

# Authoritarianism

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The case of Moroccan-occupied Western  
Sahara



**Donald J. Trump**  @realDonaldTrump · Dec 10, 2020

...

Morocco recognized the United States in 1777. It is thus fitting we recognize their sovereignty over the Western Sahara.



17.8K



43.8K



239.1K



**Donald J. Trump**  @realDonaldTrump · Dec 10, 2020

...

Another HISTORIC breakthrough today! Our two GREAT friends Israel and the Kingdom of Morocco have agreed to full diplomatic relations – a massive breakthrough for peace in the Middle East!



14.2K



65.7K



298.1K



**Donald J. Trump**  @realDonaldTrump · Dec 10, 2020

...

Today, I signed a proclamation recognizing Moroccan sovereignty over the Western Sahara. Morocco's serious, credible, and realistic autonomy proposal is the ONLY basis for a just and lasting solution for enduring peace and prosperity!



10.4K



34.4K

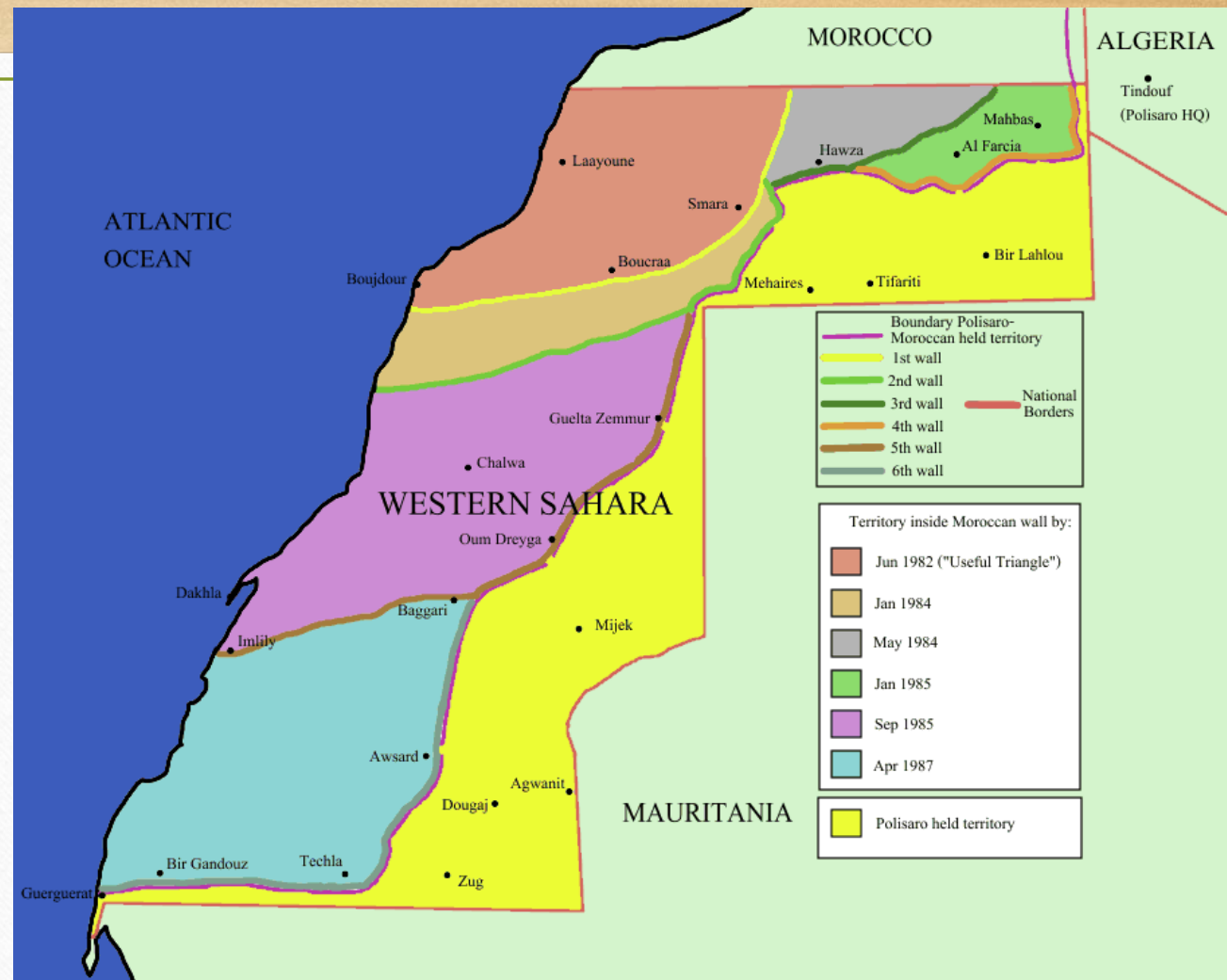


181.5K

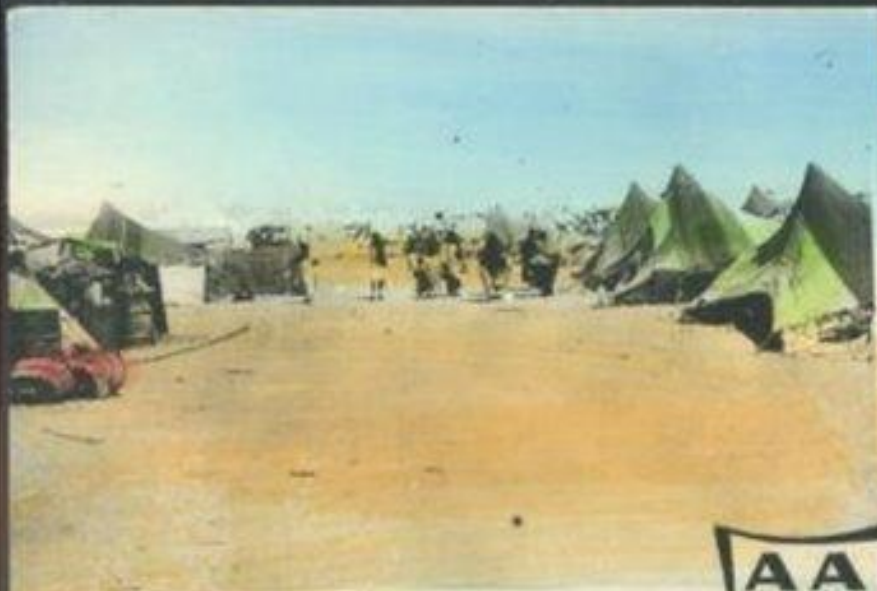




Official UN map of Western Sahara



Map with 6 of the 7 walls, from Wikicommons.



**AAIUN**  
(SAHARA ESPAÑOL)





Mohammed Bassiri, the  
disappeared leader of  
Saharawi movement *Harakat  
Tahrir*.

# Madrid Accords

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- Secret and illegal agreement signed between Spain, Mauritania and Morocco in Madrid, 14 November 1975
- Spain would get 35% of shares from the phosphate mines, rights over fisheries, and compensation for repatriated Spaniards
- Moroccan and Mauritania would get control of northern and southern Western Sahara between them.

# UN Visiting Mission, May 1975

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- "...the Mission was able, despite the shortness of its stay in the Territory, to visit virtually all the main population centers and to ascertain the views of the overwhelming majority of their inhabitants. At every place visited, the Mission was met by mass political demonstrations and had numerous private meetings with representatives of every section of the Saharan community. From all these, it became evident to the Mission that there was an overwhelming consensus among Saharans within the Territory in favour of independence and opposing integration with any neighbouring country"
- (United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), "Report of the United Nations Visiting Mission to Spanish Sahara, 1975" in The Report of the Special Committee on the Situation with Regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples," 1975, 59.)

# The International Court of Justice's Conclusion

- "The Court's conclusion is that the materials and information presented to it do not establish any tie of territorial sovereignty between the territory of Western Sahara and the Kingdom of Morocco or the Mauritanian entity. Thus the Court has not found legal ties of such a nature as might affect the application of resolution 1514 (XV) in the decolonization of Western Sahara and, in particular, of the principle of self-determination through the free and genuine expression of the will of the peoples of the Territory."
- Full International Court of Justice Opinion, 1975, can be read here: <https://www.icj-cij.org/public/files/case-related/61/6197.pdf>

# Invasion and Exodus

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These are images from a report that appeared on Spanish news in 1976, shortly after the February 1976 napalming of Saharawi refugees at Um Draiga.



## Refugee camps in Tindouf, Algeria

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- State-in-exile declared in February 1976

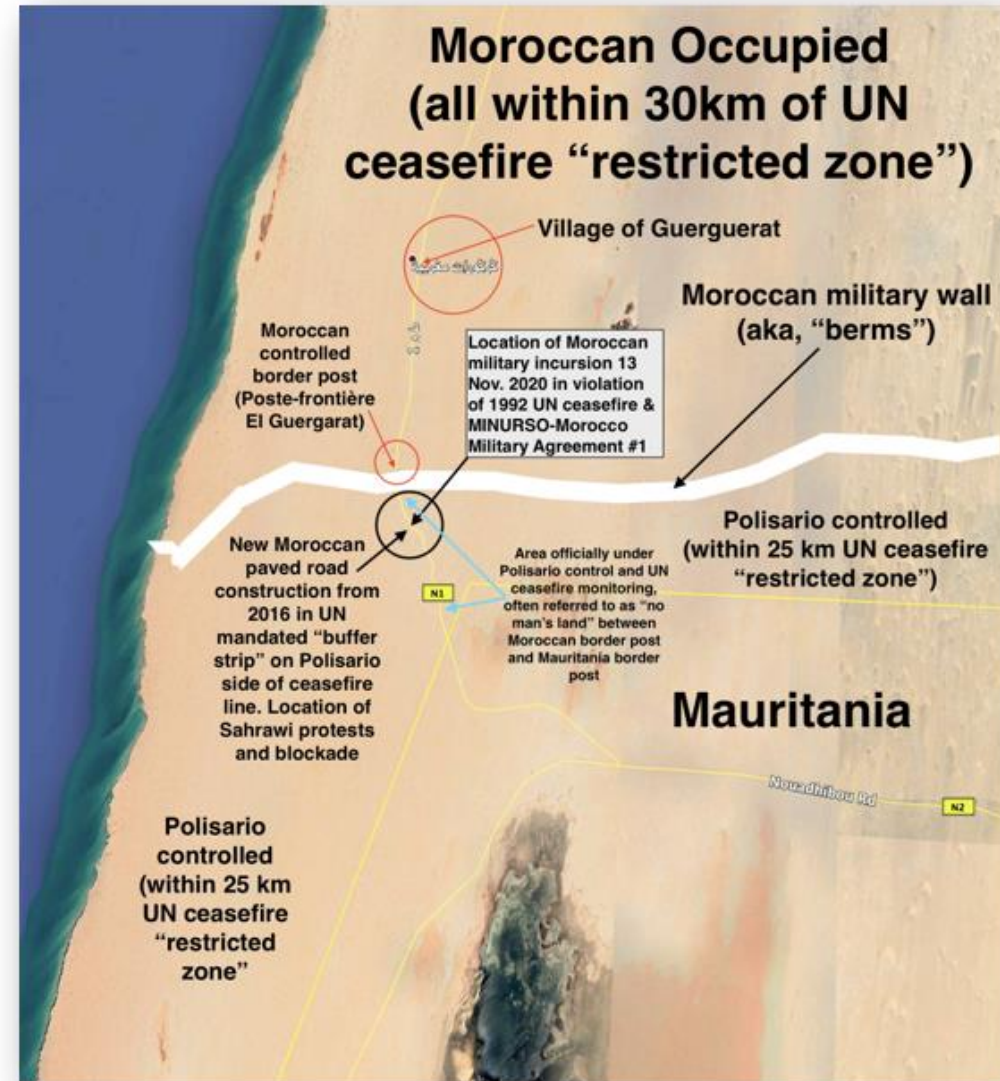
# UN Peace Plans

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- Morocco blocks referendum
- 2001 Baker Plan I
- 2003 Baker Plan II
- 2006 Autonomy Plan
- Diplomatic stalemate

## November 2020 return to war

- Followed by Trump's tweets recognising Moroccan sovereignty over WS in December 2020
- Followed by diplomatic crisis with Spain over treatment of Polisario leader for Covid
- (Map by Jacob Mundy)



# Before your seminar this week...

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- Please read the Solana (2021) article and the Cornell Law School and Caen University (2015) report.