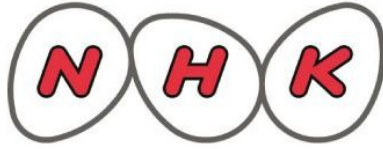




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A Cradle of the Moroccan Monarchy / The Historic City of Meknes

This is a portrait of Sultan Moulay Ismail.

He chose Meknes as the capital of the Alawite Dynasty.

The city has a mild climate and a plentiful supply of water.

There was already a settlement here but the tyrannical Sultan ordered its complete destruction during the mid-17th century.

It was done so using slave labour.

The city walls cover a distance of 40 kilometres.

The Sultan wanted to build a beautiful strongly-defended city inside the walls.

He maintained diplomatic ties with European countries

And was especially influenced by King Louis XIV of France.

The soil at Meknes is fertile, there's good land for fruit and vegetable production.

The person here is buying locally-grown okra.

This is one of Meknes's residential areas.

The main street is lined with tea shops.

Mint tea is poured into the cup from very high up.

The Sultan had a reservoir built to provide water.

The water was extracted from 40 metres under ground.

And still is today – it's used for farming.

The Sultan also had this huge granary built.

It was designed to hold 20 years worth of grain in case the town came under siege.

Wells were dug inside to help keep the grain at a constant temperature.

The granary is right next to the Sultan's stables.

12,000 cavalry horses were kept here.

The Sultan dreamt of building a city to match the splendour of Versailles in France but died – in 1727 - before the project could be completed.

This is his mausoleum.

The capital was subsequently relocated to Marrakech under the rule of the Sultan's son.

Meknes lost its role.

This clock was a gift from France's Louis XIV three centuries ago.

It still marks the passage of time in Morocco's one-time capital.