

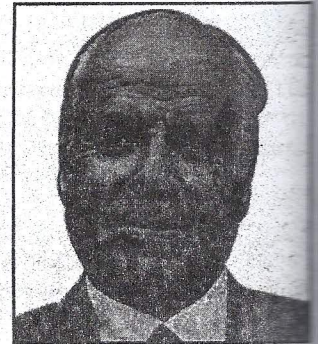
NATIONALISM IN TUNISIA THE PROCESS OF DECOLONISATION

BACKGROUND

Tunisia a mainly Moslem and Arab speaking country was under dynastic rule until she was colonized by France in 1881. In June 1955, Tunisia was granted self government after negotiations with the French, organized by president Pierre Mendes. However, Tunisia attained her full independence on 20th March 1956 after the signing of a protocol that recognized her independence. Tunisia attained her independence under the leadership of Habib Bourguiba and the Neo-Destour Party.

FACTORS THAT FACILITATED THE ATTAINMENT OF INDEPENDENCE

1. **The first independence movement was formed by The Young Tunisian Party in 1907.** By 1920, the Destour, a Tunisian political party, had formed a powerful base that was supported by the Bey. Their following lasted until 1934, when Neo Destour was formed, and brought about by a new generation of young nationalists striving for independence. With a new energized independence movement, the stage was set for a new leader, Habib Bourguiba.
2. **The role of western education favoured the attainment of independence by Tunisia.** The Tunisian students who went to France to study got the chance to interact with colonial reformers who spread the ideas of liberty and equality of the colonized people. That therefore inspired Tunisians who had received such education like Abdelah Azizi. I and Habib Bourguiba among others, to return home. They spread anti-colonial propaganda like they had learnt, which favoured the attainment of Tunisia.
3. **The common heritage or background of Tunisians favoured the attainment of independence by Tunisia.** The Tunisians were largely Moslems and Arab speaking people who belonged to the Husseinic dynasty, The Bey. They therefore mobilized themselves and that favoured the attainment of independence by 1956.
4. **The role of the Young Tunisians also favoured the attainment of independence by Tunisia.** The group of the young Tunisians was formed in 1907 under Ali Basa who was deported in 1911. The group engaged the French in demonstrations especially when the French tried to build a cemetery at al Dzellaz, a highly regarded Islam centre. That led to the arrest of various Tunisians and it therefore increased hatred towards the French, which forced the Tunisians to rebel. That therefore favoured the attainment of independence by Tunisia.
5. **The impact of world 11 favoured the attainment of independence by Tunisia came to learn about the weakness of the French and the war also created a class of ex- service men who had fought in the war.** The Tunisians interacted with the American soldiers who urged them to use the skills they had learnt to struggle for self rule. Consequently, the Tunisians took that on and it therefore are favoured the attainment of independence by Tunisia.
6. **The French exploitative and repressive policies favoured the attainment of independence by Tunisia.** At first, the French respected the Tunisians with the hope of easy assimilation but when that failed, they turned to violence whenever the Tunisians organized peaceful demonstrations. They had unfair policies like banning political parties and arrest of leaders like Habib while Ali Basa was exiled such acts increased the desire of the people to be independent so they fought on hence the attainment of independence by Tunisia.
7. **The influence of USA especially Wilson Woodrew also facilitated the attainment of independence in Tunisia.** Wilson Woodraw who was the USA president came up with 14 points in which he adopted the principles of self determination and spread the ideas of democracy to the Africans especially after World War 1. USA therefore encouraged the Africans to demand for self rule hence favouring the attainment of independence by Tunisia in 1956.
8. **Grievances over land alienation among the Tunisia facilitated the attainment of independence by Tunisia.** The French encouraged white settlers to inhabit Tunisia and the situation was made worse during the inter war period, because the settlers always grabbed that best of Tunisia land. The settlers also grabbed the burial lands, harbours and religious lands. That therefore aroused bitterness among the native Tunisians because instead of helping them solve the problem, the French only worsened it. They decided therefore to unite and reject foreign domination, which favoured the attainment of independence by Tunisia.



Habib Bourguiba.

forcing the Tunisians to move to the infertile areas. The French even arrested nationalistic leaders like Habib Bourguiba. The Neo-Destour party condemned such policies and inspired the masses to struggle for their independence.

The Neo-Destour party mobilized and sensitized Tunisians. The party spread anti-colonial propaganda, taught the masses about the need for self rule and freedom which was suppressed by the colonialists. The party had over four hundred branches in Tunisia and also organized rallies and meetings to elaborate the need for independence.

The Neo-Destour party provided leadership towards the independence struggle of Tunisia. The party provided able, strong willed and charismatic leaders such as Habib Bourguiba, Fahad Hashshah and Muhammed Shanniq. These mobilized the masses, provided leadership and received the instruments of power from the French on 20th March 1956.

Neo-Destour party encouraged national unity among the people of Tunisia and this was a step towards attainment of independence. The party sensitized the masses on the need to unite so as to put an effective struggle. It worked with the Husseinic dynasty to forge unity among Tunisians due to their common allegiance to it and their background. This in a way contributed to the independence of Tunisia.

The Neo-Destour party recruited youth who played a significant role in the independence struggle of Tunisia. It became a mass political party by involving the youth. The young Tunisians spread anti-colonial propaganda, engaged in demonstrations and strikes. These in turn forced the French to grant Tunisia independence.

The party adopted the use of non-violence methods (Bourguibism) and this eased the independence struggle in Tunisia. Its members engaged in peaceful ways of agitating for decolonization by France for instance they staged demonstrations, strikes, boycotts in order to avoid brutality. This in turn forced the French to grant them independence.

Neo-Destour party appealed to the United Nations Organisation (UNO) to intervene in their independence struggle against France. The UNO decolonization committee pressured France to grant Tunisia her independence. She further provided moral and financial assistance to the nationalists in Tunisia hence contributing to their independence.

The Neo-Destour party solicited for external assistance and this contributed to the attainment of independence by Tunisia. Nationalists in the Neo-Destour party appealed to foreign countries such as Egypt to provide assistance to the independence struggles in Tunisia. Foreign countries provided moral and financial assistance as well as condemned French colonial policies. This in turn contributed to the independence of Tunisia.

The Neo-Destour party successfully negotiated for constitutional reforms. The party advocated for Tunisian representation in the legislative French Assembly in which half of the seats were in Tunisia in 1954, they pushed the French president Pierre Mendes to grant Tunisia an autonomous status and he even asked the Tunisians to choose a team to negotiate the form of independence Tunisia wanted. This in turn led to the attainment of independence by Tunisia.

Neo-Destour party got involved in negotiation since February 1955. Due to the increasing pressure from all French colonies elsewhere such as Algeria, the French quickly negotiated with the nationalists in the Neo-Destour party such as Habib Bourguiba and a protocol recognizing the full independence of Tunisia was signed in Paris on 20th March 1956.

The Neo-Destour party advocated for the release of political prisoners. Numerous political figures such as Habib Bourguiba and Muhammad Shanniq had been arrested and imprisoned by the French colonialists for leading strikes and demonstrations against the French government. The party pressured the colonialists to release these nationalists who later mobilized the masses and sensitized them on the need for independence. This in turn contributed to the independence struggle in Tunisia.

The Neo-Destour party worked closely with trade unions to advocate for Tunisia's independence. The party worked together with workers unions such as General Confederation of Tunisian Workers (CGTT) to stage riots like the January 1958 riot in Bizeta following the dismissal of Tunisia workers. These unions became political organizations and even demanded for workers' rights. This in turn forced the French to grant Tunisia her independence in 1956.

HABIB BEN ALI BOURGUIBA AND THE INDEPENDENCE STRUGGLE OF TUNISIA

Habib Bourguiba or Habib Ben Ali Bourguiba, born 3 August 1903 was a Tunisian statesman who became the country's first President of the Republic of Tunisia from 1957 to 1987. Having worked as a lawyer in France in the 1920s, he returned to Tunisia and started being more active

in the country's nationalist movement. In 1934, when he was 31 years old, he co-founded the Neo Destour that spearheaded the Tunisian movement for independence.

Habib Bourguiba formed the Neo - Destour party that contributed to independence struggle in Tunisia. In 1934, Habib broke off the old Destour party which was too weak. He was the secretary general while his partner, Muhamud M was president. The party provided leadership, mobilized the masses among others thus aiding independence struggles.

Habib Bourguiba provided leadership during the independence struggle thus facilitating it. he was a leader of Neo - Destour party, led strikes and demonstrations like Bizeta among other roles that created awareness and guided Tunisia in the struggle.

Habib Bourguiba worked with fellow nationalist leaders in the Independence struggle. He worked alongside and solicited for support from pre independence people like the King Muhammed Bey of Husseinic dynasty. This made the Tunisians united.

Habib Bourguiba spread anti colonial propaganda in Tunisia thus leading to independence struggle. Through demonstrations and news papers, he condemned the social, political and economic policies which included unfair representations in legislature propelling independence struggle.

Habib Bourguiba's arrest contributed to independence struggle in Tunisia. Following 1958 riots in Bezita led by him and over one hundred people involved, Bourguiba was arrested. The arrest however only exposed unfair and segregative nature of French and instigated nationalism in the struggle.

Habib Bourguiba organized strikes and demonstrations which helped in independence struggle in Tunisia. These caused destabilization of French colonialists and promoting demand for freedom. For instance, in 1958 he led workers in Bezita in a strike that ended with his arrest and loss of many lives. This brutality further propelled nationalism and consequently the struggle.

The contribution of Habib Bourguiba to the formation of the Voice of Tunisians was contribution to independence struggle. It was a news paper by Bourguiba and his friends in which they criticised the political, social and economic condition of Tunisia. For instance they promoted need for self government. It is through this propaganda that awareness and mobilization were done.

Habib Bourguiba mobilized Tunisians in the independence struggle thus facilitating it. This was mainly through his New- Destour party and the newspapers. He organized strikes and set branches of the party all over Tunisia. For instance he had over four hundred branches by 1947. He was thus able to sensitise and mobilize Tunisians towards independence.

Habib Bourguiba solicited foreign support for Tunisia during the independence struggle. He travelled in search for desired back up to strengthen Tunisia stand against France. For instance in 1945 he took secret tour in search for support thus gaining attention and support of Egypt, Arab among others thus leading to struggles success.

Bourguiba, after many sterile efforts to open a dialogue with the French authorities, came to the conclusion that the Tunisian cause had to be brought to the attention of the world opinion. In March 1945, he left Sfax secretly, on a small fisherman's boat, heading to Libya, and from there, on foot and on camel's back, he managed to reach Cairo, which he used as a base for his international activity.

Habib Bourguiba campaigned for constitutional reforms thus contributing to independence struggle in Tunisia. He condemned the land policies that displaced Tunisians taxes that were a burden, poor education and unequal representation in legislature. It is his campaigns that created awareness and forced French to reform for instance they later allowed equal representation of nations in government.

Habib Bourguiba collaborated with trade unions in the independence struggle. The trade unions were the only source of unity after political parties and were frustrated by the poor working conditions especially low pay. Bourguiba worked with them to demand for reforms for instance in Bizeta riots of which he led. Through the unions, he spread anti French spirit thus inspiring independence struggle.

Habib Bourguiba negotiated for Tunisia freedom during independence struggle. The negotiations were with French colonialists on 22nd April 1955. After being arrested and exiled several times by the occupying French protectorate, he decided to both negotiate and put pressure on the Fourth Republic to put forward his nationalist agenda. He wanted self rule for Tunisia. These negotiations resulted into the declaration of an autonomy by France and later in 1956, France recognized Tunisia's independence.

'Freedom is not a gift but a product of struggle'

Habib Bourguiba took part in the pre-independence elections in Tunisia thus contributing to the independence struggle. In 1955 after declaring an autonomy, France later organized general elections for Tunisia to get an independence leader. Bourguiba participated under New Destour party ticket and thus provided leadership in the cause to Tunisia.

Pierre Mendès-France became French Prime Minister in 1954; his positions on France's colonial policies opened the door to Tunisian home-rule. 1 June 1955 saw the return of Bourguiba. The "Internal Autonomy Agreement" was a big step to total independence. After several arduous negotiations, independence was proclaimed on 20 March 1956, with Habib Bourguiba as President of the National Constituent Assembly, and Head of the Government. At the same time, he acted as the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Tunisia.

Habib Bourguiba led Tunisia to independence thus contributing to the struggle following France's decision to recognize Tunisia's independence; New Destour party under Habib led it. He received the instruments of power and his rise to power marked the end of the struggle. He became the first prime minister of Tunisia.

Revision Questions

1. Discuss the factors that facilitated the decolonization process of Tunisia.
2. Examine the role of the Neo-Destour party in the independence struggle of Tunisia.
3. How did Habib Ben Ali Bourguiba contribute to the independence struggle of Tunisia?

NATIONALISM IN MORROCCO

THE PROCESS OF DECOLONISATION

BACKGROUND

Morocco was occupied by the French from 1912 until 4TH march 1956 when she got her independence. It is dominated by two races namely the Desert Berbers and the Town Arabs. Morocco was led to independence by the Istiqlal and the leadership of Muhammed Ben Youssef or Muhammad V. The monarchy in Morocco as well played a vital role in the independence of Morocco.

Recognition by the United Kingdom of France's "sphere of influence" in Morocco in the 1904 Entente Cordiale provoked a German reaction; the "crisis" of 1905-1906 was resolved at the Algeciras Conference (1906), which formalized France's "special position" and entrusted policing of Morocco jointly to France and Spain.

A second "Moroccan crisis" increased tensions among the powerful European countries, and resulted in the Treaty of Fez (signed on March 30, 1912), which made Morocco a protectorate of France. By a second treaty signed by the French and Spanish heads of state, Spain was granted a Zone of influence in northern and southern Morocco on November 27,

1912. The northern part became the Spanish protectorate in Morocco, while the southern part was ruled from El Aiun as a buffer zone between the Spanish Colony of Rio de Oro and Morocco. This set the ground for her independence struggle.



Muhammed Ben Youssef

FACTORS THAT FACILITATED THE ATTAINMENT OF INDEPENDENCE

1. **Common heritage led to the independence of Morocco.** The people of Morocco were mainly Arabs and this created unity among them. Unlike other countries like Uganda and Nigeria that had religious differences, the people of Morocco were united under Islam which made it easy to collectively fight for their independence.
2. **The press made a big contribution to Morocco's independence.** The Maghreb newspaper was effectively used by the independence icons like Muhammed . Propaganda was spread urging the Moroccans to unite in order to attain independence. Therefore, unity and easy transportation of messages throughout message contributed to her independence in 1956.
3. **World War II led to Morocco independence in 1956.** Many service men like Ahmed Angwal came back ready to liberate Morocco. They came back and formed violent groups that militarised the Morocco independence struggle. The pressure put on the French men by the world war II ex- service men led to the independence of Morocco in 1956.
4. **Algeria's liberation war in 1945 contributed to the independence of Morocco in 1956.** While war broke out in Algeria, the French men sent most of their troops leaving behind a small military team in Morocco. Moroccans used this opportunity to defeat the French because of their few numbers leading to the independence of Morocco in 1956.
5. **The formation of political parties led to the independence of Morocco in 1956.** Istiqlal party was formed by Muhammed Lyazidi in 1944. It mobilized and unity people of Morocco colonial propaganda by the Istiqlal made more Moroccans aware the independence struggle. They joined the struggle in large numbers that boosted the guerilla man power leading to Morocco independence in 1956.
6. **Western education played big role in Morocco's independence.** Moroccans like Muhammad V benefited a lot from western education. They were exposed to the evil nature of the colonialists and the importance of independence. These elites spread the gospel of independence to the Moroccans who joined the independence struggle leading to her independence in 1956.
7. **Rise of leaders like Muhammed V led to Morocco's independence in 1956.** He mobilized and offered leadership to the people of Morocco. It is even him that negotiated the terms of France vacating Morocco in 1956.
8. **Foreign support contributed to the independence of Morocco .** support came from fellow Muslim countries like Egypt in form of military and financial support. This support boosted Istiqlal party in her fight eventually leading to the independence of Morocco in 1956.
9. **Oppressive colonial policies like land alienation and heavy taxation led to Morocco's independence in 1956.** The Moroccans were heavily taxed and left poor while the colonialists were becoming wealthier. As a result, the Moroccans joined Muhammed V in his struggle for independence eventually leading to Morocco's independence 1956.

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10. **The adoption of militarism in 1953 led to the independence of Morocco in 1956.** Before 1953, Moroccans applied diplomacy and non-militaristic means to push France into granting Morocco independence in 1956.
11. **The unity between the berbers and the Arabs led to Morocco's independence in 1956.** These were the dominant races in Morocco prior to independence. By them uniting, they united the small races in Morocco to demand for independence. The strong bond of unity steered Morocco's independence from France in 1956.
12. **Trade unions played a tremendous role in the independence of Morocco.** They mobilized the exploited Moroccan workers to resist French rule. The demonstrations by the Moroccan workers tired the French men who eventually granted independence to Morocco in 1956.
13. **The Moroccan monarchy contributed to the independence of Morocco in 1956.** The monarchy under Muhammed V negotiated with France for colonial reforms. The Moroccans were given more slots in the parliament. The large numbers of representatives in the parliament pressured the French to leave Morocco leading to her independence in 1956.
14. **The appointment of General Juins as governor led to Morocco's independence in 1956.** He was a liberal man who increased Moroccan's representation in parliament. He also carried out elections that were worn by Mohammad V and this gave independence to Morocco in 1956.

MUHAMMAD BEN YEUSSEF (MUHAMMAD V)

Mohammed V, born on 10 August 1909 was the Sultan of Morocco from 1927-53, exiled from 1953-55, where he was again recognized as Sultan upon his return, and King from 1957 to 1961. His full name was Sidi Mohammed ben Yusef, or Son of (Sultan) Yusef, upon whose death he succeeded to the throne. He was a member of the Alaouite Dynasty.

On Nov. 18, 1927, at the age of 16 Mohammed was chosen by the college of ulemas (religious scholars) to succeed his father. This choice was influenced by the French protectorate authorities, who hoped that this timid and docile youth would remain removed from the affairs of state. Isolated in his palace, Mohammed V, during the initial years of his reign, seemed to accept his unimportant role. During this same period the first nationalists organized a movement which led to the formation of the Istiqlal, or Independence party, in 1944. Already by the late 1930s the Sultan (who assumed the title of king in 1956) had secretly collaborated with some of these nationalists.

Muhammed V advocated for unity among the people of Morocco hence being responsible for the attainment of independence of Morocco. He condemned the Berber dahir that the Arabs had initiated to create divisions between the Berbers and the people of Arabs. It was through this unity that the people of Morocco were able to draw the attention of the French hence attainment of independence by Morocco.

Muhammad V also sought for external assistance which played a major role in the attainment of Morocco independence. In 1943, Muhammad V met with President Franklin Roosevelt of America who encouraged the sultan to go on with his ideas about Morocco independence. The American president also offered financial and military support to the young nationalists of Morocco. This helped Morocco attain her independence in 1956.

The exile of Muhammad V to Corsica and later Madagascar created unity and determination among the Moroccans hence contributing to the Moroccan independence in 1956. In 1953, Sultan Muhammad V was exiled by the French. This forced the people of Morocco to adopt violence in demanding for his return. They formed a number of groups that demanded for the Sultan's return which included the secret organization and the Black crescent among others. These groups caused instabilities in Morocco leaving the French with no choice other than granting her independence. This led to the attainment of independence of Morocco by 1956.

France's exile of the highly respected Sultan Mohammed V to Madagascar in 1953 and his replacement by the unpopular Mohammed Ben Aarafa, sparked active opposition to the French protectorate both from nationalists and those who saw the sultan as a religious leader. Two years later, faced with a united Moroccan demand for the sultan's return and rising violence in Morocco, as well as a deteriorating situation in Algeria, the French government brought Mohammed V back to Morocco, and the following year began the negotiations that led to Moroccan independence.

Muhammad V refused to sign oppressive laws which led to the independence of Morocco by 1956. Muhammad V rejected the French proposal of signing oppressive laws would have increased

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France's powers and influence over Morocco. These laws were concerning land where it was to be redistributed taxes were to be increased and this would frustrate the Moroccans. His refusal to sign these laws gave morale to the Tunisians to demand for their independence which was attained in 1956.

Muhammad V also encouraged patience and negotiations which helped Morocco attain her independence in 1956. Muhammad V decided and encouraged the use of negotiations to attain independence by Morocco. This was why he visited France in 1950 and presented the grievances of the Moroccans to the French government. By 1952, he was communicating with the French about the need for reforms. This forced the French to also use peaceful means and grant them independence hence Moroccan independence by 1956.

Muhammad V combined Islamic practices and Western education which contributed to the independence of Morocco by 1956. Muhammad V formed Arab schools which taught Islam as well as following the Syllabus of the French. This created new clans who did not want to work under French Catholic. This encouraged them to demand for their right to self determination in 1956 hence attainment of Morocco independence.

Muhammad V accepted to work with the Istiqlal party hence contributing to the attainment of independence by Morocco by 1956. The French had wanted Muhammad V to denounce the Istiqlal party. However, Muhammad V refused to neglect his fellow Moroccans and instead worked hand in hand with them. Together, they demanded for colonial reforms and independence. This cooperation made the French grant some reforms to the Moroccans and later led to the attainment of independence by Morocco by 1956.

Muhammad V demanded for the release of all political prisoners hence contributing to the attainment of independence by Morocco by 1956. The French had arbitrarily arrested and exiled a number of nationalists. The increased demand for their release forced the French to grant Muhammad V his wish. This led to the return of former exiles who joined parties and demanded for independence. For example, Muhammad Al - Fasi returned in 1946 and became the supreme leader of the Istiqlal party which played a major role in Morocco independence. This led to the independence of Morocco in 1956.

Muhammad V negotiated for the independence of Morocco which led to the Morocco attainment of independence by 1956. Muhammad V negotiated with the French. In February 1956 he successfully negotiated with France for the independence of Morocco, and for reforms in the government. In 1957, he took the title of King. The French agreed to the terms of the negotiations. This led to the attainment of independence by Morocco by 1956.

Revision Questions

1. Discuss the factors that facilitated the decolonization of Morocco by 1956.
2. Discuss the role of the Istiqlal party in Morocco's independence struggle.
3. How did Muhammad V contribute to Morocco's attainment of independence?
4. Discuss the obstacles faced by Moroccan Nationalists in the struggle for independence.