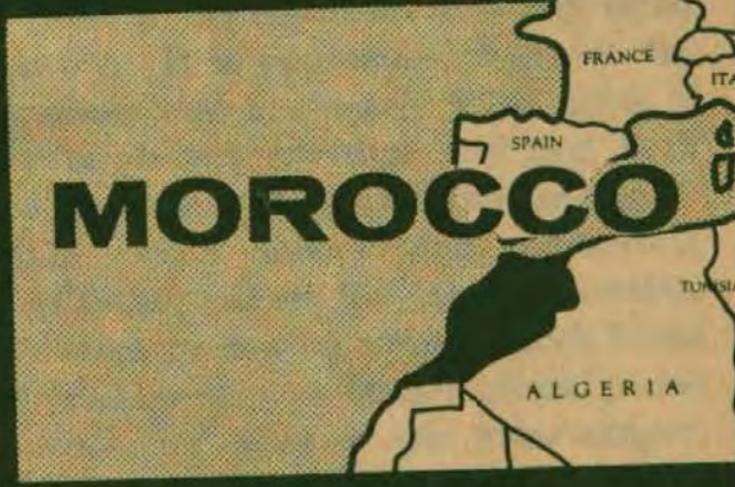


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FACT SHEET

*Mutual
Security
in
Action*





MOROCCO, strategically located in northwest Africa, is one of the world's newly independent nations. It is determined to maintain its independence and to promote social and economic progress for its people.

Morocco is one of the free-world nations with which the United States cooperates to promote economic development. It is in the United States interest that Morocco remain a free nation, be able to raise the standard of living of its people, maintain a free political system, and develop in ways which are compatible with the institutions and practices of free societies.

This fact sheet gives background information about Morocco and the accomplishments it has achieved with the help of U.S. aid.

The Country and Its People

The Kingdom of Morocco, an independent monarchy, takes in about 174,000 square miles of the northwestern corner of Africa. Separated from Europe only by the Strait of Gibraltar, Morocco is closer to the continent than any other African country. It is approximately twice the size of Minnesota and has nearly 1,700 miles of strategically important coastline touching both the Atlantic Ocean and the Mediterranean Sea.

About 125 miles inland and paralleling Morocco's Atlantic coast are the Atlas Mountains. Behind the mountains are dry steppes which blend into the Sahara Desert. Great agricultural plains are found north and west of the Atlas ranges, where the climate is semitropical. Along the Mediterranean coast the climate is mild and

sunny, although the Rif Mountains rise sharply from the coast to heights of 6,000 feet.

Most of Morocco's 11.6 million people are descendants of the Berbers and Arabs who invaded the area in the 8th and 11th centuries. Arabic is the principal language of the people, and Berber dialects predominate in the rural areas. French and Spanish also are spoken, especially by educated Moroccans.

About four-fifths of the Moroccans live in rural areas. Most of the urban dwellers reside in the capital city of Rabat, the commercial and industrial center of Casablanca, the old walled cities of Fez and Marrakech, and the port of Tangier.

The Government

Morocco's history goes back to ancient times when Phoenicia established commercial colonies in the northern part of the country. In following centuries the Romans, Vandals, Visigoths, Byzantine Greeks, and Arabs swept through the region. The Arab invasion brought Islam to Morocco in the eighth century.

Morocco was not subdued by the Ottoman Empire which ruled most of North Africa by the 16th century. Instead, a strong southern Moroccan group established the Alouite dynasty, a descendant of which is still on the Moroccan throne.

A formal treaty in 1912 established a French protectorate over Morocco, and shortly thereafter Spain was accorded a zone of influence along the Mediterranean coast and in the south. In 1923 the area around the city of Tangier was made an International Zone.



Moroccan villagers benefit from U.S. aid in education and many other fields.

After World War II, nationalism became a strong movement in Morocco. In 1956 the country gained its independence from France and Spain, and Tangier was integrated into the sovereign state of Morocco. The first ruler of the newly independent nation was King Mohamed V, who had been proclaimed King of Morocco in 1927 when he was only 17 years old.

With the exception of a 27-month period of exile from 1953 to 1955, King Mohamed ruled Morocco continuously until his death in February 1961. After the King's death, his son, Moulay Hassan, was proclaimed King Hassan II.

Morocco is an absolute monarchy, with the daily work of government delegated to a cabinet.

However, in 1958 King Mohamed V proclaimed a Royal Charter outlining steps for establishment of a constitutional monarchy. The Charter guarantees liberty of opinion, expression, assembly, and association.

The policy of Morocco has been one of cooperation with the Western Powers as well as with the Arab nations. Morocco's goals are to maintain its freedom and independence and to contribute to peace and stability in northwestern Africa. Morocco became a member of the United Nations in 1956. It is also a member of the Arab League.

The Economy

Morocco is primarily an agricultural land, with about 80 percent of the people deriving their living from the soil. The leading farm products are grains, citrus fruits, vegetables, and wine grapes. The chief exports are barley, fruits, and flaxseed.

Despite the fertility of its land, Morocco's agricultural productivity is limited. It is hampered by a lack of modern farming techniques, shortage of irrigation facilities in the drier regions, and the prevalence of locust plagues which destroy crops.

Fisheries are very important to Moroccan manufacturing and its export economy. The coastal waters contain a wide variety of fish, but about 85 percent of the catch is sardines. Most of the catch is canned and exported; some also is used in the manufacture of fertilizer. The chief fishing centers are Agadir, Safi, and Casablanca.

Agriculture, fishing, and forestry together account for 36 percent of Morocco's gross national product.

Another 18 percent of the gross national product is supplied by industry. The major industry is mineral production. The country's rich deposits include phosphates, cobalt, manganese, iron, lead, zinc, and some petroleum. Morocco is the world's largest exporter of phosphate rock and has huge reserves still available. Since processing facilities are lacking, most metals are exported in the form of ore and concentrates chiefly to France, Morocco's leading trading partner.

Manufacturing in Morocco, in addition to production of ground phosphate rock and canned fish, includes processed foods, leather, textiles, cement, chemicals, and fertilizers. Native handicraft production occupies a sizable number of people but contributes little to the gross national product. Skilled handicraftsmen working in many small shops turn out carpets, leather goods, silver jewelry, and copper and brass items.

In recent years Morocco has faced the problem of migrations from the rural areas to the cities. Serious social problems such as overcrowded housing and urban unemployment have resulted.

Unhealthful, useless swamp areas are changed into pleasant, productive farm districts through land reclamation, irrigation, and housing projects.





Emergency grants of U.S. surplus wheat not only increased Morocco's food supply but also provided half the salary of Moroccan workers renewing an old irrigation canal on the Seyad River.

At the same time, industrial development has slowed down because of a shortage of investment capital. When Morocco gained its independence in 1956, many French technicians and considerable investment left the country. The unemployment which resulted from decreased private investment has, however, been eased somewhat by development projects.

Morocco is continuing a limited budget of projects begun under the French protectorate. The Government is especially interested in expanding agricultural production through the use of irrigation and more modern farming methods.

It also wants to improve the skill of Moroccan workers, increase housing, remove the sources of poverty and tensions in the cities, and expand the transportation systems so that the resources of the less accessible areas can be tapped. At present, Morocco's transportation and telecommunications

are rather limited and are concentrated in the north and northwest.

One of Morocco's most basic social needs is to expand its educational facilities. An estimated nine-tenths of the population is illiterate. Health and sanitation, too, are problems in this country where life expectancy is believed to be about 35 years. The average per capita income is about \$150 a year.

U.S. Relations and Interests

Relations between the United States and Morocco go back to 1787 when the two countries signed a treaty of friendship. Since then diplomatic representation has been maintained continuously, including the 44-year period of the French protectorate over Morocco. After Moroccan independence, a U.S. Embassy was established at Rabat.

Today the newly independent nation of Morocco is striving to develop its resources and to promote the interests of its people through democratic processes. The United States is cooperating in these development plans because of our deep interest in the country and its future.

It is of great importance to the United States and its partners that the strategically located North African land remain a sovereign and independent member of the community of nations. It is felt that this can be achieved if Morocco's democratic institutions are able to meet the economic and social needs of the people.

Because of these interests, the United States responded favorably when Morocco in 1957 requested economic assistance. Since then a total of \$194.7 million in U.S. aid has been made

available to Morocco. In addition, the Department of State sponsors a sizable exchange-of-persons program with Morocco, and the United States Information Service maintains libraries in leading Moroccan cities.

Under a 1950-51 agreement with France, the United States has utilized military bases in Morocco. Within the next several years the bases will be evacuated under an agreement formulated by Morocco and the United States in 1959.

Results of Partnership

The general goal of the United States in providing aid to Morocco is to help that nation expand and improve its education and accelerate the development of its agricultural, mineral, and industrial resources.

American technicians explain the use of U.S. dusters and sprayers for locust control.



Following are some of the accomplishments Morocco has achieved with the help of U.S. aid during the 3 years 1958-60:

Agriculture

- Provided for reforestation and soil conservation programs. Planted nearly 3.5 million trees and improved about 32,000 acres of land.
- Furnished more than 10,000 pieces of small farming equipment plus several large machines for demonstration purposes.
- Saved millions of dollars of crops through programs to destroy insects, especially locusts, at their breeding and feeding grounds.
- Established 18 new Agricultural Work Centers for the purpose of modernizing farming methods and practices. Through the centers, improved plow techniques were applied to about 800,000 acres of cropland and more than 40,000 tons of fertilizer were spread on fields. As a result, crop yields increased by as much as 80 percent above average.
- Continued work on big Triffa irrigation project in northeastern Morocco. By 1975, 137,000 acres will be under irrigation, benefiting families on 10,000 farming units.

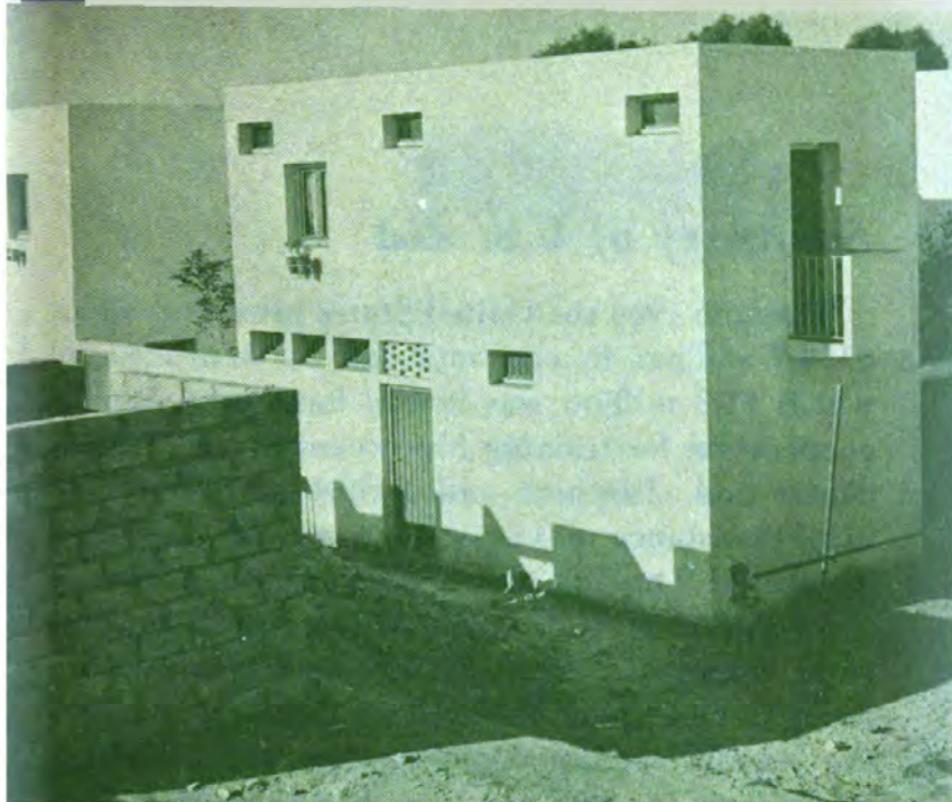
Training and Education

- Through 1960, made technical training and observation available in the United States and elsewhere for 72 Moroccan specialists and administrators.
- Brought six young staff members of Radio Maroc to Syracuse University to study broadcasting techniques for a year.

- Made available a 5-month course in leather production in Belgium for Moroccans who assist and advise the Moroccan handicraft industry.
- Arranged exchange of Moroccan and American professors of public administration.
- Provided on-the-job public administration assignments for Moroccan students at American universities.
- Brought Moroccan farmers and agricultural leaders to California, Arizona, and Georgia to study farming methods and institutions.
- Brought Moroccans to the United States to study statistics, labor leadership, geophysics, police work, education administration, and training methods for teaching in rural areas.
- Sent to Morocco American experts in fields of soil classification, agricultural credit, irrigation project planning, city planning, vocational education, public administration, housing, telecommunications training, small handicraft industries, industrial engineering, and road construction.
- Carried out a program to strengthen the Skilled Workers Training Center established in Casablanca in 1960. The Center attempts to show that Moroccan boys and young men can be trained by U.S. methods to be competent mechanics, carpenters, and electricians although they lack formal education. U.S. contributions include equipment, operating expense fund, and French-speaking American instructors.

Transportation

- Built access roads to Moroccan mining areas.
- Provided blankets, messkits, and clothing for workers on Project Unity, the construction program to join the road systems of former Spanish and French areas of Morocco.



Homes such as these are built under U.S.-aided low-cost housing projects in Morocco.

Housing

- Completed more than 5,000 single one-story units.
- Completed about 8,000 small apartments.
- Began construction of 4,256 new low-cost housing units.

Relief

- Provided about 65,000 tons of U.S. wheat, 3,200 tons of rice, and 100 tons of dried milk for relief purposes.
- Furnished additional relief commodities to Moroccan voluntary welfare agencies.
- Provided emergency relief of food, medical care, and evacuation facilities for victims of the 1960 earthquake at Agadir, Morocco.

Summary of U.S. Aid

Through 1960 the United States provided about \$194.7 million in economic aid to Morocco, of which \$1.8 million was in the form of technical cooperation for training Moroccans in the United States and elsewhere and furnishing U.S. technical assistance advisers to work in Morocco. About \$11.9 million was in the form of emergency relief grants of U.S. dollars and surplus agricultural commodities to alleviate crises caused by drought and unemployment or disasters such as the Agadir earthquake. Another \$12.4 million in the form of relief was furnished through voluntary welfare agencies in Morocco. Loans and grants amounting to \$168.6 million were made for special economic development projects, including a \$23 million loan for the Triffa irrigation project from the Development Loan Fund.

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