

# The Revolution of the King and the People in Morocco, 1950-1959: Records of the U.S. State Department Classified Files



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Morocco's strategic location has shaped its history. Its location and resources led to early competition among European powers in Africa, culminating in the establishment of a French protectorate over Morocco.

Nationalist political parties, which took shape under the French protectorate, began a strong campaign for independence after World War II. Declarations such as the Atlantic Charter, served as a basis for the independence movement. A manifesto of the Istiqlal (Independence) Party in 1944 was one of the earliest public demands for independence. That party subsequently provided most of the leadership for the nationalist movement and remains a strong political party.

In 1953, France exiled the highly respected Sultan Mohammed V and replaced him with the unpopular Mohammed Ben Aarafa. Ben Aarafa's reign was widely perceived as illegitimate, and sparked active opposition, particularly a reign of terrorism, followed by an armed uprising in 1955. France allowed Mohammed V to return in 1955, and by 1956, Morocco regained its independence. After gaining independence, Morocco made great strides toward economic and political liberalization. The sultan Muhammad V, ruling his newly independent nation, proclaimed his intention of turning it into a constitutional monarchy. His first act was to transform himself into a monarch and assume the title of king. The Moroccan government undertook a number of economic, social, and political reforms, including the drafting of a constitution.

Economically, Morocco has faced the problems typical of developing countries - restraining government spending, reducing constraints on private financial activity and foreign trade, and achieving sustainable economic growth.

There is essential and unique documentation on a wide variety of topics relating to Moroccan internal affairs:

- U.S. support for Nationalists
- Istiqlal Party terrorism
- Arab League's anti-French attitude
- French exchange controls in Morocco
- French settler concerns of spread of Algerian civil war
- Pan-Arabism
- Berber support of French administration and army
- Installation of French-puppet Sultan
- Marshall aid to Morocco
- Economic and financial reforms
- Exodus of Moroccan Jewry
- Islamic society and Berberism Decolonization
- Development of the agricultural sector
- Industrial development
- Immigration and emigration
- Development of the textile industry
- Foreign trade and investment

**Size:** 41,000 pages

**Source Library:** U.S. National Archives

