

University of Southern Denmark, 17 November 2011:
Mediterranean Perspectives

The EU, the Maghreb and the Arab Spring +
Student presentation by Louise:
Morocco – regime and opposition

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Literature:

- Cavatorta, Francesco (2009): "Divided they stand, divided they fail": opposition policies in Morocco", *Democratization*, Vol 16, No. 1, February 2009: 137-156.
- Darbouche, Hakim (2008): "Decoding Algeria's ENP Policy: Differentiation by Other Means?" *Mediterranean Politics*, Vol. 13, No. 3, 371-389.
- Vermeren, Pierre (2007): The advancing but irregular democratic experiment of Morocco, in Seeberg, P. (2007). *EU and the Mediterranean. Foreign Policy and Security*. Odense, University Press of Southern Denmark, pp. 189-207



Outline:

- Elites and opposition in the Mediterranean region – with a focus on North Africa
- Possibilities for promotion of democracy in North Africa – the divisions within the opposition – presentation by Louise
- Algeria and the ENP
- EU's partnership programme and the perspectives in North Africa
- Morocco as regime - "the divine king" and "the enemies (of democracy) within"





Elites and opposition in the Mediterranean region
 – with a focus on North Africa

- The regimes in North Africa are like the other regimes in the Middle East – weak states, characterized by authoritarian, conservative leadership without much legitimacy what so ever...
- Morocco: kingdom (Muhammed VI) with a bicameral system: Majlis an-Nuab (representatives) and Majlis al-Mustasharin (advisors) – to a large degree influenced by the old elite, Makhsen, (upcoming elections 25 November 2011 following constitutional reform of 1 July)
- Algeria: presidential system (Bouteflika) + National Peoples Assembly (legislative) and Council of the Nation (second chamber). Still under influence by the tragedy of the 1990's – continuously strong (illegal) Islamic opposition – and some legal Islamic opposition
- Tunisia: presidential system (Ben-Ali fled to Saudi-Arabia Jan. 2011) + Majlis an-Nuab (representatives, as in Morocco) og Majlis al-Mustasharin (advisors) – democratic elections 23 October resulting in 91 seats for the Ennahda Party

Possibilities for promotion of democracy in North Africa
 – divisions within the opposition – presentation by Louise

- Point of departure: the absence of democracy in the Middle East, which also is the case in the Maghreb
- The regimes have a historical background as popular movements, established in connection with the struggle for liberation: based on national consciousness, promises of social reforms and autonomy etc.
- Gradually a political and economic *deroute* through the 70's and 80's approaching the fall of the Berlin Wall, influencing the Middle East
- New challenges in the 1990's: strengthening of Islamist movements and pressure from Europe to promote democracy, economic liberalization and development – Morocco becomes a liberalized autocracy, with a facade democracy (strengthening the regime...)
- Furthermore: disintegration due to increasing public protest but at the same time a lack of "pooling" of resources – as was the case in Latin America and Eastern Europe
