



PowerPoint accompaniment for Carolina K-12's lesson

# Tunisia & the Arab Spring



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# Freedom

# Freedom

- What do you think of when you hear the word “freedom”?
- What actions do you associate with “freedom”?
- What makes a country “free”?
- What countries do you associate with “freedom”? Why?
- What countries aren’t free? Why?

# Cartoon #1



# Cartoon #2



# Cartoon #3



# Cartoon #4



The text on the sign says, "Peaceful protest creates change", while the text on the bloody sword says "Terrorism creates change".



# Tunisia: An Overview

- The smallest North African State: slightly larger than Georgia
- Population: 10,629,186
  - Age Breakdown:
  - 0-14 years: 23.2%
  - 15-64 years: 69.3%
  - 65 years and over: 7.5%







# Tunisia: An Overview

- Unemployment Rate:
  - Officially 14%, but believed to be much higher
  - University graduates are chronically unemployed
    - 25% to 50% of recent college graduates may be unemployed, with graduates in agriculture having the worst prospects, with up to a 70% unemployment rate
- Ethnic Groups:
  - 98% Arab, 1% European, 1% Jewish & other
- Religion:
  - 98% Muslim, 1% Christian, 1% Jewish and other
- Languages:
  - Arabic and French



# Tunisia: An Overview

- Urban population:
  - 67% of total population
- Literacy Rate:
  - **definition:** age 15 and over can read and write
  - **total population:** 74.3%
- Tunis is capital and largest city
- Tunisia has a diverse economy, with important agricultural, mining, tourism, and manufacturing sectors.





# Tunisia's Government

- Obtained independence from France on March 20, 1956
- One of the more socially liberal Arab governments
- Since independence Tunisia has only had two presidents:
  - Habib Bourguiba (1956 – 1987)
  - Zine El Abidine Ben Ali (1987 – 2011)
- What does the above fact tell you about the nature of Tunisia's government?





# Tunisia's Government

- Officially a constitutional republic
  - President as chief-of-state
  - Prime Minister as head of government (appointed by President)
  - Bicameral Parliament:
    - Chamber of Deputies
    - Chamber of Advisors
- Multi-party system, but Constitutional Democratic Rally (RCD) dominated the government.
  - Won 84% of the seats in Chamber of Deputies in 2009 Election
- Political Reforms since 1987
  - Abolished life-term presidencies, but there are no term limits
  - Opened up parliament to opposition parties
  - 8 recognized political parties
- Women hold 27% of the seats in the Chamber of Deputies
  - A higher % than the US Congress



*RCD Poster*



# Voting in Tunisia

- Elections held every 5 to 6 years
- Suffrage is universal at 18, except for
  - Active military
  - Internal security forces
- Comparing past US elections to Tunisia's most recent presidential election, what does Ben Ali's margin of victory tell you about elections in Tunisia?

Election Year	Candidates	% of votes
2008	Barack Obama	52.9%
	John McCain	45.7%
2004	George W. Bush	50.7%
	John Kerry	48.3%
1964	Lyndon Johnson	61.1%
	Barry Goldwater	38.5%

## 2009 Presidential election

e · d Summary of the 25 October 2009 Tunisian presidential election results

Candidates	Parties	Votes	%
Zine El Abidine Ben Ali	Constitutional Democratic Rally	4,238,711	89.62
Mohamed Bouchiha	Party of People's Unity	236,955	5.01
Ahmed Inoubli	Unionist Democratic Union	179,726	3.80
Ahmed Ibrahim	Ettajdid Movement	74,257	1.57



# Fall of Ben Ali

- In January 2011, Ben Ali fled Tunisia after a series of protests throughout the country.
  - What do you think prompted Tunisians to demand change?
  - What would it take for you to get out marching in the streets?





# Wikileaks

- An international organization that publishes submissions of private, secret, and classified media.
- In early 2010 they began publishing US diplomatic cables.
- According to Wikipedia, “the cables contain diplomatic analysis from world leaders, and the diplomats' assessment of host countries and their officials.”





# Wikileaks

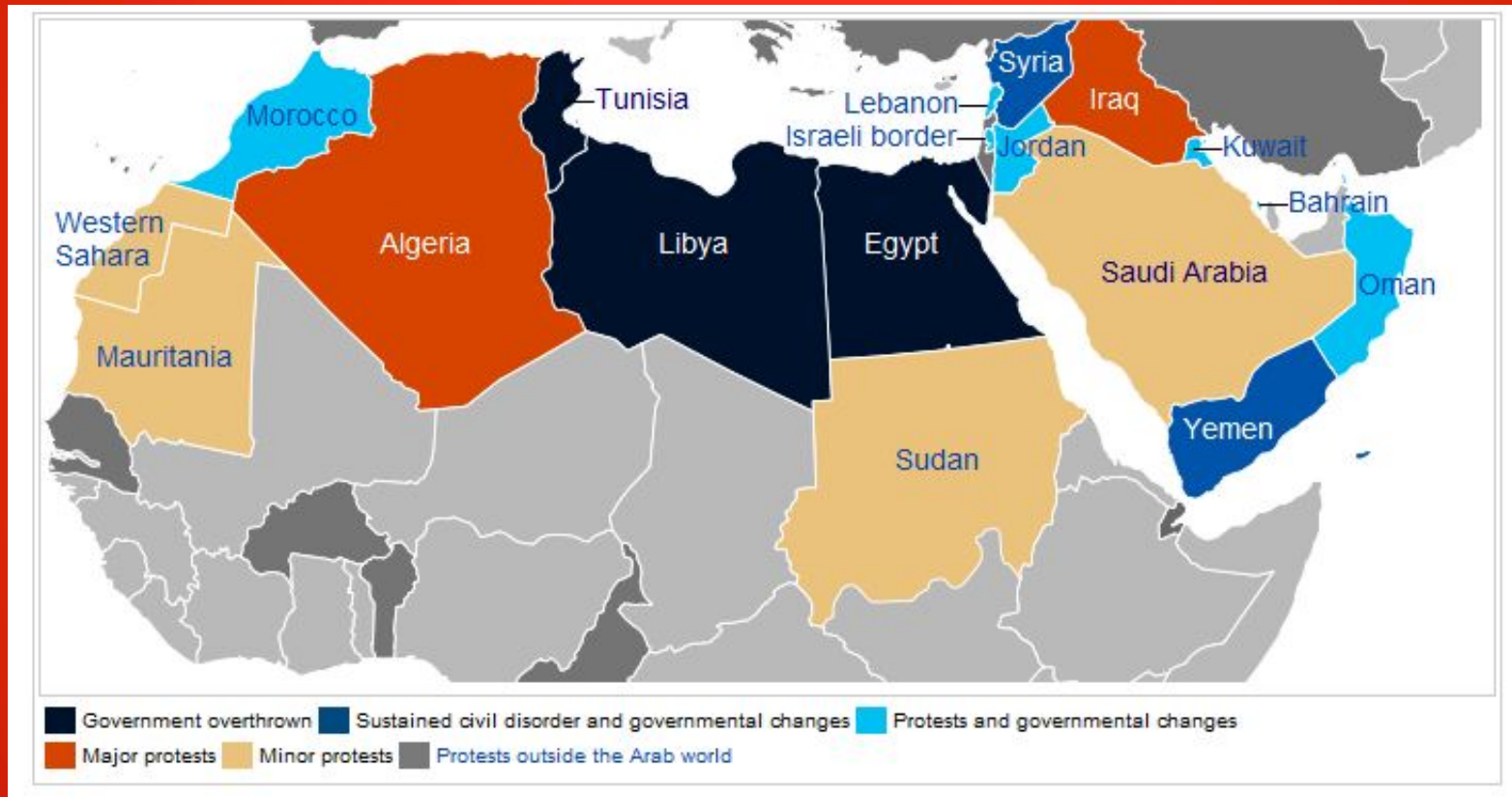
Read the “Tunisian Diplomatic Cable” handout in your groups and answer the attached questions.







# The Arab Spring After Tunisia



As of October 2011, 17 nations have seen some type of minor and major protests, civil uprisings or revolutions.



# The Arab Spring After Tunisia

- Shortly after Ben Ali fled, peaceful protests forced Hosni Mubarak – Egypt’s leader –to step down after 30 years in power.
  - He is currently on trial.
- In Libya, rebels rose up against Muammar Gaddafi and a bloody civil war – which involved assistance by the US – ensued. Gaddafi was overthrown and killed.



# The Arab Spring After Tunisia

- As of November 2011, Bashar al-Assad – Syria’s Leader – is violently suppressing protests and uprisings in his country.
- In Saudi Arabia, women are posting videos of themselves driving (which is forbidden in Saudi Arabia) on the internet. The Saudi King recently granted women the right to vote in the next elections.



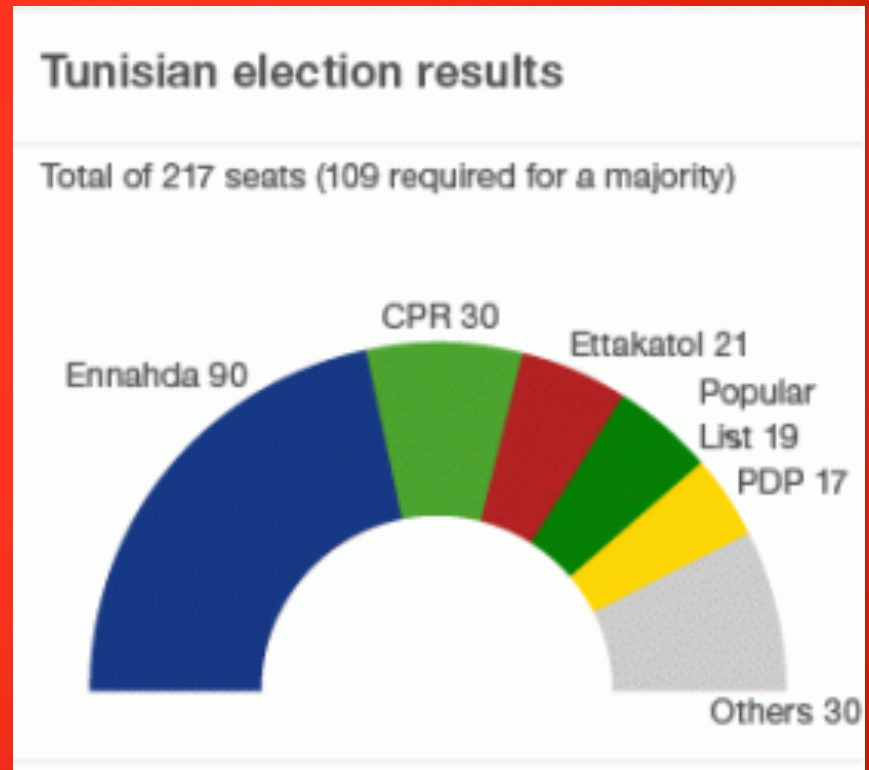
# Tunisia's Elections

- In October 2011, Tunisians went to the polls, under the watchful eye of international election observers, for the first truly democratic election in over 50 years.
- The elections were mostly peaceful. Only a handful of people protested.
- Many observers hailed it as a seismic shift in Middle Eastern politics and as a model for other countries participating in the Arab Spring.
- A region that has long been dominated by strongmen, had a fair and free election.



# Tunisia's Election Results

- This election was to determine an assembly of people to write the new Constitution.
- After the votes were counted, Ennahda, and Islamist party, won with 41% of the vote.
  - Islamist parties believe that Islam is a religion and a political system
  - They can range from extremely oppressive to moderate
  - Ennahda is considered moderate.





# Tunisia's Election Results

- Some Tunisians are nervous because they fear a repressive religious society
- Ennahda has attempted to assuage people's fears by promising that:
  - Hijabs (female head cover) will not be required by law
  - Alcohol will not be banned
  - Non-Muslims will not be persecuted
  - Women will be allowed to vote and hold office



Tourism is a major industry. A repressive religious regime would hurt the industry.



# The Overblown Islamist Threat

- Read the article and answer the following questions in your pairs:
  - Why were Islamist parties popular under autocratic regimes?
  - How does the younger generation of Arabs affect the power of the Islamist parties?
  - What has happened when Islamist parties have been included in government?
  - Do we have anything similar in the United States?



# Sample Tweet



[@monaeltahawy](#)

Mona Eltahawy



Follow [@monaeltahawy](#)

Every [#Arab](#) leader is watching [#Tunisia](#) in fear. Every Arab citizen is watching Tunisia in hope and solidarity. [#Sidibouzyd](#).



January 13, 2011 10:39 am via web

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The Response

## NC Civic Education Consortium

Non-Profit Organization · Chapel Hill, North Carolina · Edit Info



### Basic Information

**Founded** 1997

**Location** Knapp Sanders Building, #3330, Chapel Hill, NC 27599

**About** The North Carolina Civic Education Consortium, a program of UNC-Chapel Hill's School of Government, works with schools, governments, and community organizations to prepare North Carolina's young people to be active, responsible citizens.

**Company Overview** In 1995, the Institute of Government convened stakeholders from across North Carolina to participate in a Future Search conference. Search participants agreed on an important theme — the Institute needed to work with young people to help them learn how to participate in democracy, improve their communities, and be responsible citizens.

A year later, the Institute convened a forum of nearly 50 or... See More

**Mission** The North Carolina Civic Education Consortium works with schools, governments, and community organizations to prepare North Carolina's young people to be active, responsible citizens.

**Website** <http://www.civics.org>

### Likes and Interests

**Likes** National Council for the Social Studies, Campaign for the Civic Mission of Schools, NIE News&Observer, PlayMakers Repertory Company, The Response, North Carolina Council on Economic Education, NCACC, StopBullying.Gov, NC City & County Management Association's Civic Education Project, Kids Voting Durham, LEARN NC, The Girl Effect, Rock the Vote, Ackland Art Museum, The Dirksen Congressional Center and 21 more