

Glossary: Islamic awakening

Ferhat Abbas (Algeria): The first president of the Provisional Government of the Algerian Republic from 1958–1961. After Algeria’s independence, Abbas served as president of the constitutional assembly.

Reform Front (Al Isla): An Islamist Tunisian political party founded in 2012 as Tunisia’s first Salafist political party.

Justice and Development Party (AKP): (Turkish: *Adalet ve Kalkinma Partisi*). The AKP was launched in August 2001 and is a center-right political party originally founded on the principle of Islamism. Its president, Recep Tayyip Erdogan, is now Prime Minister of Turkey.

An-Nahda: (Arabic: “renaissance” or “reawakening.”) A cultural and intellectual renaissance that began in 19th century Egypt and spread to areas such as Lebanon and Syria.

Ansar al Sharia (Partisans of Islamic Law): A Libyan Islamist militia group that attempts to implement sharia law in Libya. The group was formed during the Libyan Civil War in 2011. Led by former inmate of Qaddafi’s Muhammad al-Zahawi, ASB announced its formation in February 2012. It is believed to be behind the Sept. 11, 2012 attack on the U.S. Consulate in Benghazi that resulted in the death of U.S. Ambassador J. Christopher Stevens and three other Americans.

Al Qaida in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM): Previously known as the Salafist Group for Preaching and Combat (GSPC). GSPC “re-branded” itself in 2007 after it officially joined al Qaeda in September 2006, and it operates mostly in Algeria and Mali. Traditionally, AQIM employed conventional terrorist tactics, including suicide bombings; however, unlike other al Qaeda affiliates it has yet to execute attacks overseas in Europe or the U.S. AQIM mostly operated along Algeria’s Mediterranean coast, but its base of operations have now been pushed to the Sahel region, particularly in Niger, Mauritania and Mali. AQIM and other Islamist groups pushed into Mali and were key supporters of the Tuareg’s rebellion in 2012 against Mali’s government.

The Arab League: Also known as the League of Arab States. The League was founded on March 22, 1945 in Cairo, Egypt—its current headquarters.

Arab Maghreb Union (AMU): Established on Feb. 17, 1989, the AMU is a multinational organization that seeks to promote cooperation among its five member states—Algeria, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco and Tunisia.

Arab Spring: A revolutionary phenomenon in the Arab world that began with a 2010 Tunisian protest and spread to other countries such as Libya and Egypt, which have since witnessed mass demonstrations and pro-democracy social movements.

Abdelhamid Ben Badis (Algeria): A leader of the 20th century Muslim Reform movement in Algeria and the founder of the Association of Muslim Algerian Ulema, an organization that helped initiate the Algerian War of Independence.

Berberists: A cultural movement in Algeria and Morocco that opposes the spread of Arabic culture and political ideology in North Africa and that fights discrimination against Berbers.

Habib Bourguiba (Tunisia): The first president of the Republic of Tunisia. Bourguiba spearheaded the New Constitution Party (Neo-Destour), which was established in 1934. When the monarchy was abolished in Tunisia in July 25, 1957, New Constitution vested Bourguiba with the powers of the president—a position he held for thirty years. In 1987 he was deemed mentally incapable and replaced with Prime Minister Zine El-Abidine Ben Ali.

Code of Personal Status (PCS): Established in the mid-1950s as a set of progressive Tunisian laws focused on achieving equality between men and women in areas such as marriage and citizenship.

Islamic Salvation Front (FIS): An Islamist Algerian political party organized in 1989 to represent the growing Islamist fundamentalist movement. In June 1991, FIS leaders were arrested on charges of threatening the security of the state in connection to a number of violent uprisings across the country. As the FIS prepared to assume national political leadership after 1991 elections, a military takeover of the Algerian government in January 1992 prevented the first-ever elected Islamist group from gaining power. Algerian courts subsequently banned the FIS in March 1992, and the ban has continued to this day.

Messali Hadj: An Algerian nationalist and revolutionary leader who founded political groups such as the North African Star, the Algerian Popular Party and the 1954 Algerian National Movement.

Hamas: Short for Islamic Resistance Movement (Arabic: *Harakat al-Muqawamah al-Islamiyyah*) Literally “enthusiasm.” A Palestinian organization formed in 1987 during the First Intifada. Hamas serves as the Islamic Resistance Movement and branch of the Muslim Brotherhood. Hamas seeks the creation of an Islamic Palestinian state based on 1967 territorial borders. The U.S. classifies Hamas as a foreign terrorist organization.

Hezbollah: (Arabic: *Hizb Allah*, meaning “Party of God.”) A Lebanese organization formed in the 1980s after the Israeli invasion of Lebanon. Hezbollah is a Shi’ite militant group with a political wing funded largely by Iran and Syria. Its goals include the creation of a Shi’ite theocracy in Lebanon, the eradication of Western influence in the region and the collapse of Israel. The U.S. classifies Hezbollah as a foreign terrorist organization. According to analysts and observers, Hezbollah has been trying to reinvent its image from that of a militia to a more traditional political movement.

Jihad: Commonly used as a noun meaning “struggle,” jihad means “to strive.” Jihad denotes a Muslim’s duty toward religious practice amid struggle. The term can refer to both spiritual and external struggle: the inner struggle of a Muslim to practice Islam or the physical struggle against religious enemies and to build a society in accordance with Islam. One who engages in jihad is a *mujahid* (pl: *mujahideen*, meaning “strugglers”).

King Mohamed VI (Morocco): Current king of Morocco since 1999. He proposed various reforms, such as the establishment of the Berber language as the official language alongside Arabic and expansion of gender equality with guarantees of civic and social equality.

Maghreb: The region west of Egypt, also known as northwest Africa. The term originates from the Arabic word for “west” and has historically denoted the westernmost Islamic conquests. The region includes Morocco, Algeria, Mauritania, Tunisia and Libya.

Moudawana: The Moroccan family code, or the personal status code. The Moudawana deals with family concerns and issues such as marriage, divorce and child custody. Codified in 1956, it was revised in 2004 to include human rights and gender equality measures.

Movement for a Society of Peace (MSP): A moderate Islamist political party within Algeria. Its goals include nonviolent democratization in Algeria. It holds a connection with the international Muslim Brotherhood.

Muslim Brotherhood (Egypt): A Sunni Islamist political, religious and social organization founded in 1928. The movement was founded in Egypt, and although the movement spread to other Muslim countries, the Egyptian branch remains the largest in the organization, despite being declared illegal in 1954. In 2011, the Muslim Brotherhood was legalized in Egypt after the overthrow of Hosni Mubarak. Following the January 2011 revolutions, the Brotherhood established and received legal status for a new party—the Freedom and Justice Party—whose candidate, Mohammad Morsi, was elected president on June 24, 2012. The Egyptian court ordered the shutdown of the Muslim Brotherhood in 2013 and consequently seized its assets.

Muslim Brotherhood (Global): The Muslim Brotherhood spread from Egypt to other Muslim countries through different affiliations and offshoots, creating a network of social and political movements among its adherents.

Organization of African Unity (OAU): The predecessor of the African Union (AU), the OAU was a result of an attempt to find unity between some of the emerging states in Africa. The AU was adopted by OAU heads of state in July 11, 2000, and remained in existence during a one-year transitional period, which ended on July 8, 2002.

Hizb ut-Tahrir (Party of Liberation): An international Islamic political organization that seeks to unite Muslim countries into an Islamic caliphate. It was founded in 1953.

Salafism: Derived from *salaf*, meaning predecessors, the Salafis are an ultra-conservative branch of Sunni Islam aimed at returning to the ancient “orthodox” teachings of Islam. Although the term salaf has appeared in Islamic religious scholarship for centuries, Salafism started as a reform-oriented movement in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, and was particularly Egypt-centric. Some of the most important early Salafis include Muhammad ‘Abduh, Hassan al-Banna (Muslim Brotherhood founder), and Sayyid Qutb.

Sheikh Mohamed Ben Abderrahman al-Maghrawi: A controversial Moroccan salafist Imam. As part of a larger effort to counter extremism in Morocco, many of the schools operated by al-Maghraoui, which received funding from Saudi salafists, were shut down in the late 2000s.

Ulema: Muslim scholars who are trained in Islamic law and act as interpreters of Islam’s laws, jurisprudence and sciences.

Zine El-Abidine Ben Ali (Algeria): General Ben Ali was tapped to succeed then-Prime Minister Rachid Sfar in Oct. 2, 1987. Five weeks later, Ben Ali became president after Bourguiba was forced to step down after being declared mentally unfit. Ben Ali ruled until 2011, when he left the country on January 14 following continued violent demonstrations in the country.