SHARING STRICTLY PROHIBITED - For personal use of the licensed account only - See MixCache.com Terms of Use.

From the MixCache.com library

SAMPLE COPY

Sample from MixCache.com - The Online eBook Marketplace

SHARING STRICTLY PROHIBITED - For personal use of the licensed account only - See MixCache.com Terms of Use.

A History of Morocco

MixCache.com

SAMPLE COPY

Sample from MixCache.com - The Online eBook Marketplace

SHARING STRICTLY PROHIBITED - For personal use of the licensed account only - See MixCache.com Terms of Use.

Table of Contents

- **Introduction**
- **Chapter 1** Prehistoric Morocco: From Early Hominids to the Neolithic Age
- **Chapter 2** The Berbers: Origins and Early Societies
- **Chapter 3** Phoenicians and Carthaginians on the Moroccan Coast
- **Chapter 4** Mauretania: The First Moroccan Kingdom
- **Chapter 5** Morocco Under Roman Rule
- **Chapter 6** Visigoths, Vandals, and Byzantines: The End of Antiquity
- **Chapter 7** The Arrival of Islam and the Arab Conquest
- **Chapter 8** The Idrisid Dynasty: Birth of an Islamic State
- **Chapter 9** Berber Revolt and the Rise of Independent States
- **Chapter 10** Almoravids: Empire from Sahara to Spain
- **Chapter 11** Almohads: A Revolution in Faith and Power
- **Chapter 12** Marinid Ascendancy and Cultural Flourishing
- **Chapter 13** The Wattasids and the Tumultuous 15th Century
- **Chapter 14** The Saadi Dynasty: Resisting Europe and Building an Empire
- **Chapter 15** Ahmad al-Mansur and the Moroccan Golden Age
- **Chapter 16** The Fall of the Saadians and the Rise of the Alaouites
- **Chapter 17** Alaouite Consolidation and Early Modern Morocco
- **Chapter 18** European Encroachment and the Struggle for Sovereignty
- **Chapter 19** The Road to Partition: Colonial Rivalries and Crises
- **Chapter 20** The Protectorate Years: French and Spanish Rule
- **Chapter 21** Resistance, Nationalism, and the Path to Independence
- **Chapter 22** The Reign of Mohammed V: Unifying a New Nation
- **Chapter 23** Hassan II: Political Turbulence and Modernization
- **Chapter 24** Western Sahara: Conflict, Diplomacy, and Regional Tensions
- **Chapter 25** Contemporary Morocco: Society, Politics, and Identity

SAMPLE COPY

Sample from MixCache.com - The Online eBook Marketplace

SHARING STRICTLY PROHIBITED - For personal use of the licensed account only - See MixCache.com Terms of Use.

Introduction

Morocco’s history is one of continuous change and enduring legacy, shaped by its unique position at the intersection of Africa, Europe, and the Middle East. For millennia, the land that is now Morocco has served as a stage for the meeting and mingling of peoples, cultures, and empires. From the earliest human inhabitants who left their mark in Stone Age caves, to the ambitious monarchs and visionaries whose legacies endure in vibrant cities and timeless monuments, Morocco’s story is a mosaic of encounters and adaptations. This book seeks to unravel that story in all its complexity, offering readers a comprehensive account from prehistory to the present day.

At its heart, Morocco is the product of indigenous Amazigh (Berber) traditions and the profound influences of the outside world. Ancient traders from Phoenicia and Carthage, soldiers and settlers from Rome, conveyors of new faiths and ideas from Arabia, and colonial powers from Europe have, at different times, left their imprint on the land and its people. Yet, throughout centuries of change, Morocco’s population has maintained a resilient core identity, constantly adapting while never losing sight of its roots. The ability of Moroccans to absorb, reshape, and sometimes resist external currents has given rise to a rich, layered national character.

The historical journey of Morocco is marked by remarkable dynasties—Idrisid, Almoravid, Almohad, Marinid, Saadi, and Alaouite—each of which left distinctive contributions to politics, architecture, religion, and society. Through moments of unity and periods of fragmentation, Morocco’s leaders and communities navigated the challenges of geography, climate, and foreign intervention. The emergence of Islamic and Sharifian dynasties preserved ancient ties to religion and legitimacy, while skillful statesmanship ensured that Morocco remained, unlike many other North African states, outside the grasp of empires such as the Ottoman.

The modern era brought new challenges and opportunities. Morocco’s encounters with European colonialism catalyzed a powerful nationalist response, drawing together diverse segments of society in the struggle for independence. The country’s transition from protectorate to sovereign state unfolded against the backdrop of global decolonization, Cold War rivalries, and regional upheavals. Independent Morocco faced its own trials, from political unrest and social transformation to the unfinished business of decolonization in the Western Sahara.

Today, Morocco stands as a dynamic society at the crossroads of tradition and modernity. The influences of Berber, Arab, African, and European heritage are evident not only in language and culture but also in social mores, cuisine, art, and public life.

SAMPLE COPY

Sample from MixCache.com - The Online eBook Marketplace

SHARING STRICTLY PROHIBITED - For personal use of the licensed account only - See MixCache.com Terms of Use.

Under the continued reign of the Alaouite dynasty, the country grapples with the demands of economic development, political participation, and social justice, all while engaging with its neighbors in Africa, Europe, and the Middle East.

‘A History of Morocco’ invites readers on a journey across time, exploring the forces—both internal and external—that have shaped this extraordinary nation. By tracing Morocco’s path from prehistoric origins to its place in the contemporary world, the book provides not only a narrative of events, but also an exploration of the themes and dynamics that continue to define Morocco’s past, present, and future.

SAMPLE COPY

Sample from MixCache.com - The Online eBook Marketplace

SHARING STRICTLY PROHIBITED - For personal use of the licensed account only - See MixCache.com Terms of Use.

CHAPTER ONE: Prehistoric Morocco: From Early Hominids to the Neolithic Age

The story of Morocco begins not with inscribed stones or royal decrees, but in the silent depths of geological time, whispered through fossilized bones, weathered stone tools, and the faint traces of ancient campfires. Long before the rise of cities or the arrival of Phoenician sails, the land we now call Morocco was a stage for the earliest acts of the human drama. Its mountains, plains, and coastlines, shaped by forces far older than humanity itself, provided both refuge and challenge to creatures taking their first hesitant steps towards becoming what we are today. To delve into Moroccan prehistory is to journey back hundreds of millennia, exploring an era when the very contours of the land and the nature of its inhabitants were vastly different, yet fundamentally connected to the Morocco we know.

The quest for understanding these remote beginnings often hinges on serendipitous discoveries, a fragment of bone here, a curiously shaped stone there. Yet, these fragments, painstakingly pieced together by archaeologists and paleoanthropologists, paint an increasingly vivid picture of a land teeming with ancient life. Morocco's strategic position, a bridge between continents and a gateway to the Sahara, made it a corridor for migrations and a crucible for cultural developments even in these dim, distant epochs. The very air, it sometimes seems, thrums with the echoes of these early peoples, their lives a testament to resilience and adaptation in a world undergoing constant transformation.

Perhaps the most electrifying recent chapter in this unfolding narrative comes from a sun-baked hillside at Jebel Irhoud, a site not far from the Atlantic coast between Marrakech and Safi. Here, in what was once a barite mine, researchers unearthed fossils that have dramatically reshaped our understanding of human origins. Initially discovered in the 1960s and thought to be Neanderthal remains around 40,000 years old, subsequent excavations and advanced dating techniques in the 21st century revealed a far more astonishing truth. Skulls, jaws, teeth, and limb bones, belonging to at least five individuals, were dated to approximately 315,000 years ago. These were not Neanderthals, nor were they the direct, immediate precursors to modern humans that one might find in East Africa from a slightly later period. Instead, the Jebel Irhoud fossils exhibited a mosaic of features: strikingly modern-looking faces, tucked beneath more elongated, archaic braincases.

These discoveries, published in 2017, catapulted Morocco onto the global stage as home to some of the earliest known remains of *Homo sapiens*. It suggested that the "cradle of humankind" might have been larger and more complex than previously

SAMPLE COPY

SHARING STRICTLY PROHIBITED - For personal use of the licensed account only - See MixCache.com Terms of Use.

thought, perhaps encompassing vast swathes of Africa. The Jebel Irhoud people, it appeared, were part of an early, pan-African population of *Homo sapiens* that eventually evolved into anatomically modern humans. They were hunter-gatherers, living in a landscape that was then a relatively open, grassy savanna, dotted with patches of woodland – a far cry from the semi-arid conditions of today. The gazelles, zebras, and wildebeest they hunted, evidenced by animal bones found at the site, were pursued with stone tools that showed signs of careful preparation and hafting, indicating a sophisticated understanding of their materials and needs.

While Jebel Irhoud provides a stunning snapshot of early *Homo sapiens*, it is but one piece of a much larger puzzle representing Morocco's Lower Paleolithic period. Archaeological investigations, particularly around Casablanca, have uncovered even older traces of hominid activity. At sites like Thomas Quarry and Sidi Abderrahman, stone tools dating back as far as one million years, and possibly even 1.3 million years, have been found. These belong to the Acheulean industry, characterized by its distinctive, bifacially worked hand axes and cleavers. These robust tools, crafted with remarkable skill and foresight, were the Swiss Army knives of their day, used for butchering animals, processing plant materials, and woodworking. The hominids responsible for this industry were likely *Homo erectus* or a similar archaic human species, predecessors to the Irhoud people, demonstrating an incredibly long and continuous hominid presence in the region.

The environment these early toolmakers inhabited was dynamic, fluctuating between wetter, greener periods and drier, more challenging ones. Coastal sites like those near Casablanca offered access to marine resources alongside terrestrial game, showcasing early human adaptability. The sheer abundance of Acheulean tools across Morocco speaks to a successful, long-lasting occupation, a testament to the ingenuity of these ancient inhabitants in exploiting the diverse ecosystems the land offered. Theirs was a world without pottery, without agriculture, without permanent settlements, yet it was a world rich in the challenges and opportunities that spurred technological and, ultimately, biological evolution.

As the Lower Paleolithic gave way to the Middle Paleolithic, around 300,000 years ago, a new and distinctive stone tool industry emerged across North Africa, known as the Aterian. Morocco is particularly rich in Aterian sites, and it’s here that this culture is best defined. The hallmark of the Aterian is the tanged point – a projectile point or scraper carefully shaped with a protruding "tang" at its base, clearly designed for hafting onto a spear or handle. This innovation marks a significant technological leap, suggesting more efficient hunting strategies and a more complex toolkit. The Aterian people, likely including the Jebel Irhoud population and their descendants, were adapting to an environment that was becoming increasingly arid, particularly in the Saharan regions.

One of the most significant Aterian sites in Morocco is the Grotte des Pigeons at

SAMPLE COPY

Sample from MixCache.com - The Online eBook Marketplace

SHARING STRICTLY PROHIBITED - For personal use of the licensed account only - See MixCache.com Terms of Use.

Taforalt, in the Oujda region of northeastern Morocco. Excavations here have yielded not only a wealth of Aterian tools but also some of the world's oldest evidence for symbolic behavior. Perforated marine shells, deliberately colored with ochre and dating back as far as 82,000 years, were discovered, suggesting they were used as beads for personal adornment. This discovery is profound, as it pushes back the timeline for such complex cognitive abilities and social signaling, indicating a level of self-awareness and cultural sophistication previously underestimated for this period. Taforalt Cave also contains evidence of intentional burials, another marker of burgeoning symbolic thought and social bonds.

The Aterian toolkit was diverse, including not just tanged points but also various scrapers, denticulates (tools with serrated edges), and Levallois flakes, a sophisticated method of producing consistently shaped flakes from a prepared core. This technological package allowed Aterian groups to thrive for an astonishingly long period, persisting in some areas until perhaps 20,000 years ago. They hunted a range of animals, from Barbary sheep and gazelles to wild asses and even rhinoceros, adapting their prey selection to local availability and climatic shifts. Their ability to innovate, evidenced by their unique tools and early symbolic expressions, underscores a dynamic cultural system evolving in response to the unique pressures and opportunities of North Africa.

Following the long reign of the Aterian, the Upper Paleolithic in Morocco, beginning roughly around 22,000 years ago, is characterized by the Iberomaurusian culture. The name itself hints at a connection with the Iberian Peninsula, and for a long time, it was thought that Iberomaurusians migrated from Spain into North Africa. However, current archaeological and genetic evidence suggests a more complex picture, with strong arguments for an indigenous North African development, perhaps evolving from late Aterian populations or from a separate migration from the Near East. The people associated with the Iberomaurusian, often referred to as Mechta-Afalou hominids based on skeletal remains from sites like Taforalt and Afalou bou Rummel in Algeria, were anatomically modern humans, but robustly built.

The Iberomaurusian toolkit is distinct from the Aterian, marked by a profusion of microliths – small, finely worked stone bladelets. These tiny tools were likely hafted in series onto wooden or bone shafts to create composite tools like barbed spearheads, knives, or sickles for harvesting wild grasses. This shift towards microlithic technology reflects a change in hunting strategies and resource exploitation, possibly focusing on smaller game or requiring more specialized processing techniques. Sites like Taforalt Cave again provide crucial insights, with Iberomaurusian layers revealing intensive occupation.

Life for the Iberomaurusians appears to have been centered around hunting, fishing, and the gathering of wild plants. A particularly notable dietary feature, evidenced by vast shell middens (or "escargotières" – snail mounds), was the intensive consumption

SAMPLE COPY

Sample from MixCache.com - The Online eBook Marketplace

SHARING STRICTLY PROHIBITED - For personal use of the licensed account only - See MixCache.com Terms of Use.

of land snails. These mounds, sometimes several meters thick, attest to a reliance on this readily available protein source, especially during leaner times. This gastronomic focus, while perhaps not the most glamorous, speaks volumes about their adaptability and efficient use of available resources. The Iberomaurusians also practiced deliberate burial of their dead, often in cemeteries within cave entrances or rock shelters, sometimes with grave goods, indicating established mortuary rituals and a sense of community.

The climate during the Iberomaurusian period was one of significant fluctuation, including the Last Glacial Maximum (around 20,000 years ago) when conditions were colder and drier. Coastal regions of Morocco likely remained relatively habitable, offering a refuge for both human and animal populations. Skeletal studies of Iberomaurusian individuals have sometimes revealed evidence of dental disease and other health challenges, painting a picture of a life that, while resourceful, was undoubtedly demanding. There is little definitive evidence of representational art from the Iberomaurusian in Morocco, unlike the contemporaneous Magdalenian cave painters of Europe, though personal adornment in the form of shell beads and ochre continued.

As the last ice age drew to a close and the Holocene epoch began around 11,700 years ago, Morocco's environment underwent further transformations. This transitional period, sometimes referred to as the Epipaleolithic, saw the continuation of hunter-gatherer lifestyles, with cultures that built upon Iberomaurusian traditions. In some areas, there may have been influences from or parallels with the Capsian culture, which was more dominant further east in Algeria and Tunisia. The Capsians are known for their even more extensive shell middens and a rich toolkit of bone and stone, as well as some of the earliest forms of African art. While distinct Capsian sites are rare in Morocco, the general trends of intensified food collection, including a continued appetite for snails, and potentially more localized, semi-sedentary settlement patterns, were likely present.

The real game-changer, however, was on the horizon: the Neolithic Revolution. This was not a sudden event but a gradual process of transformation that began to take root in Morocco around the 6th millennium BCE (circa 5000-5500 BCE). The Neolithic brought with it the domestication of plants and animals, the development of pottery, and the establishment of more permanent settlements – a fundamental shift in the human relationship with the land. The exact pathways by which these innovations arrived in Morocco are still debated. Some elements may have diffused from the Near East via Egypt and the Mediterranean coast, while others could have developed independently or been adopted from sub-Saharan influences.

One of the earliest and most tangible signs of the Neolithic in Morocco is the appearance of pottery. Along the northern coastal regions, a type of pottery known as Cardial Ware, or Impressed Ware, became common. This ceramic style is

SAMPLE COPY

Sample from MixCache.com - The Online eBook Marketplace

SHARING STRICTLY PROHIBITED - For personal use of the licensed account only - See MixCache.com Terms of Use.

characterized by decorations made by impressing the serrated edge of a Cardium (cockle) shell onto the wet clay before firing. Similar pottery is found across the Mediterranean basin, suggesting a network of maritime contact and cultural exchange. The ability to create pottery was a significant technological advance, allowing for improved food storage, cooking, and water transport, all crucial for a more settled, agricultural lifestyle.

Alongside pottery, the evidence for early agriculture and animal husbandry begins to appear. The first domesticated animals were likely sheep and goats, followed by cattle. The introduction of these species transformed subsistence strategies, providing a reliable source of meat, milk, and other products. While hunting and gathering did not disappear overnight, and indeed continued to supplement diets for a long time, the ability to manage herds represented a new level of control over food resources. Exactly when and where crop cultivation began in Morocco is less clear, but early Neolithic communities likely cultivated cereals such as wheat and barley, perhaps initially in small garden plots.

The climatic backdrop to this transition was crucial. Around 5000 BCE, North Africa was experiencing a period of increased aridity after a relatively wetter phase known as the African Humid Period. This gradual desertification of what is now the Sahara may have pushed populations towards more fertile coastal and riverine areas, perhaps accelerating the adoption of agricultural practices as a means of securing food in a changing environment. The shift was not always smooth, and early farming communities would have faced new challenges, from crop failures to animal diseases.

Neolithic settlements in Morocco were likely small villages, perhaps consisting of simple huts made from perishable materials. Archaeological traces of these early farming communities can be subtle, but sites like Kaf Taht el-Ghar in the Tétouan region have yielded Neolithic pottery, stone tools, and animal bones indicative of these new lifeways. Stone tools also evolved, with a greater prevalence of polished stone axes and adzes, suitable for clearing land and woodworking, as well as grinding stones for processing grains.

Perhaps one of the most evocative legacies of Neolithic Morocco is its rock art. Scattered across the Atlas Mountains, particularly in the Anti-Atlas and regions bordering the Sahara like the Draa Valley, are thousands of petroglyphs – images carved or pecked into rock surfaces. While dating rock art is notoriously difficult, many of these engravings are attributed to the Neolithic pastoral period. They depict a world teeming with life: herds of domesticated cattle with elaborate horns, giraffes, elephants, rhinoceroses, and ostriches (animals that have long since vanished from these now-arid regions), as well as hunting scenes and enigmatic human figures. These carvings offer a direct, visual connection to the beliefs, concerns, and daily lives of these ancient pastoralists, for whom cattle, in particular, seem to have held great cultural and economic significance. The style and subject matter of this art suggest

SAMPLE COPY

Sample from MixCache.com - The Online eBook Marketplace

SHARING STRICTLY PROHIBITED - For personal use of the licensed account only - See MixCache.com Terms of Use.

connections with broader Saharan rock art traditions.

The Neolithic period in Morocco was not static but saw continuous development and regional variation. Coastal communities, with their access to maritime resources and Cardial Ware pottery, might have differed significantly from those in the mountainous interior or the pre-Saharan fringes, where pastoralism was likely more dominant. This era laid the essential groundwork for future social complexity, gradually transforming the landscape and the societies that inhabited it.

Towards the end of the Neolithic, around the 3rd millennium BCE, Morocco entered the Chalcolithic, or Copper Age. This period is marked by the first tentative use of metals, primarily copper, although stone tools remained prevalent. The knowledge of smelting and working copper likely arrived through contact with other Mediterranean cultures. While copper objects from this early period are relatively rare in Morocco, their appearance signifies another important technological step, heralding the dawn of metallurgy that would more fully blossom in the subsequent Bronze Age.

A significant cultural phenomenon that reached the northern coast of Morocco during the Chalcolithic was the Beaker culture. Named after its distinctive, bell-shaped pottery beakers, often intricately decorated, the Beaker phenomenon spread across much of Western and Central Europe and into parts of North Africa. In Morocco, Beaker pottery and associated artifacts, such as copper daggers and V-perforated buttons, have been found in funerary contexts, often in caves or cists. The arrival of Beaker elements suggests new waves of contact, trade, or perhaps even small-scale migration, linking Morocco into wider European cultural networks. The precise nature of the "Beaker package" – whether it represented a distinct people, a set of beliefs, a fashion, or a combination thereof – is still a subject of academic discussion, but its presence in Morocco underscores the region's continued integration into broader prehistoric developments.

The Chalcolithic period in Morocco represents a bridge from the egalitarian, small-scale societies of the early Neolithic towards the more structured and hierarchical societies that would characterize the Bronze Age and the eventual emergence of identifiable Berber polities. The cumulative changes of the preceding millennia – from the first *Homo sapiens* at Jebel Irhoud adapting to ancient savannas, through the innovative Aterians and the microlith-crafting Iberomaurusians, to the pioneering farmers and herders of the Neolithic – had profoundly shaped the human story in this corner of Africa. By the close of this long prehistoric chapter, the stage was set for new peoples, new powers, and the beginnings of recorded history, but the foundations laid in these deep ancestral times would continue to resonate through the ages.

SAMPLE COPY

Sample from MixCache.com - The Online eBook Marketplace

SHARING STRICTLY PROHIBITED - For personal use of the licensed account only - See MixCache.com Terms of Use.

This is a sample preview. Purchase the book to read the full content.

Visit MixCache.com to purchase the complete book.

SAMPLE COPY