

Moroccan Ultra Groups of Football: From Tifos to Street Politics

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Abstract : The Ultras phenomena have become the most spectacular form of football fandom in the early twenty-first century. Yet, since their appearance in Morocco, they have been associated with violence and vandalism. This paper aims to explain the political dimension of Moroccan ultra group in terms of their chants in Morocco post-February 20th. It seeks to analyze their narratives which have shifted to a form of social Hirak, or, using Asef Bayat's term, non-movement. The paper focuses on the dynamics of two nationally and universally notorious groups located in Casablanca, Morocco's biggest and most densely populated city, namely the "Winners" (supporters of the Wydad Athletic Club) and the "Green Boys" (supporters of the Raja Club Athletic) of Casablanca. The paper adopts a critical perspective analysis that attempts to sketch out some examples of their "political" chants to understand their discourses, spaces of their activities, levels of their impact on the street protests, and their prospects in the political scene. It also seeks to deconstruct the concept of "social movement" while referring to the Ultras as well as discussing their political transition.

Keywords : ultra groups, transition, political chants, football violence, cultural movement

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