

**Moroccan British Relations**  
**800 years of diplomatic cooperation and commercial**  
**partnership**  
**1213-2013**

Moroccan British relations date back to times immemorial, but the year 2013 marked the 800th anniversary of the start of diplomatic relations. In fact, the first recorded British Moroccan diplomatic contact dates back to the year 1213, when King John of England dispatched an Embassy to Sultan Mohamed Ennassir, Morocco's fourth Almohad ruler (1199-1213), proposing an alliance. Since then, the British-Moroccan relations have been vigorously dynamic and were never characterized by indifference or lack of interest as Rogers put it: "the course of Anglo-Moroccan relations, like true love, never ran consistent smooth."

In a letter dated May 16, 1891, addressed to Sir Charles Euan-Smith, the newly appointed Minister Plenipotentiary to the Emperor of Morocco, Lord Salisbury reminded the Ambassador of "the constant aim of Her Majesty's Government, and of your predecessors at Tangier, to preserve the independence and territorial integrity of the Empire of Morocco." Significantly enough, this aim is still pertinent today through British Diplomatic support for Morocco in this and other issues.

Within its mission of fostering relations between the two countries, The Moroccan British Society (MBS) is organizing a one-day conference on the occasion of the 800th anniversary of the first English Embassy to Morocco to celebrate this important event. The purpose of the conference is to shed light on significant aspects of the diplomatic, economic and cultural relations between the two countries. It seeks to highlight the common rich historical heritage and the way their shared past impacted their respective evolutions and continue to enhance their multi-faceted cooperation.

The conference will address the dynamics of political and commercial relations between the two countries through an examination of the rich common documents, diplomatic correspondence and archives with special focus on:

- Diplomatic relations
- Trade partnership
- Democratization and governance
- Culture and Education.