

# US Support for Morocco Is No Mistake. Biden Should Reaffirm It.

by [David Schenker \(/experts/david-schenker\)](/experts/david-schenker)

Sep 9, 2023

Also published in *The Hill*

## ABOUT THE AUTHORS



[David Schenker \(/experts/david-schenker\)](/experts/david-schenker)

David Schenker is the Taube Senior Fellow at The Washington Institute and director of the Linda and Tony Rubin Program on Arab Politics. He is the former Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs.



Articles & Testimony

*Editorial  
note:*

*This article was approved for publication before Morocco suffered a major earthquake last week and therefore does not reflect potential consequences from that tragic event.*

---

**The administration clearly dislikes the Western Sahara policy it inherited, but reversing course now would exacerbate Washington’s serious credibility deficit with the Saudis and other regional partners.**

**W**eeks before Joe Biden was inaugurated president in January 2021, while serving as assistant secretary for Near East affairs, I traveled to the Western Sahara. A little more than a month earlier, President Trump had recognized Moroccan sovereignty over the disputed territory and pledged to establish a consulate in the region to encourage Morocco to normalize relations with Israel. A peace agreement was signed that day, but the decision, which reversed longstanding U.S. policy, was nevertheless controversial. My visit—the first of a senior U.S. government official in nearly four decades—was intended to reinforce and solidify the U.S. commitment prior to the transition. The highlight of the two-day trip was a tour of a building in the southern town of Dakhla that the Moroccan Foreign Ministry had identified as a potential site for a U.S. consulate...

[Read the full article on the Hill website. \(https://thehill.com/opinion/international/4194217-us-support-for-morocco-is-no-mistake-biden-should-reaffirm-it/\)](https://thehill.com/opinion/international/4194217-us-support-for-morocco-is-no-mistake-biden-should-reaffirm-it/) ❖

---

**RECOMMENDED**



ARTICLES & TESTIMONY

## Biden's G20 Optimism Won't Stave Off a Potential Oil Crisis

Sep 11, 2023



Simon Henderson

(/policy-analysis/bidens-g20-optimism-wont-stave-potential-oil-crisis)



BRIEF ANALYSIS

## ISKP Goes Global: External Operations from Afghanistan

Sep 11, 2023



Aaron Y. Zelin

(/policy-analysis/iskp-goes-global-external-operations-afghanistan)



ARTICLES & TESTIMONY

## 30 Years Later, the Oslo Vision Can Still Be Revived

Sep 11, 2023



Dennis Ross,  
David Makovsky

(/policy-analysis/30-years-later-oslo-vision-can-still-be-revived)

### TOPICS

Arab & Islamic Politics (/policy-analysis/arab-islamic-politics)

U.S. Policy (/policy-analysis/us-policy)

### REGIONS & COUNTRIES

