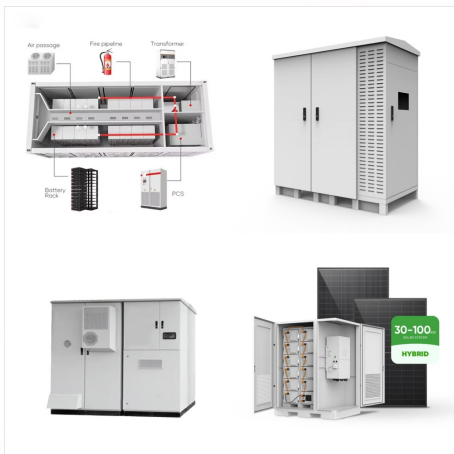




The official position of the Kingdom of Morocco since 1963 is that all of Western Sahara is an integral part of the kingdom. The Moroccan government refers to Western Sahara only as "Moroccan Sahara", the "Saharan provinces" [citation needed], or the "Southern Provinces".



The Western Sahara conflict is an ongoing conflict between the Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic/Polisario Front and the Kingdom of Morocco. The conflict originated from an insurgency by the Polisario Front against Spanish colonial ???



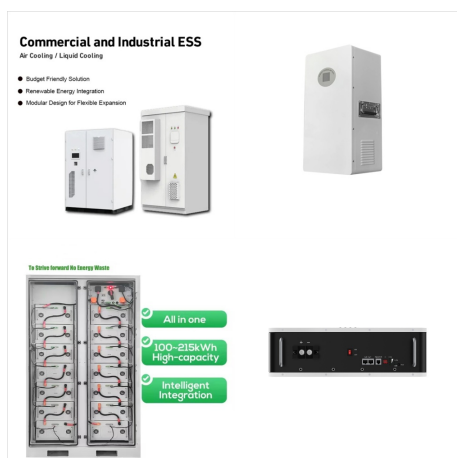
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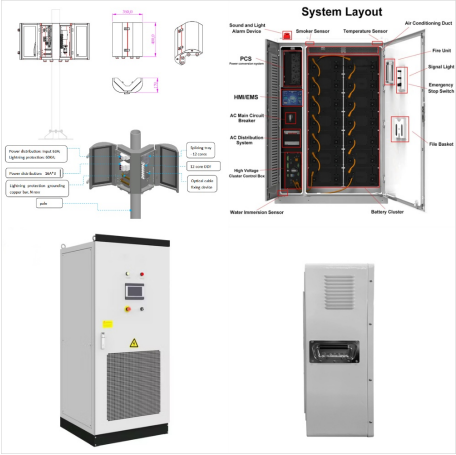
Western Sahara [a] is a disputed territory in North-western Africa. It has a surface area of 272,000 square kilometres (105,000 sq mi). [3] Approximately 30% of the territory (82,500 km² (31,900 sq mi)) is controlled by the Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic (SADR); the remaining 70% is occupied [4] [5] and administered by neighboring



The term Sahrawi???is often used to mean "indigenous Western Saharan," although this equivalent is not accurate deed, it is sufficient on most accounts that an "ethnic" Sahrawi only has to claim descent from one of the recognized major or minor social groupings??? "tribes" or "confederations"???in or overlapping the former Spanish Sahara???



Basic Facts. Population*: 612,000; Land area*: 266,000km²; Listing as a Non-Self-Governing Territory. Western Sahara has been on the United Nations list of Non-Self-Governing Territories since



OverviewPositions of the main
partiesBackgroundPositions of other statesPositions
of international organizationsSee alsoExternal links



Western Sahara is virtually all desert and is very
sparsely inhabited. The Kasbah and mosque in the
town of Semara (Smara) are among the major
Muslim monuments in Western Sahara. The
principal city is ???



On 13 December 1974, the General Assembly
requested an advisory opinion on the following
questions : "I. Was Western Sahara (Rio de Oro
and Sakiet El Hamra) at the time of colonization by
Spain a territory belonging to no one (terra nullius)
?" If ???



It was ignited in 1975 after Spain relinquished control of Spanish Sahara, later known as Western Sahara. Morocco and Mauritania divided the territory between themselves, while the pro-independence Polisario Front, backed by Algeria, proclaimed a Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic and launched a military struggle against what it viewed as two occupying ???



According the former UN personal envoy to Western Sahara, Peter Van Walsum, the international legality has failed in the Western Sahara because of two main reasons: first, the weakness of the international law itself: there is no mechanism to enforce its resolutions and even if there was it cannot be applied in the case of the Western Sahara because this conflict is ???



In late July, Morocco secured another diplomatic coup in a string of recent triumphs when France backed its territorial claims over Western Sahara. France joins a growing list of countries, including the United States, to champion the North African kingdom's plan for autonomy under Moroccan sovereignty. France's decision is, however, the source of much ???



Western Sahara is virtually all desert and is very sparsely inhabited. The Kasbah and mosque in the town of Semara (Smara) are among the major Muslim monuments in Western Sahara. The principal city is Laayoune, the old colonial capital.



OverviewGeographyHistoryPoliticsAdministrative divisionsDisputeEconomyDemographics