FACULTY OF HUMAN SCIENCE

Master one History major

The first English course (Second Semester) by Nasri Wahiba

The text :

The Maghreb has been represented in different ways by the media. These representations are influenced by historical events, colonial history, and current political and social situations. How the Maghreb is shown in the media affects how people around the world understand its history, culture, and identity.

In Western media, the Maghreb has often been portrayed through a colonial perspective. During the colonial period, French and Spanish media described the region as undeveloped and in need of European control. This view was used to justify colonial rule and to present local resistance as rebellion rather than a fight for independence. Even after the end of colonialism, some of these ideas remained in international media, where the focus has often been on political instability, migration, and security problems, rather than on the region’s rich culture, economic potential, and historical significance.

In the Maghreb itself, media representation has changed over time. After independence, national newspapers and television were mostly controlled by the state. Governments used them to promote messages of national unity and economic development. However, with the rise of private media and digital platforms, a wider range of voices can now be heard. Independent journalists, bloggers, and social media users have contributed to presenting alternative views on history, politics, and society.

Social media has played an important role in changing the way the Maghreb is represented. Platforms like YouTube, Twitter, and TikTok have allowed people from the region to challenge stereotypes and share their own stories. For example, during the Arab Spring, many people used social media to document protests and government responses. These platforms have also helped raise awareness about historical events and cultural heritage, giving young people new ways to connect with their past.

Film and television have also influenced how the Maghreb is seen. In many Hollywood movies, the region is often shown in an exotic or negative way, focusing on themes like conflict or terrorism. In contrast, Maghrebi filmmakers have worked to present their own history and culture. Classic films like The Battle of Algiers and more recent productions explore topics such as colonial resistance, migration, and social change. With the growth of streaming services, Maghrebi filmmakers can now reach international audiences more easily.

Despite these positive developments, some challenges remain. Government control over media, censorship, and misinformation continue to affect how the Maghreb is represented both locally and internationally. International media still tend to focus on political crises rather than on the region’s achievements and diversity. However, as digital media expands, people from the Maghreb have more opportunities to shape their own image and correct outdated stereotypes. In the future, the media representation of the Maghreb will likely become more balanced and diverse, showing the region’s rich history and dynamic societies.

The Questions:

1. Provide a title for the text
2. What is the general idea of the text ?
3. Define these keywords words: colonial perspective, stereotypes, political instability, private media, Digital platforms, censorship, misinformation, international media.
4. How has the Maghreb been represented in Western media?
5. What role did colonial media play in shaping the image of the Maghreb?
6. What role colonial media played in shaping the Maghreb’s image?
7. How has media representation in the Maghreb changed over time?
8. What impact has social media had on the Maghreb’s representation?
9. How do Hollywood films portray the Maghreb?
10. Why Maghrebi filmmakers create films about history and social change?
11. True and false
* Colonial media portrayed the Maghreb as a developed and independent region.
* After independence, state-controlled media in the Maghreb was mainly used to promote and unity.
* Streaming platforms have helped Maghrebi filmmakers reach international audiences.
* The international media mainly highlights the economic growth and cultural richness of the Maghreb.
1. What is the main idea of each paragraph?