FACULTY OF HUMAN SCIENCE

Master one History major

The Fourth English course by Nasri Wahiba

The text:

Libya’s history is a rich tapestry shaped by indigenous tribes, Mediterranean cultures, Islamic dynasties, and colonial powers. In ancient times, it was influenced by both Phoenician and Greek settlers who established trade colonies along the coast, especially in Cyrenaica and Tripolitania. Afterward, Libya became part of the Roman Empire, where it saw an influx of cultural and economic exchange.

The Arab conquest in the 7th century brought Islam and the Arabic language, making Libya a hub of Islamic civilization in North Africa. It later came under Ottoman rule, which extended administrative reforms but struggled to control the tribal inland areas.

Italy colonized Libya in 1911, leading to violent resistance and eventually, Libya became a battleground in World War II. After the war, Libya gained independence in 1951 under King Idris I. The discovery of oil soon transformed Libya’s economy.

In 1969, a coup led by Colonel Muammar Gaddafi replaced the monarchy with a republic. Gaddafi’s controversial policies brought Libya both wealth from oil and international isolation. His rule ended in 2011 after a civil uprising supported by NATO. Since then, Libya has faced political instability, with rival factions vying for control.

The questions

1. Suggest a Title for the Text.
2. What is the general idea of the text ?
3. Identify the keywords related to the main theme of the text and try to define them.
4. What were the two main regions in Libya influenced by the Phoenicians and Greeks?
5. Why did the Phoenicians and Greeks establish settlements in Libya?
6. What impact did Arab culture have on Libya following the Islamic conquest?
7. Who led the resistance against Italian colonization in Libya?
8. What was one of the impacts of World War II on Libya?
9. Who was Libya’s first monarch after independence in 1951?
10. How did the discovery of oil affect Libya’s economy after independence?
11. What term did Gaddafi use to describe his political system in Libya?
12. How did the political situation in Libya change after Gaddafi’s fall in 2011?
13. Answer with true or false

* Libya was a Phoenician colony before it became part of the Roman Empire.
* Gaddafi’s political system was called “Jamahiriya.”
* The Arab Spring protests in 2011 had no impact on Libya.
* Libya’s independence was achieved without foreign intervention.

1. What is the main idea of each paragraph? Try to link them to provide a short paragraph as a summary of the text.