

JABAL AL-AKHDAR, LIBYA

Moroccans hope that Muhammad VI will soon do so.

See also BOUIH, FATNA EL-; 8 MARS NEWSPAPER; GENDER: GENDER AND LAW; GENDER: GENDER AND POLITICS; MOROCCO: POLITICAL PARTIES IN.

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MARIA F. CURTIS

JABAL AL-AKHDAR, LIBYA

Eastern "green mountain" region.

An area of Libya in the hinterland of the eastern city of Benghazi, with mountains of nearly 3,300 feet (1,000 m). It is one of the few parts of Libya with relatively good rainfall (98-118 in/yr; 250-300 cm/yr) but with difficult terrain and soil conditions, characterized by grain cultivation with modest yields and livestock grazing.

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LAURENCE MICHALAK

JABAL AL-AKHDAR, OMAN

The highest and best-watered region in the western Hajar Mountains of Oman.

About ninety-five miles southwest of Muscat, the highest peak of the Jabal al-Akhdar ("green mountain" in Arabic) region is Jabal Shams, which rises

to nearly 10,000 feet. The region received its name from the relatively abundant vegetation found on its slopes and valleys. Because it receives up to twenty-eight inches of rain per year, and portions of it have suitable soil in its valleys, plateaus, and man-made terraces, a variety of agricultural products can be grown in Jabal al-Akhdar, including wheat, legumes, and a variety of fruits such as grapes, pomegranates, and peaches. Irrigation is provided by the *falaj* system, an ancient technique using channels to direct water from sources underground to crops some distance away. The main region of habitation is the Sayq plateau. The seaward side of Jabal al-Akhdar faces the Gulf of Oman, and the main towns are al-Rustaq, al-Awabi, and Nakhl. On the interior-facing slopes lie Nizwa, Manah, and Izki. Jabal al-Akhdar is part of the once nearly inaccessible area of Oman proper to which Muslim minority groups such as the Ibadi sect fled as a result of conflicts in Arabia during the late seventh and early eighth centuries C.E. After converting much of the local population, Ibadi imams rose to power in 751 C.E., and Jabal al-Akhdar remained a stronghold of the Ibadi imamate until 1959.

See also OMAN.

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ANTHONY B. TOTH

JABAL AL-KHALIL

Group of mountains constituting the southernmost part of the Judean mountains, surrounding the town of Hebron (Khalil), about twenty miles south of Jerusalem.

Jabal al-Khalil forms the tallest part of the mountain ridge extending north to Tiberias. The ridge was where most villages of Palestine were concentrated during the nineteenth century. While agricultural cultivation increased under Jordan's rule, between 1948 and 1967, many villagers of the relatively congested and unindustrialized Jabal al-Khalil migrated for work to the east bank of the Jordan River. Since the 1967 Arab-Israel War, Ja-