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It is beyond all doubt that the world is changing every single minute, but we only realize it when something significant happens. This is the case of North Africa. Recent riots and demonstrations, even a civil war in the case of Libya, has changed the political scene in the zone. This is the result of decades of false democracy, Government´s corruption and violation of human rights. Civilians, and mainly young people, poured onto the streets claiming for democracy, decent jobs and welfare. Nowadays, the uprisings still go on and are threatening with extending to all Muslims countries.

Once reached this situation, western countries should redefine their foreign affairs policy. With the aim of assuring natural resources for their countries and stability for the Mediterranean area, European nations maintained economic and politic relations with North African countries even when they all knew the lack of democracy and human rights in these countries. As Europeans, we sold weapons and bought gas and petrol from them. These resources were used to subjugate their population and maintain a relative stability.

From my point of view, western countries shouldn´t have based their relations with these countries only in economic and geostrategic interests. Perhaps we couldn´t have maintained a so high rate of growth during the last decades but we could have shown a coherent politics and ethical principles. It is too early to know the real impact of these changes in the international scene. We will see whether the emerging Governments collaborate with us or not. In any case, we are on the verge of a new era in the North of Africa, and we should take advantage of this to start again from the beginning with our foreign policy.