# D3. Moroccan Independence – French Withdrawal, 1956

Following World War II, Moroccan demands for independence from France grew increasingly strong. (In fact, the U.S. encouraged Morocco's desire for independence.) In 1947, Sultan Mohammed V, previously shy and willing to play the role of a figurehead under French rule, gave a speech about Moroccan unity and Morocco's "Arab-Islamic destiny." He became an even more admired national symbol. In 1953 the French sent him and his family into exile in Madagascar, a French colony off the southeastern coast of Africa which was about as far from Morocco as one can get and still remain in Africa.

In Morocco, two years of violence and revolt followed, and France came under international pressure to allow the sultan to return home. In late 1955, he made a triumphant entry into Rabat, the capital. Less than five months later, on March 2, 1956, Morocco was officially granted independence, and the sultan became KING Mohammed V.

**Assignment:** Imagine you are a Moroccan living in the 1950s. Write 2 diary entries, each at least one double-spaced page long. Choose names for your characters that are authentic. Also, include at least 5 facts or factual details drawn from the history/ geography of the area. (Be sure to look up additional information in addition to the information found in this reading.) Underline the pieces of information you include in each of your diary entries.

-- In one diary entry, in 1954, describe why your people are seeking independence from France. Describe the problems with French rule of your country. (Look up Morocco under the French Protectorate.) Why you feel you deserve independence? (Look up Moroccan contributions to France during the two world wars.) Whom do you want to be your ruler, and where is he at the present time (1954)?

--In another diary entry, it is three years later (1957). Describe political developments in your country over the past few years. What continued changes (with regard to education, language policy, etc.) do you hope to see?