

Morocco

Located in North Africa on the coast of the Mediterranean Sea, the land of Morocco has been populated since Paleolithic times. Unlike the Barbary States of Algiers, Tunis, and Tripoli, Morocco was never conquered by the Ottoman Empire and remained completely independent. Morocco sponsored corsairs to capture foreign ships. Corsairing provided money through selling captured ships and their cargo. The crew of a captured ship could be ransomed for money or forced to labor in the city. Corsairing also provided money through treaties. In these agreements, a country paid Morocco money (called a tribute) to stop Moroccan corsairs from capturing that country's ships. Morocco is not as reliant on corsairing as the other Barbary States.

Morocco has an established relationship with the United States. In 1777, shortly after the United States declared independence from Great Britain, Morocco recognized it as an independent country, becoming the first in the world to do so. In 1784, a Moroccan corsair captured the American ship, *Betsey*, to use as leverage for a treaty with the U.S. In 1786, Morocco signed the Moroccan–American Treaty of Friendship in which Morocco agreed to not capture any United States ships in exchange for \$86,000. In 1794, no other Barbary State had a treaty with the United States and the state of Algiers captured several ships and held hostages from the United States. Given Morocco's cultural similarities to Algiers, Tunis, and Tripoli, it could be in a good position to help negotiate a compromise.

Opening Position:

- Maintain your alliance with the United States.
- Remain the United States' strongest trading partner among the Barbary States.
- Maintain good relations with Algiers, Tunis, and Tripoli.

Questions to Consider:

- How can Morocco use its position to bring the United States and the other Barbary States together?

What can Morocco negotiate with?

Remember that you don't have to offer these right away in a negotiation.

- Morocco has positive relations with countries in the negotiations
- Morocco knows that naval supplies are important to the other Barbary States and that the United States has these supplies to trade.
- Leverage relationships with other countries to build mutually profitable agreements.