



Politics in Morocco – The Monarchy and the Parliament

Part 1 – Morocco is considered a constitutional monarchy with King Mohammed VI as the current king. In 2011, the “Arab Spring” took place in many countries in the Middle East and North Africa, a movement during which people protested against the governments. These protests led to different levels of changes in different countries.

Watch the movie **My Makhzen and Me** (the third video on the link, not the first!) about this movement in Morocco in 2011 and answer the questions below:

<http://www.nadirbouhmouch.com/film--15711601160415751605.html>

1. Why does Nadir say that the country he returned to was different after his semester in the United States?
2. What does Montasser mean when saying that Morocco is an absolute monarchy?
3. Why did students create the February 20th movement?
4. What are two of the reasons people said they would protest on February 20th?
5. What was King Mohammed's response to the protests?
6. What are some of the problems that Montasser lists with the new constitution?
7. What happened to Karim Chaib?
8. What did Nadir's father make him do after the government sent him a letter?
9. What did the king and the Makhzen do after the new constitution was announced on June 17th, 2011?
10. What are some of Montasser's critiques of the education system in Morocco?
11. The February 20th Movement was the first time in Moroccan history that:

12. Why is the February 20th movement unheard by the world?

Part 2 - Read the following interview and answer the questions.

<http://www.aidalami.com/2015/11/q-gender-imbalance-in-moroccan-politics.html>

1. Who is Nabila Mounib?
2. What has Mounib done within her political party to influence women's issues?
3. What are some of the obstacles that Mounib talks about for women in politics in Morocco?
4. According to Mounib, what is the current state of the February 20 movement in Morocco?
5. What are some of the issues that Mounib says need to be tackled?

Part 3 – Written Reflection or Discussion

After watching the movie “My Makhzen and Me” and reading the interview with Nabila Mounib, what do you think are the biggest political issues in Morocco? What parallels do you notice between these issues or movements in the United States? What are key differences do you notice? Be specific.