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GISELA PROCHÁZKA-EISL

Istiqlāl Party

The **Istiqlāl Party** (Ar. Ḥizb al-Istiqlāl, Independence Party), founded in December 1943, was Morocco's leading nationalist organisation during the colonial era and remains an important political party today. After publishing the Independence Manifesto on 11 January 1944, which called for the immediate abrogation of the French protectorate regime, established in 1912, the nationalist conservative Istiqlāl, with Ahmed Belafrej (Aḥmad Balāfirj, d. 1990) as its secretary general, quickly emerged as an urban mass movement that led the struggle against the French colonial regime through predominantly non-violent protests and a global anti-colonial propaganda campaign, which included a permanent representation at the United Nations in New York. Its most prominent leader was 'Allāl al-Fāsī (d. 1974), who epitomised the central role played by the country's most prominent economic and religious families in the Istiqlāl's early history. Beginning in September 1946, the party's daily newspaper *al-'Alam* ("The banner") became the country's first mass publication in Arabic. In March 1955, Istiqlāl labour activists founded al-Ittiḥād al-Maghribī lil-Shuḡhl (Union Marocaine du Travail, UMT), the first independent Moroccan labour union. By 1951

the party had recruited approximately 100,000 active members. While rhetorically embracing the prevalent discourses of Arab and Maghribī unity, the Istiqlāl primarily sought to establish an independent Moroccan constitutional monarchy under the 'Alawī royal family.

Despite its central role in the successful struggle for national sovereignty, the Istiqlāl was sidelined by King Muḥammad V (r. 1927–61) during the domestic power struggle following independence in March 1956. Its influence declined further after January 1959, when several younger members of the executive committee, led by Mehdi Ben Barka (al-Mahdī b. Baraka, d. 1965), left the party to found the radical socialist party al-Ittiḥād al-Waṭanī lil-Quwwāt al-Sha'biyya (Union Nationale des Forces Populaires, UNFP). Under the authoritarian rule of King Ḥasan II (r. 1961–99), the Istiqlāl joined the parliamentary opposition. Influenced by the thought of 'Allāl al-Fāsī, the party successfully advocated for the Arabisation of the administrative and educational systems. The Istiqlāl re-emerged as an important actor on the Moroccan political scene following the liberalisation of the parliamentary system in 1998. The party's election of labour activist Hamid Chabat (Ḥamīd Shabbāt, b. 1953) as secretary general in September 2012 constituted the first successful challenge to the dominance of the bourgeois elites within the party.

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DAVID STENNER

Izetbegović, Alija

Alija Izetbegović (1925–2003) was the first president of independent Bosnia-Herzegovina. Born in Bosanski Šamac, he joined the pan-Islamist movement Mladi Muslimani (Young Muslims) in 1941, and took part in various re-Islamisation activities, such as celebrations of the birthday of the prophet Muḥammad and group readings of the Qur’ān. In 1946, he was sentenced to three years in prison by the new communist regime. After his liberation, he worked as a legal expert in various public enterprises and, with other former Young Muslims, was active in the official Islamic religious institutions. In 1983, he was tried, along with twelve others, on accusations of having circulated an “Islamic declaration,” written in 1970, and established contacts with the Islamic Republic of Iran.

In 1990, after the collapse of the communist regime, Alija Izetbegović became president of the Party of Democratic Action (SDA), representing the Muslim population of Bosnia-Herzegovina and the Sandžak, a region located at the border between Serbia and Montenegro. Shortly thereafter, he was elected president of the Collegial Presidency of Bosnia-

Herzegovina. During the Bosnian War of 1992–5, he became the symbol of Bosnian resistance against Serb and Croat military aggression; he seems to have contemplated the possibility of creating a small Muslim state on part of Bosnian territory. After the signature of the Dayton Agreement in December 1995, he remained a member of the Bosnian Collegial Presidency until 2000, when he stepped down due to health problems. He died in 2003 in Sarajevo.

Alija Izetbegović wrote several books, notably *Islamska deklaracija* (Islamic declaration, written in 1970) and *Islam između istoka i zapada* (Islam between East and West, published in 1988). In the *Islamic declaration*, he advocated an Islamic revolution and the creation of a worldwide Islamic state. In *Islam between East and West*, he presented Islam as a third way between Western materialism and Eastern spirituality. Alija Izetbegović’s thought developed from a revolutionary pan-Islamism into a moderate nationalism, approving of the principles of parliamentary democracy and market economics.

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