



**EURO-MAGHREBIN GEO-HISTORICAL RELATIONS: POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC GOALS AND INTERESTS AND RUSSIAN-CHINESE PARTNERSHIP MOROCCO AS A CASE STUDY/ MODEL**

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**Abstract**

In this study, we will discuss European-Moroccan relations, and how they have historically been deeply rooted by virtue of the geographical proximity. The European continent was not known before the year of 1488 except through the Arab explorers. With the discovery of the Cape of Good Hope and the discovery of some Italian and Portuguese cities "at the southern end of the African continent", where South Africa lies now, this helped the creation of the competition between Arabs and Europe. And interest began in the North African countries, as it is the treasure promised to change the balance of power. We will bring to light the deep geopolitical repercussions of the European colonial policy in North Africa. We also present the relations between them, which began to fluctuate between cooperation and conflict until the establishment of the European-Moroccan Economic Community after the end of World War II, which was based on two goals, one political and the other economic. Similarly, we will refer to the stages of partnership between them, which went through several stages, until it reached countless differences, especially when Western Europe referred to the Polisario desert. Finally, we explore Morocco's response attempts to establish a strategic partnership with the rising Asian powers, Russia, and China in response to the European Union's unwelcome policies in North Africa.

**Keywords:** Colonial, The Ideological Factor, political loyalty, Geo-historical, Partnership, Agreements, Relations

**Research aims**

This study aims at an analytical study of the European-Moroccan relations throughout history, with a special focus on the period when Europe took advantage of the weakness and fall of the Ottoman Empire to consolidate its relationship with Morocco, and consequently take advantage of a country with geopolitical significance. The research clarifies the reason behind choosing Morocco, a North African and "Arab Maghrebini" country. It states the goal behind evoking the Moroccan-European dispute now, and the reasons for the Russian-Chinese emergence on the scene and how over time they have knitted strong relations Morocco on the base of win-win principle.

**Research importance**

- 1- Studying the historical development of the Moroccan-European relationship.
- 2- The importance of shedding light on the European plan to achieve hegemony in Morocco, and the methods and tools that are use for that purpose.
- 3- Why did European countries wave the Western Sahara file "Polisario"?

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4- Studying the partnership between Morocco and Russia

First: the Russian-Moroccan partnership

Second: Presenting the Russian position on the issue of Western Sahara, as well as presenting the Moroccan position on the issue of the war on Ukraine.

5- Studying the Moroccan-Chinese relationship throughout history

First: Presenting the historical Moroccan position towards China and recognizing China as a country in the year 1958, as well as presenting the Chinese position regarding the Western Sahara issue.

Second: the Chinese-Moroccan partnership

### **Research Methods**

In this study, the researcher relied on the following approaches:

Systems analysis approach

The historical method

The method of analysing political economy

### **Reasons for choosing the topic**

1- The clear importance of the brown continent for any colonialist, especially because of the abundant multiple resources it has/possesses, a distinguished strategic location and cheap labour.

2- Highlighting Europe's approach of soft power in its relation with Africa, and its attempts of cultural projection in this continent.

3- Underlining the multi-faceted significance of Morocco to the European Union's great power politics in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

### **Research problem**

Difficulty collecting scientific material due to the lack of references that deal with this issue.

### **Study questions:**

This study seeks to answer several questions:

1- How long have been the European- Morocco relationships?

2- What aspect has been the European presence in Morocco?



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3- Was the Russian and Chinese presence a real threat to the EU historical backyard?

### **Study assignments**

1- What is the difference between Morocco's relationship with Europe and its relationship with Russia and China?

2- The association of these countries always and forever focuses on economic association and gaining an ally for them, especially the Russian-Chinese.

### **1- Studying the historical development of the Moroccan-European relationship**

Unfortunately, in analysing European-Arab relations, we often tend to focus attention on the present and ignore the recent past, based on the deceptive argument that it is useless to go back to ancient history and revive outdated volumes. Without the need to present the course of history we can say, without the need to present the course of history, that it is useful to recall that European-Arab relations are very old by virtue of the geographical proximity of the two worlds that are separated by the Mediterranean Sea. One technician” and this not only facilitated technical exchanges, but also ideological, literary, and artistic exchanges)<sup>2</sup>.

The other worlds (China - India - Africa) for many centuries did not know Europe except through the Arab world, and with the weakness of the Arab Islamic empire, the fall of Granada in 1492 AD, the discovery of the Cape of Good Hope route and the emergence of Italian and Portuguese cities, the European-Arab relations that were until then made Characterized by a kind of competing participation, reflects the new balance of power)<sup>3</sup>.

With the emergence of Europe as a dynamic continent, a chasm was soon dug separating it from the Arab world, which sensed this European progress, as an existential challenge, At that time the Maghreb union was disjointed from within and threatened in its external borders, under the Ottoman domination since the sixteenth century Given the geographical expansion, and the rugged nature of the Ottoman Empire, which eventually turned into what was called a ‘sick man’ the Europeans were found on a good ground to finish off their colonial project in large parts of the Ottoman Empire, involving the Maghreb region. After Independence of Morocco the colonial countries sought to embody a new type of colonialism within the framework of the relations of comprehensive dependence on the previously occupied countries, to replace the position of the Ottoman Empire in the sixteenth century and with the advent of European colonialism to strike it the final blow. In the

1- علي الحاج، سياسة الاتحاد الاوروبي في المنطقة العربية بعد الحرب الباردة (بيروت: مركز دراسات الوحدة العربية، ط1 ، فبراير 2005م)، ص 162.

3- موقع الاتحاد الاوروبي، <http://europe.eu/scadpus/leg/en/Ivb>



nineteenth century, European control on the shores of the Mediterranean was almost absolute)<sup>4</sup>.

## **2- The importance of shedding light on the European plan and the methods and tools that are used to achieve hegemony and benefit from the bounties of Morocco**

The European economic penetration in the Arab East, after its adherence to traditional and previously thriving handicraft industries, ended with the destruction of pre-capitalist social structures, and the introduction of the market economy led to a profound change in the distinctive character of rural life in the Arab world. Financial control was one of the most deceptive forms of control, while the Europeans were preoccupied with rebuilding their economy and establishing the institutions of the European Community (the European Community of Coal and Steel in 1951, and the Common Market in 1957 AD)<sup>5</sup>.

The Arabs were preoccupied with consolidating the newly independent states (Morocco and the Gulf) or defending the Arab national movement that was represented by Nasserism until 1970 CE. Thus, between 1956 CE and 1970 CE, Europe was practically absent from the Arab arena, especially the Middle East, if superpowers obscured it, but Europe did not cut it off. Bridges with Morocco, on the one hand, because the post-war boom necessitated more migrant workers who were recruited from Moroccan cities and villages, and because France, on the other hand, adhered to maintaining excellent relations with the countries of the Maghreb, in addition to that, it initiated the common market, even before the 1973 oil crisis. Negotiations with some countries to regulate their relations with them)<sup>6</sup>.

And here we see that the relations between Morocco and the European Economic Community take the form of political and economic challenges. Both the Soviet Union and the United States as two poles competing for hegemony over this system, the escalation of national liberation movements and the end of the colonial phenomenon)<sup>7</sup>.

In the context of these major transformations, the Arab world emerged seeking liberation, independence, modernization, and development. Western Europe also searched for security and rebuilding what was ravaged by its devastating wars. The European Economic Community was established, which was linked to multiple relations and agreements with Morocco. This economic bloc and these relations and agreements were determined by several

3- علي الحاج، سياسة الاتحاد الأوروبي في المنطقة العربية بعد الحرب الباردة (بيروت: مركز دراسات الوحدة العربية، ط1، فبراير 2005م)، ص 162.

4- عبد النور بن عنتر، الاتحاد المغربي.. بين الافتراض والواقع، دراسة منشورة الدوحة: مركز الجزيرة للدراسات، 2004/10/3، متاح على الرابط

<http://www.aljazeera.net/home/print/787157c4>

5- فتح الله ولعلو، المشروع المغربي والشراسة الأورو متوسطية، (الدار البيضاء: دار توبقال للنشر، 1997م)، ص 14.

6- ميلود عبد الله المهدي، أحمد عبد الحكيم دياب، اتحاد المغرب العربي والمجموعة الأوروبية في استراتيجية العلاقات الدولية (بيروت: مركز دراسات الوحدة العربية، 1990م)، ص 230.



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international variables. The Moroccan-European relationship, especially in the past two decades.

Until it developed into a deep partnership, beginning with Morocco entering the depth of European manufacturing chains, especially in the automotive and aircraft industries, to cultural relations in which Morocco is a real partner and not just a theatre for European dialogue and identity, leading to relations in the world of security that very influential circles in Europe consider to be Among the most important reserves of the continent, we see that it has greatly influenced the crystallization of the legal framework between Morocco and the European Economic Community)<sup>8</sup>(.

From this standpoint, we wonder about the circumstances and factors that made the relationship characterized by negativity, unequalness, and limitations. One of the first of these factors was the ideological factor, by which we mean the conflict between the eastern and western blocs, and the resulting differences, divisions, and alliances. Then there is a second factor, which is linked to the first, and is represented by the desire of the European Community to devote Morocco's political loyalty towards it, and after independence, the colonial countries sought to embody a new type of colonialism within the framework of comprehensive dependency relations as a continuation of the colonial phenomenon, but with a new concept and in new ways. This description and this extrapolation of Morocco's relationship with the European Economic Community is evident through the agreements concluded between the two parties)<sup>9</sup>(.

The Partnership Agreement of 1969 AD was limited in the purely commercial aspect. As for the Cooperation Agreement of 1976 AD, although it expanded the areas of cooperation, its limitations and negativity were manifested in many aspects of this cooperation. Here we must refer to the concepts of "ideological factor" and "political loyalty"? What is their impact on relations between Morocco and the European Economic Community)<sup>10</sup>(?

The relationship between Morocco and the European Community was determined by the ideological factor, which preceded the economic and geographical factor. With Morocco, it is based on two goals, one political and the other economic. As for the political goal, it is represented in the overwhelming desire that the group had in order to perpetuate the idea of political loyalty, so that Morocco remains an area of influence belonging to the group and therefore to the member states within it. Political loyalty was only a negative factor, within

7- الهادي عبد القادر سويبي، في اقتصاديات الوطن العربي، ط2، (القاهرة 2006م-2008م)، ص13.

8- عبد النور بن عنتر، الاتحاد المغاربي... بين الافتراض والواقع، دراسة منشورة الدوحة: مركز الجزيرة للدراسات، 2004/10/3، متاح علي الرابط

<http://www.aljazeera.net/home/print/787157c4>

9- مصطفى الفيلالي، الاتحاد المغاربي الكبير، (تداء المستقبل) (بيروت: مركز دراسات الوحدة العربية، فبراير 1989م)، ص81.



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the framework of the relationship between Morocco and the European Community, but it is a factor subject to the will of the Community<sup>11</sup>(.

As for the economic goal, it is to exploit Morocco economically, as it represented a resource of primary resources and cheap labour, as well as a market for the disbursement of the group's surplus production. Therefore, the agreements concluded between Morocco and the European Community, in their various forms, and in their different names and time of signing, embodied one desire that does not change, and therefore it has produced agreements whose failure and inability to achieve a relationship of commercial exchange and economic cooperation between the two parties is clear. These agreements have always been limited and subject to pure utilitarian logic. We see that if the European Community had granted privileges to Morocco, it worked to restrict these privileges in one way or another, although its first and foremost concern was to preserve Morocco as an area of influence<sup>12</sup>(.

The overlapping interests imposed the partnership between Morocco and the European Union. This relationship developed through a series of successive stations until the partnership agreement between the two countries was signed in 1956 AD, but it was actually implemented on the first of March 2000 AD, and the European Union set itself an ambitious goal that is evident In making the Mediterranean "an area of exchange and dialogue," the motive for that was his firm desire to prove quality in this space<sup>13</sup>(.

However, the question that imposes itself about this partnership and those agreements between Morocco and the European Union remains, is it the geohistorical factor or are there other hidden factors<sup>25</sup>? The European Union is separated from Europe only by the Strait of Gibraltar, which does not exceed 15 kilometres in width, in addition to its openness to the Atlantic Ocean and the Mediterranean Sea, on the other hand. And its availability at international crossings, which made them a partnership, which went through several stages<sup>14</sup>(:

In 1963 AD: Negotiations began between Morocco and the European Community, which led to the conclusion of a detailed trade agreement under which Morocco obtained donations benefiting economic and social development<sup>15</sup>(.

In 1987 AD: Morocco applied to join the European Community, but the latter's response was negative, claiming that Morocco does not belong to the European continent.

10- محمد صالح المسفر، الاتحاد الأوروبي وإيجاد مشاريعه المتوسطة في العلاقات العربية الأوروبية حاضرها ومستقبلها (باريس: مركز الدراسات العربي الأوروبي، 1997م) ص245.

11- كمال بن بونن، "أوروبا والمنطقة المغاربية: مصالح قوية تدعم المشروع المغربي" مجلة المغرب الموحد، (تونس: دن العدد1، يناير 2009م)، ص36.

12- شريف عابد، الاندماج الاقتصادي الاقليمي للدول المغاربية مع الاتحاد الاوروبي، السياسة الدولية (القاهرة: مركز الاهرام للدراسات السياسية والاستراتيجية بالأهرام، السنة التاسعة والثلاثون يوليو 2003م)، ص268.

13- فتح الله ولعلو، المشروع المغربي والشراكة الأورو متوسطية، (الدار البيضاء: دار توبقال للنشر، 1997م)، ص14.

15- Jean Grouzatic: "Geopolitique de la Mediterranee", Mars, 1988, p:15



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The Barcelona Declaration in 1995 AD defined the foundations of the Euro-Mediterranean partnership in the economic, political, social, and humanitarian fields. In light of this, the Association Agreement between Morocco and the European Union was signed in 1996 AD)<sup>16</sup>.

On the 1st of March 2000 AD, this agreement began to be activated. The Moroccan-European Partnership Agreement stipulated basic principles represented in establishing balanced relations based on the principles of exchange, partnership, and common development within the framework of the principles of democracy and human rights. The neighbourhood policy aims to share the benefits of the expansion of the Union. The European Union in 2004 AD, with neighbouring countries in order to strengthen security and stability, it is designed to prevent new dividing lines between the enlarged European Union and its neighbours, and at the same time offer it the opportunity to participate in the various activities of the European Union through deeper political, security, economic and cultural cooperation. The European Commission proposed a group. Among the incentives to achieve this goal are the expansion of the internal market, the development of a system of trade details, the opening of markets, the setting up of a framework for legal immigration and the movement of people, integration in the fields of transport, energy, communication networks and the European research area, and the creation of new institutions for the development and protection of investment)<sup>17</sup>. The interest of the European Union in the economic, social, and cultural dimensions of cooperation. The Mediterranean stems primarily from its interest in political security, in the sense that the union is the A European who employs economic, social, and cultural relations to achieve the goal of security and stability in neighbouring countries)<sup>18</sup>.

And then the reflection of this stability on expanded Europe. On March 23, 2004, the European Union proposed a new strategic partnership with the countries of North Africa and the Middle East that takes into account the mutual interests between these countries and the development of cooperation mechanisms, not only that, but also developed its vision about the future of the political settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict. Here are some of the main objectives of the European Neighbourhood Policy, which prevents conflicts and acts of aggression against the European Union, which stipulates )<sup>19</sup>:

### Settlement of conflicts and ongoing disputes

16- Omar Baghzouz, *le partenariat de securite dans le cadre du processus de Barcelone: Pour une zone de securite partagee en mediterranee occidentale*, in: mondialisation et securite: securite pour tous ou insecurite partagee, acte du colloque international d'Alger, mai 2002, edition ANEP, 2003, p.29

17- Ben Abdallah Karima, "The position of the European Union on the Western Sahara Conflict", *Journal of contemporary European Studies*, Vol.17, No.3, Decembr 2009 p66.

18- العربي نصير، مستقبل الشراكة الأورو-متوسطية، مجلة كلية العلوم الاجتماعية والانسانية (جامعة سطيف: جامعة سطيف، العدد 17، دت)، ص 294.

19- Andreas Marchetti, "The European Neighborhood Policy: Foreign Policy at Eu's Periphery", Zei Discussion Paper; C 158 (2006), P16.



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- Establishing strong economic and political partnerships based on common values, prosperity, and security
- Control of immigration and all forms of smuggling into the European Union
- Protecting the security of EU citizens from abroad

But it is clear that the European Neighbourhood Policy does not replace the Barcelona Process or *Boromed* (in English, it began in 1995, through the Barcelona Euro-Mediterranean Conference, which was proposed by Spain and organized by the European Union to strengthen its relations with the countries bordering the Mediterranean in North Africa and West Asia, as suggested in it. Many policies, including security and stability in the Mediterranean region, the promotion of democracy, good governance and human rights, and the achievement of satisfactory mutual trade terms for the region's partners. This partnership laid the foundations for what became known as the Union for the Mediterranean and building its institutions without replacing the Euro-Mediterranean partnership)<sup>20</sup>.

### The areas of the partnership agreement varied to include<sup>21</sup>

The political field: which includes establishing political dialogue in order to strengthen relations between the two parties, consultation, rapprochement and understanding, raising issues and concerns, and defending common interests between them. The partnership also included new actors such as Parliament, the Economic, Social and Environmental Council and civil society in facing immigration challenges and encouraging legal and security mobility)<sup>22</sup>.

The economic field: It includes the study of common economic issues, including trade exchanges, which included the rules and conditions of trade with Morocco, exports from Morocco to the European Union and vice versa, as well as the European Union's defensive measures on imports from Morocco. Trade relations were only part of the political and economic relations. The General Assembly of the European Union with Morocco, where Morocco is a member of the World Trade Organization.

The social field: it includes the development of social cooperation, health assistance, and employment)<sup>23</sup>.

The cultural field: which includes cultural, educational, scientific, and technical cooperation, exchange of experts and experiences, communication and communication<sup>1</sup>.

- عبد المنعم سعيد، أنظمة الجماعة الأوروبية تجربة التكامل والوحدة (بيروت: مركز دراسات الوحدة العربية، 1986م)، ص 97-20.

-20 محمد صالح المسفر، الاتحاد الأوروبي وابعاد مشاريعه المتوسطة في العلاقات العربية الأوروبية حاضرها ومستقبلها (باريس: مركز الدراسات العربي الأوروبي، 1997م) ص 245.

- محمد سعد أبو عامود، "العلاقات الأوروبية - العربية، رؤية مستقبلية،" السياسة الدولية (العدد 157، يوليو 2004م) ص 22-23.

- علي الحاج، سياسة الاتحاد الأوروبي في المنطقة العربية بعد الحرب الباردة (بيروت: مركز دراسات الوحدة العربية، ط1، فبراير 2005م)، ص 162.



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There are many other areas, including financial cooperation and environmental protection. In 2005, Morocco renewed the partnership agreement with the European Union in the field of marine fishing. The agreement extends over a period of four years and stipulates a reduction in the amount allowed to be caught, a license only for traditional vessels that use selective fishing mechanisms, and the exception of sensitive fisheries. And subject to strong pressure, and the introduction of a quota management system for pelagic fish in the southern region in return for granting Morocco annual financial compensation in addition to unloading a proportion of the product in Moroccan ports and providing employment for about 300 sailors on board licensed European ships.

### **3- Studying the file on Western Sahara "Polisario" and the reason for the threat of it by the European countries and what is the goal behind it at that time**

The Moroccan-European relations have been strengthened in various fields, as the European Union is the first trading partner for Morocco with about 70% of foreign exchange and constitutes 64% of Morocco's exports, mostly from textiles, foodstuffs, vegetables, fruits, fish, phosphoric acid, and minerals. In return, industrial products dominate imports by a percentage. 51%, and the bulk of foreign investments in Morocco belong to the European Union countries, and Morocco also depends on an important percentage on the European Union in terms of tourism revenues and remittances from Moroccan workers, and even Europeans occupy the forefront of the foreign community in Morocco)<sup>24</sup>.

This did not last long, and here we are seeing a crisis between Morocco and the European Union over vegetables. This was not surprising. Rather, we are accustomed to that from foreign countries, which is to present their own interest regardless of the interests of the partner, which made the Moroccan authorities consider that adjusting the price system for access to vegetables and fruits would be It has a negative impact, as the new pricing system applies uniformly to all fruits and vegetables coming from third world countries. The aim of amending the entry price system is not represented in obstructing the entry of exports to the European Union, but rather in clarifying and amending the price system.

According to the expectations of Moroccan officials, Morocco, before applying the new pricing, would have earned nearly one billion euros annually, which relieves the state treasury from the exchange of hard currency, as well as strengthens Moroccan companies and enhances their competitiveness opportunities. It considered that Morocco is an integral part of its ownership, so it began to wave an issue that haunts Morocco, and here is the spectre of Western Sahara, the "polisario", haunting Morocco again in regional and international forums, especially after the European Union Court issued that the agricultural agreement between Morocco and Europe does not include the Western Sahara region, which seeks independence.

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- مصطفى كامل السيد، فواد نبرا (محرران)، صنع القرار في الاتحاد الأوروبي والعلاقات العربية الأوروبية (بيروت: مركز دراسات الوحدة العربية، 2002م)، ص 24.66



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On behalf of Morocco, and the European Court considered it a third party to the agreement, as foreign and colonial countries always work on their interests only and do not allow anything that contradicts these interests)<sup>25</sup>(.

However, we see that there are pressure cards on the part of Morocco with regard to immigrants to the West and its orientation towards other countries that deal with it economically. Rather, the Moroccan government began to threaten to end the economic partnership with the European Union if it did not adhere to the implementation of the agricultural agreement between the two parties, but also

But the question remains, can European countries, at the present time, be able to create a quarrel with Morocco and threaten the issue of immigration and refugees, hinting at a partnership between Morocco, Russia, and China?

### **4- Studying the Russian and Chinese partnership between Morocco**

#### **First: the Russian-Moroccan partnership**

Russia has become the alternative market for Morocco in its pressure on the European Union with regard to fishing and navigation agreements, as Russia is a major supplier to Morocco in a number of minerals and some agricultural products. Radically, through a new strategy, represented by the diversification of Morocco's economic partners, including Russia and China, and the matter is no longer limited to its traditional allies, such as the countries of the European Union and the United States, as the Moroccan King Mohammed VI made his first visit to Russia in 2002, followed by the visit of President Putin To Morocco in 2007, followed by a second visit by the Moroccan monarch in 2016, in response to the Obama administration's decision to expand MINURSO's missions in the Moroccan desert, as an in-depth strategic partnership agreement was signed, covering the political, security, energy, cultural and other fields)<sup>26</sup>(.

Trade exchanges have expanded remarkably in the last ten years. Russian exports to Morocco have increased in an unprecedented way by about 20%, which is a good indicator, according to the agency "Spottech". For Moscow, Morocco is the first country to export agricultural products, such as tomatoes, citrus, and textile industries. Towards the Russian market on the Arab and African levels, while it imports - according to the data of the Moroccan Exchange Office - many of them, including coal, coke and similar solid fuels, followed by ammonia, gas oil, fuel oil, petroleum gasoline, crude and unrefined sulphur, and aluminium Unwrapped, aluminium waste and powders, natural and chemical fertilizers,

24- حسن نافع، الاتحاد الأوروبي والدروس المستفادة عربياً (بيروت: مركز دراسات الوحدة العربية، ط1 ، يوليو 2004)، ص 468

26- <https://m.ahdath.info/156578>



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petroleum gas and other hydrocarbons, as well as plastics and materials derived from them and other wastes from the food industry.<sup>27</sup>

### **Second: Presenting the Russian position on the issue of Western Sahara, as well as presenting the Moroccan position on the issue of the war on Ukraine**

The link was not only economic, but also the two countries had political relations. There are political positions that imposed themselves. Morocco did not forget the Russian position in the UN Security Council, as Russia abstained from voting in October 2021 AD on the contents of the UN resolution related to the MINURSO mission in Western Sahara, which is what some observers considered it to be in the interest of Morocco, and now Morocco is returning the favour to Russia. Morocco did not participate in the vote against Russia at the United Nations, especially after the military operation launched by Russian forces against Ukraine)<sup>28</sup>.

And now, after changing the concept of power, and the European Union, after the Russian-Ukrainian war, has become in a weak position, a collapse in its currency, and problems in its economy, will it change its policy and bend a little so that it does not lose all cards to obtain food and energy products as an alternative to the Russian bear, especially after it showed its hostility to Russia, and sanctions were imposed on the latter And you could not back down, even though their people suffer from poverty and high prices, and will their policy remain as it was in the past?

Morocco was not content with only Russian relations, but also bet on new commercial destinations, led by the African continent, to which King Mohammed VI made successive visits that helped Morocco return to the bosom of the African Union after 33 years of absence)<sup>29</sup>.

### **5- Studying the Moroccan-Chinese relationship throughout history**

27 <https://www.hespresspress.com> >tag>hespress.com

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What is meant by the Arab Maghreb, the African Maghreb and Morocco, and is there a difference between them?

The Arab Maghreb is considered because it speaks the Arabic language and it is located in North Africa They are both one

28 - المغرب وروسيا علاقات عرقية وشراكة استراتيجية متينة - أحداث انفو

29-<https://www.almayadeen.net/Blog/%D9%84%D9%85%D8%A7%D8%B0%D8%A7-%D9%84%D9%85-%D9%8A%D8%B4%D8%A7%D8%B1%D9%83-%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%85%D8%BA%D8%B1%D8%A8-%D9%81%D9%8A-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%AA%D8%B5%D9%88%D9%8A%D8%AA-%D8%B6%D8%AF-%D8%B1%D9%88%D8%B3%D9%8A%D8%A7-%D9%81%D9%8A-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%A3%D9%85%D9%85-%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%85%D8%AA%D8%AD%D8%AF%D8%A9>



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### **First: Presenting the historical Moroccan position towards China and recognizing it as a state, as well as presenting the Chinese position towards the Western Sahara issue**

The relationship between Morocco and China differs from that of Russia. The Moroccan-Russian relationship is old and witnessed several aspects of Chinese-Moroccan cooperation between them to this day. As for the Chinese-Moroccan relationship, it took another turn.

An ancient relationship between China and Morocco is ancient, dating back to the famous Moroccan journey Ibn Battuta (1304-1377) who lived for three years in China, to return after he understood and understood it to introduce Morocco and the Arab and Islamic world to the great civilization of China, and in order for this to be done, there had to be a path, which was called the path Silk, which was a peaceful international bridge between peoples and nations, to become a collective bridge to a new world of progress, prosperity and luxury of life. New Silk Road effectively)<sup>30</sup>(.

The Silk Road was only the beginning of the restoration of Moroccan diplomacy to its nature, its human aspirations, and its historical process with the development of science and technology, which made it an official launch for Moroccan diplomacy to adopt the cause of the People's Republic of China and defend it at the United Nations in 1958, and we refer to the speech of Dr. It is shameful that a country like China does not enjoy membership and international recognition, given its long history and being the largest country in terms of population, and Morocco is considered one of the twenty-three countries that voted to accept China in the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). All this led to mutual support between the two countries for each other)<sup>31</sup>(.

### **Second: the Chinese-Moroccan partnership**

Several agreements were signed between the two presidents on cooperation between the two countries in various sectors, bringing the volume of trade between Beijing and Rabat to \$5.3 billion in 2018, up from \$4 billion in 2016.

It is worth noting that China's exports to Morocco constitute the largest part of the volume of trade, as its share in Morocco's total imports reached 10.4 percent in 2019 after it was 7.5 percent in 2014, while Morocco's exports to China remained at a low level, the author says, according to reports. An international media outlet, more than 30 Chinese companies participated in the projects implemented in Morocco between 2000 and 2012, including the

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30- [http://www.chinatoday.com.cn/ctarabic/sc/2015-11/20/content\\_708401.htm](http://www.chinatoday.com.cn/ctarabic/sc/2015-11/20/content_708401.htm)

31- [http://www.chinatoday.com.cn/ctarabic/sc/2015-11/20/content\\_708401.htm](http://www.chinatoday.com.cn/ctarabic/sc/2015-11/20/content_708401.htm)



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signing of an agreement worth \$248 million with the Chinese Exim Bank for the construction of a highway in 2011.<sup>32</sup>

Also, hospital projects that will be implemented in different regions of Morocco, and a loan agreement of 150 million yuan for eight construction projects that will be implemented in the capital, Rabat. Morocco also announced a \$10 billion deal to establish a new economic centre in the north with the help of development institutions and Chinese companies, including the Bank. Moroccan Foreign Trade to Africa in 2016 AD)<sup>33</sup>(.

The Turkey Centre stated, "China has greatly strengthened its presence in North Africa in terms of trade and investment in the past two decades, and Morocco, which enjoys great importance in terms of strategic geographical location, was one of the countries with which the Beijing administration developed relations in North Africa."

The "Ankara Centre for Policy and Crisis Studies" added in an article by Göktuğ Çalışkan, "From this, the term pragmatism may be the best word that can be used to describe Sino-Moroccan relations, because both sides understand the importance of the other and each tries to develop bilateral relations based on mutual benefit."<sup>34</sup>

Çalışkan believes that "China is determined to continue its efforts to establish good relations with Morocco, even though it knows that the Kingdom is a country close to the West, due to its geopolitical location."

However, "China welcomes Morocco's relations with the Arab countries in the Gulf, its membership in the African Union, and its diplomatic relations with sub-Saharan Africa, which increases their importance."

The King of Morocco, Mohammed VI, is trying to reshape his country's foreign policy, so he is working to attract and attract commercial investments from the East as well, although Morocco is located near the West, and accordingly, but he began to receive Chinese investments to increase significantly between 2011 and 2015, according to the Turkish writer)<sup>35</sup>(.

He explained, saying: "China's total investment increased by 195 percent in 4 years with the investment it made in the Noor solar power plant project in 2014, followed by the announcement by Chinese President Xi Jinping and King Mohammed VI of a strategic partnership between the two countries in 2016 AD, and many were signed Among the agreements between the two presidents on cooperation between the two countries in various

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<sup>32</sup> - <https://democraticac.de>

<sup>33</sup>- <https://www.alestiklal.net/ar/view/8036/dep-news-1617701411>

<sup>34</sup> <https://www.chinaninarabic.org>

<sup>35</sup> <https://www.alestiklal.net/ar/view/8036/dep-news-1617701411>



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sectors, bringing the volume of trade between Beijing and Rabat to \$5.3 billion in 2018, after it was \$4 billion in 2016.<sup>36</sup>

And since China, like any foreign country, works only for its own benefit, it was not in China's interest except to take a neutral position, especially with regard to Western Sahara, given its good relations also with Algeria, but it is trying to reconcile them so as not to harm its interests on the Moroccan and Algerian sides, and the question remains whether the union The European will stop dealing with Morocco in a position of strength unlike the previous period.

### **Findings and recommendations**

#### The results obtained

The absence of an Arab-African union and the dominance of the special interest by the North African countries, which was the reason for allowing Western countries to penetrate, control and benefit from natural resources, but also to exploit the problems among them to obtain their interests, referring to the countries of the European Union

#### Recommendations

- There must be an equal relationship in terms of benefits and interests, and those countries should not be allowed to easily control the wealth
- Activating the framework of cooperation between North African countries, whether politically, economically, or militarily
- Develop long-term and clear strategies and goals for economic, political, cultural, and diplomatic relations, as the European Union did when it included Greece, Spain, and Portugal to take advantage of their markets so that it would have an alternative and not become dominated by it

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36- <https://arabic.china.org.cn/txt/co,Arabic,china.org.cn>



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