

The US and Morocco Share a Long History of Friendship

- The United States and Morocco, the first country to recognize the fledging American republic, concluded a treaty of commerce and friendship in the 18th century. Negotiation of a formal treaty began in 1783, and resulted in the signing in 1786 of the Moroccan-American Treaty of Friendship. John Adams and Thomas Jefferson, both future U.S. Presidents, were the American signatories.
<http://www.usembassy.ma/usmorrelations/historicalbgrnd.htm>
- Following the September 11, 2001 attacks, Morocco showed solidarity and renewed its commitment as a strong ally of the U.S. The U.S. initiated a dialogue with Morocco regarding its role in the war on terror. A number of people suspected of being part of the Al Qaeda network have since been prosecuted in Morocco. Cooperation between Morocco and the US includes data sharing, law enforcement partnership, improvement of capabilities to oversee strategic checkpoints, and termination of terrorist organization financing.
<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/5431.htm>
<http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/L0255298.htm>
- Morocco's counter-terrorism efforts involve close cooperation with the U.S. As the U.S. Department of State affirms, "Morocco was among the first Arab and Islamic states to denounce the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks in the United States and declare solidarity with the American people in the war against terror."
<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/5431.htm>
- Today, that friendship continues with extended cooperation in many fields, highlighted by our common commitment to winning the War on Terror, the 2004 Free Trade Agreement and the designation of Morocco as a partner in the Millennium Challenge Account.
- In 2004 U.S. Trade Representative Robert B. Zoellick and Minister-Delegate of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation Taib Fassi-Fihri signed the groundbreaking U.S.-Morocco Free Trade Agreement, signaling the beginning of a new period of cooperation and economic growth between the United States and Morocco.
<http://www.fas.usda.gov/info/factsheets/moroccofta.asp>
- A stable, democratizing, and liberalizing Arab Muslim nation, Morocco is important for U.S. interests in the Middle East. U.S. policy toward Morocco seeks sustained and strong engagement, and identifies priorities for reform, conflict resolution, counterterrorism cooperation,

This information has been produced by the Moroccan American Center for Policy (MACP).

www.moroccanamericanpolicy.com

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Additional information is available at the Justice Department in Washington, D.C.

and public outreach.

<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/5431.htm#relations>

- During World War I, Morocco was aligned with the Allied forces and in 1917-1918 Moroccan soldiers fought victoriously alongside U.S. Marines at Château Thierry, Mont Blanc, and Soissons. During World War II, Moroccan national defense forces aided American and British forces operating in the area.

<http://www.usembassy.ma/usmorrelations/historicalbgrnd3.htm>

- Morocco also hosted one of the most pivotal meetings of the allied leaders in World War II. President Roosevelt, British Prime Minister Winston Churchill, and Free French commander General Charles De Gaulle, met for four days in the Casablanca suburb of Anfa in January 1943 to discuss the war and agreed to launch their continental counter-push against Axis aggression through a beachhead landing on the French Atlantic coast. At this meeting President Roosevelt also ensured he would do all in his power to support Morocco's wish to be independent of the French.

<http://www.usembassy.ma/usmorrelations/historicalbgrnd3.htm>

- Following Morocco's independence in 1956 President Eisenhower communicated to King Mohammed V that "my government renews its wishes for the peace and prosperity of Morocco," to which the King reassured the President he would be a staunch ally in the fight against the proliferation of Communism in the region.

<http://www.usembassy.ma/usmorrelations/historicalbgrnd3.htm>

- The U.S. Agency for International Development and its predecessor agencies have managed an active and effective assistance program in Morocco since 1953. The Peace Corps has also been active in Morocco since 1953 and some 4000 volunteers have served there. Currently there are nearly 200 volunteers in Morocco working in the four main areas of health, youth development, small business, and the environment.

<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/5431.htm#relations>