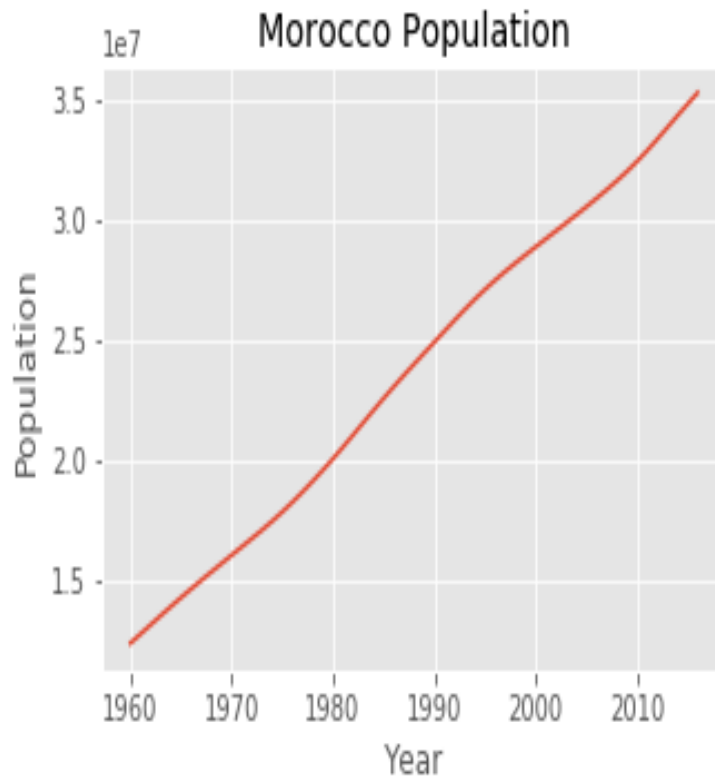


# Morocco



Coordinates: 32°N 6°W / 32°N 6°W / 32; -6Morocco (/məˈrɒkoʊ/ ( listen); Arabic: **المغرب**, translit. al-maḡrib, lit. 'place the sun sets; the west'; Berber languages: **ⵍⵎⵖⵔ**, translit. Lmeḡrib; French: Maroc), officially known as the Kingdom of Morocco (Arabic: **المملكة المغربية**, translit. al-Mamlakah al-Maghribiyah, lit. "The Western Kingdom"; Berber languages: **ⵜⴰⴳⴷⵓⴷⴰ ⵜⴰⴳⴷⵓⴷⴰ ⵜⴰⴳⴷⵓⴷⴰ**, translit. Tageldit n Lmaḡrib), is a unitary sovereign state located in the Maghreb region of North Africa. Geographically, Morocco is characterised by a rugged mountainous interior, large tracts of desert and a lengthy coastline along the Atlantic Ocean and Mediterranean Sea. Morocco has a population of over 33.8 million and an area of 446,550 km<sup>2</sup> (172,410 sq mi). Its capital is Rabat, and the largest city is Casablanca. major cities include Marrakesh, Tangier, Salé, Fes, and Meknes. A historically prominent regional power, Morocco has a history of independence not shared by its neighbours. Since the foundation of the first Moroccan state by Idris I in 788, the country has been ruled by a series of independent dynasties, reaching its zenith under the Almoravid and Almohad dynasty, spanning parts of Iberia and Northwestern Africa. Marinid and Saadi dynasties continued the struggle against foreign domination, and Morocco remained the only North African country to avoid Ottoman occupation. The Alaouite dynasty, the current ruling dynasty, seized power in 1631. In 1912, Morocco was divided into French and Spanish protectorates, with an international zone in Tangier, and regained its independence in 1956. Moroccan culture is a blend of Arab, indigenous Berber, Sub-Saharan African, and European influences.