MYTH

ARAB WOMEN ARE EXCLUDED FROM PUBLIC LIFE

FACT

END OF “ARAB MARRIAGES”

- Families in the Arab world are undergoing major changes as new patterns of marriage and family formation emerge across the region.
- Marriage is no longer a sacred obligation. Celibacy is soaring for men and women, and it is often permanent, after a certain age.

WOMEN CELIBACY IN MOROCCO 30-34 YEARS OLD, 1960s AND 2010

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1960s</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>33%</td>
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</tbody>
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- Society, tribe, and extended family no longer have the power to compel children to marry and reproduce.
- Cousin marriage in order to strengthen the clan, is increasingly forgotten. Exogamy promotes openness and population mix.

COUSIN MARRIAGE IN MOROCCO

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1995</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>15%</td>
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In 2010, 42% of Moroccan men aged 30-34 were single.

WOMEN ARE CONQUERING UNIVERSITIES

- Strong presence of women in universities.
- Female university enrollment rates exceed male enrollment rates, in almost all Arab countries.

Percent of 18 to 24 years old enrolled in university BY GENDER

- Libya
- Lebanon
- Palestine
- Bahrain
- Jordan
- Tunisia
- Emirates
- Algeria
- Saudi Arabia
- Egypt
- Qatar
- Kuwait
- Oman
- Syria
- Morocco
- Iraq
- Yemen
- Saud
- Mauritania


WOMEN PARTICIPATION IN THE LABOR FORCE IS STILL LOW BUT IS LIKELY TO INCREASE

- The current demographic bonus (increase of fertility rates and increase in the working age population) will require the recruitment of more women into the workforce.
- According to the ILO, by 2050, an increase of at least 50% in female participation ratio is anticipated.

- Women access to education combined with demographic factors (choice of spouse, age at marriage, access to contraception, etc.) lead to their emergence from the family sphere and entry into the political sphere, where they are increasingly playing major roles.

- Arab women have yet been at the forefront of protests in Tunisia, but also in Egypt and even in Yemen.

ARAB WOMEN ARE EMERGING IN PUBLIC LIFE

In Tunisia women held 28.11% of seats at the National Constituent Assembly. Tunisia’s new Constitution is a breakthrough for women’s rights.

* Research Director of the Institute National d’Etudes Demographiques (INED) in Paris. Expert in the field of relationships between demography and politics, particularly in Arab and Muslim countries. Coubrargue was Scientific Director of the French Institute of the Near East in Irbil and is a author of several hundreds of books, articles, reports and teaching material. Together with Emmanuel Todd he added a new dimension to the ongoing debate over the crisis of civilizations through redefining the modernization of the Islamic World in their book “La rendez-vous des civilisations”