

## **US-Maghreb Relations**

Belkacem Iratni

University of Algiers

[kacemiratni@hotmail.com](mailto:kacemiratni@hotmail.com)

The paper aims at scrutinizing some aspects of external relations of a region (the Maghreb) which is relatively neglected by Arab scholars in comparison to the Middle East and given the vital importance of this part of the world in US designs. It will look at the objectives sought by the Maghreb States in their search for strengthening their partnership with the US on economic and security basis and assess the vested interests, the US has been trying to develop with the Maghreb, particularly in the light of the Broader Middle East and North Africa Project and the extended implications of the Global War on Terror as highlighted by the Pan-Sahel initiative, namely. Issues of Democratization or fears of the success of political Islam in the Maghreb will be analyzed on the basis of US expectations and the hopes of a new American policy towards the Arab world in general and the Maghreb in particular, which the raise to power of President Obama seem to have implied in the eyes of the Maghreb leaders, will also be discussed.