



# Model Arab League

## Annotated Bibliography for Morocco

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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. Øyvind Østerud, "War Termination in the Western Sahara," *Security Dialogue*, Volume 20, Number 3, July 1989, pp. 309-317. •• Following the exit of Spain from Moroccan territories, the kingdom faced division from the Polisario Front seeking to separate itself as an independent state. The Polisario Front desires independence from Morocco because they claim to be of Sahrawi descent, distinct from the northern Arabs. As a territory, Polisario has gained the support of Algeria periodically throughout recent history; a move the Moroccan government interprets as attempts to further isolate Morocco and appropriate Moroccan land. Tensions between the two territories have fluctuated occasionally based on treaty signings, alliances, and discovery of resources. This article provides a detailed chronology of the political issues within and surrounding the Morocco-Polisario divide.
2. William Zartman, "Foreign Relations of North Africa," *Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science*, Volume 489, International Affairs in Africa, January 1987, pp. 13-27. •• Because of the region's geography, North Africa can be thought of as a geopolitical island. With the Atlantic to its west, the Mediterranean to its north, and the Sahara to its south, it is only connected to the Arab Middle East by Egypt. This island-like nature has created an interesting testing ground for North African foreign policies, with each North African state playing different roles based on their resources, borders, and interests. William Zartman gives a detailed history of the region including the many events that led up to various alliances, treaty signings, and disputes between the North African countries. Later, Zartman covers the relationships the North African states have with European and Western countries, both positive and negative. This article is a valuable read for those representing any of the North African countries (Morocco, Mauritania, Algeria, Tunisia, and Libya).

3. Eltigani E. Eltigani, "Childbearing in Five Arab Countries," *Studies in Family Planning*, Volume 32, Number 1, March, 2001, pp. 17-24. •• This article compares the rates and frequency of childbearing among women of five Arab countries: Algeria, Egypt, Morocco, Sudan, and Yemen. In doing so, the reader is given insight into these countries' population demographics, industries, rights for women, and levels of economic and social development. Algeria is a specifically interesting case because of its unique birthrates and frequencies relative to the other Arab states.
4. Mohammed Darif, "Morocco: A Reformist Monarchy?" *The Journal of the Middle East and Africa*, Volume 3, Issue 1, May 2012, pp. 82-103. •• Following the so-called "Arab Spring", one question that has continuously arisen asks why certain countries were able to avoid uprisings and violence. Morocco is one of these countries, and is especially interesting because it is a monarchy as well. This article argues that Morocco eluded upheaval because King Muhammad VI began a program of democratization in 2004 with a government commission commanded to look into past human rights abuses. Furthermore, the King uniquely incorporated religion into his policies in order to enhance the legitimacy in the eyes of Moroccans. Finally, certain articles of the constitution have been amended and upheld in such a way as to further liberalize and decentralize power in Morocco into what has been termed "extended regionalism", allowing greater political participation.
5. Driss Maghraoui, "Constitutional Reforms in Morocco: Between Consensus and Subaltern Politics," *The Journal of North African Studies*, Volume 16, Issue 4, December 2011, pp. 679-699. •• As a monarchy that has taken concrete steps toward democratization and increased independence of the judiciary, Morocco is often hailed as the exemplary Arab state, especially in the context of the so-called "Arab Spring". It is difficult however for any authoritarian regime to transition to democracy, and most times must settle for laying the groundwork for a transition, a notably different status. This article takes a critical look at the Moroccan monarchy's response to demands for reform, specifically those coming from the February 20<sup>th</sup> Youth Movement. The author argues that contrary to common understanding, the February Youth Movement was not necessarily about problems associated with unemployment and not necessarily associated with the Arab Spring.
6. Chansoo Cho, "The Modern Prince in the Age of the Third Wave: Economic Reform and Political Democratization in Morocco and Jordan," *International Area Studies Review*, Volume 9, Number 1, Spring 2006, pp. 130-147. •• Part of the success of democratic reform in Morocco has been the creation of multiparty politics and pluralism. At times, this was actually a drawback, as the number of political parties in Morocco grew to a very high number and decreased their collective bargaining power.

Still, Morocco remains ahead of its neighbors, and this may be due to country's unique economic situation. Morocco does not have oil resources like some other North African states, and has therefore had to draw revenue from taxes instead of rents. This fact has also led Morocco to have a more vibrant private sector, relative to other Arab states that are dominated by public sector employment. This article compares Morocco to Jordan as another Arab monarchy moving toward democratic reform.

7. Martine Gozlan, "Morocco: In the Kingdom of Illusions," *World Policy Journal*, Volume 28, Number 3, Fall 2011, pp. 101-112. •• On top of being considered by Western countries to be an exemplary Arab state in terms of movement toward democratic governance, many neighboring Arabs view Morocco as a place with significantly more freedoms as well. Morocco is not without its own issues however, and these come in the forms of high illiteracy, low per capita income, wealth disparity, and growing dissatisfaction in the lower strata of society. This article is a largely subjective account of a journalist who lived in Morocco while the so-called "Arab Spring" spread throughout Arab states and Morocco shielded itself with constitutional reforms. Interesting to note is that even though Morocco does have some underlying issues, changes in Moroccan policies tend to have a domino effect, forcing change in others who see Morocco as the ideal.
8. Samir Ben-Layashi & Bruce Maddy-Weitzman, "Myth, History and *Realpolitik*: Morocco and its Jewish Community," *Journal of Modern Jewish Studies*, Volume 9, Number 1, March 2010, pp. 89-106. •• Local convention in Morocco says that Jews in the area are "native", pre-dating the advent of Islam and bolstered by a collection of rich oral traditions regarding their presence. After Islam arrived to North Africa, Jews in Morocco were given *dhimmi* status, but appeared to be mostly comfortable living within the Muslim society. Following a Spanish (Catholic) incursion, Muslims and Jews in Morocco were lumped together as an oppressed class which inevitably led them to feel quite the same. This article traces the history of Moroccan Jews and the effects that their presence has had on Moroccan politics up to the present day. These effects have manifested themselves most noticeably in terms of Morocco's relationship with the state of Israel.
9. Gawdat Bahgat, "Morocco Energy Outlook: Opportunities and Challenges," *The Journal of North African Studies*, Volume 18, Issue 2, September 2012, pp. 291-304. •• "Unlike other North African countries (e.g. Algeria, Libya, and Egypt), Morocco holds very limited proven hydrocarbon reserves. For decades, Rabat has depended heavily on imported oil and natural gas to meet its growing demand for energy. Realising the fiscal and environmental impact of this dependency, the Moroccan authorities have pursued a twofold strategy in recent years: developing the country's

untapped renewable energy resources and improving energy efficiency. Partnership with the European Union has proven crucial in the initiation and implementation of this strategy.” (Abstract)

10. Yossef Ben-Meir, “Morocco’s Regionalization ‘Roadmap’ and the Western Sahara,” *International Journal on World Peace*, Volume 27, Number 2, June 2010, pp. 63-86. •• One of the largest issues Morocco faces today is the internal division of the Western Sahara region. This division produced a violent conflict which attracted foreign government involvement, and although there is a negotiated ceasefire that began in 1991, there is still tension between the two governorates. According to this author, resolution of the Morocco/Western Sahara conflict would “remove the greatest obstacle that prevents productive collaboration among the Maghreb Union.” To this end, the author provides recommendations for resolving the conflict as well as concrete implementation strategies that include costs and benefits.
11. Moha Ennaji, “Multiculturalism, Gender and Political Participation in Morocco,” *Diogenes*, Volume 57, Number 1, February 2010, pp. 46-57. •• Morocco’s history of colonization by various groups has led it to become a cosmopolitan country especially in terms of languages. Within this context of multilingualism, Moroccan women who are able to speak multiple languages are considered to have greater social and political power. Specifically, multilingual women are able to act as liaisons between communities and villages that speak different languages. While this is true, the unfortunate underlying problem is that there is an extremely high rate of female illiteracy in Morocco (85%), and not many women speak multiple languages, and therefore find it difficult to gain social and political respect. Luckily, the women that have achieved political power and participated in government have succeeded in reforming Morocco’s Family Code, increasing Moroccan women’s rights and equality.
12. J. Ben Cox, Khadija Al Arkoubi, and Samuel D. Estrada, “National Human Resource Development in Transitioning Societies in the Developing World: Morocco,” *Advances in Developing Human Resources*, Volume 8, Number 1, February 2006, pp. 84-98. •• In the past few years, Morocco has introduced a number of reforms intended to “promote human rights and economic development” simultaneously, a project that can at times appear to be divergent. Statistical evidence has shown this undertaking to be successful, albeit in small and gradual increments. It appears that some economic liberalization policies adopted by the government have had both positive and negative consequences for the Moroccan people, and both sides are explained in the article. Importantly, the authors advocate for specific policies that will help Morocco along with its aspirations for human resource development, like making primary education universal, making a shift from short-term to long-term business planning, and

changing educational structures to emphasize critical thinking over memorization.

13. Fatima Driouech, Michel Déqué, and Abdalah Mokssit, “Numerical Simulation of the Probability Distribution Function of Precipitation Over Morocco,” *Climate Dynamics*, Volume 32, Issue 7-8, June 2009, pp. 1055-1063. •• Climate change has already had a significant impact on global temperature and weather patterns. These changes in weather patterns include increasing temperatures as well as increasing frequency of extreme climate events like long drought and/or intense rainfall. According to the IPCC, “African countries are the most vulnerable... and are exposed to more negative impacts in the future.” For Morocco, climate change has meant longer droughts which have long terms socio-economic impact, and at times short bursts of heavy rainfall which produce dangerous floods. This scientific report attempts to predict future weather patterns in Morocco and models forecast dry spells of increased duration.
14. Lixia He, Wallace E. Tyner, Rachid Doukkali, and Gamal Siam, “Policy Options to Improve Water Allocation Efficiency: Analysis on Egypt and Morocco,” *Water International*, Volume 31, Number 3, September 2006, pp. 320-337. •• Water poses significant problems for governments in North Africa because it is a scarce resource that is almost universally overdrawn and underpriced. Policymakers have trouble coming up with viable economic policies that effectively reduce water demand or improve efficiency because access to water is often considered to be a basic right. This article describes the allocation of water in both Morocco and Egypt, and provides statistical evidence for effective policies that will both manage water demand in these countries and may even produce revenue for the management agencies.
15. Emanuela Dalmasso and Francesco Cavatorta, “Reforming the Family Code in Tunisia and Morocco – the Struggle Between Religion, Globalisation and Democracy,” *Totalitarian Movements and Political Religions*, Volume 11, Number 2, June 2010, pp. 213–228. •• Advancing women’s rights in places with a strong Islamist presence inevitably becomes quite difficult, as proponents are quickly accused of pandering to Western liberal notions of women’s “liberation”. In both Tunisia and Morocco this became apparent when both countries were trying to reform their respective Family Codes. While both were successful (to different extents), it is interesting to note *why* they were successful in their own unique political economy. This article explores how the push for women’s advancement in Morocco and Tunisia navigated their societal framework in order to achieve their gains.
16. Sylvia I. Bergh, “Traditional Village Councils, Modern Associations, and the Emergence of Hybrid Political Orders in Rural Morocco,” *Peace Review: A Journal of Social Justice*, Volume 21, Issue 1, February 2009, pp. 45-53. •• After gaining its

independence, Morocco has gradually moved toward a decentralization of power. Local governorates, many times determined by tribal authority, were given increased autonomy in terms of local customary laws and economic development. On the one hand, this decentralization has improved the lives of many, leading to communities have a greater stake in their own development of infrastructure projects. On the other hand, some feel that these local government associations are simply part of a greater Moroccan political wing of the monarchy. This article explains they political dynamics and structure of the localized government projects embedded in Morocco's villages.