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## AFRICAN HISTORICAL DICTIONARIES

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72. *Tanzania*, 2nd ed., by Thomas P. Ofcansky and Rodger Yeager. 1997.
73. *Burundi*, 2nd ed., by Ellen K. Eggers. 1997.

# Historical Dictionary of Tunisia

## Second Edition

Kenneth J. Perkins

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## Editor's Foreword

Although not particularly large, populous, or rich, Tunisia has long played a disproportionately significant role in international affairs. This is due in large part to its location and its unique function as a bridge between the Arab world, Africa, and Europe. As it steered its own fairly steady course through the many currents and countercurrents of political, economic, and social change in the years after its independence in 1956, Tunisia often served as a model of development for newly emergent African and Asian nations.

Tunisia's traditional function as a link between divergent cultures was enhanced by the impressive efforts of Habib Bourguiba, the country's president for three decades (1957-1987) and the guiding spirit of the struggle for independence before that. As an outspoken champion of development in the Arab and African worlds, Bourguiba attained a commanding presence abroad. Indeed, for many, Tunisia and Bourguiba seemed to be one. Ultimately, however, he also evolved into a domineering and inflexible leader at home. When a growing national sentiment for change unseated him, his successor, Zine el-Abidine Ben Ali, introduced significant changes that attempted to preserve Tunisia's progressive secular traditions while maintaining stability in the face of an internal opposition increasingly centered on Islamic political movements rather than, as in the past, on the left. Thus far, Ben Ali's balancing act has generally succeeded.

Consequently, Tunisia has avoided sinking into the chaos that has befallen some of its regional neighbors, most notably Algeria. On the contrary, the country has evolved into a privileged partner of Europe and the moderate Arab and African countries. As a result, despite its limitations of size and natural resources, Tunisia continues to play a significant international role. This revised edition of the *Historical Dictionary of Tunisia* will enrich outsiders' understanding of this crucial country by elucidating the historical context in which its leaders and people are rooted. The chronology has been updated, entries have been added or expanded, and the enlarged bibliography provides access to many new and relevant works. As before, the information is cogent and the style eminently readable.

This second edition was written by the author of the first, Kenneth J. Perkins. Professor Perkins is a specialist on modern North Africa, with an abiding

interest in Tunisia. He has visited the region regularly since

the late 1960s. Among other works, he is the author of *Tunisia: Crossroads of the Islamic and European Worlds* and a coeditor of *The Maghrib in Question: Essays in History and Historiography*. Like Perkins's other works, this book opens the door to a fascinating country with which anyone interested in international affairs should be familiar.

JON WORONOFF  
SERIES EDITOR

## Spelling and Alphabetization Note

Where conventional Anglicized forms exist for Arabic place-names, they have been used in preference to the more precise, but less familiar, formal transliterations. Thus, "Sfax" appears in place of "Safaqis," "Kairouan" rather than "Qairawan," and "Sousse," not "Susa." By the same token, spellings of the names of contemporary figures that have acquired general acceptance in English language books, articles, and news reports have been adopted. Thus, "Habib Bourguiba" rather than "Habib Abu Ruqaiba" and "Zine el-Abidine Ben Ali" rather than "Zain alAbidin ibn Ali." The transliteration of the names of figures from earlier periods, however, adheres to more formal scholarly practice except for the omission of the diacritical marks and symbols conventionally used in such systems. The same applies to Arabic common nouns. Inasmuch as nonspecialists sometimes find these orthographic markings confusing and specialists readily recognize the names or words without them, the symbol *c* to represent the Arabic letter *caïn* and the symbol ' to represent *hamza*, a glottal stop, have been utilized only in the titles of Arabic books and newspapers mentioned in the entries.

Arabic has only three vowels (a, i, and u), and these are not written if they are short. In addition, some letters have similar sounds (to a nonArabic speaker). These two phenomena can lead to variant transliterations of the same word. As a general rule in this work, vowels not used in Arabic have been avoided, and similar-sounding consonants have been rendered in precise transliteration. As a result, "Maghrib," not "Maghreb," is the spelling of the generic term for the western Arab lands; "funduq," not "fonduq" or "fondouk," the spelling for a combination warehouse and hotel; and "Muhammad," not one of its many variants, the form for the most frequently occurring male name in Arabic, except in those cases where contemporary figures have themselves adopted the widely used "Mohamed."

For the purposes of alphabetization within the *Dictionary*, the Arabic article "al-" and titles, such as "bey," "dey," and "pasha" are not taken into account.

## Chronology

814B.C.E.Traditional date of the founding of Carthage

263-

241B.C.E.First Punic War

281-

202B.C.E Second Punic War

146B.C.E.Third Punic War

113B.C.E.Rebellion of Jugurtha

45B.C.E.Rebuilding of Carthage

313C.E. Donatist Schism

429 Vandals enter Africa Proconsularis

439 Vandals capture Carthage

530 Berber tribes defeat Vandal king, Hilderic

533 Byzantine conquest of Africa Proconsularis

646 Exarch Gregory severs ties with Byzantine Empire

647 Arab Muslims defeat Exarch Gregory at Sbaitla

670 Founding of Kairouan

683 Berber leader Kusaila seizes Kairouan

691 Recapture of Kairouan by Hassan ibn Numan

698 Death of Berber resistance leader Kahina

ca.  
735 Kharaji revolts

800 Ibrahim ibn Aghlab appointed governor of Ifriqiya

827 Aghlabid conquest of Sicily begins

878 Construction of Raqqada

909	Abu Abdallah's Berber warriors defeat Aghlabid army; Fatimid rule in Ifriqiya begins
912	Founding of Mahdiyya
934-947	Kharaji insurrections of Abu Yazid
973	Fatimid capital relocated in Egypt; Zirid rule in Ifriqiya begins
1049	Break in Zirid-Fatimid relations
1052	Banu Hilal, Arab nomads, defeat Zirid forces
1057	Banu Hilal sack Kairouan
1087	Genoese and Pisan fleets hold city of Mahdiyya for ransom
1148	Norman occupation of Mahdiyya
1159	al-Muwahhids expel Normans from Mahdiyya; Tunis becomes the capital of the al-Muwahhid province of Ifriqiya
1188	al-Muwahhids suppress rebellion of Ali ibn Ghaniyya

- 1203Yahya ibn Ghaniyya captures Tunis
- 1205Restoration of Tunis to al-Muwahhids by Abd alWahid ibn Abi Hafs
- 1228-Consolidation of Hafsid control over Tunisia by Abu Zakariyya  
1249
- 1270Crusade of King (later Saint) Louis IX
- 1347-Banu Marin, a Moroccan tribe, control Tunisia  
1349
- 1357-Second Marinid occupation of Tunisia  
1358
- 1534Khair al-Din, Turkish ruler of Algiers, seizes Tunis
- 1535Charles V, Hapsburg emperor, ousts Turks and returns Tunis and La Goulette to Hafsids
- 1569Ilj Ali, Ottoman pasha of Algiers, captures Tunis
- 1573Hapsburg troops restore Hafsids
- 1574Ottoman navy evicts Hapsburgs from La Goulette, Hafsid dynasty collapses; Tunisia becomes a province of Ottoman Empire
- 1591Deys seize power in military coup in Tunis
- 1631Ottoman sultan recognizes authority of Murad Corso Bey; beginning of Muradid dynasty
- 1673Murad II suppresses deylical insurrection
- 1686Algerian troops occupy Tunis
- 1694-Algerian troops again occupy Tunis  
1695
- 1702Assassination of Murad III by Ibrahim Sharif
- 1705Husain ibn Ali claims title of bey; beginning of Husainid dynasty
- 1708Ottoman sultan grants Husain title of pasha, acknowledging his power in Tunisia

1729-Rebellion of Ali Pasha ends in his assumption of power  
1740

1746-Civil war returns Husain's heirs to throne  
1756

1782-Reign of Hammuda Bey marked by general economic prosperity  
1814

1807Algerian invasion repulsed

1837-Reign of Ahmad Bey; first attempts at political and social reforms  
1855

1857Muhammad Bey issues Ahd al-aman

1861Muhammad al-Sadiq Bey promulgates constitution

1863Government contracts first international loan

1864Increased taxation triggers rural revolts

1869Tunisia's creditors form International Finance Commission

1873-Reform ministry of Khair al-Din al-Tunsi  
1877

1878Congress of Berlin condones eventual French control of Tunisia

1881French occupation of Tunisia; Treaty of the Bardo

- 1882La Marsa Convention establishes French protectorate
- 1891Consultative Conference, advisory body to resident general, formed
- 1896Founding of the Khalduniyya Society
- 1907Limited Tunisian participation in Consultative Conference authorized
- 1911Jallaz Cemetery incident
- 1912Young Tunisian boycott of Tunis tram system
- 1920Publication of *La Tunisie Martyre*; organizing of Dustur Party
- 1924Founding of the Confédération Général des Travailleurs Tunisiens (CGTT)
- 1934Dustur Party dissidents, led by Habib Bourguiba, form Neo-Dustur Party
- 1938Neo-Dustur leaders arrested following violent anti-French demonstrations
- 1942German troops occupy Tunisia; U.S. and British forces invade Tunisia from Algeria
- 1943Allied liberation of Tunis; Bourguiba returns
- 1944Nationalist groups issue Manifeste du Front Tunisien
- 1945Bourguiba flees to solicit international support for Neo-Dustur; formation of the Union Générale des Travailleurs Tunisiens (UGTT)
- 1952Neo-Dustur attempts to place Franco-Tunisian question on agenda of United Nations; French militants assassinate Farhat Hached
- 1954Neo-Dustur begins negotiations with France to modify Tunisia's political status
- 1955France accords internal autonomy to Tunisia
- 1956