the primary creditors and foreign investors in Morocco. From the total foreign investors in Morocco, The European Union invests approximately 73.5% whereas the Arab world invests only 19.3%. Many countries from the Persian Gulf and Maghreb regions are getting more involved in large scale development projects in Morocco. Morocco was the only African state not to be a member of the African Union due to its unilateral withdrawal on 12 November 1984 over the admission of the Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic in 1982 by the African Union (then called Organization of African Unity) as a full member without the organization of a referendum of self determination in the disputed territory of Western Sahara . Morocco rejoined the AU on 30th January 2017. A dispute with Spain in 2002 over the small island of Perejil revived the issue of the sovereignty of Melilla and Ceuta. These small enclaves on the Mediterranean Coast are surrounded by Morocco and have been administered by Spain for centuries. Morocco has been given the status of major non-NATO member ally by the US government. Morocco was the first country in the world to recognise US sovereignty ( in 1777) . Morocco is included in the European Neighbourhood Policy(ENP) which aims at bringing the EU and it's neighbours closer.

## **WESTERN SAHARA STATUS**

Due to the conflict over Western Sahara, the status of the Saguia el-Hamra and Rio de Oro regions is disputed. The Western Sahara War saw the Polisario Front, the Sahrawi rebel national liberation movement, battling both Morocco and Mauritania between 1976 and a ceasefire in 1991 that is still in effect . A United Nations mission;MINURSO is tasked with organizing a referendum on whether the territory should become independent or recognised as a part of Morocco. Part of the territory, the Freeze Zone is mostly uninhabited area that the Polisario Front controls as the Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic. It's administrative headquarters are located in Tindouf,Algeria. As of 2006 ,no UN member state has recognised Moroccan sovereignty over Western Sahara. In 2006, the government of Morocco has suggested autonomous status for the region through the Moroccan Royal Advisory Council for Saharan Affairs( CORCAS) . The project was presented to the United Nations Security Council in mid- April 2007. The proposal was encouraged by Moroccan allies such as the United States,France and Spain. The Security Council has called upon the parties to enter into direct and unconditional negotiations to reach a mutually accepted political solution.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE DIVISIONS**

Morocco is officially divided into 12 regions which in turn are subdivided into 62 provinces and 13 prefectors.

### **REGIONS**

1.Tangier-Tetouan-Al Hoceima

- 2.Oriental
- 3.Fés-Meknés
- 4.Rabat-Salé- Kenitra
- 5.Béni Mellal-Khénifra
- 6.Casablanca-Safi
- 7.Marrakech-Safi
- 8.Drão- Tafilatet
9. Souss- Massa
- 10.Guelmim-Oued Noun
- 11.Laàyoune- Sakia El James
- 12.Dakhla-Oued Ed-Dahab

## **HUMAN RIGHTS**

During the early 1960s to the late 1980s under the leadership of Hassan II, Morocco had one of the worst human rights records in both Africa and the world. Government repression of political dissent was widespread during Hassan II's leadership until it dropped sharply in the mid-1990s . The decades previous to this time are called the Years of Lead( Les Années de Plomb) and included forced disappearances assassinations of government opponents and protestors and secret internment camps such as Tazmamart. To examine the abuses committed during the reign of King Hassan II (1961-1999) the government has set upon Equity and Reconciliation Commission (IER) .According to Human Rights Watch annual report 2016 ,Moroccan authorities restricted the rights to peaceful expression, association and assembly through several laws. The printed and online media which criticizes the government or the King. There are also persistent allegations of violence against both Sahrawi pro-independance and pro- Polisario demonstrators in Western Sahara; a disputed territory which is occupied by and considered by Morocco as part of it's Southern Provinces. Morocco has been accused of detaining Sahrawi pro- independence activists as prisoners of conscience.

Homosexual acts are illegal in Morocco and can be punishable by 6 months to 3 years of imprisonment. It is illegal to proselytize for any religion other than Islam (article 220 of the Moroccan Penal Code) and that crime is punishable by a maximum of 15 years of imprisonment. Violence against women, forced marriage and sexual harassment has been criminalized. The penalty can be from one month to five days ears ranging from \$200-\$1,000.



As of May 24 the 2020 ,hundreds of Moroccan migrant workers are trapped in Spain. They are continuously begging their government to let them come back home. The Spanish government states that it is holding discussions with the Moroccan government about repatriating the migrant workers via a "humanitarian corridor" but it is unclear how long will the process take.

## **CULTURE**

Morocco is a country with a rich culture and civilization. Through Morocco history it has hosted many people coming from East (Phoenicians,Jews and Arabs) ,South( Sub Saharan Africans) and North ( Romans,Andalusian) , All those civilizations have affected the social structure of Morocco.Since independence,a veritable blossoming has taken place in painting and sculpture popular music amateur theatre and film making. The Moroccan National Theatre ( founded 1956) offers regular productions of Moroccan and French dramatic works. Art and Music festivals take place throughout the country during the summer months among them the World Sacred Music Festival at Fés.Each region possesses its own specificities thus contributing to the national culture and to the legacy of civilization. Morocco has set among it's top priorities the protection of it's diverse legacy and the preservation of it's cultural heritage. Culturally speaking, Morocco has always been successful in combining it's Berber,Jewish and Arabic cultural heritage with external influences such as the French and the Spanish and the last decades the Anglo-American lifestyle.

## **CUISINE**

Moroccan cuisine is considered as one of the most diversified cuisine in the world. This is a result of the centuries long interaction of Morocco with the outside world. The cuisine of Morocco is mainly a fusion of Moorish, European and Mediterranean cuisines.Spices are used extensively in Moroccan cuisine. While spices have been imported to Morocco for thousands of years, many ingredients such as saffron from Tiliouine mint and olives from Meknes and oranges and lemons from Féz are home-grown.Chicken is the most widely eaten meat in Morocco .The most commonly eaten red meat in Morocco is beef;lamb is preferred but is relatively expensive. The main Moroccan dish most people are familiar with is couscous,the old national delicacy. Beef is the most commonly eaten red meat in Morocco usually eaten in a Tagine with vegetables or legumes. Chicken is also very commonly used in Tagines,knowing that one of the most famous Tagine is the Tagine of Chicken,potatoes and olives. Lamb is also consumed, but as Northwest African sheep breeds store most of their fat in their tails, Moroccan lamb does not have the pungent flavour that Western lamb and mutton have. Poultry is also very common and the use of seafood is increasing in Moroccan food. In addition there are dried salted meats and salted preserved meats such as kliia/ khlia and g'did which are used to flavour Tagines or used in "El ghraif" a folded savory Moroccan pancake. Among the most famous Moroccan dishes are Couscous,Pastilla( also spelled Bsteeya or Bestilla) ,Tajine,Tanjia and Harira. Although the latter is a soup, it is considered as a dish in itself and is served as such or with dates especially during the month of Ramadan. Pork consumption is forbidden in accordance with Sharia religious laws

of Islam. A big part of the daily meal is bread. Bread in Morocco is principally from durum wheat semolina known as khobz. Bakeries are very common throughout Morocco and fresh bread is a staple in every city, town and village. The most common is whole grain coarse ground or white flour bread. There are also a number of flat breads and pulled unleavened pan - fried breads. The most popular drink is "atai" green tea with mint leaves and other ingredients. Tea occupies a very important place in the culture of Morocco and is considered an art form. It is served not only at mealtimes but all through the day, and it is especially a drink of hospitality, commonly served whenever there are guests. It is served to guests and it is impolite to refuse it.

## **RELIGION**

The religious affiliation in the country was estimated by the Pew forum in 2010 as 99% Muslim with all remaining groups accounting for less than 1% of the population. Sunnis form the majority at 67% with non-denominational Muslims being the 2nd largest group of Muslims at 30%. There are an estimated 3,000-8,000 Shia Muslims, most of them foreign residents from Lebanon or Iraq but also a few citizen converts. Followers of several Sufi Muslim orders across the Maghreb and West Africa undertake joint annual pilgrimages to the country. Followers of several Sufi Muslim orders across the Maghreb and West Africa undertake joint annual pilgrimages to the country. Christians are estimated at 1% (380,000) of the Moroccan population. The predominantly Roman Catholic and Protestant foreign resident Christian community consists of approximately 40,000 practising members. Most foreign Christian residents reside in the Casablanca, Tangier and Rabat urban areas. Various local Christian leaders estimate that between 2005 and 2010 there are 5000 citizens converted Christians (mostly ethnically Berber) who regularly attend "house" churches and live predominantly in the south. Some local Christian leaders estimate that there may be as many as 8,000 Christian citizens throughout the country but many reportedly do not meet regularly due to fear of government surveillance and social persecution. The number of Moroccans who converted to Christianity (most of them Christian worshippers) are estimated between 8,000-40,000. The most recent estimated put the size of the Casablanca Jewish community at about 2,500 and the Rabat and Marrakesh Jewish communities at about 100 members each. The remainder of the Jewish population is dispersed throughout the country. This population is mostly elderly with a decreasing number of young people. The Bahàì community located in urban areas numbers 350-400 persons

## **LANGUAGES**

Morocco's official languages are Arabic and Berber. The country's distinctive group of Moroccan Arabic dialects is referred to as Daria. Approximately 89% of the whole population can communicate to some degree in Moroccan Arabic. The Berber language is spoken in 3 dialects (Tarifit, Tashelhit and Central Atlas Tamazight). In 2008, Frédéric Deroche estimated that there were 12 million Berber speakers making up about 40% of the population. The 2004 population census reported that 28.1% of the population spoke Berber. French is widely used in governmental institutions, media, mid-size and large companies, international commerce with

French speaking countries and often in international diplomacy. French is taught as an obligatory language in all schools. In 2010 there were 10,366,000 French speakers in Morocco or about 32% of the population. According to the 2004 census 2.19 million Moroccans spoke a foreign language other than French. English while far behind French in terms of number of speakers is the first foreign language of choice since French is obligatory among educated youth and professionals. According to Ethnologue as of 2016 there are 1,536,590 individuals (or approximately 4.5% of the population) in Morocco who speak Spanish. Spanish is mostly spoken in northern Morocco and the Spanish Sahara because Spain had previously occupied those areas. Significant portion of northern Morocco receives Spanish media, television signal and radio airwaves, which reportedly facilitate competence in the language in the region. After Morocco declared independence in 1956 French and Arabic became the main languages of administration and education causing the role of Spanish to decline. According to a 2012 study by the government of Spain 98% of Moroccans spoke Moroccan Arabic, 63% spoke French, 43% Amazigh, 14% spoke English and the 10% spoke Spanish.

## **DEMOGRAPHICS**

Morocco has a population of around 36,029,093 inhabitants (2018 est). According to the CIA, 99% of residents are Arab-Berber. It is estimated that between 41% to 80% of residents have Berber ancestral origins. A sizeable portion of the population is identified as Haratin and Gnawa (or Gnaoua) West African or mixed race descendants of slaves and Moriscos, European Muslims expelled from Spain and Portugal in the 17th century. According to the 2014 Morocco population census, there were around 84,000 immigrants in the country. Of these foreign-born residents, most were of French origin, followed by individuals mainly from various nations in West Africa and Algeria. There are also a number of foreign residents of Spanish origin. Some of them are descendants of colonial settlers, who primarily work for European multinational companies while others are married to Moroccans or are retirees. Prior to independence, Morocco was home to half a million European who were mostly Christians. Also prior to independence, Morocco was home to 250,000 Spaniards. Morocco's once prominent Jewish minority has decreased significantly since its peak of 265,000 in 1948 declining to around 2,500 today. Morocco has a large diaspora, most of which is located in France, which has reportedly over one million Moroccans of up to the third generation. There are also large Moroccan communities in Spain (about 700,000 Moroccan), the Netherlands (360,000) and Belgium (300,000). Other large communities can be found in Italy, Canada, the United States and Israel, where Moroccan Jews are thought to constitute the 2nd biggest Jewish ethnic group.

## **ECONOMY**

Morocco's economy is considered a relatively liberal economy governed by the law of supply and demand. Since 1993 the country has followed a policy of privatisation of certain economic sectors which used to be in the hands of the government. Morocco has become a major player in African economic affairs and is the 5th African economy by GDP (PPP). Morocco was ranked

as the first African country by the Economist Intelligence Unit's quality-of-life index, ahead of South Africa. However, in the years since that first place ranking was given, Morocco has slipped into fourth place behind Egypt. Governor reforms and steady yearly growth in the region of 4-5 % from 2000 to 2007 including 4.9% year on year growth in 2003-2007 helped the Moroccan economy to become much more robust compared to a few years earlier. For 2012 the World Bank forecast a rate of 4% growth for Morocco and 4.2% for the following year, 2013. The services sector accounts for just over half of GDP and industry made up of mining, construction and manufacturing is an additional quarter. The industries that recorded the highest growth are tourism, telecoms, information technology and textile.

## TOURISM

Tourism is one of the most important sectors in Moroccan economy. It is well developed with a strong tourist industry focused on the country's coast, culture and history. Morocco attracted more than 11 million tourists in 2017. Tourism is the 2nd largest foreign exchange earner in Morocco after the phosphate industry. The Moroccan government is heavily investing in tourism development, in 2010 the government launched its vision 2020 which plans to make Morocco one of the top 20 tourist destinations in the world and to double the annual number of international arrivals to 20 million by 2020 with the hope that tourism will then have risen to 20% of GDP. Large government sponsored marketing campaigns to attract tourists advertised Morocco as a cheap and exotic safe place for tourists. Most of the visitors to Morocco continue to be European with French nationals making up almost 20% of all visitors. Most Europeans visit between April and August. Morocco's relatively high number of tourists has been aided by its location- Morocco is close to Europe and attracts visitors to its beaches. Because of its proximity to Spain, tourists in Southern Spain coastal areas take one to three day trips to Morocco. Since air services between Morocco and Algeria have been established many Algerians have gone to Morocco to shop and visit family and friends. Morocco is relatively inexpensive because of the devaluation of the dirham and the increase of hotel prices in Spain. Morocco has an excellent road and rail infrastructure that links the major cities and tourists destinations with ports and cities and cities with international airports. Low-cost airlines offer cheap flights to the country. Tourism is increasingly focused on Morocco's culture, such as its ancient cities. The modern tourist industry capitalises on Morocco's ancient Roman and Islamic sites and on its landscape and cultural history. 60% of Morocco's tourists visit for its culture and heritage. Agadir is a major coastal resort and has a third of all Moroccan bed nights.

It is a resort in North Morocco and is very popular. Casablanca is the major cruise port in Morocco and has the best developed market for tourists in Morocco. Marrakesh in central Morocco is very popular among tourists for one and two day excursions that provide a taste of Morocco's history and culture. The Majorelle botanical garden in Marrakesh is a popular tourist attraction. It was bought by the fashion designer Yves Saint-laurent and Pierre Bergé in 1980. Their presence in the city helped to boost the city's profile as a tourist destination. As of 2006, activity and adventure tourism in the Atlas and Rif Mountains are the fastest growth area in

Moroccan tourism. These locations have excellent walking and trekking opportunities from late March to mid November. The government is investing in trekking circuits. They are also developing desert tourism in competition with Tunisia.

## Agriculture

Agriculture in Morocco employs about 40%, of the nation's workforce. This is the largest employe in the country. In the rainy sections of Northwest,barley,wheat and other cereals can be raised without irrigation. On the Atlantic coast,where there are extensive plains,olives,citrus fruits and wine grapes are grown,largely with water supplied by artesian wells. Morocco also produces a significant amount of illicit hashish much of which is shipped to Western Europe. Livestock are raised andfor wts yield cork,cabinet wood and building materials. Part of the maritime population fishes for it's livelihood. Agadir,Essaouira,El Jadida and Larache are among the important fishing harbours. Both the agriculture and fishing industries are expected to be servely impacted by climate change.

Moroccan agricultural productii also consists of oranges,tomatoes,potatoes,olives and olive oil. High quality agricultural products are usually exposed to Europe. Morocco produces enough food for domestic consumption except for grains,sugar,coffee and tea. More than 40% of Morocco's consumption of grains and flour is imported from the United States and France. Agriculture industry in Morocco enjoyed a complete tax exemption until 2013 . Many Moroccan critics said that rich farmers and large agriculture ural companies were taking too much benefit of not paying the taxes and that poor farmers were struggling with high costs and are getting very poor supper from the state. In 2014 as part of the Finance Law, it was decided that agricultural companies with a turnover of greater than MAD 5 million would pay progressive corporate income taxes.

## INFRASTRUCTURE

According to the global Competitiveness Report of 2019 ,Morocco ranked 32nd in the world in terms of roads,16th in sea,45th in air and 64th in railways. This gives Morocco the best infrastructure rankings in the African Continent.

Modern infrastructure development such as ports,airports and rail links is a top government priority. To meet the growing domestic dema,the Moroccan government invested more than \$15 billion from 2010 to 2015 in upgrading it's basic infrastructure. Morocco has one of the best road systems on the continent. Over the past 20 years the government has built approximately 1770 kilometres of modern roads connecting most major cities via toll expressways. The Moroccan Ministry of Equipment, transport, logistics and water aims to build an additional 3380km of expressway and 2100 km of highway by 2030 at an expected cost of \$9billion while focusing on linking the southern provinces notably the cities of Laayoune and Dakhla to the rest of Morocco.

In 2014, Morocco began the construction of the first high-speed railway system in Africa linking the cities of Tangiers and Casablanca. It was inaugurated in 2018 by the King following over a decade of planning and construction by Moroccan national railway company ONCF. It is the first phase of what is planned to eventually be a 1,500km (930mi) high-speed rail network in Morocco. An extension of the line to Marakkesh is already being planned. Morocco also has the largest port in Africa and the Mediterranean called Tanger-Med which is ranked the 18th in the world with a handling capacity of over 9 million containers. It is situated in the Tangiers free economic zone and serves as a logistics hub for Africa and the world.

In 2008 about 56% of Morocco's electricity supply was provided by coal. However as forecasts indicate that energy requirements in Morocco will rise 6% per year between 2012 and 2050 a new law passed encouraging energy supply, including more renewable resources. The Moroccan government has launched a project to build a solar thermal energy powerplant and is also looking into the use of natural gas as a potential source of revenue for Morocco's government. Morocco has embarked upon the construction of large solar energy farms to lessen dependence on fossil fuels and to eventually export electricity to Europe.

## NARCOTICS

Since the 7th Century, Cannabis has been cultivated in the Rif region. In 2004 according to the UN World Drugs Report, cultivation and transformation of Cannabis represents 0.57% of the national GDP of Morocco on 2002. According to a French Ministry of the interior 2006 report 80% of the Cannabis resin (hashish) considered in Europe comes from the Rif region in Morocco which is mostly mountainous terrain in the north of Morocco also hosting plains that are very fertile and expanding from Melwiyya River and Rad Kebdana in the East to Tangier and Cape Spartel in the West. Also the region extends from the Mediterranean in the south, home of the Wergha River. In addition to that, Morocco is a transit point for cocaine from South America destined for Western Europe.

## WATER SUPPLY AND SANITATION

Water supply and sanitation in Morocco is provided by a wide array of utilities. They range from private companies in the largest city, Casablanca the capital, Rabat and two other cities to public municipal utilities in 13 other cities as well as a national electricity and water company (ONEE). The latter is in charge of bulk water supply to the aforementioned utilities, water distribution in about 500 small towns as well as sewerage and wastewater treatment in 60 of these towns. There have been substantial improvements in access to water supply and to a lesser extent to sanitation, over the past 15 years. Remaining challenges include a low level of waste water treatment (only 13% of collected waste water is being treated) lack of house connections in the poorest urban neighbourhoods and limited sustainability of rural systems (20% of rural systems are estimated not to function). In 2005 a National Sanitation Program was approved that aims at treating 60% of collected waste water and connecting 80% of urban poor is being addressed as part of the National Human Development Initiative under which residents of informal

settlements have received land titles and have fees waived that are normally paid to utilities in order to connect to the water and sewer network.

#### SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

The Moroccan government has been implementing reforms to improve the quality of education and make research more responsive to socio-economic needs. In May 2009, Morocco's Prime Minister, Abbas El Fassi announced greater support for science during a meeting at the National Centre for Scientific and Technical Research. The aim was to give universities greater financial autonomy from the government to make them more responsive to research needs and better able to forge links with the private sector in the hope that this would nurture a culture of entrepreneurship in academia. He announced that investment in science and technology would rise from US \$620,000 in 2008 to US \$8.5 million (69 million Moroccan dirhams) in 2009, in order to finance the refurbishment and construction of laboratories training courses for researchers in financial management scholarship programme. For postgraduate research such as giving them access to Scientific results that they could then use to develop new products.

The Moroccan Innovation Strategy was launched at the country's first National Innovation Summit in June 2009 by the Ministry of Industry, Commerce, Investment and the digital economy. The Moroccan Innovation Strategy fixed the target of producing 1,000 Moroccan patents and creating 200 innovative start ups by 2014. In 2012, Moroccan inventors applied for 197 patents up from 152 two years earlier. In 2011, the Ministry of Industry, Commerce and New Technologies created a Moroccan Club of Innovation, in partnership with the Moroccan Office of Industrial and Commercial Property. The idea is to create a network of players in Innovation including researchers, entrepreneurs, students and academics, to help them develop innovative projects.

The Ministry of higher education and Scientific Research is supporting research in advanced technologies and the development of innovative cities in Féz, Rabat and Marrakesh. The government is encouraging public institutions to engage with citizens in Innovation. One example is the Moroccan phosphate Office which has invested in a project to develop a smart city King Mohammed VI green city around Mohammed VI University located between Casablanca and Marrakesh, at a cost of DH 4.7 billion (circa US\$ 479m)

As of 2015 Morocco had 3 technoparks. Since the 1st technopark was established in Rabat in 2005 a 2nd has been set up in Casablanca, followed in 2015 by a 3rd in Tangiers. The technoparks host start-ups and small and medium-sized enterprises specializing in information and communication technologies (ICTs), green technologies (namely, environmentally friendly technologies) and cultural industries. In 2012 the Hassan II Academy of Science and Technology identified a number of sectors where Morocco has a comparative advantage and skilled human capital including mining, fisheries, food a number of strategic sectors such as energy with an emphasis on renewable energies such as photovoltaic thermal solar energy, wind and biomass as well as the water, nutrition and health sectors the Moroccan environment and geoscience.

On 20 May 2015 less than a year after its inception, the Higher Council for Education Training and Scientific Research presented a report to the king offering a vision for education in Morocco 2015-2030. The report advocated making education egalitarian and thus accessible to the greatest number. Since improving the quality of education goes hand in hand with promoting research and development, the report also recommended developing an integrated national Innovation system which would be financed by gradually increasing the share of GDP devoted to research and development (R&D) from 0.73% of GDP in 2010 to 1% in the short term 1.5 % by 2025 and 2% by 2030.

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