



# Model Arab League

## Annotated Bibliography for Djibouti

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This annotated bibliography was created to serve as a research resource for students taking part in the National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations' Model Arab League Program. With the understanding that research can be intimidating and time consuming, an effort was made to find a set of scholarly articles that give a detailed background and thorough account of the current situation for this League of Arab States member. Included are annotations designed to give a description of the source with the intention of students completing the research on their own. There has been an attempt to focus on more contemporary scholarship, specifically post-9/11 and post-2011 (so-called "Arab Spring") where possible, as these are two phenomena that fundamentally changed politics in the Arab world. These sources should provide students with a solid basis for understanding the country they are representing in both regionally and globally significant issues as well as the interests of other countries within the League of Arab States.

1. Harvey Glickman, "Africa in the War on Terrorism," *Journal of Asian and African Studies*, Volume 38, Number 2, June 2003, pp. 162-174. •• Following the attacks of September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2001 and the announcement of the Global War on Terrorism shortly after, terrorism became a globally significant political and military issue. As terrorist networks found safe haven in weak states and/or developing countries, the African region came into focus as a terrorist refuge. This led to significant U.S. and European involvement in African countries including Djibouti, which is of strategic value because of its proximity to the Arabian Peninsula. This article will be useful in understanding Djibouti's role in the Global War on Terror as well as what Africa collectively can do in the future. The arguments presented are specifically interesting given what has recently been going on in Mali.
2. Jennifer N. Brass, "Djibouti's Unusual Resource Curse," *Journal of Modern African Studies*, Volume 46, Issue 4, December 2008, pp. 523-545. •• Djibouti is one of the least developed countries in the world with a serious lack of natural resources. Despite this apparent handicap, the country has a different kind of resource, which when coupled with extremely corrupt and poor governance, creates the same sort of resource "curse" that oil rich Arab states face. This article is very critical of Djibouti's government and its political dealings, but also makes suggestions for policy alternatives that may improve futures for both the government and lay citizens of Djibouti.
3. P. Collinet, L. Stien, D. Vinatier, and J. L. Leroy, "Management of Female Genital Mutilation in Djibouti: the Peltier General Hospital Experience," *Acta Obstetrica et Gynecologica Scandinavica*, Volume 81, Number 11, November 2002, pp. 1074-1077. •• Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) has been illegal for some time now, yet is still almost "universally" practiced in Djibouti. While there are various types of FGM, infibulation (widely known as the worst type) is the method that is practiced culturally. Often a taboo

issue, prevalence of FGM can be seen as an indicator of women's rights and reproductive freedom. Because of international migration, FGM is not solely a Djiboutian or African issue and has wider implications for sexual equality throughout the Arab world. Warning: this article is graphic.

4. Glynn Flood, "Nomadism and its Future: The 'Afar," *Rain*, Number 6, January-February 1975, pp. 5-9. •• Djibouti's population is made up predominantly of two groups, the 'Issa and the 'Afar, and shares a transient pastoralist communities with Ethiopia. Economic development and foreign investment now threatens the 'Afar's way of life. Investment projects have been buying up land in areas crucial to 'Afar grazing, leading to many problems like overgrazing of ever inhospitable and arid land, and trespassing onto developing properties. These conflicts have begun to rapidly alter the way 'Afar go about shepherding their livestock and created new environmental issues for the region. This article highlights the tensions between preservation of tradition and development of agriculture/farming.
5. Assefaw Bariagaber, "Political Violence and the Uprooted in the Horn of Africa: A Study of Refugee Flows from Ethiopia," *Journal of Black Studies*, Volume 28, Number 1, September 1997, pp. 22-46. •• Refugees have become an enormous problem globally, and many of them appear to be coming from the Horn of Africa. There is also a large number of refugees from the Horn of Africa who are taking shelter in neighboring countries, and Djibouti is one of the main recipients of these displaced peoples. The refugee situations in this region are created by both military conflicts and environmental crises like severe droughts. Countries like Djibouti that are both contributors and recipients of refugees for either reason have an interest in resolving the root causes of displacement.
6. Charles R. Stith, "Radical Islam in East Africa," *The Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science*, Perspectives on African and the World, Volume 632, Number 55, 2010. •• As early as 2010, scholars were beginning to notice a shift of terrorist activity from the Middle East to Africa. Africa proved to be a fertile ground for terrorist groups to take safe haven and make affiliations that provide networks for communication and trafficking. Djibouti is a member of the East Africa Counter Terrorism Initiative, but the organization does not have adequate funding or political support to function well. The author gives a detailed overview of modern terrorist activity and makes recommendations for future capacity building in counterterrorism.
7. Abdisalan M. Noor, Maoulid B Mohamed, Cleopatra K. Mugenyi, Mouna A. Osman, Hawa H. Guessod, Caroline W. Kabaria, Ifrah A. Ahmed, Mary Nyonda, Jackie Cook, Christopher J. Drakeley, Margaret J. Mackinnon, Robert W. Snow, "Establishing the Extent of Malaria Transition and Challenges Facing Pre-Elimination in the Republic of

Djibouti,” *BMC Infectious Diseases*, Volume 11, Number 121, pp. 1-14. •• Many countries in Africa have achieved elimination or even pre-elimination status of Malaria with the exception of Djibouti despite having favorable environmental conditions for elimination. Notably, rates of infection rise as age and poverty level increase. The author discusses reasons as to why Djibouti has not gone about an elimination program, namely porous borders that allow for migratory illness, problems of feasibility, and lack of government funding.

8. Appuli Phillip Kasaija, “The UN-Led Djibouti Peace Process for Somalia 2008-2009: Results and Problems,” *Journal of Contemporary African Studies*, Volume 28, Number 3, July 2010, pp. 261-282. •• The Horn of Africa has seen its fair share of conflicts, and each country in the area has at some point perpetuated a border dispute or fought a proxy war on another’s territory. During a recent conflict between Somalia and Ethiopia, Djibouti was able to act as a neutral host country for the resolution process, but attempts to resolve the disagreement did not come without its own problems. This article explains who lost and who gained in the Djibouti peace process and the consequences for the region.
9. Emilie Cloatre, “TRIPS and Pharmaceutical Patents in Djibouti: An ANT Analysis of Socio-Legal Objects,” *Social Legal Studies*, Volume 17, Number 2, June 2008, pp. 263-281. •• All countries that are members of the World Trade Organization (WTO) must implement the Trade Related Intellectual Property agreement (TRIPS) by a certain deadline determined by the country’s level of development. Djibouti joined the WTO in 1995 and tried to implement TRIPS quickly for such an underdeveloped state. Much of the debate surrounding TRIPS implementation is that it will prevent less developed nations from getting generic medicines at an affordable price, however Djibouti stands out as different from its global south counterparts on this issue. This article also gets into legal theory, explaining that changes in law need to be followed by a change in behavior and/or culture.