

## MOROCCO

Polity5 regime codes:

fac	scode	polity	pers	bmon	bday	byear	emon	eday	eyear	exec	exconst	polcomp
1X	MOR	-6		1	1	1800	3	30	1912	1	1	6
2X	MOR	-5	5	3	2	1956	6	1	1961	1	2	6
2Xa	MOR	-88	2	6	2	1961	11	12	1963	-88	-88	-88
2Xb	MOR	-3	2	11	13	1963	6	6	1965	2	3	7
2O	MOR	-9	12	6	7	1965	6	3	1977	1	1	2
2Oa	MOR	-8	15	6	4	1977	9	4	1992	2	2	2
2Ob	MOR	-7	5	9	5	1992	2	3	1998	2	3	2
2Oc	MOR	-6	14	2	4	1998	11	28	2011	2	3	3
2Od	MOR	-4	7	11	29	2011	99	99	9999	2	4	3

PITF Problem Events:

- 1) 06/65-06/65 (ARC 06/65)
- 2) 10/75-11/89 (ETH 10/75-11/89)

**Note:** The Treaty of Fez, signed on March 30, 1912, by Sultan Abdelhafid, transferred sovereignty over Morocco to the French and reduced its status to that of a French protectorate. Additionally, by the Convention of Madrid between France and Spain, the territory was divided and Spain assumed control over the northern Morocco on November 27, 1912. Tangier became an international zone in 1923 administered by an International Control Commission.

**2X) Date of Change to Factional-Autocratic:** March 2, 1956 (independence)

### Brief Explanation of Change To:

After decades of internally divided independence movements, the French exile of popular Sultan Mohammed V in 1953 sparked outrage throughout Moroccan society and temporarily united the country around support for independence from France. When France returned the Sultan in November 1955, he initiated a series of negotiations and democratic reforms that culminated with the French-Moroccan Agreement that established French Morocco's independence on March 2, 1956. By a joint declaration on April 7, 1956, Spain transferred control over Spanish Morocco to the Moroccan government. Tangier was incorporated on January 1, 1957. Morocco was initially governed by the monarch, Sultan Mohammed V, who took the title king in 1957, with the *Istiqlal* party forming the opposition, joined by the leftist *National Union of Popular Forces* (an *Istiqlal* splinter group) in 1959.

### Identify Main Factions:

- *Royalists* – Morocco's government at the time of independence gave significant powers to the monarch, King Mohammed V, until his death in 1961, succeeded by King Hassan II. The monarchy was supported by the royalist party *Front for the Defense of Constitutional Institutions* (FDCI), particularly after the ascent of King Hassan II.
- *Opposition to the Monarch* – Although the *Istiqlal* party, led by Allal El Fassi, united with the monarchists in the independence campaign, it quickly formed the opposition once the country regained its sovereignty, continuing to support territorial expansion, particularly into lands seized by Spain during the 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. *Istiqlal* was joined in opposition by the leftist *National Union of Popular Forces*, which had split from that party

when it moved to the center, and eventually by the *Socialist Union of Popular Forces*, which became the largest opposition party after its formation in the mid-1960s.

**Changes within Factional-Autocratic Period:**

**2Xa)** June 2, 1961 (new government) – After the death of King Mohammed V in February 1961, his son took the throne as Hassan II in March. On June 2 he formed a new government, composed of ministers representing each of the major political parties, and promulgated a Basic Law to govern the country while the new government drafted a constitution that would establish a constitutional monarchy.

**2Xb)** November 13, 1963 (general election) – Elections under the new constitution were held in May and October 1963, but were heavily biased in favor of the royalist FDCI party. Although the FDCI failed to secure an absolute majority in the 144-seat House of Representatives, it maintained enough support from other parliamentarians to control the chamber. In indirect elections on October 15, the FDCI received 107 of 118 seats in the Senate. On November 13, 1963 King Hassan II announced the formation of a new government, handing the premiership to royalist Hadj Ahmed Bahnini.

**2O) Date of Change from Factional-Autocratic:** June 7, 1965 (royal coup)

**Adverse Regime Change: June 1965**

On June 7, 1965, after two years of experimentation with limited parliamentary rule, King Hassan II dissolved parliament and resumed both legislative and executive powers. Although elections continued to occasionally occur, at the whim of the king, their results were effectively predetermined. Political activity and freedom of expression became tightly proscribed under Hassan's rule.

**Ethnic War: October 1975 – November 1989**

Beginning in October 1975 Saharawis came into armed conflict with the Moroccan government over that group's campaign for independence in the southwestern part of country (Western Sahara), which was annexed by Morocco after Spanish colonial rule ended. Although the conflict had largely subsided by November 1989, it was not formally ended until a UN-negotiated ceasefire in 1991, followed by the 1997 Houston Agreement.

**Changes within Autocratic Period:**

**2Oa)** June 4, 1977 (general election) – In November 1976 King Hassan II initiated a liberalization process with the election of local officials, which was followed by provincial and prefectural assembly elections in January 1977. This process was continued on June 3, 1977, with the election of the country's first Chamber of Representatives since that which was elected in 1970 and dissolved two years later. Although elections for this body continued to occur regularly, their results were effectively predetermined and political activity remained highly suppressed.

**2Ob)** September 5, 1992 (constitutional reforms) – On September 5, 1992, in the face of an opposition boycott, King Hassan II held a national referendum on constitutional reforms that

would restore limited powers to the parliament and prime minister, weakening the role of the monarch. These changes, which were approved, according to the government, by 99.96% of voters amid 97.25% turnout, included provisions that: the king must appoint a prime minister representative of the parliamentary majority; that the Prime Minister would be able to appoint his own cabinet; and that the parliament would have new powers to conduct investigations, to call for votes of no confidence, and to enact laws, which the monarch would be required to act upon within 30 days. Observers commented that the modifications made only a token difference to the king's real power.

**20c)** February 4, 1998 (new government) – King Hassan II continued his gradual liberalization process in 1996 with the re-creation of the Senate, and in 1997 allowed relatively open elections to occur for the House of Representatives, in which the opposition *Socialist Union of Popular Forces*, led by Abderrahmane Yousifi, won 57 of 325 seats and became the chamber's largest party. As a result of these elections, and mounting pressure from the opposition, on February 4, 1998 King Hassan appointed Yousifi to the post of prime minister, leading a coalition government of ministers approved by both the King and the political opposition.

**20d)** November 29, 2011 (new prime minister) – Moroccans approved constitutional changes by way of a public referendum on July 1, 2011, (enacted 13 September 2011); these changes transfer some governing authority from the monarch to parliament. A Prime Minister chosen by the King from the party gaining the largest share of seats in parliamentary elections is directed to form a government. The moderate Islamist Justice and Development Party won a plurality in parliamentary elections held on November 25, 2011, and the King appointed its leader, Abdelilah Benkirane, to be prime minister. Benkirane assumed office on November 29, 2011.