

## RURAL AND URBAN PRACTICES OF WEARING A FEMALE HEAD COVERING IN THE MAGHREB

*The article is devoted to women's head covering practices in the Maghreb countries (Tunisia, Algeria, Morocco). Head coverings are an essential part of women's costume in North Africa. Their name, material of manufacture, color, design and method of production vary depending on the region and locality, which in turn makes this item a kind of visiting card of its owner. The author analyzes two vestimentary traditions that had developed by the end of the 19th century — urban (Arab) and rural (Berber). Despite the similar shape of veils used by women in the city and in the village, these were endowed with different symbolic meanings. In the 20th century, under the conditions of modernization and decolonization, rural and urban veils became meaningful in different contexts: for example, urban veils enjoyed greater prestige than rural ones, which resulted in them being perceived as national symbols of the new North African states, and rural veils' use continued at the level of personal daily practices in the regions where they were originally used. The author aims to clarify the reason for such different life trajectories of the objects of one type.*

**Keywords:** *Maghreb ethnography, social practices, head covering, Arab culture, Berber culture*

**Author Info:** **Abroskina, Evgeniia V.** — Junior Researcher of the Oriental Department, State Hermitage (Russian Federation, Saint-Petersburg). E-mail: [ugenia92@yandex.ru](mailto:ugenia92@yandex.ru) ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-2960-5658>

**For citation:** Abroskina, E. V. 2022. Rural and Urban Practices of Wearing a Female Head Covering in the Maghreb. *Herald of Anthropology (Vestnik Antropologii)*. 4: 83–100.

### References

- Ahmed, L. 1992. *Women and Gender in Islam. Historical Roots of a Modern Debate*. New Haven and London. Yale University Press. 296 p.
- Alaoui, R. 2003. *Costumes et parures du Maroc* [Moroccan costumes and ornaments]. Courbevoie: A. C. R. Edition. 336 p.
- Allenby, J. 2002. Re-inventing cultural heritage: Palestinian traditional costume and embroidery since 1948. In *Textile Society of America Symposium Proceedings* (September 26–28, 2002). Northampton: Smith College. 101–110.
- Barthes, R. *Sistema mody. Stat'i po semiotike kul'tury* [The Fashion system. Articles on the semiotics of culture]. Moscow: Izdatel'stvo imeni Sabashnikovykh, 2003. 512 p.
- Becker, C. 2006. Amazigh Textiles and Dress in Morocco Metaphors of Motherhood. *African Arts* 39 (3): 42–55, 96. <https://www.jstor.org/stable/20447780>
- Belkaid, L. 1998. *Algéroise. Histoire d'un costume méditerranéen* [Algiers. History of a Mediterranean costume]. Édisud: Aix-en-Provence. 188 p.

- Bourdieu, P. 2001. *Prakticheskii smysl*. [Practical Reason] Saint-Petersburg.: Aleteia. 562 p.
- D'iakov, N. N. 2021. Al-Khaddad, At-Takhrir. O polozhenii zhenshchiny v shariate i obshchestve. Retsenziia na knigu. [Al-Haddad, At-Tahrir. On the position of women in Sharia and society. Book review]. *Islam v sovremennom mire* 17 (2): 163–174.
- Eriksen, T. H. 2004. Keeping the recipe: Norwegian folk costumes and cultural capital. *FOCAAL*. 44: 20–34. <https://doi.org/10.3167/092012904782311308>
- Fursova, E. N. 2018. Berberskii vopros i problema samoidentifikatsii korennoogo naseleniia Severnoi Afriki na primere sovremennogo alzhirskogo obshchestva [The Berber question and the problem of self-identification of the indigenous population of North Africa on the example of modern Algerian society]. *Vestnik Sankt-Peterburgskogo universiteta. Vostokovedenie i afrikanistika* 2: 254–265. <https://doi.org/10.21638/11701/spbu13.2018.209>
- Hammadou, G. 1999. Veils of My Youth. *Transition* 80: 60–71. <https://doi.org/10.2307/2903168>
- Korovkina, A. Y. 2019. *Narodnaia kul'tura v sovremennom Tunise* [Folk culture in modern Tunisia]. Moscow: Izdatel'skii dom "Medina". 288 p.
- MacMaster, N. 2009. *Burning the veil: The Algerian war and the 'emancipation' of Muslim women, 1954–1962*. New York: Manchester University Press. 432 p.
- Marçais, G. 1930. *Le Costume Musulman D'Alger: 1830–1930. Collection du Centenaire de L'Algerie. Archeologie et Histoire* [The Muslim Costume of Algiers. 1830–1930. Collection of the Centenary of Algeria. Archeology and History]. Paris: Libraire Plon. 134 p.
- Micklewright, N. and Y. K. Stillman. 1992. Costume in the Middle East. *Review of Middle East Studies* 26 (1): 13–38.
- M'halla, M. 2002. *Musée du Sahara à Douz* [Sahara Museum in Douz]. Tunisie: APPC. 47 p.
- Northrop, D. T. 2004. *Veiled Empire. Gender and Power in Stalinist Central Asia*. Cornell University Press. 392 p.
- Prozhogina, S. V. 2001. *Ot Sakhary do Seny (Literaturnoe prostranstvo frankoiazychnykh magribintsev v XX veke)*. [From the Sahara to the Seine (Literary space of French-speaking Maghrebians in the 20th century).] Moscow: Vostochnaia literatura. 486 p.
- Rodionov, M. A. 2007. *The Western Ḥaḍramawt: Ethnographic Field Research, 1983–1991*. Halle (Saale): OWZ. 307 p.
- Sethom, S. G. and Kh. Skik. 2000. *Cheveux, foulards, coiffes: L'art de la coiffure traditionnelle* [Hair, scarves, headdresses: The art of traditional hairdressing]. Tunisie: Institut National du Patrimoine. 24 p.
- Stillman, Y. K. 2003. *Arab Dress: From the Dawn of Islam to Modern Times*. Ed. by N. A. Stillman. Revised second edition. Leiden, Boston: Brill. 320 p.
- Volodina, M. A. 2011. *Berbery Severnoi Afriki: kul'turnaia i politicheskaia evoliutsiia (na primere Marokko)* [Berbers of North Africa: cultural and political evolution (on the example of Morocco)] Moscow: Institut mirovoi ekonomiki i mezhdunarodnykh otnoshenii Rossiiskoi akademii nauk. 112 p.