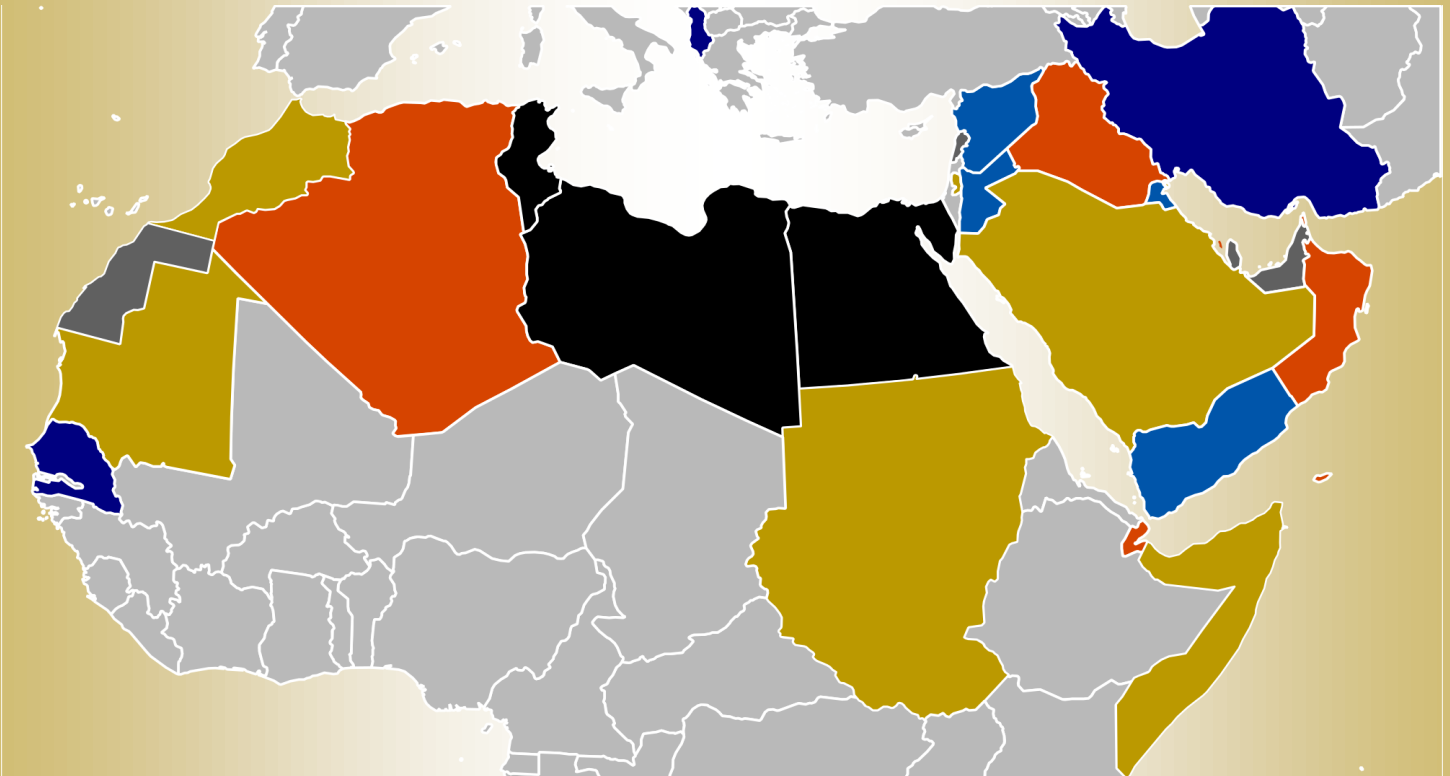




Gender, Development & Human Rights Work in North Africa and the Middle East



Resource Packet for Educators

Compiled by:

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Global Classroom Teacher's Workshop

November 1, 2017

Workshop Sponsors and Supporters:



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Table of Contents

Introducing the Speakers.....	3
Introducing the HANDS Fellowship Program.....	4
Learning Objectives.....	5
Key Terms	6
About the Middle East and North Africa.....	7-8
Islam in North Africa and the Middle East.....	9
The Arab Spring.....	10-12
Women in the Arab Spring.....	13
Egypt.....	14-18
Country Profile	14
From the Arab Spring to Today.....	15
Development Overview, and Focuses Challenges.....	16
Gender and Human Rights.....	17
Morocco.....	18-21
Country Profile.....	18
From the Arab Spring to today.....	19
Development Overview, Strengths and Challenges.....	20
Gender and Human Rights.....	21
Tunisia.....	22– 25
Country Profile.....	22
From the Arab Spring to today.....	23
Development Overview, Strengths and Challenges.....	24
Gender and Human Rights.....	25
MENA: Figures from Development.....	26
Women’s Rights and Islamic Feminism.....	27-28
Major Figures in Women’s Rights Movements: MENA.....	29

USING THIS RESOURCE GUIDE

NOTE: Many of these descriptions were excerpted directly from the source website.



Recommended Resource



Visual Media



Audio



Charts and Graphs



Lesson Plans



English/Language Arts



Fun Facts



<http://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/opinion/2011/03/201134111445686926.html>

Introducing the Speakers

Moderator and Presenter: Nova Robinson, PhD



Nova Robinson is a historian of the modern Middle East with a special focus on women's rights. Nova's research bridges the fields of Middle Eastern history, women's history, and the history of international governance. She studies the changes in the rights vocabularies used by Arab women. Her current project uncovers how the internationalization of women's rights at the League of Nations, and later the United Nations, led Arab women to articulate an alternative conceptualization of women's rights. Nova has designed and taught numerous courses on Middle Eastern history, the history of women's rights, and global history. Each course emphasizes the encounters between people and the exchanges of ideas and commodities that have shaped the contemporary world system. She is an Assistant Professor with a joint appointment in History and International Studies. She holds a PhD from Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey and an AB from Dartmouth College. Her research has been supported by several fellowships, including a Fulbright.

HANDS Fellows, Panelists: Noha Samuel, Mai Amer, Nawrez Ellafi, and Ferial Habel

Noha Samuel is a project coordinator at the Salama Mousa Foundation for Education and Development where she works on advocacy and support programs for women. In her role, Noha facilitates leadership training and support groups for women in Egypt, and works on a project funded by the International Labor Organization (ILO) to create and support successful women entrepreneurs. With over 10 years of experience in development, Noha is committed to improving the lives of women in Egypt. She is also the co-founder of Life Arts, an organization that encourages women to express themselves through the arts. Noha holds a BA degree in English from Minia University.

Mai Amer is a project coordinator at the Youth and Development Consultancy at Etijah, an Egyptian NGO working in the field of youth and community development. She currently works on a project facilitating workshops for adolescent girls to teach them life skills and confidence-building. Previously, she's worked on projects related to reproductive and sexual health on issues such as HIV/AIDS and FGM. Mai also helps her team with grant proposals to obtain more funding for women's programming at Etijah. She holds a BA in Political Science with a minor in Economics from Cairo University. Mai is passionate about helping young girls reach their true potential in life. Her previous and current work demonstrates her commitment to issues affecting women and young girls. In the US, she hopes to learn more about NGO management and wants to work with an organization that empowers adolescent girls.

Nawrez Ellafi works as a trainer in the Tunisian League for the Political Rights of Women where she leads workshops for women on managing stress, building self-confidence, being more politically active, and knowing their human rights. Right now, she is focusing on ensuring that women, especially those who live in rural areas, know about their right to vote and advocate for their rights in the upcoming Tunisian election. Nawrez is also a part-time teacher, teaching young students English and French, and is a member of a feminist political party in Tunisia. She has a degree in Marine Biotechnology. Nawrez's work as a trainer shows an incredible dedication to improving the day to day lives of women in Tunisia. She is passionate about women being able to participate in the social, economic, and political sphere in Tunisia. Nawrez sees herself running for parliament one day, so that she can be in a position where she can help women on a larger scale through public policies. In the US, Nawrez would like to enhance her own leadership skills and hopes to work with an organization that encourages women to be more involved in politics.

Ferial Habel is a project coordinator at GIZ, the German Development Agency, working on a project for the economic integration of women in the MENA region. Her work focuses on implementing raising awareness campaigns on women's roles in economy and society through the media. Through this project, Ferial worked on engaging university students, NGOs, and other governmental organizations to have a public discussion on the realities, challenges, and immense value of working women in society. She has a Research Masters Degree in Marketing and Strategy from the Institute des Hautes Etudes Commerciales in Carthage, Tunisia. Ferial has spent the past 5 years with GIZ. Starting out in the administrative and finance department, she worked her way into a career that she was more passionate about – working with women in Tunisia. During the Professional Fellows Program in the US, she hopes to learn more about education and economic empowerment programs for women and young girls.

Introducing the HANDS Fellowship Program

The Professional Fellows Program between Egypt, Tunisia, Morocco and the U.S. Theme: NGO



Development for Organizations Improving the Status of Women

The Professional Fellows Program, funded by the U.S. Department of State Office for Citizen Exchanges in the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, aims to strengthen the leadership capacity and professional skills of mid-level professionals from Egypt, Tunisia and Morocco engaged with non-governmental organizations who work to improve the status of women. Prior to filling out this application, please read through the eligibility criteria in the Professional Fellow Program Announcement to ensure that you meet the program requirements. Those accepted for this program will travel to greater Washington, DC area, Pennsylvania or Seattle, WA in the US from October 16 to November 17, 2017 for fellowships with relevant U.S. based organizations NGOs. Following the US-based exchange, selected program participants will continue their involvement with an exchange in Egypt/Tunisia/Morocco in winter 2017, when they and their organizations will continue collaborating with American participants. Selected participants will also be expected to share information acquired through the exchange with their colleagues in home country in order to broaden the impact of this program. <http://www.handsalongthenile.org/causes/prospective-professional-fellows/>



Economic Development
Healthcare



Social Service



Key Learning Objectives from this Resource Packet

Learning Objective 1: Understand underlying reasons for conflicts in the Middle East and North Africa, and identify challenges that conflict and instability poses to overall development.

Learning Objective 2: Challenge students to think outside their preconceptions of the Middle East and North Africa as a region with turmoil, but also an area that is developing in unique and complex ways.

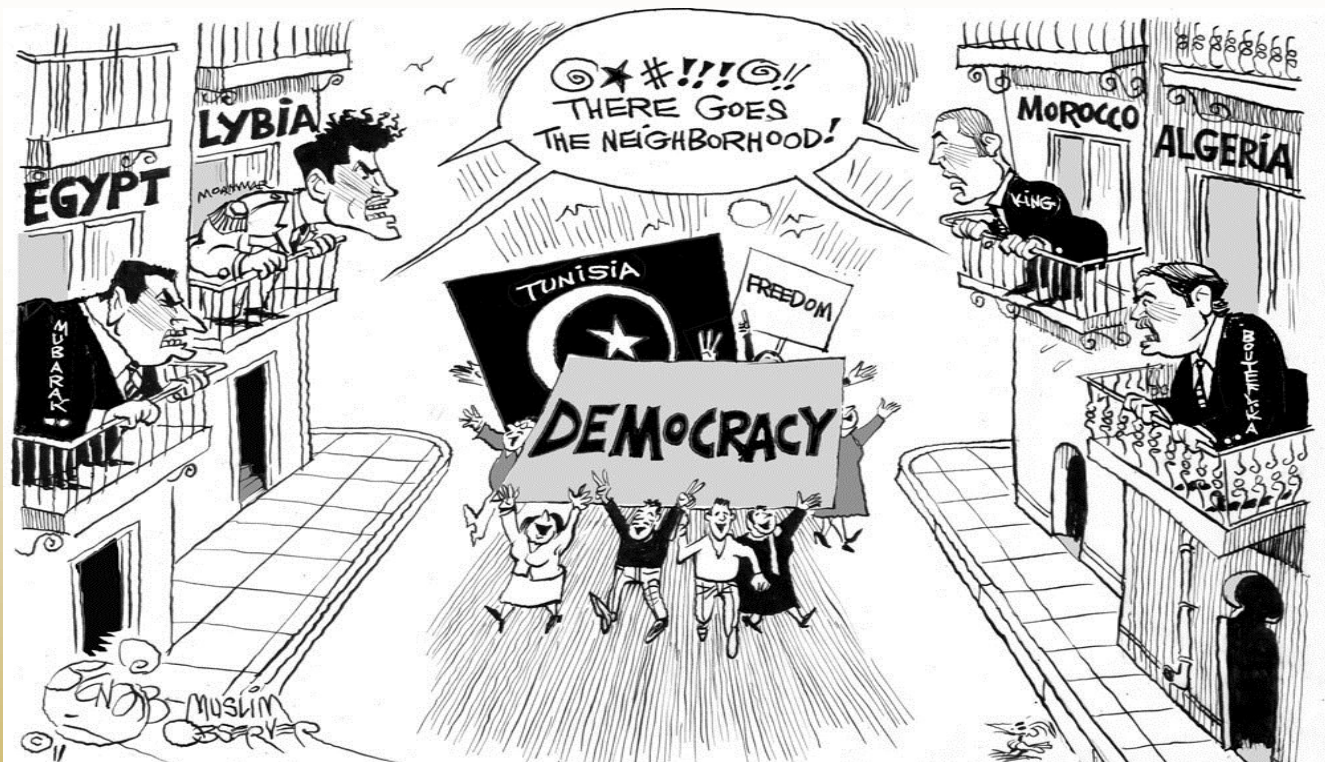
Learning Objective 3: Compare and contrast trends in Development, Gender, and Human Rights in three contexts: Egypt, Tunisia, and Morocco.

Learning Objective 4: Learn more about causes and reasons why the Arab Spring began. *Depending on students' age level:* Explore ideas such as 'empowerment,' 'agency,' and discuss what these concepts mean in terms of Human Rights, and the rights of women and girls in particular.

Learning Objective 5: Assess the role of culture versus the role of religion in shaping climates around gender equity and human rights. Analyze the effect of Secular versus Islamic culture, and compare ways that culture impacts the lives of women and their role in development in North Africa and the Middle East.

Learning Objective 6: Challenge western conceptions of terms like 'development,' 'progress,' 'feminism,' and 'human rights.' Students will be able to identify alternative paths, and defend non-western perspectives on the terms above.

Learning Objective 7: Inform, educate and empower students to seek out ways to get involved in issues around gender and human rights, and to act as leaders and advocates in their own communities.



Source: http://www.jadaliyya.com/pages/index/468/cartoons_tunisia-and-recent-events

Key Terms

Arab Spring: The Arab Spring was a series of anti-government protests, uprisings and armed rebellions that spread across countries in the Middle East and North Africa in early 2011.

Secularism: The belief that religion should not play a role in government, education, or other public parts of society.

Islam: Islam is one of the largest religions in the world, with over 1 billion followers. It is a monotheistic faith based on revelations received by the Prophet Muhammad in 7th-century Saudi Arabia. The Arabic word Islam means "submission," reflecting the faith's central tenet of submitting to the will of God. Followers of Islam are called Muslims.

Muslim Brotherhood: The Muslim Brotherhood is a transnational Sunni Islamist organization founded in Egypt by Islamic scholar and schoolteacher Hassan al-Banna in 1928.

MENA—Middle East and North Africa: The term MENA is an English-language acronym referring to the Middle East and North Africa region. The term MENA covers an extensive region, extending from Morocco to Iran, including all Middle Eastern Mashriq and Maghreb countries.

Economic Development: Economic development is usually the focus of national and local governments to improve the standard of living through the creation of jobs, the support of innovation and new ideas, the creation of higher wealth, and the creation of an overall better quality of life.

Progress: The process of improving or developing something over a period of time.

Human Rights: Human rights are moral principles or norms, which describe certain standards of human behavior, and are regularly protected as legal rights in municipal and international law.

Agency: In social science, agency is the capacity of individuals to act independently and to make their own free choices. By contrast, structure is those factors of influence (such as social class, religion, gender, ethnicity, customs, etc.) that determine or limit an agent and his or her decisions.

Empowerment: Measures designed to increase the degree of autonomy and self-determination in people and communities in order to enable them to represent their interests and a responsible and self-determined way.

Equity: Equity is defined as the quality of being fair, unbiased, and just. In other words, equity involves ensuring that everyone has access to the resources, opportunities, power and responsibility they need to reach their full, healthy potential as well as making changes so that unfair differences may be understood and addressed.

Equality: Equality aims to ensure that everyone gets the same things in order to enjoy full, healthy lives. Like equity, equality aims to promote fairness and justice, but it can only work if everyone starts from the same place and needs the same things.

Feminism: The advocacy of women's rights on the grounds of political, social, and economic equality to men.

Islamic Feminism: Describes the speech, action, writing, or a way of life committed to gender justice and also an engagement with Islamic epistemology as an expansion of a faith position rather than a rejection of it.



Sources: <http://www.dw.com/en/five-years-on-egypt-after-the-arab-spring/a-18973463>; [npr.org; http://sgba-resource.ca/en/concepts/equity/define-equity/](http://sgba-resource.ca/en/concepts/equity/define-equity/); dictionary.com

About the Middle East and North Africa



Lesson Plan Ideas!

Middle East and North Africa Geography:

<http://www.pbs.org/newshour/extra/lessons-plans/middle-east-and-north-africa-geography/>

The lesson plan will provide students with an overview of the region geographical past, while exposing students to the complexity and diversity of the region. Estimated time is 2 or 3 45-minute class periods.

The Middle East and North Africa region, sometimes referred to as MENA, stretches from the Atlantic Ocean to the Indian Ocean and from Turkey to Yemen. The bulk of the region is along five waterways: The Mediterranean Sea, Red Sea, Persian Gulf, Black Sea, and Caspian Sea. While this region is vast, a large portion of the population in North Africa lives just south of the Mediterranean coast. In the Middle East, most of the people live in the regions north rim that runs from Iran through Iraq to Syria and into Turkey. This region is also in turmoil considering that Syria, Iraq, Libya and Yemen are in civil war, causing untold damage to human lives and physical infrastructure.

Excerpted from The World Bank.

MENA: 2017 ECONOMIC OUTLOOK

Geopolitical risks and structural imbalances across countries are weighing on the outlook

**2017
Consensus
Forecast
2.0%**

Latest Highlights

- **UAE:** Economy continues to expand at a moderate pace, with the non-oil sector powering growth
- **Egypt:** Activity continues to firm up, thanks to the government's bold reform agenda and improved international competitiveness due to a weaker pound
- **Israel:** Growth driven by solid growth in private consumption and fixed investment, while exports contracted sharply
- **Iran:** Economy benefiting from growth in tourism exports, foreign direct investment and crude oil production

2017 GDP Forecasts
Annual Variation in %

4.1

Egypt

3.9

Iran

3.3

Israel

2.5

Algeria

2.0

Qatar

2.0

UAE

2.0

MENA

1.7

Iraq

-0.3

Kuwait

Saudi
Arabia

-0.4

FOCUSECONOMICS

FocusEconomics Consensus Forecast Middle East & North Africa, October 2017

<https://www.focus-economics.com/regions/middle-east-and-north-africa>

About the Middle East and North Africa



<http://zyzx.haust.edu.cn/moocresource/data/20091107/U/NotreDame20090001/arabic-and-middle-east-studies/islamic-societies-of-the-middle-east-and-north/lectures/lecture-4.htm>



Imperial History of the Middle East

<http://www.mapsofwar.com/ind/imperial-history.html>

Who has controlled the Middle East over the course of history? Get a general idea with this short video showing who controlled the region and when. In addition, this site also contains other maps that help explain the history.



The Sykes-Picot Agreement in 100 Seconds

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kxEpSqz57Vc>

On May 19, 1916, representatives of Great Britain and France secretly reach an accord, known as the Sykes-Picot agreement, by which most of the Arab lands under the rule of the Ottoman Empire were divided into British and French spheres of influence with the conclusion of World War I.

Classroom Activity

Break students up into small groups of 2 or 3, and assign each group a country in the region. Give students time to research their designated country and explore specifically changes in politics and society in the last 10 years. Students can jot down notes or write full paragraphs summarizing developments. Each group might make a brief presentation to the class that touches on: (1) changes in politics and government; (2) any differences in attitudes across age demographics; (3) movements and counter-movements related to gender rights and human

Lesson Plan Idea!

Curriculum: Exploring Africa

<http://exploringafrica.matrix.msu.edu/curriculum/>

The "Exploring Africa!" curriculum is divided into units, modules, and learning activities. Each unit covers a major topic or theme in the study of Africa, which is then divided into thematic, disciplinary, regional, or country modules. Each module is comprised of learning activities. Feel free to select learning activities from a module, or complete all of them in the order in which they are presented.

Center for Middle Eastern Studies: Lesson Plans

<https://cmes.arizona.edu/outreach/lessons>

This website provides numerous lesson plans that can be filtered by grade level, area of study, and region/country. The area's of study include economics, history, geography, literature, environmental studies, culture and gender, art and music, and current events.

Islam in the Middle East and North Africa



An introduction to Islam: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/religion/islam/index.shtml>

This site provides not only an introduction but provides classroom activities to discuss different Islamic events and festivals.



Mecca: Join the Hajj: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jM81wroj_MQ

This short video by National Geographic explains the Hajj, a five day pilgrimage, that Muslims embark on.



Muslim Celebrations

<http://www.teachersdomain.org/resource/islamo8.socst.world.glob.islamceleb/>

This video clip explores Muslim celebrations with the Islamic Center of Washington D.C. Discussion questions for students are also included. Length: 1 minute and 50



https://www.tes.com/lessons/gn5HYTNvHp-h_A/islam-culture



Political Islam in the Middle East: <http://www.cfr.org/middle-east-and-north-africa/political-islam-middle-east/p29622>

Interview with Reza Aslan, expert in religion and foreign policy with the Council on Foreign Relations, on political Islam and Islamist movements in the Middle East.



Did You Know?

Islam is the second largest religion in the world with over 1 billion followers. According to Pew Research Center, in 2015 there were over 3 million Muslims living in the US.



Lesson Plan Idea!

Lesson Plan: Preparing and Evaluating Content on Islam and Muslims

http://www.islamproject.org/education/Prepare_eval.htm

This website is provided by the Islam Project and offers guidelines for teaching about Islam (concepts, history, and terminology).

Lesson Plan: An Introduction to Islam and Muhammad

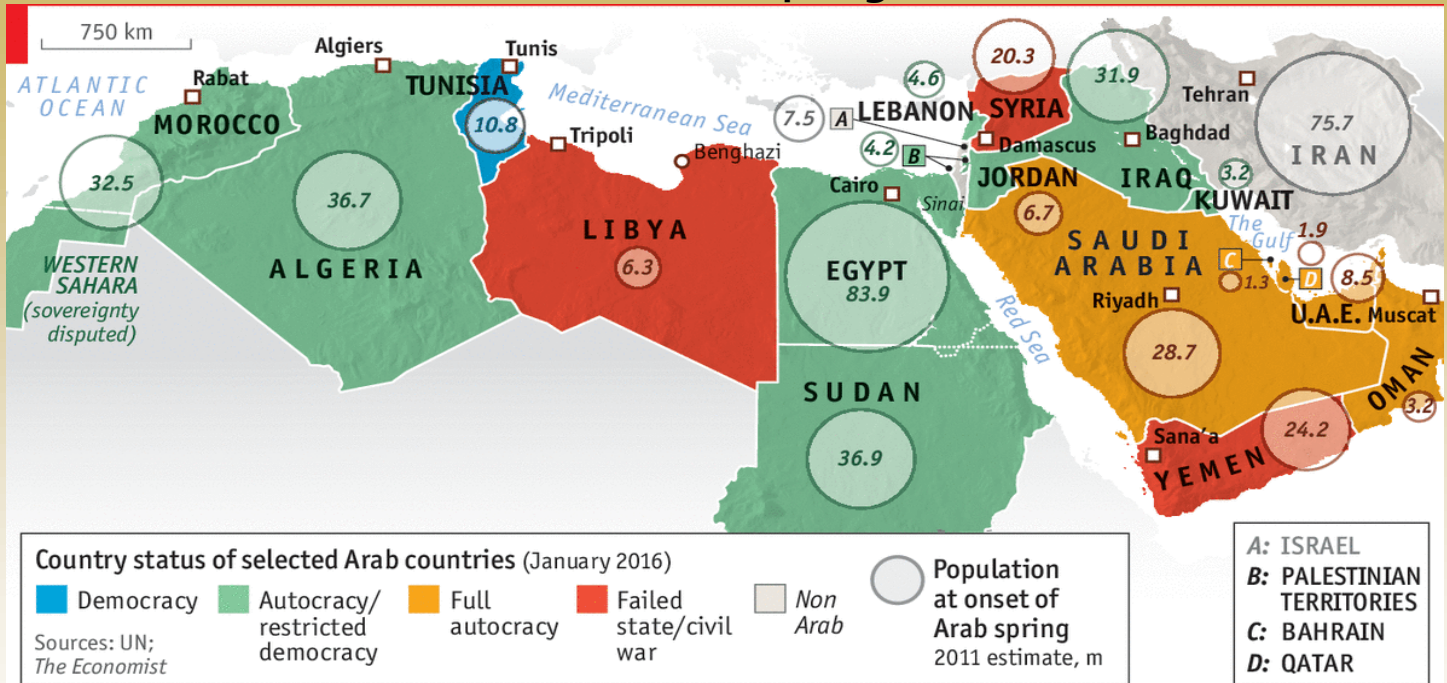
<http://www.pbs.org/empires/islam/lesson1.html>

In this lesson plan students will compare the major monotheistic belief systems of the world and have a discussion.



<https://www.khaleejtimes.com/ramadan-2017/ramadan-news/eid-al-fitr-2017-everything-you-need-to-know>

The Arab Spring



Economist.com <https://www.economist.com/blogs/graphicdetail/2016/01/daily-chart-8>

Al-Jazeera: Interactive Timeline of the Arab Spring: <http://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/interactive/2013/12/timeline-arab-spring-20131217114018534352.html>

In this interactive timeline you will gain a detailed review of major events looking back at three years of Arab Uprising across the region.

Arab uprising: Country by country

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-12482291>

Detailed profile with stories and accounts from Arab uprisings across Tunisia, Egypt, Libya, Yemen, Syria, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Morocco, Algeria, Jordan, Oman, and Kuwait.

Arab Spring revisited-the battle for democracy in Egypt: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DaUR2woeETc>

A short video explaining the beginnings of the Arab Spring and where we are now six years later. (4:46)

Spring Forever: The Tragedy And the Causes of the Arab Spring: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UxRqxlYuFS0>

This 25 min documentary discusses the revolution, riots and bloodshed that spread throughout the Arab world. The causes and the consequences of the Arab spring are explained. (25:58)

Classroom Activity

What was the role of digital technology in the 'Arab Spring' and Arab movements, particularly in stirring protests in Tunisia, Egypt, and Syria? What do we mean when we talk about 'citizen journalism' and about social media and digital technology as democratizing instruments, with the ability to challenge traditional power structures? What are some limitations of technology?

Lesson Plan Idea!

American Revolution vs. Arab Spring: Teaching with Primary and Secondary Source Documents

<http://www.trumanlibrary.org/whistlestop/lessons/full.php?lessonID=431>

A technology based cooperative activity. Students will research the American Revolution and Arab Spring then compare and contrast the events to better understand both in terms of political, economic and social implications. The activity will utilize a wide range of sources and students will also learn how to analyze primary and secondary source documents.

The Arab Spring (Then)

As 'Arab Spring' moves into Fall

The death of Libyan dictator Moammer Gadafi is yet another chapter in the ongoing turmoil in the Middle East, where some are seeking to replace repressive governments with freer, more democratic ones. A look at the status of the conflicts:

TUNISIA

The birthplace of the "Arab Spring" will hold its first post-revolution elections Oct. 23, selecting an assembly to draft a constitution and form an interim government; Islamist parties are expected to do well



SYRIA

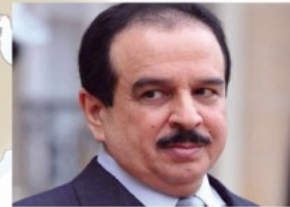
President Bashar Assad's regime continues its crackdown on protests that the U.N. estimates has killed 3,000 people so far; there are signs that demonstrators, who were mostly peaceful, have opted to meet the government's violence with force of their own



President Bashar Assad

BAHRAIN

U.S. government has been more tepid in its support for the democracy movement in the country where it bases the U.S. Navy's 5th Fleet, and was just forced to delay a \$53-million arms sale to the government after a backlash from human rights groups



King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa

LIBYA

Moammar Gadafi's death in effect ends NATO's military operation and allows the ruling Transitional National Council to form a government and proceed with elections; leaders now must contend with scores of armed militias



Moammar Gadafi

EGYPT

A military council continues to rule; elections are scheduled for Nov. 28 to choose a parliament that will write a new constitution; but the forces that led the revolution have split, with secular leaders worried about the rising power of Islamist political groups

YEMEN

Violence surged after President Ali Abdullah Saleh returned unexpectedly from Saudi Arabia, where he was recovering from an attempted assassination; Saleh has agreed to step down several times, only to renege



President Ali Abdullah Saleh

Source: AP, Reuters, ESRI, MCT Photo Service, Los Angeles Times reporting

Graphic: Tom Reinken, Khang Nguyen, Los Angeles Times

© 2011 MCT

<http://www.theloquitur.com/editorial-loquitur-calls-for-support-of-arab-spring-youth/>



<http://www.theloquitur.com/editorial-loquitur-calls-for-support-of-arab-spring-youth/>

The Arab Spring (Now)

A full five years

The Arab spring



Protest



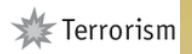
Government repression



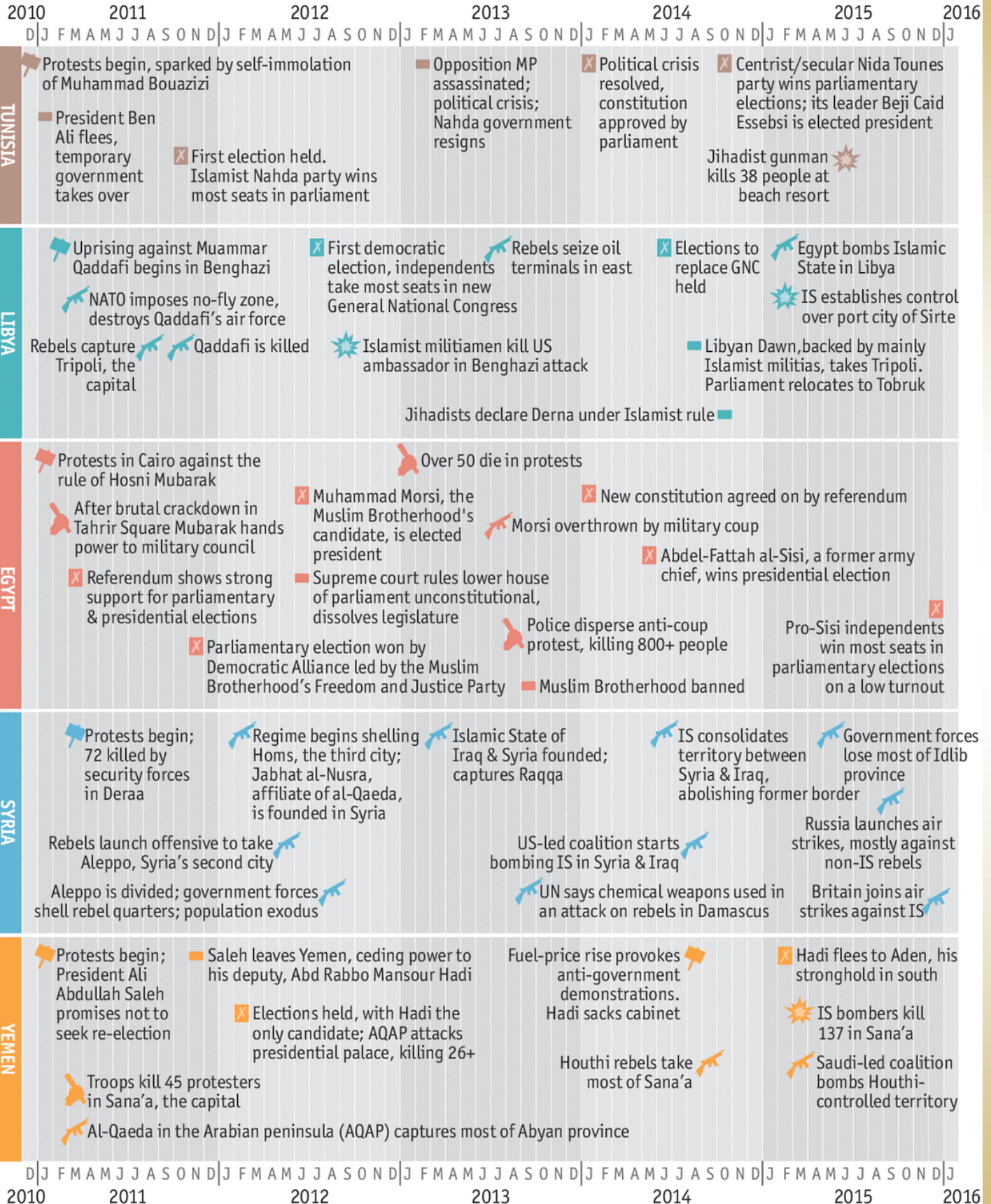
Elections and referendums



Armed conflict



Terrorism



Source: The Economist

Economist.com

<https://www.economist.com/blogs/graphicdetail/2016/01/daily-chart-8>

Women in the Arab Spring



Women and the Arab Spring (18 minute video):

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-KNtesrpmt8>

Are women in the Arab world more empowered now than they were two years ago? After the ouster of longtime secular strongmen in places like Libya and Tunisia, what has changed—in policy and in practice?



Women have emerged as key players in the Arab spring:

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2011/apr/22/women-arab-spring>

women-arab-spring

Through protesting, organizing, blogging and hunger-striking, women have taken a central role, but it remains to be seen whether their rights will improve.



Women in the Arab Spring: New and distinct forms of political participation:

<https://www.boell.de/en/2011/12/15/women-arab-spring-new-and-distinct-forms-political-participation>

forms-political-participation

"Revolution is a broad church; it is a warm embrace, welcoming, lavish; it is a time of rapture, hope and dreams; it is the festival, the 'carnival' as some call it. "



Why Women's Equality has Made Little Progress

Since the Arab Spring: <http://www.newsweek.com/arab-spring-gender-equality-women-rights-progress-egypt-tunisia-587317>

This articles discusses the progress women have made since the Arab Spring uprisings and the reasons for the amount of progress made.



Mubarak must go!

<http://revista-amauta.org/2013/01/the-arab-democratic-uprisings-two-years-later/>



This photo shows Egyptian women with ink-stained fingers after voting at a polling station in Cairo on May 24, 2012, on the second day of the country's landmark presidential election.

<https://www.pri.org/stories/2012-05-25/egypt-goes-polls-muslim-brotherhood-triumphant>

Lesson Plan Ideas!

Lesson Plan: Muslim Women Through Time: <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/globalconnections/mideast/educators/women/lesson2.html>

Grades 9-12. Learning objectives: Students will learn that monolithic cultures and accurate stereotypes of Muslim women do not exist. A combination of factors affects the role of Muslim women as a group and individually over time.



Country Profile: Egypt

Long known for its pyramids and ancient civilization, Egypt is the largest Arab country and has played a central role in Middle Eastern politics in modern times.



General Facts

OFFICIAL NAME: Arab Republic of Egypt
FORM OF GOVERNMENT: Republic
CAPITAL: Cairo
POPULATION: 88,487,396
OFFICIAL LANGUAGE: Arabic
MONEY: Egyptian pound
AREA: 386,662 square miles
(1,001,449 square kilometers)
MAJOR MOUNTAIN RANGES: Eastern Highlands
MAJOR RIVER: Nile

Background and History

The regularity and richness of the annual Nile River flood, coupled with semi-isolation provided by deserts to the east and west, allowed for the development of one of the world's great civilizations. A unified kingdom arose circa 3200 B.C., and a series of dynasties ruled in Egypt for the next three millennia. The last native dynasty fell to the Persians in 341 B.C., who in turn were replaced by the Greeks, Romans, and Byzantines. It was the Arabs who introduced Islam and the Arabic language in the 7th century and who ruled for the next six centuries. A local military caste, the Mamluks took control about 1250 and continued to govern after the conquest of Egypt by the Ottoman Turks in 1517. Completion of the Suez Canal in 1869 elevated Egypt as an important world transportation hub. Ostensibly to protect its investments, Britain seized control of Egypt's government in 1882, but nominal allegiance to the Ottoman Empire continued until 1914. Partially independent from the UK in 1922, Egypt acquired full sovereignty from Britain in 1952. The completion of the Aswan High Dam in 1971 and the resultant Lake Nasser have altered the time-honored place of the Nile River in the agriculture and ecology of Egypt. A rapidly growing population (the largest in the Arab world), limited arable land, and dependence on the Nile all continue to overtax resources and stress society. The government has struggled to meet the demands of Egypt's population through economic reform and massive investment in communications and physical infrastructure.

Inspired by the 2010 Tunisian revolution, Egyptian opposition groups led demonstrations and labor strikes countrywide, culminating in President Hosni MUBARAK's ouster in 2011. Egypt's military assumed national leadership until a new parliament was in place in early 2012; later that same year, Mohammed MORSI won the presidential election. Following often violent protests throughout the spring of 2013 against MORSI's government and the Muslim Brotherhood, the Egyptian Armed Forces intervened and removed MORSI from power in July 2013 and replaced him with interim president Adly MANSOUR. In January 2014, voters approved a new constitution by referendum and in May 2014 elected Abdel Fattah EL SISI president. Egypt elected a new legislature in December 2015, the first parliament since 2012.

Excerpted from the CIA World Factbook



Egypt (From the Arab Spring to Today)

Then



The Battle for Tahrir Square: <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/middleeast/2011/02/201123175837480777.html>

In this first hand account of the revolution that occurred in Cairo, Egypt, you get a deeper glance into the feelings through one man's eyes.

Egypt's revolution: Interactive map : <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-middle-east-12327995>

Egypt's revolution began on 25 January, the "Day of Revolt", when tens of thousands of marchers occupied Cairo's Tahrir Square to protest against President Hosni Mubarak and his government. Use this source to go through the succession of events.

Now



Egypt's Failed Revolution: <https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2017/01/02/egypts-failed-revolution>

This article looks at what happened in Cairo, if it was successful, and where Egypt is now.

Egypt trials: Mubarak officials' charges and verdicts

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-32673230>

Many were handed prison sentences after being convicted of a variety of offences, but since the military overthrew President Mohammed Morsi almost all have secured acquittals.



After the Arab Spring: <http://www.aljazeera.com/programmes/aljazeeraworld/2016/02/arab-spring-160217062821595.html>

In the article/video you get to see the lives of five young Arabs from countries that went through the 2011 revolutions.

"The revolution is not simply a place we leave and that's it. It's about values and principles which we have to hold on to tightly. It's everything they fought for and that they sacrificed their blood for."

Rihab al-Qatabri, student in Sanaa



Music on Tahrir Square (with subtitles): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sngVKz5Znlk>

This video provides insight in the peaceful protest at Tahrir Square.

Egypt's Battle for Tahrir Square 2/2/2011: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A6UNkg4bRXs>

In short news coverage by Nightline, you get to see an account of the peaceful protest turned violent in Cairo's Tahrir Square.



<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2216861/Egypt-Violent-protests-start-Cairo.html>

Egypt (Development Overview, Challenges & Focuses)

Economy

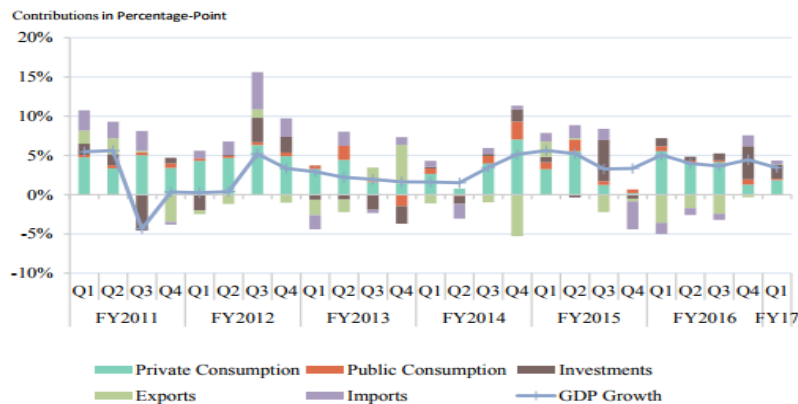
The Egyptian economy is the second largest in the Arab world after Saudi Arabia, but struggles to support the growing population. Egypt's teeming cities - and almost all agricultural activity - are concentrated along the banks of the Nile, and on the river's delta. Deserts occupy most of the country.

The economy depends heavily on agriculture, tourism and cash remittances from Egyptians working abroad, mainly in Saudi Arabia and the Gulf countries.

However, rapid population growth and the limited amount of arable land are straining the country's resources and economy, and continuing political turmoil has paralyzed government efforts to address the problems.

Egypt's status as a lower middle-income country overlooks a reality of extensive poverty. About 30 million Egyptians live beneath the poverty line, and two million people live on less than one dollar a day.

FIGURE 1 Arab Republic of Egypt /Real GDP growth, demand-side, FY2011-FY2017



Sources: Authors' calculations based on Ministry of Planning data.



Egypt's economy shoes sign of life: <https://www.economist.com/news/middle-east-and-africa/21718552-bitter-medicine-starting-work-egypts-economy-shows-signs-life>

Egypt's economic growth to pick up slightly this fiscal year. This article looks at what is working and what it not for Egypt's economy.



Like a phoenix, Egypt economy is rising from ashes: <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/world/2017/04/03/egypt-economic-revival-el-sisi/99558134/>

This article by USA Today provides an optimist outlook on the future of Egypt's economy.

SISI REFORMS KEY TO EGYPT'S ECONOMIC UPSWING



Understanding Egypt's Challenges: <http://www.cnn.com/videos/bestoftv/2014/07/07/exp-ctw-egypt-subsidy-hellyer.cnn>

H.A. Hellyer talks to CNN's Becky Anderson about subsidy cuts in Egypt and challenges facing President Sisi.



Egypt's economy: outlook and challenges in the eyes of international financial institutions: <https://dailynewsegypt.com/2017/01/21/egypts-economy-outlook-challenges-eyes-international-financial-institutions/>

This article examines what challenges face Egypt from their point of view versus international financial institutions.



Egypt (Movements in Gender and Human Rights)



Egypt Women's Empowerment (15 min video)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5i5oBopFbo4>

This film tells the story of Karima, a young Egyptian who was married off at 15, losing the chance for the education she so badly wanted. The film was made by Karima's cousin, Amal, through an MDG-F video workshop designed to empower youth in Upper Egypt to advocate on the main problems confronting their region. Following the workshop, Amal and Karima both received women's entrepreneurship training; Karima is now joining an MDG-F-led initiative to create a women's cattle-raising cooperative.

2%

WOMEN HOLDING SEATS
IN EGYPT'S LOWER HOUSE
OF PARLIAMENT

10%

WOMEN APPOINTED TO THE
COMMITTEE THAT DRAFTED
EGYPT'S 2014 CONSTITUTION



Egyptian Feminism in a nationalist century

http://www.mediterraneas.org/article.php?id_article=178

Feminism had already been born in Egypt when the twentieth century dawned, but it was still an unnamed infant. Its mothers were women whose lives spanned the nineteenth and twentieth centuries — women of the middle- and upper-classes who realized that the benefits of modernity and the possibilities for new lives that it held were not the same for them as for men of similar circumstances. As the twentieth century unfolded, a new awareness about what it meant to be "female" took root.



Women's movement: A stop at Egypt's socialist era

<http://www.egyptindependent.com/news/womens-movement-stop-egypts-socialist-era>

Grey Villet (1927–2000), a South African-born photographer, was in Cairo in 1963 to capture scenes of Egypt under late President Gamal Abdel Nasser. His photographs offer an interesting window into a of change for Egyptian women.



Source: mediterraneas.org



US, citing human rights, cuts some of Egypt's aid: <http://www.cnn.com/2017/08/22/politics/us-egypt-aid-denied-democracy/index.html>

The US has decided to deny Egypt almost \$100 million in aid and hold back another \$195 million until it sees improvements in Cairo's track record on human rights and democracy. (00:57 min)



US to withhold \$290m in Egyptian aid over human rights: <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2017/08/withhold-290m-egyptian-aid-human-rights-170822224311011.html>

This video explains the decision by the US to withhold aid from Egypt over human rights issues. (2:43 min)



Human Rights Watch: Egypt 2017: <https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2017/country-chapters/egypt>

Human Rights Watch's 2017 report on the state of human rights in Egypt. Addresses current concerns around terrorism, police brutality, accountability, detentions and death sentencing, religion, discrimination, and violence against women and homosexuals.



International Organizations Slam Egyptian Court Decision Against Human Rights Activists

<http://egyptianstreets.com/2016/09/19/international-organizations-slam-egyptian-court-decision-against-human-rights-activists/>

A wave of international criticism followed the Cairo Criminal Court's decision to freeze the assets of five prominent human rights defenders and three non-governmental organizations (NGOs) on Saturday.



Egypt: Serious Abuses in Scorpion Prison

<https://www.hrw.org/news/2016/09/28/egypt-serious-abuses-scorpion-prison>

Authorities at a maximum security prison in Cairo that holds many political prisoners routinely abuse inmates in ways that may have contributed to some of their deaths.



Source: amnesty.org.uk

Country Profile: Tunisia

Home of the ancient city of Carthage, Tunisia was a historically key player in the Mediterranean, thanks to its location in the center of North Africa, close to vital shipping routes.



General Facts

OFFICIAL NAME: Republic of Tunisia

FORM OF GOVERNMENT: Parliamentary Republic

CAPITAL: Tunis

POPULATION: 11,403,800

OFFICIAL LANGUAGE: Arabic/
French

MONEY: Tunisian Dinar

AREA: 63,170 square miles (163,610
square kilometers)

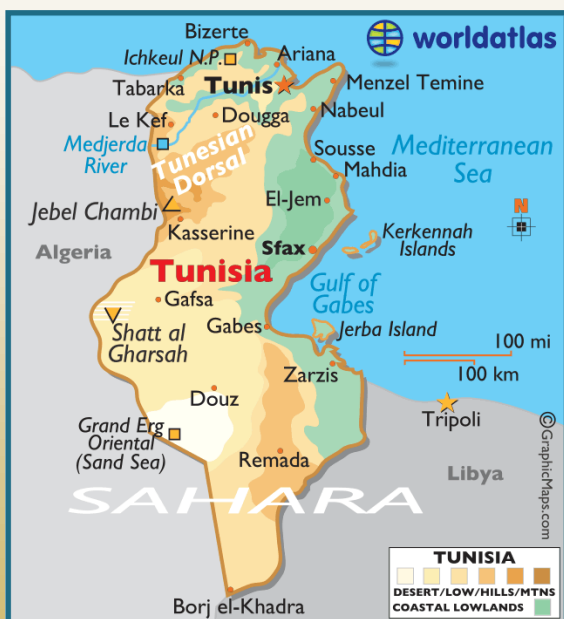
MAJOR GEOGRAPHICAL NOTES:
Strategic location in central Mediter-
ranean Sea

Background and History

Rivalry between French and Italian interests in Tunisia culminated in a French invasion in 1881 and the creation of a protectorate. Agitation for independence in the decades following World War I was finally successful in convincing the French to recognize Tunisia as an independent state in 1956. The country's first president, Habib BOURGUIBA, established a strict one-party state. He dominated the country for 31 years, repressing Islamic fundamentalism and establishing rights for women unmatched by any other Arab nation. In November 1987, BOURGUIBA was removed from office and replaced by Zine el Abidine BEN ALI in a bloodless coup.

Street protests that began in Tunis in December 2010 over high unemployment, corruption, widespread poverty, and high food prices escalated in January 2011, culminating in rioting that led to hundreds of deaths. On 14 January 2011, the same day BEN ALI dismissed the government, he fled the country, and by late January 2011, a "national unity government" was formed. Elections for the new Constituent Assembly were held in late October 2011, and in December, it elected human rights activist Moncef MARZOUKI as interim president. The Assembly began drafting a new constitution in February 2012 and, after several iterations and a months-long political crisis that stalled the transition, ratified the document in January 2014. Parliamentary and presidential elections for a permanent government were held at the end of 2014. Beji CAID ESSEBSI was elected as the first president under the country's new constitution. In 2016, the new unity government continued to seek to balance political cohesion with economic and social pressures.

Excerpted from CIA World Factbook



Tunisia (from Arab Spring to today)

Then



Tunisia: "There's never been any Arab Spring, but Tunisian Spring"

<http://me-confidential.com/13990-tunisia-theres-never-been-any-arab-spring-but-tunisian-spring-essebsi.html>

For Essebsi there has never been such a spring but rather a Tunisian call for change of regime and system.

Tunisia: The Arab Spring's success story?: <http://www.aljazeera.com/programmes/thecafe/2012/01/20121510056532832.html>

A group of Tunisians try to figure out how to make the move from revolution to a functioning democratic state.

Now



5 Years After the Spring

<http://www.usnews.com/opinion/blogs/world-report/articles/2016-01-14/5-years-after-tunisia-arab-spring-revolution-challenges-remain>

After five years, public opinion suggests, there should be more to show for the sacrifices made during the Jasmine Revolution.

Tunisia profile: Timeline: <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-14107720>

This article provides a chronology of key events in the history of Tunisia.



Voice: Tunisia's 'Arab Spring' revolution remains incomplete:

<https://www.usatoday.com/story/opinion/voices/2016/08/29/tunisia-arab-spring-revolution-free-speech/89394910/>

This article highlights some of the benefits that Arab Spring has had on Tunisia.



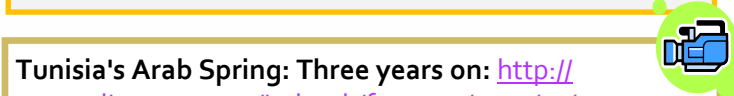
<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/>



Arab Spring: It was the first time I felt I be-

longed: <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-16275176>

This article contains a selection of stories from ordinary people from Egypt, Libya, Syria, and Yemen.



Tunisia's Arab Spring: Three years on: <http://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/features/2014/01/tunisia-arab-spring-three-years-20141146353728616.html>

Three years later, where is Tunisia in terms of progress? This video examines that very question. (2:06)

Five years on, unrest tests 'Arab Spring' model Tunisia:

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-tunisia-protests/five-years-on-unrest-tests-arab-spring-model-tunisia-idUSKCN0Vo164>

Five years later, how far has Tunisia's come from Arab Spring. (10:53)

"We now have a golden opportunity to prove to the entire world that we are at the height of our revolution."

Nouha Tourki

(French teacher from Susa)



<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/>

Tunisia (Development Overview, Strengths & Challenges)

Economy

Tunisia's diverse, market-oriented economy has long been cited as a success story in Africa and the Middle East, but it faces an array of challenges following the 2011 Arab Spring revolution. Following an ill-fated experiment with socialist economic policies in the 1960s, Tunisia embarked on a successful strategy focused on bolstering exports, foreign investment, and tourism, all of which have become central to the country's economy. Key exports now include textiles and apparel, food products, petroleum products, chemicals, and phosphates, with about 80% of exports bound for Tunisia's main economic partner, the EU.

Tunisia's liberal strategy, coupled with investments in education and infrastructure, fueled decades of 4-5% annual GDP growth and improving living standards. Former President Zine el Abidine BEN ALI (1987-2011) continued these policies, but as his reign wore on cronyism and corruption stymied economic performance, and unemployment rose among the country's growing ranks of university graduates. These grievances contributed to the January 2011 overthrow of BEN ALI, sending Tunisia's economy into a tailspin as tourism and investment declined sharply.

Since its establishment in late 2014, Tunisia's new government has faced challenges reassuring businesses and investors, bringing budget and current account deficits under control, shoring up the country's financial system, lowering high unemployment, and reducing economic disparities between the more developed coastal region and the impoverished interior. In 2015, successive terrorist attacks against the tourism sector and worker strikes in the phosphate sector, which combined account for nearly 15% of GDP, slowed growth to less than 1% of GDP.

Excerpted from: CIA Factbook

GDP of Tunisia in current USDollars

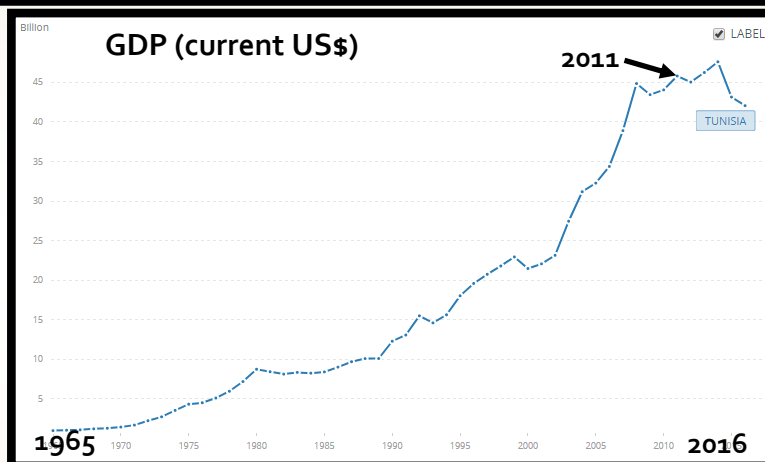
<http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/NY.GDP.MKTP.CD?locations=TN>

World Bank national accounts data, and OECD National Accounts data files.

Tunisia's Comparability

<http://www.heritage.org/index/country/tunisia>

Reforms adopted in past years have failed to deliver tangible benefits to the stagnant economic system or trigger more rapid growth. This site compares regional countries, and compares countries in a global sense.



Tunisia: Economic and Social Challenges beyond the Revolution

<http://www.afdb.org/fileadmin/uploads/afdb/Documents/Publications/Tunisia%20Economic%20and%20Social%20Challenges.pdf>

An intensive look at Tunisia's development prospects following the Arab Spring.

Water: Tunisia's Other Development Challenge

<http://www.worldbank.org/en/news/feature/2014/09/04/water-tunisia-s-other-development-challenge>

The Middle East and North Africa region has a long history of coping with water scarcity, but the impact of climate change has made the problem even more acute. Balancing growing demand, as a result of the region's rapid rate of urbanization, with diminishing supplies of natural water has made the management of water resources a top priority.



<http://northafricapost.com/14163-tunisia-water-scarcity-hits-country-people-called-pray-rain.html>

Tunisia (Movements in Gender and Human Rights)

Tunisia: A Step Forward for Women's Rights

<https://www.hrw.org/news/2015/11/12/tunisia-step-forward-womens-rights>

Tunisian authorities have a long-established practice of preventing women from leaving Tunisian territory with their children without the father's authorization. Fathers were not subject to such a practice. The new law prohibits the authorities from discriminating against women this way by adding an article to the Tunisian law on passports allowing either parent to authorize a minor's travel.

Has life got worse for Tunisia's women?

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-35743663>

Tunisia's revolution is seen by some as the only success story of the Arab Spring. But the BBC's Sally Nabil reports from the capital, Tunis, that five years on, life could be getting worse for one group - women.

Tunisian coalition party fights for women's rights with gender violence bill

<https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2016/oct/24/tunisia-gender-violence-bill-substance-progressive-image>

Despite its reputation for being the most progressive country in the Arab world on women's rights, with almost one-third of parliament consisting of female MPs and more than 700 civil society organizations working on gender issues, violence against women and sexual harassment are endemic.

Tunisia: the beacon of women's rights it claims to be?

<https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/campaigns/2016/01/is-tunisia-the-beacon-of-womens-rights-it-claims-to-be/>

Tunisia has a reputation for being a leader on women's rights in the Arab world. But does that reputation stand up to scrutiny? Here's Amnesty International's checklist of Tunisia's progress so far.

Women on the Frontline

<http://www.womenonthefrontline.eu/country/tunisia/>

Despite political assassinations and social unrest Tunisia keeps showing signs of positive change.



Political voice and women's empowerment



Education

The vast majority of girls are now enrolled in secondary school.



Public Office

In 2005, Tunisia had 509 female judges, compared to 1,255 male judges.

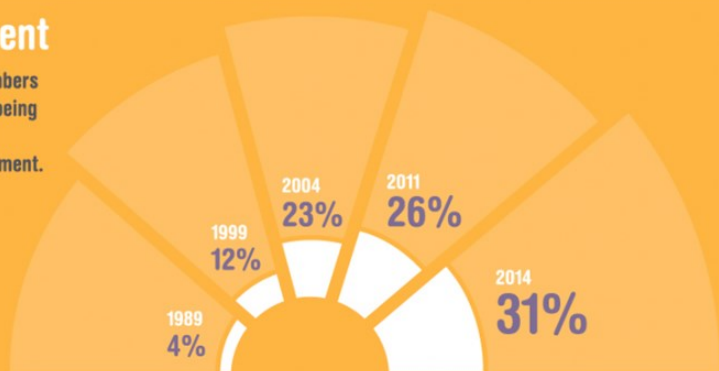


Compared to:



Parliament

Increasing numbers of women are being elected to the Tunisian parliament.



Sources: 1: UNESCO, 2: Gribaa 2009; 93, 3: Goulding, 2011

A previous version of this infographic erroneously stated combined statistics for both primary and secondary enrolment.

www.developmentprogress.org



Najoua Makhoulf, President of an Oxfam partner organisation, the Women's Committee of the UGTT, marches alongside other women's rights activists at the demonstration for parity in the electoral law in Tunisia. Photo: LET

Country Profile: Morocco

The Kingdom of Morocco is the most westerly of the North African countries known as the Maghreb - the "Arab West". It has Atlantic and Mediterranean coastlines, a rugged mountain interior and a history of independence not shared by its neighbors. Its rich culture is a blend of Arab, Berber, European and African influences.



General Facts

OFFICIAL NAME: Kingdom of Morocco

FORM OF GOVERNMENT: Parliamentary Constitutional Monarchy

CAPITAL: Rabat

POPULATION: 33,986,655

OFFICIAL LANGUAGE: Arabic/French

MONEY: Moroccan Dirham

AREA: 172,414 square miles (446,550 square kilometers)

MAJOR GEOGRAPHICAL NOTES: Only African Country to have both an Atlantic and Mediterranean coastline

Background and History

In 788, about a century after the Arab conquest of North Africa, a series of Moroccan Muslim dynasties began to rule in Morocco. In the 16th century, the Sa'adi monarchy, particularly under Ahmad al-MANSUR (1578-1603), repelled foreign invaders and inaugurated a golden age. The Alaouite Dynasty, to which the current Moroccan royal family belongs, dates from the 17th century. In 1860, Spain occupied northern Morocco and ushered in a half century of trade rivalry among European powers that saw Morocco's sovereignty steadily erode; in 1912, the French imposed a protectorate over the country. A protracted independence struggle with France ended successfully in 1956. The internationalized city of Tangier and most Spanish possessions were turned over to the new country that same year. Sultan MOHAMMED V, the current monarch's grandfather, organized the new state as a constitutional monarchy and in 1957 assumed the title of king. Since Spain's 1976 withdrawal from what is today called Western Sahara, Morocco has extended its de facto administrative control to roughly 80% of this territory; however, the UN does not recognize Morocco as the administering power for Western Sahara. The UN since 1991 has monitored a cease-fire between Morocco and the Polisario Front - Western Sahara's liberation movement - and leads ongoing negotiations over the status of the territory.

King Mohammed VI in early 2011 responded to the spread of pro-democracy protests in the region by implementing a reform program that included a new constitution, passed by popular referendum in July 2011, under which some new powers were extended to parliament and the prime minister but ultimate authority remains in the hands of the monarch. In November 2011, the Justice and Development Party (PJD) - a moderate Islamist party - won the largest number of seats in parliamentary elections, becoming the first Islamist party to lead the Moroccan Government. In September 2015, Morocco held its first ever direct elections for regional councils, one of the reforms included in the 2011 constitution. The PJD again won the largest number of seats in nationwide parliamentary elections in October 2016.

Excerpted from CIA World Factbook



Morocco (from Arab Spring to today)

Then



Why has Morocco's king survived the Arab Spring?: <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-15856989>

Morocco's ruling elite thinks it has skillfully sidestepped the revolutionary fervor sweeping the Arab world by offering a milder, more peaceful vision of change.

Morocco's Arab Spring election won by Islamists: <http://usatoday30.usatoday.com/news/world/story/2011-11-27/morocco-elections-islamist-victory/51421964/1>

Across the Middle East, parties referencing Islam have made great strides, offering an alternative to corrupt, long serving dictators, who have often ruled with close Western support.

Now



Six years after the Arab Spring, Morocco is experiencing its own unrest: https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/democracy-post/wp/2017/08/18/six-years-after-the-arab-spring-morocco-is-experiencing-its-own-unrest/?utm_term=.5c92b3eb3cb

This article discusses where Morocco is six years after Arab Spring and the unrest it is dealing with now.

Morocco profile: Timeline: <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-14123260>

This article provides a chronology of key events in the history of Morocco.



Why Morocco's protests won't usher in another Arab Spring: <https://www.brookings.edu/blog/markaz/2016/11/02/why-moroccos-protests-wont-usher-in-another-arab-spring/>

Gain insight to the other side of the debate. Will what's happening Morocco bring in another Arab spring?

"The king is not God. He is a man, and a man he sometimes is right and sometimes is wrong. We can criticize him with respect because he is the chief of state and a symbol of national unity..."

King Mohammed VI



New Morocco Constitution, Election Meant to Avoid Arab Spring-Style Uprising: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JuzHB7rUdws>

Take a look at the steps made to avoid an Arab Spring style uprising. (8:33 min)

In Echo of Arab Spring, 1000s Protest in Morocco After Garbage Truck Fatally Crushes Fish Seller: https://www.democracynow.org/2016/10/31/in_echo_of_arab_spring_1000s

It seems that Arab Spring may have caught up to Morocco, find out here.



Morocco (Development Overview, Strengths & Challenges)

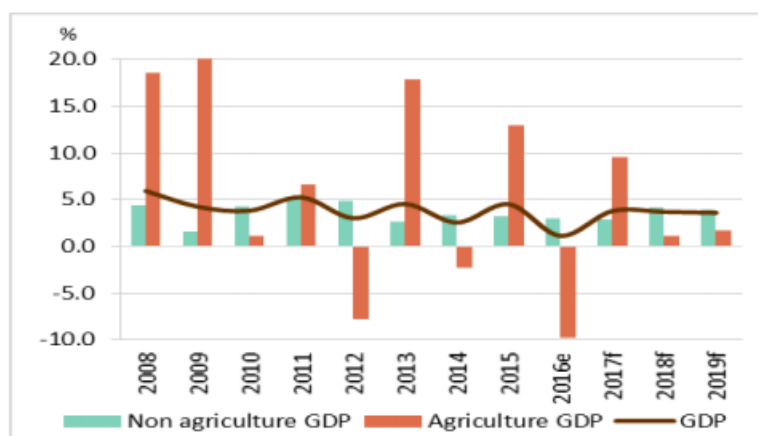
Morocco has capitalized on its proximity to Europe and relatively low labor costs to work towards building a diverse, open, market-oriented economy. Key sectors of the economy include agriculture, tourism, aerospace, automotive, phosphates, textiles, apparel, and subcomponents. Morocco has increased investment in its port, transportation, and industrial infrastructure to position itself as a center and broker for business throughout Africa. Industrial development strategies and infrastructure improvements - most visibly illustrated by a new port and free trade zone near Tangier - are improving Morocco's competitiveness.

In the 1980s, Morocco was a heavily indebted country before pursuing austerity measures and pro-market reforms, overseen by the IMF. Since taking the throne in 1999, King MOHAMMED VI has presided over a stable economy marked by steady growth, low inflation, and gradually falling unemployment, although poor harvests and economic difficulties in Europe contributed to an economic slowdown. To boost exports, Morocco entered into a bilateral Free Trade Agreement with the US in 2006 and an Advanced Status agreement with the EU in 2008. In late 2014, Morocco eliminated subsidies for gasoline, diesel, and fuel oil, dramatically reducing outlays that weighted on the country's budget and current account. Subsidies on butane gas and certain food products remain in place. Morocco also seeks to expand its renewable energy capacity with a goal of making renewable more than 50% of installed electricity generation capacity by 2030

Despite Morocco's economic progress, the country suffers from high unemployment, poverty, and illiteracy, particularly in rural areas. Key economic challenges for Morocco include reforming the education system and the judiciary.

Excerpted from: CIA Factbook

FIGURE 1 Morocco / Volatility of growth rate



Source: World Bank.

Morocco on the Move—Development Initiatives (also contains Fact Sheets and Development Reports)

<http://moroccoonthemove.com/reform/development-initiatives/>

Morocco has undertaken a multi-year strategy to promote human development and greater economic growth. In 2006, the multibillion dollar National Initiative for Human Development (INDH) was launched to reduce poverty, increase social and health services, and create sustainable economic development projects.

Morocco's development model could show the way

<http://www.publicfinanceinternational.org/opinion/2016/10/moroccos-development-model-could-show-way>

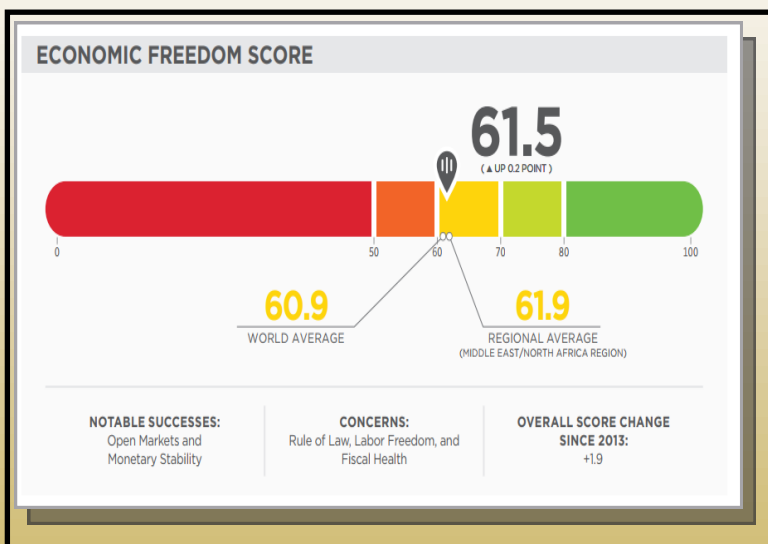
In recent decades the Kingdom of Morocco has embarked on a path that fully commits the nation to a development and civil course that is at once progressive and strongly connected to its national identity.

Morocco: Economic Freedom: <http://www.heritage.org/index/country/morocco>

The site contains information about Morocco's rule of law, economic freedom, markets, and even has a comparison chart.

Morocco: Overview: <https://www.usnews.com/news/best-countries/morocco>

This articles looks at where Morocco ranks compared to other countries in areas such as markets and entrepreneurship.



Morocco (Movements in Gender and Human Rights)



Meet Nabila Mounib, an outsider in Morocco's parliamentary elections

<http://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/originals/2016/10/morocco-parliament-elections-separation-of-powers-mounib.html>

Five years after the Arab Spring and its accompanying wave of protests in Morocco, the kingdom will hold parliamentary elections on Oct. 7. Nabila Mounib, the secretary-general of the United Socialist Party (PSU) and the first woman to be elected as a party leader in Morocco, is running as part of the Democratic Left Federation (DLF), an alliance of three leftist parties — the PSU, the Democratic Socialist Vanguard Party and the National Ittihad Congress.



Source: en.qantara.de



Morocco: Tepid Response on Domestic Violence:

<https://www.hrw.org/news/2016/02/15/morocco-tepid-response-domestic-violence>

This article discusses ways to improve responses to domestic violence issues such as strengthening laws and providing protection.

"Today people in Morocco are campaigning for a revision of the Penal Code, led by women's organizations, members of the coalition "Springtime of Dignity", and supported by a large part of civil society (human rights and development organizations). The revision of the Family Code (Moudawana) in Morocco in 2004 represents the main advance in women's rights. Nevertheless, discriminatory laws still exist, especially with regard to marriage, divorce, custody of children and inheritance)."

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN MOROCCO

In a 2010 national survey,

HUMAN
RIGHTS
WATCH



63% of women reported physical, psychological, sexual, or economic violence.

Of these women, **55%** reported conjugal violence, i.e. violence committed by their spouses.

Only **3%** of women who reported conjugal violence had reported it to the authorities.

Source: Moroccan High Commission for Planning, January 2011.



Human Rights Watch: Morocco and Western Sahara 2017: <https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2017/country-chapters/morocco/western-sahara>

Human Rights' Watch's 2017 report on the state of human rights in Morocco. Addresses current concerns around terrorism, police brutality, accountability, detentions and death sentencing, religion, discrimination, and violence against women and homosexuals.



Morocco and Western Sahara 2016/2017: <https://www.amnesty.org/en/countries/middle-east-and-north-africa/morocco/report-morocco/>

In this report you will see background information regarding a various human right's issues in Morocco.



Morocco accused of human rights breaches over migrants: <http://www.bbc.com/news/business-23959892>

This video highlights some of the human rights issues in Morocco in 2013. Although this video is dated, the issues discussed are still relevant today.



<http://moroccoonthemove.com/reform/human-rights/#sthash.QboXW5KR.dpbs>

MENA: Figures from Development



North African countries face common economic challenges

<https://www.kfw.de/kfw.de-2.html> → search title in their search bar, and find the PDF version in results

"Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Libya and Egypt have recently undergone unprecedented political and economic change. The Arab Spring has triggered fundamental upheavals, the further course and results of which are uncertain. The political transition also has economic consequences which, together with a variety of previously existing internal economic problems, pose extreme challenges for these countries. External factors, such as the drop in oil price, add pressure to the current situation. Nevertheless, it also offers some opportunities. If the countries of North Africa improve their economic situation, that will also contribute substantially to their political stabilization." - Excerpted from KFW Research packet

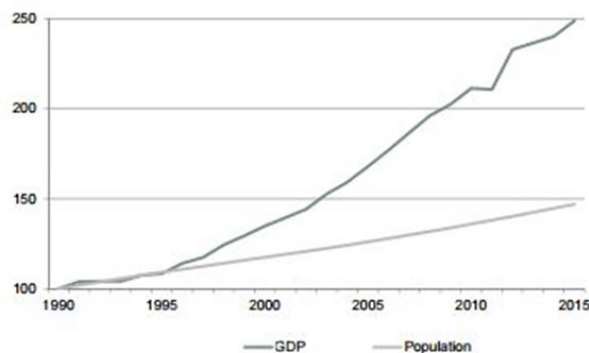


Challenges of Growth and Globalization in the Middle East and North Africa

<https://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/med/2003/eng/abed.htm>

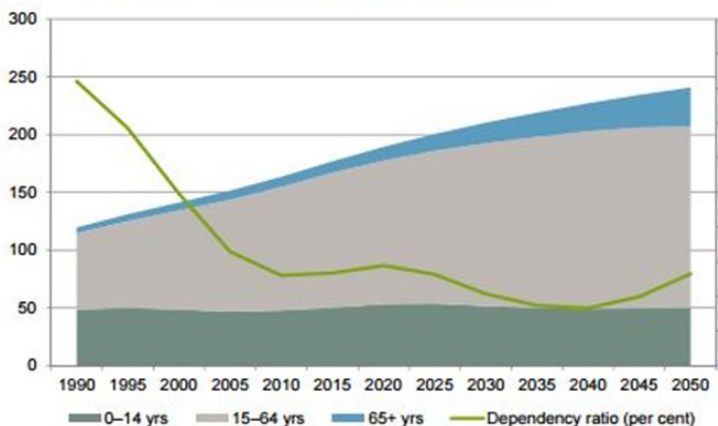
"The Middle East and North Africa is an economically diverse region that includes countries with a common heritage, at various stages of economic development, and with vastly different endowment of natural resources. Despite undertaking economic reforms in many countries, and having considerable success in avoiding crises and achieving macroeconomic stability, the region's economic performance in the past 30 years has been below its potential. The purpose of this pamphlet is to take stock of the region's relatively weak performance, as measured by rate of growth, links to the global economy, and employment generation; explore the reasons for this outcome; and propose an agenda for urgent reforms." Excerpted from preface of "Challenges of Growth and Globalization in the Middle East and North Africa"

Figure 1: Development of real GDP and population in North Africa (Index 1990 = 100)



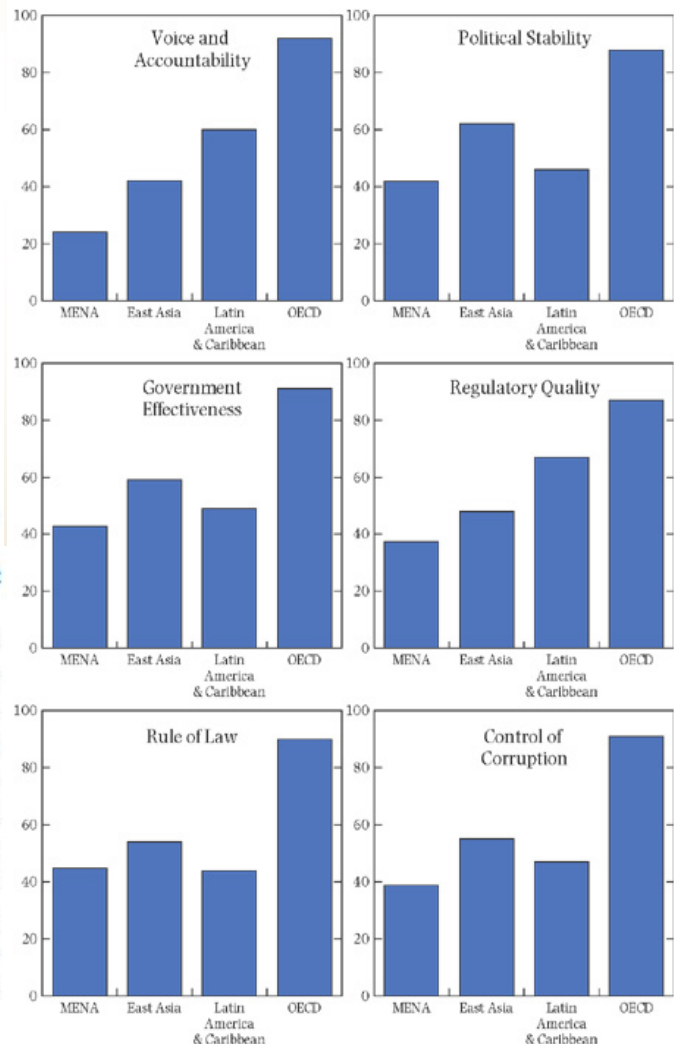
Source: IMF, United Nations, own calculation

Figure 3: Population in North Africa 1990-2050: age structure (in millions, left side) and dependency ratio (in per cent, right side)



Source: United Nations

Figure 3. MENA and Comparators: Governance Indicators, 2002



Source: Kaufmann, Kraay, and Mastruzzi, 2003.

Women's Rights and Islamic Feminism



The Real Roots of Sexism in the Middle East (It's Not Islam, Race, or 'Hate'):

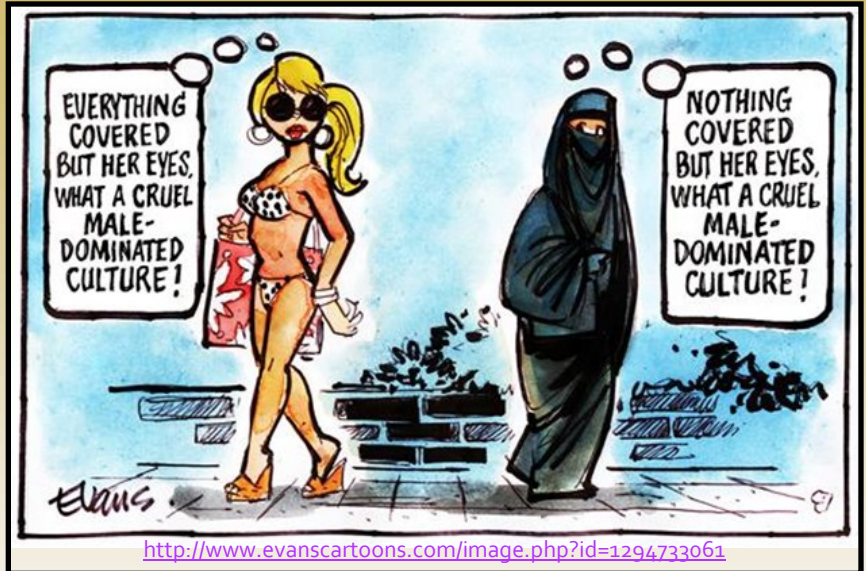
<http://www.theatlantic.com/international/archive/2012/04/the-real-roots-of-sexism-in-the-middle-east-its-not-islam-race-or-hate/256362/>

Some Americans believe that Muslim women are oppressed by their religion, forced to cover themselves completely, denied education and other basic rights. Arab societies suffer from deep misogyny, but the problem is not as particularly Arab or Islamic as you might think.

The reality and future of Islamic feminism

<http://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/opinion/2013/03/201332715585855781.html>

In some Muslim circles, the "f" word (feminism) raises as many tensions as eyebrows, immediately conjuring images of the dominating, angry, family-hating woman. But like other images that come to mind upon mention of any label - including the image of the oppressed woman that often comes to mind when one hears "Muslim" - this gut reaction is based on stereotypes that may be true in a very specific historical and social context, but does not hold water when compared to a larger reality.



<http://www.evanscartoons.com/image.php?id=1294733061>

Classroom Conversation



Ask students to think more about the difference between religion and culture, and the relationship to gender. For example, students can ask themselves if the high rate of domestic violence in the United States is related to Christianity, the predominant religion.



The Rise of the Islamic Feminists

<https://www.thenation.com/article/rise-islamic-feminists/>

Muslim women are fighting for their rights from within Islamic tradition, rather than against it.

Reading List



- *Politics of Piety: The Islamic Revival and the Feminist Subject*, by Saba Mahmood
- *Minaret*, by Leila Aboulela
- *Girls of Riyadh*, by Rajaa al-Sanea

Author Spotlight: Ahdaf Soueif



A novelist and political campaigner Soueif has become an influential force in Egyptian politics and society, after becoming involved in the Arab Spring protests which forced Hosni Mubarak out of power. Prior to this she was a highly acclaimed novelist, most famous for *The Map of Love*, which was shortlisted for the Man Booker. She has written extensively on the Israel Palestine conflict and founded the Palestinian Festival of Literature. She continues to write and campaign and has released *Cairo: My City, Our Revolution* about her experiences of the Arab Spring.

Author Spotlight: Laila Lalami



Moroccan American Laila Lalami only started writing fiction in 2005. Since then, her work has been nominated for the Orange Prize longlist and the Oregon Book Award and has been translated into ten languages. Combining her girlhood experiences of working class family life in Rabat with her later years studying in Paris, London and then California, where she is now Associate Professor of Creative Writing, Lalami's fiction depicts the contemporary Moroccan experience from many angles. Her debut short story collection, *Hope and Other Dangerous Pursuits* (2005), is a trenchant examination of illegal immigration and the socio-political forces that dictate everyday lives; *Secret Son*, the novel that followed, explores the strains that modernization places on Moroccan familial mores. Lalami's unblinking depiction of the realities of modern life stems from her belief that fiction should tell the brutal truth: 'I think some readers are looking to have their views confirmed or consoled, and that doesn't always happen. That's not what novels do; that's what fairy tales do.'

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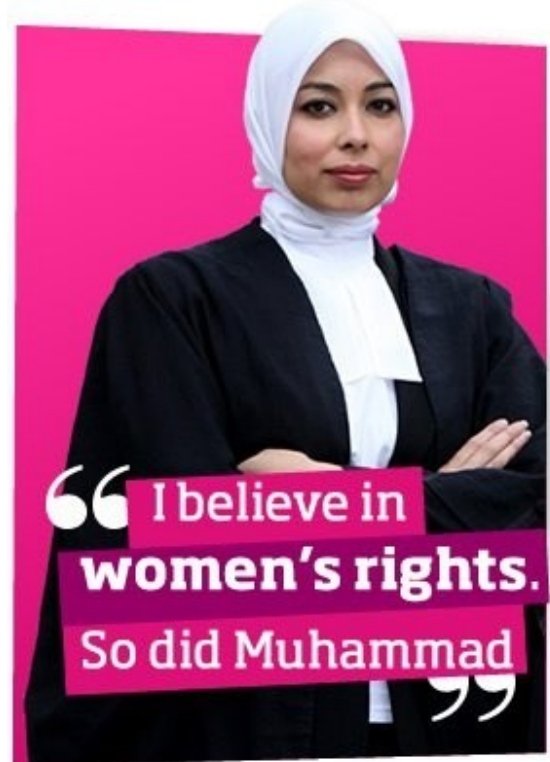
More rights than one might think

<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/globalconnections/mideast/questions/women/index.html>

The Quran explicitly states that men and women are equal in the eyes of God. Furthermore, the Quran:

- forbids female infanticide (practiced in pre-Islamic Arabia and other parts of the world)
- instructs Muslims to educate daughters as well as sons
- insists that women have the right to refuse a prospective husband
- gives women rights if they are divorced by their husband
- gives women the right to divorce in certain cases
- gives women the right to own and inherit property (though in [Sunni Islam](#) they get only half of what men inherit. Men are expected to care for their mothers and any unmarried female relatives, and would, it is reasoned, need greater resources for this purpose.)

While polygyny is permissible, it is discouraged and on the whole practiced less frequently than imagined by Westerners. It is more frequent in the Gulf, including Saudi Arabia. Many Muslims cite the Quranic phrase "But treat them equally... and if you cannot, then one [wife] is better" and argue that monogamy is preferable, or even mandatory.



Sultana Tafadar



Lesson Plan: Who wears a Veil?

<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/globalconnections/mideast/educators/women/lesson1.html>

Grades 9-12. Students will define stereotypes and learn how common misperceptions foster visual stereotypes about Muslim women. Students will identify famous women and learn about the significance of the veil in different cultures.



Lesson Plan by Seattle Prep teacher Cheryl Healy : The Headscarf Controversy Religious Expression, Fashion, or Political Wedge Issue?

<https://www.world-affairs.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/Turkey-Packet-2016.pdf>

Supplemental Resources:

<https://www.world-affairs.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/Appendix-A-Cheryl-Healy.pdf>



How Many Wives?

<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/globalconnections/mideast/educators/women/lesson3.html>

Grades 9-12. Students will learn that religious texts are often used to establish cultural norms and rules of behavior. These ancient texts, however, are often ambiguous and therefore open to interpretation. Students can



Gender Issues in Islam

<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/teach/muslims/>

Students will compare and contrast the roles of men and women with regard to various topics in the six countries featured in the film "Muslims".

Major Figures in Women's Rights Movements: MENA



5 great female human rights activists in MENA

http://www.yourmiddleeast.com/columns/article/5-great-female-human-rights-activists-in-mena_20096

Despite setbacks in the wake of the "Arab Spring", the region's female activists gained strength following the uprisings and have no plans to stop fighting for better and fairer societies. Here is a rundown of five of the most prominent female human rights activists in MENA.

The Life and Times of Dr. Hanan Ashrawi

<http://www.worldtrek.org/odyssey/mideast/ashrawi/ashrawibio.html>

A brief biography of Dr. Hanan Ashrawi, a Christian Palestinian political activist.



Dr. Hanan Ashrawi

Samar Badawi: Saudi Arabia jails one of its most prominent activists for women's rights

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/middle-east/samar-badawi-saudi-arabia-jails-one-of-its-most-prominent-activists-for-women-s-rights-a6809471.html>

Ms Badawi, the sister of Raif Badawi, is accused of running an activist Twitter account in the name of her jailed ex-husband.



Aya Chebbi

Aya Chebbi: From Tunisia's revolution to global activist

<http://www.middleeasteye.net/in-depth/features/aya-chebbi-tunisia-s-revolution-global-activist-1974314816>

A 26-year-old Tunisian activist tells MEE about her journey and goals in the region and around the world

DOCUMENTARY: Women of Change (26 mins)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q6zsX4KnLVY>

This documentary looks into the role of women in the revolutions across the Arab world, as well as during the Islamic Revolution of Iran in 1979.

TEDGlobal 2013: Manal al-Sharif: A Saudi woman who dared to drive (14:16)

http://www.ted.com/talks/manal_al_sharif_a_saudi_woman_who_dared_to_drive?language=en

There's no actual law against women driving in Saudi Arabia. But it's forbidden. Two years ago, Manal al-Sharif decided to encourage women to drive by doing so — and filming herself for YouTube. Hear her story of what happened next.



Manal al-Sharif

The women behind Tunisia's revolution

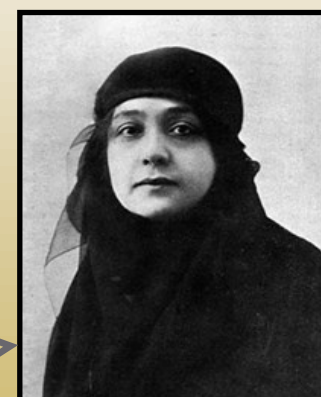
<https://www.alaraby.co.uk/english/features/2015/1/16/the-women-behind-tunisias-revolution>

Behind the revolutions of the Arab Spring were women such as the Yemeni activist and Nobel Peace Prize winner Tawakkol Karman, and Zainab al-Khawaja, the Bahraini human rights activist. Their names have become synonymous with the struggle for human rights, freedom and justice.

Huda Shaarawi, Egyptian feminist & activist

<http://www.amazingwomeninhistory.com/huda-shaarawi-egyptian-feminist/>

Huda Shaarawi (1879–1947) was an Egyptian feminist who influenced not only women in Egypt but throughout the Arab world. She was a pioneer in feminism, and brought to light the restrictive world of upper-class women in her book *The Harem Years*, published in 1927.



Huda Shaarawi