

TIMELINE: US-Morocco Relations

1777 – Morocco was the [first country](#) to formally recognize the United States.

1783 – The United States negotiated its [first formal treaty](#) of commerce and friendship with Morocco. Negotiations began in 1783, and resulted in the signing in 1786 of the Moroccan-American Treaty of Friendship. John Adams and Thomas Jefferson, both future US Presidents, were the American signatories.

1836 – The Treaty of Friendship and Peace was renewed for an indefinite term.

World War I – During World War I, Morocco, under the French protectorate, was aligned with the Allied forces, and over [20,000 Moroccan soldiers](#) fought in various theatres.

World War II – During World War II, Moroccan national defense forces aided American and British forces operating in the area. 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 pledged to do all in his power to support Morocco's wish to be independent of the French.

1956 – Following Morocco's independence, President Eisenhower [communicated](#) to King Mohammed V that "my government renews its wishes for the peace and prosperity of Morocco," to which the King responded that he would be a staunch ally in the fight against the proliferation of Communism in the region. Later that year, the two countries exchanged Ambassadors, thus establishing full diplomatic relations.

1957 – The [United States Agency for International Development](#) (USAID) and its predecessor agencies have managed an active and effective assistance program in Morocco since 1957, working with the government of Morocco to make real and substantial improvements in the lives of Moroccan citizens. USAID's current strategy concentrates on "increasing agricultural growth and productivity; enhancing teacher training; building the capacity of local governments to respond to citizen demands; and addressing the needs of the most at-risk youth through engagement in productive social, economic and civic activities."

1963 – The [Peace Corps](#) has also been active in Morocco since 1963, and more than 4,860 volunteers have served there. Currently, there are over 180 volunteers in Morocco working in the areas of health, youth development, small business, and the environment.

1990s – [African Lion](#), a joint military exercise conducted by US Army personnel in cooperation with Moroccan Armed Forces, began as a biennial event under the US European Command.

1995 – Morocco joined the [NATO Mediterranean Dialogue](#), an initiative to promote regional security and stability in coordination with key NATO allies around the Mediterranean.

2001 – Following the September 11, 2001 attacks, Morocco renewed its commitment as a strong ally of the US. As the Department of State noted, “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.”

2003 – Morocco established a [partnership](#) with the Utah National Guard as part of the US National Guard State Partnership Program (SPP). Partnership activities have included training opportunities in Utah and in Morocco, information exchanges, and disaster relief.

2004 – Morocco was granted “[non-NATO ally](#)” status, making it eligible for priority delivery of defense materiel, participation in defense research and development programs, and US government loan guarantee programs for the purchase of military materiel.

2004 – US Trade Representative Robert B. Zoellick and Minister-Delegate of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation Taib Fassi-Fihri signed the groundbreaking [US-Morocco Free Trade Agreement](#), signaling the beginning of a new period of cooperation and economic growth between the United States and Morocco.

2005 – Morocco joined the [Trans-Sahara Counterterrorism Partnership](#) – a US government-funded and implemented multi-faceted, multi-year effort designed to counter violent extremism in the Sahara-Sahel region. Morocco is part of US efforts to strengthen partner countries’ capabilities to prevent terrorism by enhancing border and aviation security, promoting democratic governance, and building public support against extremism.

2007 – The Millennium Challenge Corporation signed a five-year, [\\$697.5 million compact](#) with the Kingdom of Morocco to reduce poverty and stimulate economic growth through investments in five sectors. These strategic investments aimed to increase productivity and improve employment in high-potential sectors such as fruit tree productivity, small-scale fisheries, and artisan crafts. Small business creation and economic growth were also supported by investments in financial services and enterprise support. The compact was successfully completed in 2013, benefiting 1.7 million people.

2011 – Morocco and the US joined 28 other countries as founding members of the [Global Counterterrorism Forum \(GCTF\)](#) – an initiative to “reduce the vulnerability of people everywhere to terrorism by effectively preventing, combating, and prosecuting terrorist attacks and countering incitement and recruitment to terrorism.” Through the Forum, countries share expertise, strategies, and capacity building programs.

2012 – In recognition of this strong alliance, on September 13, 2012, Morocco and the United States launched a Strategic Dialogue—one of about two dozen such agreements in existence. Under the leadership of King Mohammed VI and the last three US Administrations, the Morocco-US relationship has advanced on economic, political, social, and security fronts. This Strategic Dialogue is yet another milestone in the Morocco-US relationship that has lasted more than two centuries.

2013 – In November 2013, King Mohammed VI made a historic [visit](#) to Washington to meet President Barack Obama for the first time, highlight the long-standing friendship between the United States and Morocco, and strengthen the strategic partnership between the two countries. During the meeting, King Mohammed VI and President Obama discussed a range of issues of mutual interest. The visit offered an opportunity for the US and Morocco to increase cooperation on “addressing regional challenges, including countering violent extremism, supporting democratic transitions, and promoting economic development in the Middle East and Africa.”

In a [Joint Statement](#) issued following their meeting, King Mohammed VI and President Obama “reaffirmed the strong and mutually beneficial partnership and strategic alliance between the United States and the Kingdom of Morocco, stressed that this important visit provides an opportunity to map out a new and ambitious plan for the strategic partnership, and pledged to advance our shared priorities of a secure, stable, and prosperous Maghreb, Africa, and Middle East. The two leaders also emphasized our shared values, mutual trust, common interests, and strong friendship, as reflected throughout our partnership.”

2015 – The Millennium Challenge Corporation signed a second, [\\$450 million compact](#) with the Kingdom of Morocco to overcome constraints to economic growth and investment by investing in high-quality education and land productivity. The new compact supports two Moroccan Government priorities: the Employability Project aims to address the supply of skilled labor by providing graduates from secondary schools and workforce development programs with skills that respond to private sector needs; and the Land Project focuses on improving land markets to create opportunities for investment by landholders and business owners.

Today – A stable, democratizing, and liberalizing Arab Muslim nation, [Morocco](#) is a key US partner in the Middle East and Africa. The [two countries](#) share common concerns and consult closely on regional security, political and economic transition, and sustainable development. Morocco is a strong partner in counterterrorism efforts, and it works closely with US law enforcement to safeguard both countries’ national security interests.

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