
UNIT 26 NORTH AFRICAN DIASPORA

Structure

- 26.1 Learning Objectives
- 26.2 Introduction
- 26.3 Composition of North Africa and Diaspora
- 26.4 Geographical Spread
- 26.5 History
- 26.6 Socio-cultural facets of North Africa
- 26.7 Major North African Diasporas
- 26.8 Let Us Sum Up
- 26.9 Key Words
- 26.10 References and Selected Readings
- 26.11 Check my progress-possible answers

26.1 LEARNING OBJECTIVES

After reading this unit, you will:

- Understand the history, geographical spread of the North African diasporas
- Understand the current engagement of these diaspora with their home and host countries

26.2 INTRODUCTION

The countries such as Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Morocco, Sudan and Tunisia that constitute the northern part of the Arab region have historically been and remain significant migrant destination, transit, and departure countries. Due to the various reasons listed, economic, environmental and political instability are seen as contributing factors to some movement. Labour migration strategies were implemented in multiple countries as early as the early 1950s and played a large role in individual countries' socio-economic development in Northern Africa (World Bank, 2010). Recent changes in migration policies in the sub-region have had a large effect on the number of migrants currently moving within the sub-region. As an African cultural theorist, George Alexander Sheppard (1993) has reminded us, the term African diaspora did not emerge in the Anglophone world until the 1950s and 1960s, although of course African diasporas as such already existed long before then, and neither did ideas nor movements of African and Black internationalism, which were captured by the concept and ideology of Pan-Africanism.

Without considering the role of major migrating movements within, and especially from, the region, the important political, social and economic transformations which North Africa experienced over recent decades would be

impossible to understand. North Africa has become one of the world's leading "labour frontiers," on the border between the rich countries of the European Union (EU) and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) (cf. Skeldon 1997). There was significant migration not only in response to a demand for labour in the EU and GCC countries, but it has also fundamentally changed the social and economic development in the regions they're coming from.

Firstly, for North African sending states' migration and growth' has been a pervasive problem in those nations. However, the move to a more organized immigration system has been integral to their national growth for a long time. This paper studies the linkages between high levels of migration and the outcomes in North Africa. The North African countries have responded to their labour surplus through tailored programs in their destination countries; the policy to "combat brain drain" (E. Ruggie 1994) in North Africa has centered on "unlocking" the capacity of returnees and the opportunity to spend remittances, mobilizes diaspora communities for national growth, and, most recently, conducts research on common issues (viz., migration, development, diaspora). Secondly, previous strategies that countries from the European and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) have adopted to promote temporary migration were frequently overlooked, but the circumstances could prove instructive cases for assessing new initiatives to encourage temporary migration from the region.

Understanding the developmental effects of migration is, however, impossible without understanding the systemic factors that trigger migration (Taylor 1999). The first goal of this unit is therefore to explain the development and transition of the North African migration mechanism between 1945 and 2005 and how this phase is interlinked with wider social, political, and economic change processes. The second goal of this unit is to consider the effect of migration in areas, regions, and countries of origin on social and economic growth and to the degree to which policymakers have been able to control and improve this impact on development.

26.3 COMPOSITION OF NORTH AFRICA AND DIASPORA

At a pre-colonial period, intense trade in precious goods, including textiles, salt or gold, but also in slave products, strengthened human bonding across the Sahara among the North and sub-Saharan African countries. During the time between 1830 and 1962, the European people migrated to North Africa (1830 to 1962 in Algeria, Tunisia from 1881 until 1956, Morocco from 1912 to 1956), and the European immigrants to Tunisia (majorly French as well as Spanish and Italian), in large numbers: Morocco had some 450,000 and Tunisian emigrants about 250,000. While the majority of European citizens left fast after Maghreb independence in the 1950s and the 1960s, existing social and economic ties created the way for future migration. And in 1960, Algeria had a population of approximately a million European residents and their descendants.

Maghreb emigration evolved in three phases:

(1) Over the 1960s and 1970s, emigration to France, but also Germany, the Netherlands and Belgium boomed in reaction to recruitment policies of European countries, as well as high unemployment in and emigration policies of

Maghreb states. The so-called "guest worker" migration of that period provided the foundation for subsequent family and student migration.

(2) From the mid-1970s until the early 1990s, Algerian emigration decreased after the government enacted an emigration stop in September 1973 (in place until 1985). In contrast, emigration from Morocco and Tunisia remained high and has diversified – particularly to Spain and Italy, but also to Libya for Tunisians and to North America for Moroccans –, partly in response to stricter labor migration regulations in North-Western Europe and a high demand for migrant workers in Southern Europe.

3) Every year, from around 30,000 emigrants each year in the mid-1990s, Moroccan immigration has exponentially risen from around 150,000 by the mid-2000s since the 1990's. In comparison, Tunisia and Algeria stagnated at about forty thousand and 20 thousand emigrants per year. It is worth noting that, even during the civil war, the emigration from Algeria was poor (1991-2002). During the same time, Maghreb migration was somewhat transformed into irregularity because European countries imposed legal migration restrictions, and demand for migrant labor in Europe continued. The Economic Crisis in 2007 and the political changes in North Africa after 2011 have also remained strong in Maghreb emigration.

During the Atlantic, Trans-Saharan and Indian Ocean slave trade, many of the African diasporas spread across Americas, Europe and Asia. Arab slaves from the central and eastern parts of the African continent (where they were called the Zanj) were taken by Arabs from the beginning of the 8th century and sold to markets in the Middle East, Indian and Far East. From the fifteenth century, Europeans abducted or purchased African slaves and took them from West Africa to Europe and America. In the 19th century, the Atlantic slave trade was over.

African diaspora was the first effect of the large movement that started about 100,000 years ago both within and outside of Africa. This early movement, whose contours are still controversial, is a crucial starting point for any study of the dispersal and settlement of the people of Africa. In fact, to research early humanity, this diaspora should be studied. Some scholars may argue with significant merit that this early exodus from Africa is such a differentiation of character, that it is not to be seen as a step of the diasporic process. The second main diasporic flow of Bantu peoples from this region, now Nigeria and Cameroon, to other parts of the African continent and the Indian Ocean, started approx. 3000 B.C.E. The third major source, distinguished by its loosely traded diaspora, was created by the migration of merchants, traders, slaves, soldiers and others to parts of Europe, Middle East and Asia from around the fifth century B.C.E.. Thus, Muslims' explosive trade in slavery towards the Mediterranean and the Middle East beginning after the seventh century was not a new development but definitely an unparalleled scale and strength. The extensive 3rd diasporic stream led to the establishment, long before Christopher Columbus started his journeys across the Atlantic of different sizes, populations of African origin in India, Portugal, Spain, and Italy's city-states elsewhere in Europe, the Middle East and Asia.

The fourth major African diasporic stream is associated with the Atlantic trade

in African slaves. This was the most widely studied today. This trade, which started in the 15th century, has over time supplied up to 200,000 African people to different European societies and 11 to 12 million to the Americas. During the 19th century, particularly since the death of slavery in America and our times, the fifth major stream started. It is marked by movement among and replanting in various societies of Africans and people of African descent. These two diasporical sources along with many substreams and the developing communities form the new African diaspora. In comparison, 'ethnic' injustice and resistance to the premodern diaspora are two of its most key traits. The modern African diaspora at its very heart is made up of the millions of people who live in different societies of the African descent and who, in the face of cultural variations and political divisions among them, share an emotional bond with one another and with their ancient partner, based on a history that is significant but not exclusive to "racial" oppression.

26.4 GEOGRAPHICAL SPREAD

North African countries are usually grouped under the umbrella of MENA in politics and academics with the Middle East. The Tokens have been also portrayed by Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Libya and Egypt. But the equation of identity is not as straightforward as Arabic speakers equivalent to Arabic people. There are still communities in the Maghreb that speak Berber or Amazigh and a dialect called darija with clear French and Spanish expressions. Being Arab also is no alternative or even black to being African. There is no universally agreed description of the North African geographical entity. Some have been regarded as extending from the Atlantic coast of Morocco to the west of the Suez Canal and the Red Sea to the east, although more commonly referred to as Northern Africa. Others also restricted themselves to the countries of Morocco, Algeria and Tunisia, an area known to the French during colonial times as *Afrique du Nord* and to the Arabs as *Maghrib* ("West"). The most widely accepted definition, and the one used here, includes the three countries mentioned above, as well as Libya, but excludes Egypt. However, the regions covered by both the second and third definitions were also referred to as Northwest Africa.

North Africa has three major geographical features: the Sahara Desert in the south, the Atlas Mountains in the west, and the Nile River and the east's delta. The Atlas Mountains occupies most of northern Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia. These mountains are part of the folding mountain chain that often extends across most of Southern Europe. They travel south and east, being a steppe landscape until they reach the Sahara Desert, which occupies more than 75% of the area. The highest peaks are in the High Atlas region in the south-central Morocco, which has many snow-capped peaks.

The countries of Morocco, Algeria and Tunisia have also been known as the Atlas Lands, the Atlas Mountains that dominate their northern landscapes, although each region, particularly Algeria, has large sections of the Sahara. Farther east in Libya, only the northwest and northeastern areas of the region, Tripolitania and Cyrenaica, are beyond the desert. Since ancient times, the desert has been the dominant force in the North African climate, but the area has not always been as dry as it is today. There have been cycles of plentiful precipitation at different points in the past million years, the last happening about the 6th millennium BC at the beginning of the Neolithic era (New Stone Age). An extensive trading

route linking the Mediterranean with the African world developed along the Ahaggar-Tibesti ridge in central Sahara, and communications were likely to occur through Western Sahara. However, the Sahara has always been a powerful obstacle to the passage of technologies and humans.

The United Nations considers Sudan and Western Sahara to be members of the region, while Western Sahara and Mauritania (but not Sudan) are part of the African Union. In general geopolitical and business use, for example with the World Bank, North Africa is sometimes grouped with the Middle East under the name MENA ("The Middle East and North Africa") and, often, the US government uses the geopolitical phrase Greater Middle East. In the same sense, the standard Arabic toponym of the Maghreb (meaning "the West") is widely used to mean the African portion of the Arab country, albeit typically except for Egypt.



Fig.1. North African countries

North Africa's historical geography is not complete without an understanding of the European influences that have controlled or governed this region for centuries. During its zenith, the Roman Empire dominated most of the Mediterranean coastal region. Ports, aqueducts, roads, and important facilities were built by the Romans. Following the fall of the Roman Empire, the invasion of the Arabs who introduced the Islamic faith established common relations of religion and language. European colonialism eventually dominated North Africa. The area of Barbary Coast, including Algeria, Tunisia and parts of Morocco, has been dominated and colonized by France on North Africa's western shore. It was the area now Libya that was colonized by Italians. The Mediterranean Barbary Coast used to be a refuge for pirates and a shipping threat in the colonial period. In the early 1800s, even the United States fought against the pirates off the Berber coast of North Africa. Britain administered Egypt and parts of Sudan after the collapse of the Ottoman Empire. Morocco and Western Sahara were colonized by the Spanish. Resistance movements were able at the right time to overthrow the colonial powers and make the North African countries independent. However, the region's reliance on trade and economic partnerships with Europe continues to depend on Europe.

The transitional region between the Islamic-dominated North Africa and the animist and Christian-dominated Sub-Saharan Africa is segregated from sub-Saharan Africa in the African Transition Zone. This also reflects a transition from the Sahara Desert to African Equatorial zone tropical climate type A. This is a region of changing borders. The area once was a major trading route between the Western Malian Empire and East Ethiopia's trading centers. For centuries, camel caravans have traveled across this part of Africa, and camel caravans

from Mecca may have traveled across this region. In pursuit of pasture, many nomadic groups still harvest their cattle throughout the area.

Check my progress 1

- Note:** a) Write your answer in about 50 words.
b) Check your answer with possible answers given at the end of the unit

1. What are the phases of Maghreb emigration?

.....
.....
.....
.....

2. Explain the European influence over North Africa?

.....
.....
.....
.....

26.5 HISTORY

The rise of Islam and the resulting influx of large numbers of Arab peoples was profoundly influenced in North Africa. While the Romans and the Phoenicians made significant contributions, particularly on the coast and in fertile valleys, they did not fundamentally change North Africa's religious linguistic character as did Muslim conquests. While Sunni Islam has generally become the simple, prevailing religion, there have been many instances of resistance in North Africa to orthodoxy. The Berbers were also also organized under different religious philosophies, not content with ever being under the youths of central urban authority. Arabs and Berbers also consider themselves as a society and a culture of the same people in the beginning of the 21st century, in particular because they have united against European rule and intervention for common cause.

The states, kingdoms and empires were established in North-Eastern Africa—which now comprises North Sudan, Ethiopia, and Eritrea—as early as the first millennium BCE. The region can be regarded, par excellence as a historic area of interaction with multi-ethnic and multilingual states. The Kingdom of Kush, also referred to as the Napatan kingdom following its capital, Napata, at the fourth Nile cataract, is the first State in this sense. In the 8th century BC, the kings of Kush invaded and ruled Egypt around one century before being removed in 656 BCE as their 25th Dynasty. Around 300 BCE Kush's capital was transferred to Meroe, further south, where it remained around 350 CE till the end of the Empire. The Meroitic kingdom is more generally called this later period. Shortly after the fall of Meroe, between the first and fourth cataracts in the area, the Christian Nubian Kingdom of Makuria and Nobadia, with their old Dongola capital, arose.

From the 7th century, Muslim Arab-Nubian relations began, and after two attempts to conquer Nubia, Egypt made a multi-century alliance with the King.

The end of Nubian Christian kingdoms traditionally goes back to the end of the 15th century. In the north of Sudan the Funj Sultanate of Sennar (or Sinnar) ruled over a large part of North-Eastern Africa from 1504 to 1821. The Funj has long been a subject of debate about its origin, its ethnic and linguistic affiliation.. The Sultanate of Darfur was founded in 1603 and functioned separately until 1874 on the far west side of the Nile Valley. A Aksumite invasion is also attributed to the end of Meroe. In an area now covering North Ethiopia and Eritrea, the Kingdom of Aksum (or Axum) existed from around 100 to 940 CE. Aksum became a Christian under Emperor Ezana (ca. 320–360). The Zagwe Dynasty took possession of the area during what is sometimes called its "dark ages" and reigned until 1270. In 1270, the Ethiopian Kingdom started under the so-called Salomonic dynasty. Its kings continued to rule Ethiopia with few interruptions until 1974.

The North African (NA) position has contributed to the diverse ethnic and cultural mix which exists today, at the crossroads of one of the largest and most ancient medieval cultures. In the Arab world, Africa and the Mediterranean, not only in the regional but worldwide, have gained and contributed throughout their history to human and cultural exchanges. Migration has traditionally made this place an 'open space' by being one of the oldest forms that have led to human, cultural and economic exchanges. However, although the contemporary migration phenomenon remains the same as previously, it took many forms in recent times and became much more troublesome. Since the colonial period, there have been thousands of people from northern countries living in NA which has been a relatively high share of the population for many years, particularly those of the former colonial power.

Statistical sources sometimes provide different and at times contradictory data, even though they all accept, with the difference in magnitude, that the number increased between 1974 and 1984. (Table 1). While Tunisians, especially Moroccans, were significantly rising, the number of Algerians decreased⁴. In general, the share of immigrants from Maghreb in France increased from 25.5% in 1962 to 33.9% in 1982.⁵ This period was characterized by the growing number of children and by the start of feminization due to family reunion and natural development. Between 1968 and 1982, the proportion of children younger than 17 years increased from 29.7% to 44.3% of all immigrants to Maghreb, while between 1975 and 1982 the proportions were increased from 27.7% to 43.5% for Tunisians and from 26.1% to 43.5% for Moroccans. For example, 75% of Algerians aged between 30 and forty were married in 1975, but only 24% were married. Seven years later, the married men's share was the same, but the union rate hit 52%. Since then, the composition of the North African population in France and Europe has undergone profound transformation and by the 80th and 90th, most arrivals were families, wives and children. This is more marked in some countries such as France (which, for example, increased from 26.7% in 1975 to 39% in 1982, among all Moroccans). Similarly, Algerian women settled 10 times in favor of family reunification during the same period. Tunisian women's share also rose to 41.1 percent of all Tunisian immigrants from 30.9 percent in 1975. Similar trends were observed in 1990, particularly among the Moroccans, in Belgium, the Netherlands and Germany. Family reunification has made it possible to create several families in these countries, although in other recent countries such as Spain and Italy, it remains marginal.

Table 1: North African immigration in France from 1974 to 1984

Years	Algerians	Moroccans	Tunisians	Total
1974	871 233	302 255	162 479	1 335 957
1975	884 320	322 067	167 463	1 372 850
1976	803 986	347 984	174 486	1 326 456
1977	829 572	376 055	176 154	1 381 781
1978	819 053	385 991	180 429	1 385 473
1979	782 111	399 952	183 782	1 365 845
1980	828 176	421 265	181 618	1 431 059
1981	816 873	444 472	193 203	1 454 548
1982	805 353	492 669	212 909	1 510 933
1983	777 037	519 871	214 957	1 511 865
1984	750 090	540 228	224 124	1 514 442

Source: Talha L. , *The Immigrant Wage in Crisis: The Labor Maghreb in France (1921-1987)*.

26.6 SOCIO-CULTURAL FACETS OF NORTH AFRICA

The emergence of Islamist parties to influence in Tunisia, Morocco and Egypt in 2011, after the Arab Awakening, has contributed to renewed scholarly involvement in Islamist politics. Before the Awakening, Islamist parties and groups had almost faded into insignificance throughout the Middle East and North Africa scholarships, when they appeared to no longer be the most important political players in the field. Two aspects led to this misunderstanding:

1. The "upgraded Arab authoritarianism" theory indicated that the region's authoritarian rule would be unchallenged shortly because it could be revived in the 1990s and 2000s. Specialists then decided that it was more productive to look at structures that guaranteed authoritarian survival than to look at long-standing resistance movements.
2. Other social players, including mass parties and liberal organisations with a seemingly non-political goal, were seen as the latest protagonists in Arab civil societies. Islamism seems to have stepped away from its emphasis on political influence and non-political action.

During most of the twentieth century, Sufism adherents encountered extensive scrutiny from the jihadist and anti-colonial Salafi sects, who argued that Sufism's values and activities were heterodox, if not heretical. While Sufism has been an indigenous and standard mode of religious speech in the area for years, their consistent and heated denunciations of Sufism eventually contributed to decreased practice in the Maghreb. Following this decline, at the end of the twentieth century, political leaders (especially in Morocco and Algeria) attempted to revive Sufism as a pacifist response to jihadi-Salafi ideologies and practices that they claimed promoted political militancy and challenged the state. This chapter discusses the social and state attempts, first to discourage Sufism and encourage Salafism in much of the twentieth century, and then to change direction and aim to revive Sufism in the twenty-first century as an attempt

to address the challenge of jihadi Salafism. Before the rise of anti-colonial Salafism and other manifestations of Salafism in North Africa in the twentieth century, most Muslims in North Africa did not see an apparent inconsistency between orthodox Islamic values and Sufi traditions. The controversy between traditional faith and Sufism emerged soon after the proliferation of different forms of Salafism. Indeed, before the advent of Salafism, the Sufi Sheik rather than the 'ulama' had been the supreme social and political leader of North Africa.

Specifically, post-2011 study agendas appear to deny the importance of party politics owing to the long-standing assumption – quite justified in most instances – that parties in the Middle East, and North Africa in particular, are irrelevant political players. However, in the light of the events of 2011, there is a need to analyze party politics more closely, particularly the politically oriented Islamist parties, which often hold the key to the success or failure of regime change in the country. Scrutinizing Islamist parties will expose important socioeconomic, political, generational, and theological forces influencing Islam as a whole, including the Salafi trend.

In North Africa, Islamism has been limited by co-optation in the democratic process, suppression or self-exclusion. Inevitably, several political and scholarly circles were stunned by the emergence of the Islamist groups in 2011. As a consequence of the general shock, a variety of study agendas were formed to account for the landslide success of the Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt, the resurgence of Ennahda's fortunes in Tunisia, and the remarkable performance of the Justice and Development Party (PJD) in the Moroccan legislative polls. Simultaneously, the post-Islamic theory was heavily criticized in the face of concrete proof that the Islamist parties' political agenda was not only alive but even competitive in the polls.

A growing body of evidence indicates that organized labour associations—members, organizers, and union leaders—played a significant, leading position in many of the famous demonstrations that engulfed the Arab world starting in late 2010. While not the originators nor the instigators of these movements, trade unions contributed to the marches and raised their scale and power. In Tunisia, veteran unionists from the Union Générale Tunisienne du Travail (UGTT) took part in protests in Sidi Bouzid, Gafsa, and other towns in the country's interior before the demonstrators moved to Tunis. In Egypt, the mobilization of trade unions took place before the Arab rebellion began in 2006, particularly among textile workers in al-Mahallah al-Kubra. Their strikes and demonstrations intensified through the 2011 uprising.

26.7 MAJOR NORTH AFRICAN DIASPORAS

North Africa's mixed migration is extremely complex and involves a number of inter- and intra-regional motions. In addition, North African countries have pivotal junctions along many mixed inter-continental migratory routes, including the so-called West Mediterranean, Central Mediterranean and East routes (in the case of Sudan). In terms of national and international legal structures for migration and the security of refugees, migration experiences differ significantly across the area. The area includes both temporary, circular movements for seasonal work and more permanent movements for those escaping violence and war in search of more access to rights and a better life.

In North Africa, the three central Maghreb countries – Morocco, Algeria and Tunisia – are primarily migrants sending countries, and their emigrants, representing between 4.5 and 8.6 per cent of their people, are mainly bound for Europe. International refugees on their soil, many of whom come from West Africa as long-term immigrants, are in limited numbers. Libya has the opposite trend. Despite political instability and civil war, it remains a refuge for hundreds of thousands of locally working refugees. Despite extreme domestic migration, its people appear to have a low tendency to travel abroad. In all these nations, a comparatively limited percentage of migrants plan to migrate to Europe, counter to common prejudices.

The area of North Africa is marked by complex migration dynamics and displacement. Whilst the countries of origin of migrants to Europe are Morocco, Egypt, Tunisia and Algeria, their immigration and emigration flows have grown. They are today countries for different forms of migrants coming from Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) countries of origin, transit and destination. A number of border initiatives, from fencing and surveillance equipment expenditure to legislation criminalising immigration and emigration, have made it more difficult to travel to Europe via the countries of North Africa. This in turn has helped to raise the population of refugees in these countries. The reasons and security conditions for migrants arriving in northern Africa differ under international law. This 'mixed migration scenario' has put the reception and safety systems of migrants and refugees under pressure because of restricted requirements, legislative systems and regulations.

The critical reasons for migration, as reported among migrants interviewed in North Africa – whether in the countries of destination, transit or origin – are job-seeking, family and research. Fleeing war, civil instability and oppression, and finding foreign aid are not popular triggers. On the other side, the need for security is the most popular explanation cited by African migrants who came to Europe irregularly after crossing the Mediterranean Sea. The difference in North Africa and Europe's reasons may be an indication that asylum seekers have little alternative but to move clandestinely to places where they can lodge claims. It also illustrates the prevalence of mixed migration along these routes and how migration motives and plans change throughout the journey due to countries' conditions along the path. While the initial incentive of migrants to flee their countries of origin could have been of a different sort, facing violence and harassment in transit or countries of the first destination may lead them to cross the Mediterranean and pursue safety in Europe.

There is substantial illegal immigration from Africa to Europe. In the expectation of a better life, many people from underdeveloped North African states set out in risky travels to Europe. Trafficking in immigrants to Europe has become more lucrative than drug dealing, especially in North Africa (Morocco, Mauritania and Libya). Unlawful immigrants to Europe frequently take place in the Spanish Enclaves of Melilla and Ceuta by boat through the Mediterranean Sea and in some cases by land and have made foreign titles. During their journeys to Europe, many migrants face serious injuries or deaths and most of those whose request for asylum was unsuccessful are returned to Africa.

Since the sixteenth century, people from North Africa are in the USA. Some of Spain's early explorers on their expeditions into the United States were

North Africans, a party that led also to the settlement of some of that country's Spanish colonies. The population of North Africa currently reaches 800,000 in the United States. Its most populated communities are in East America. North Africans will come from Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Libya and Egypt in the United States. Often Canarians are also part of this group, as their geographic position in North Africa is based on the Canary Islands and their populations are partially North Africans (Canarians are typically of dominant European descent from some extracts of Berber).

The key reasons for migration, as reported among migrants interviewed in North Africa – whether in the countries of destination, transit or origin – are job-seeking, family and research. Fleeing war, civil instability and oppression, and finding foreign aid, are not popular triggers. On the other side, the need for security is the most popular explanation cited by African migrants who came to Europe irregularly after crossing the Mediterranean Sea. The difference in the explanations offered in North Africa and in Europe may be an indication that asylum seekers have little alternative but to move clandestinely to places where they can lodge claims. It also illustrates the prevalence of mixed migration along these routes and how migration motives and plans which change throughout the journey due to the conditions faced by countries along the path. While the initial incentive of migrants to flee their countries of origin could have been of a different sort, facing violence and harassment in transit or in countries of first destination may lead them to cross the Mediterranean and pursue safety in Europe.

26.8 LET US SUM UP

The North African zone is a chaotic area marked by diverse relocation and migration cycles. Before the 1970s, migrants residing in these four countries have been moving to Europe for decades. Nevertheless, recent shifts in immigration and emigration trends in these countries have changed their migration patterns. In the present day, North African countries are countries of origin, transit, and destination for citizens from Sub-Saharan African (SSA) countries. A range of border measures ranging from border fences and investments in surveillance equipment to laws criminalizing immigration and emigration have made the passage to Europe through North African countries more difficult. Thus, the increasing migrant community in these countries has likewise affected the country's population. Immigration in North African countries differs depending on different variables, such as what prompted the migrants' presence, security requirements, and demands under international law. The regulatory structures and legislation employed in these countries are restricting in nature, which renders the burden on reception and defence systems that these countries would use much more significant concerning "mixed migration".

In all regions of the country, migration and security policy is driven by a dynamic combination of various migration patterns, domestic economic demands, foreign policy pressures, changing strategic contexts, and the historical legacies and relationships that remain. Every government in the area is suffering from the economic and medical effects of COVID-19, and for the near future, each nation would have a tough time dealing with these problems. Priorities and interests surrounding migration governance, migrant security, and incorporation might not often be important, even though they vary significantly from country to

country and rely on a broad range of aspects of migration governance. Although collaboration on these topics frequently derives from the intention of obtaining foreign recognition, securing greater access to legal migration opportunities for citizens, or growing international support for a domestic development agenda, international cooperation appears to have diplomatic reasons as well. Migration collaboration is mostly conducted to address the demands of refugees rather than with an emphasis on providing solutions (Koch et al. 2018).

Owing to these socio-economic and political circumstances, emigration rather than immigration is of increased concern to the media and the general public throughout North Africa. Indeed, the amount of young people from North Africa seeking to make their way to Europe in ways that are deemed unusual has increased over the last few years. In 2020, Tunisians were the principal nationality arriving in Europe irregularly, followed by Algerians (UNHCR 2020e). According to the IOM, Tunisians were the first nationality to land in Italy in 2019, while Moroccans, who Algerians closely accompanied, were the principal nationalities who landed in Spain (IOM 2019c). There is a particular concern in issues relating to emigration and diaspora communities. This is obvious in the SNIA in Morocco and the National Policy on Migration in Tunisia, and the outlawing of illegal departures from Algeria in the 2008 legislation. Such reasons mentioned above, coupled with internal restrictions, make it hard for policymakers to open the door to encouraging new migrants or refugees to reach the job market. They often risk setting in motion a sequence of events that could contribute to a rise in the number of people immigrating to the country and contribute to the already enormous burden on society's resources. Many governments in the area are worried about regulating their borders in response to cross-border terrorism attacks and transnational crime, such as human trafficking, prostitution, illicit trafficking in firearms, and illegal drug trafficking.

The key findings are:

- Irregular migration is not the first choice for anyone. Repressive policies on legal migration increase the likelihood of opting for irregular migration, as migrants are pushed into this choice.
- Economic reasons are, by far, the primary motivation for migration in this region. This is broader than 'poverty' and is better understood as a multi-faceted mix of unemployment, wages, living conditions at home and abroad.
- Conflict and outbreaks of violence are essential drivers of irregular migration and can be considered shocks or 'tipping points'. Refugees and asylum seekers are willing to risk lives and use irregular routes in order to escape appalling conditions at home.
- Network ties are an important determinant of destination choice. Social networks and returnees provide knowledge about migration and often influence the decision to leave.
- Migrants are subject to difficult conditions in transit, and those fleeing conflict particularly need psychosocial assistance and livelihoods support. Migrants, refugees and asylum-seekers are commonly subjected to xenophobic abuse.

- The economic gains primarily drive smuggling and trafficking for the providers and lack of alternatives for migrants. Smuggling and trafficking are facilitated by conflict.
- Migration gains momentum through networks and self-reinforcing mechanisms which are not necessarily affected by state policies. Responses to irregular migration must be holistic and respond to economic and conflict drivers.

Check my progress 2

- Note:** a) Write your answer in about 50 words.
 b) Check your answer with possible answers given at the end of the unit

3. How has migration affected north Africa?

.....

4. What is the role of trade unions in Arab politics?

.....

5. Why Migration governance in north Africa did get much attention?

.....

26.9 KEY WORDS

SNIA Stratégie Nationale d’Immigration et d’Asile

SSA Sub-Saharan Africa

Maghreb The **Maghreb** (البرعلا برعلا al-Mağrib al-‘Arabī; also rendered **Maghrib** (or rarely Moghreb), meaning "place of set" or " western" in Arabic, is the region of Africa north of the Sahara Desert and west of the Nile — specifically, coinciding with the Atlas Mountains.

Sahel Area separating the Sahara from the tropical rainforest of Africa

26.10 REFERENCES / SELECTED READINGS

Coulibaly, M., Silwé, K. S., & Logan, C. (2018). Taking stock: Citizen priorities and assessments three years into the SDGs. Afrobarometer Policy Paper No. 51. <http://afrobarometer.org/publications/pp51-taking-stock-citizen-priorities-and->

assessments-three-years-sdgs.

Custers, R., & Mattlysen, K. (2009). Africa's natural resources in a global context. IPIS. https://www.cncd.be/IMG/pdf/20090812_Natural_Resources.pdf.

Flahaux, M.-L., & De Haas, H. (2016). African migration: Trends, patterns, drivers. *Comparative Migration Studies*, 2016, 4(1). <https://comparativemigrationstudies.springeropen.com/track/pdf/10.1186/s40878-015-0015-6>

Food and Agriculture Organization. (2017). Evidence on internal and international migration patterns in selected countries. <http://www.fao.org/3/a-i7468e.pdf>.

Galston, W. A. (2018). The rise of European populism and the collapse of the center-left. Brookings Institution. <https://www.brookings.edu/blog/order-from-chaos/2018/03/08/the-rise-of-european-populism-and-the-collapse-of-the-center-left/>.

Gheasi, M., & Nijkamp, P. (2017). A brief overview of international migration motives and impacts, with specific reference to FDI. *Economies*, 2017, 5(3), 1-11. doi:10.3390/economies5030031.

Porter R. M., Stern, S. & Green, M. (2014). *Social Progress Index*. Washington: Social Progress Imperative.

Sassoubre, B.C. & Meijer, R. (2009). Global Salafism. Islam's New Religious Movement. London, Hurst & Co. Publishers, 463 p. *Archives de sciences olonia des religions*, (152), 9-242.

Salehi-Isfahani, D. (2010). *Human development in the Middle East and North Africa*.

26.11 CHECK MY PROGRESS-POSSIBLE ANSWERS

Check my progress 1

1. Maghreb emigration evolved in three phases:
 - a. Over the 1960s and 1970s, emigration to France, but also Germany, the Netherlands and Belgium boomed in reaction to recruitment policies of European countries, as well as high unemployment in and emigration policies of Maghreb states. The so-called "guest worker" migration of that period provided the foundation for subsequent family and student migration.
 - b. From the mid-1970s until the early 1990s, Algerian emigration decreased after the government enacted an emigration stop in September 1973 (in place until 1985). In contrast, emigration from Morocco and Tunisia remained high and has diversified – particularly to Spain and Italy, but also to Libya for Tunisians and to North America for Moroccans

–, partly in response to stricter labor migration regulations in North-Western Europe and a high demand for migrant workers in Southern Europe.

- c. Every year, from around 30,000 emigrants each year in the mid-1990s, Moroccan immigration has exponentially risen from around 150,000 by the mid-2000s since the 1990's. In comparison, Tunisia and Algeria stagnated at about forty thousand and 20 thousand emigrants per year. It is worth noting that, even during the civil war, the emigration from Algeria was poor (1991-2002).
2. North Africa's historical geography is not complete without an understanding of the European influences that have controlled or governed this region for centuries. During its zenith, the Roman Empire dominated most of the Mediterranean coastal region. Ports, aqueducts, roads and important facilities were built by the Romans. Following the fall of the Roman Empire, the invasion of the Arabs who introduced the Islamic faith established common relations of religion and language. European colonialism eventually dominated North Africa. Resistance movements were able at the right time to overthrow the colonial powers and make the North African countries independent. However, the region's reliance on trade and economic partnerships with Europe continues to depend Europe.

Check my progress 2

3. Migration has traditionally made this place an 'open space' by being one of the oldest forms that have led to human, cultural and economic exchanges. However, although the contemporary migration phenomenon remains the same as previously, it took many forms in recent times and became much more troublesome. Since the colonial period, there have been thousands of people from northern countries living in NA which has been a relatively high share of the population for many years, particularly those of the former colonial power.
4. A growing body of evidence indicates that organized labour associations—members, organizers, and union leaders—played a significant, leading position in many of the famous demonstrations that engulfed the Arab world starting in late 2010. While not the originators nor the instigators of these movements, trade unions contributed to the marches and raised their scale and power. In Tunisia, veteran unionists from the Union Générale Tunisienne du Travail (UGTT) took part in protests in Sidi Bouzid, Gafsa, and other towns in the country's interior before the demonstrators moved to Tunis. In Egypt, the mobilization of trade unions took place before the Arab rebellion began in 2006, particularly among textile workers in al-Mahallah al-Kubra. Their strikes and demonstrations intensified through the 2011 uprising.