

Berbers

The indigenous people of North Africa

3rd year Cultural studies
Alina Lee

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The term 'Berber' derives from the Greek barbario and the Latin barbari from which Arabs derived the term 'barbariy', meaning primitive or foreign.

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Amazigh, plural Imazighen, a word which means "free people" in the Indigenous Tamazight language.



Berbers, the indigenous people of North Africa, live in Algeria, Libya, Mauritania, Mali, Morocco, Niger and Tunisia. In several countries they are fighting for national and cultural autonomy

The Berbers of Morocco are the descendants of the prehistoric Caspian culture of North Africa. The de-Berberization of North Africa began with Punic settlement and accelerated under Roman, Vandal, Byzantine and Arab rule.







The Berber culture celebrates the same holidays as the rest of the country, such as Ramadan and Eid al Adha. But they also have their own unique holidays and celebrations. Yennayer is the most well-known. It's the Amazigh New Year, and is based on the Amazigh agrarian calendar.



Conclusion

Globalization is harming the Amazigh culture every year at the same degree it is doing with minority cultures around the globe.

However, thanks to the awareness of its people and because of what comes out of what is called the Arab Spring movement, the Berber language is now recognized alongside Arabic as the country's two official languages by the Moroccan and Algerian constitutions.