NORTH AFRICA´S YOUTH LEAD CHANGE

Libya’s revolution has demonstrated that the “Third Wave”, which began with the collapse of Communism in the East of Europe and followed with peaceful democratic transitions in South America and Asia, has not concluded yet. It is said that Libya could mark the beginning of the North Africa democratization. It is also a well-known fact that Islamic Mediterranean countries are more exposed to the influence of European societies mainly among the youths. In the light of recent events some signs have arisen showing hopeless changes in a society anchored to the past. The young people, emerging in this society and influenced less by the religious inflexibility, are more open-minded to evolution throughout new technologies like the internet and accordingly they are demanding change.

I am convinced that if the described situation leads to riots and clashes, either the governments finally will give in or there will be a direct international intervention. Consequently, the western geostrategic vision of North Africa will take on a new perception which surely will provoke some unexpected implications not only in the military but also in society and economy. As far as the military is concerned, a strong intervention might be implemented establishing a peacekeeping force. In this case, countries will be forced to increase their military personnel figures which are currently considerably huge.

At the same time, the transition will lead Islamic societies towards democracy which will ease a massive spread of extremist groups such as Al Qaeda.

Finally, it will be interesting to see how powerful countries will compete for the control of some strategic resources (for example gas, oil or phosphates) or key points in commercial routes (like the Suez Canal)

To sum up, important changes are expected in North Africa, especially social clashes and calls for revolution, frequently leaded by youths. How these evolve while countries and international organizations take sides will determinate the shape of what is to come. In the meantime we can only wait.