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**EXERCISE 5**

**A NEW ERA IN NORTHERN AFRICA**

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Simply a year ago, it was unthinkable that in the countries of Northern Africa could happen something similar to a revolution since everything seems to have been under control by the strong regimes established in power from decades. Nevertheless, now several dictators are no longer in office forced by the people of their respective countries.

In some of these countries, as in Egypt, the phenomenon has occurred after pacific demonstrations at the main square of the capital while in others it has been needed to use the force for achieving the objective, as in Libya, where even today there are combats in certain cities between the rebels and the Colonel Gaddafi´s defenders.

Perhaps the main characteristic of these spontaneous movements are the relevant participation of the young. It was them, particularly the students, whom started the protests in Tunisia against the president and his familiar entourage, accusing the authorities that have abusively profited from State. It is a generation of young very well educated but unemployed and without clear future.

Things have changed quickly. The former political regimes are not accepted any more by the people of Northern Africa´s countries. As a consequence soon some new governments are going to take office. The international community, taking into account the trascendental issues at stake like terrorism matters or energy reserves, must help the new authorities in order to assure the stability in the region.

To conclude, focusing the subject on the near future, the tradicional role assigned to the region in the global strategy must change accordingly wtih the democratic developments. Naturally, this pose huge challenges not only for the countries involved but also for the international community as a whole.