

Questionnaire (put reference #:page # after each entry)

1. Description

1.1 Name(s) of society, language, and language family:

Chenoua, a language of Algeria, is in the people group Berber- Kabyle, and is in the Afro-Asiatic family. It is also called Shenwa (1)

1.2 ISO code (3 letter code from ethnologue.com):

CNU (1)

1.3 Location (latitude/longitude):

Algeria, Latitude: 36.64 N, Longitude: 2.91 E

1.4 Brief history:

The Chenoua language branches off of the Berber language group. They are often referred to as the Chenoui, and have multiple dialects including Chenoui Proper, Beni Menacer, and Djebel Bissa. They reside in the area around Algeria, and are traditionally Muslim. Today, Chenoua is a rural language, spoken by tribes in small villages. (3)

1.5 Influence of missionaries/schools/governments/powerful neighbors:

French invaders attempted to impose their cultural norms upon the Chenoui tribes, and attempted to rid them of their natural language. To combat this, the Algerian government made Arabic the official national language. (4)

1.6 Ecology (natural environment):

The desert land in Algeria, and spreads to the shore line. (4).

1.7 Population size, mean village size, home range size, density

Total Population: 76,300, Estimated Beni Menacer tribe is 61,000, Chenoui tribe is 15,300 (1)

2. Economy

2.1 Main carbohydrate staple(s):

The traditional dish is semolina wheat steamed and served with a protein and a vegetable. They also use salt, pepper, cumin and coriander as seasonings.(4)

2.2 Main protein-lipid sources:

The traditional meats are lamb or chicken served with gravy. Bourek, a dish of mincemeat, fried onions, and eggs is also popular (4)

2.3 Weapons: Bow and arrow, blowguns?:

takoba: 1 meter long straight sword, allagh: 2 meter long lance, agher: 1.50 meter high shield, tagheda: small and sharp assegai, taganze: leather covered-wooden bow, amur: wooden arrow, sheru: long dagger, tellak: short dagger kept in a sheath attached to the left forearm, taburek: wooden stick (13).

2.5 Sexual division of production:

Women work almost exclusively within the home, and are responsible for child care and food preparation.. Anything that involves leaving the house is taken care of by men. Chenoua Women are thought to have magical powers. (4)

2.6 Land tenure:

The Chenoua are nomadic land dwellers, and lay no claim to any land (4)

2.7 Ceramics:

They have a history of having successful craft and food industries for trade, including rugs and tapestries. (7)

2.8 Specified (prescribed or proscribed) sharing patterns:

no

2.9 Food taboos:

During Ramadan, they must not eat during the day light hours (4)

3. Anthropometry

3.1 Mean adult height (m and f):

M: 5'8", F: 5'4" (8)

4. Life History, mating, marriage

4.1 Age at menarche (f):

14.3 Years (14)

4.2 Age at first birth (m and f):

F: 20 M: 22 (9)

4.3 Completed family size (m and f):

Most women have between 7-9 children. The common family size is 8 people. (4)

4.4 Inter-birth-interval (f):

3.78 (11)

4.5 Age first marriage (m and f):

F: 18.5 (5) M: 25.9 (5)

4.6 Proportion of marriages ending in divorce:

The decision of divorce is solely on the husband. The woman has no rights or abilities to ask for a divorce (4) 4% (6)

4.7 Percent marriages polygynous, percent males married polygynously:

It is legally permissible for a man to have up to four wives (4). 5.5% of marriages reported being polygynous (5)

4.8 Bride purchase (price), bride service, dowry?:

Marriages are most often arranged, and come with a dowry (4)

4.9 Inheritance patterns:

From the father to the eldest son. If there are no children, it is distributed amongst family members. (4)

4.10 Parent-offspring interactions and conflict:

The parents and offspring remain close throughout life. The children remain in the parent's home until they are wed, and if they are men, they remain in the home and move their new families in.

4.11 Homosexual activities, social attitudes towards homosexuals:

Homosexuality is illegal and extremely taboo. Gay marriage is unthinkable, and it is unacceptable to be openly homosexual (16).

4.12 Pattern of exogamy (endogamy):

Exogamy or endogamy is a matter of choice, but ultimately depends on the father choosing the husband for his daughter, as marriages are most often arranged (4).

4.13 What is the belief of the role of males in conception; is paternity partible? Are these "other fathers" recognized?

Other Fathers are not recognized, only the husband is considered the father (5).

4.14 What is the belief of the mother's role in procreation exactly? (e.g., "receptacle in which fetus grows")

The mother is responsible for carrying the child, and is believed to determine the overall health of the offspring as well as the sex (5).

4.15 Is conception believed to be an incremental process (i.e., semen builds up over time)?

n/a

4.16 Occurrence of sexual coercion, rape

Men often accuse women of enticing them sexually, and use this as a justification of rape. Rape is not acknowledged is considered to be caused by the woman (12)

4.17 Preferential category for spouse (e.g., cross cousin)

Men and women must marry outside of their family. They are not allowed to marry anyone of relation, be it by marriage, blood or acquisition (14).

4.18 Do females enjoy sexual freedoms?

No. Women are considered minors and property, and must have permission from their fathers or husbands to leave home. (4)

4.19 Evidence of giving gifts to extramarital partners or extramarital offspring

none

4.20 If mother dies, whose raises children?

The children would be raised by their father's other wives. If he has no other wives, they would be raised by their mother's mother. (4)

4.21 Adult sex ratio: number of adult males divided by number of (reproductive) females

1.02 males/females (10)

4.22 Evidence for couvades

none

4.23 Different distinctions for potential fathers (e.g., lesser/younger vs. major/older)

none

4.24 Kin avoidance and respect?

One is not allowed to engage in conversation with the opposite sex in public. In the home opposite sexes often avoid interaction other than husband and wife or father and daughter. One is expected to avoid relations with anyone of kin, may it be by blood, marriage, death or adoption (15).

4.24 Joking relationships?

Men and women are not often seen conversing in public, and do not often speak to their father in law or male in-laws (12).

4.25 Patterns of descent (e.g., bilateral, matrilineal) for certain rights, names or associations

The pattern of descent is paternal, and all names, rights and associations are passed down from the father or husband (4).

4.26 Incest avoidance rules

Marriage is forbidden between relatives may it be close, distant, or acquired through descent, marriage, or nursing (15).

4.27 Is there a formal marriage ceremony?

Yes, there is a formal marriage ceremony that is often extravagant, and lasts multiple days (4).

4.28 In what way(s) does one get a name, change their name, and obtain another name?

Through birth, marriage, and divorce. The woman takes her husband's name (4).

4.29 Is marriage usually (or preferred to be) within community or outside community? (m/f difference?)

The father generally chooses the husband for his daughter, and this is largely dependent upon personal relationships. Marriages are preferred among members of the same tribe. (4).

4.30 Are marriages arranged? Who arranges (e.g., parents, close kin)?

Yes, marriages are most often arranged. The women are considered property of the men, and legally considered minors until married (4).

Warfare/homicide

4.31 Percent adult (male) deaths due to warfare:

4.74% (17).

4.32 Outgroup vs ingroup cause of violent death:

Many Chenoui have been removed from their original territory because of Al Qaeda threats. Large amounts of outgroup death has been caused by tension with Al Qaeda. (3)

4.33 Reported causes of in-group and out-group killing:

Religious tension amongst Islam and Arabic groups. Invasions from Al Qaeda, and terrorism are leading causes of conflict (4).

4.34 Number, diversity and relationship with neighboring societies (external relations):

They have close ties to the Kabyles, the M'zabites and the Tuaregs. (4)

4.35 Cannibalism?

No

5. Socio-Political organization and interaction

5.1 Mean local residential (village) group size:

5.2 Mobility pattern: (seasonality):

The Chenoua are often nomadic people, and have no lay to land. They move as needed to acquire food and resources (4)

5.3 Political system: (chiefs, clans etc, wealth or status classes):

The Chenoua reside in Algeria, which is officially a multiparty republic. However, the Chenoua often elect their own individual leaders to lead their tribes

5.4 Post-marital residence:

Traditionally, the husband his wives and their children continue to live with the husbands parents. Grandparents, and divorced or widowed daughters will also live within the household (4).

5.5 Territoriality? (defined boundaries, active defense):

The Chenoua tribes are nomadic, and lay no claims to land, however surrounding tribes have marked boundaries (4).

5.6 Social interaction divisions ? (age and sex):

Women have very limited rights. They are considered Minors for the majority of their life, and must have permission from their husband or fathers to leave the home. (4).

5.7 Special friendships/joking relationships:

none

5.8 Village and house organization:

The domestic unit generally includes a patriarch, his male children, their wives and children, his unmarried female children, and his parents. This may include his wife's parents as well, if she has no male siblings. (4).

5.9 Specialized village structures (mens' houses):

The Chenoua tradition is based on loyalty. Groups called sofs are political parties that govern the village life (4).

5.10 Sleep in hammocks or on ground or elsewhere?

The nomadic Chenoua often sleep on the ground or in makeshift beds. Stationary Chenoua sleep in homes or huts (4).

5.11 Social organization, clans, moieties, lineages, etc:

Social organizations are loyalty based. Sofs are political groups that form based on allegiance and loyalty (4).

5.12 Trade:

within tribe trade consists of crops and ceramics. Urbanized members export oil and gas. The barter system is still the main trade system within tribes. (4).

5.13 Indications of social hierarchies?

Leaders of the sofs indicate that they have social hierarchy. Sof leaders are based on wealth, social status and loyalty patterns (4).

6. Ritual/Ceremony/Religion (RCR)

6.0 Time allocation to RCR:

Muslim, Friday is the day of sabath, and they must pray five times a day (4)

6.1 Specialization (shamans and medicine):

There are no priests or clergy, but there are men called Mufti, who interpret the Quran. There are also holy men, called muezzins, who are thought to be endowed by god with special powers (4)

6.2 Stimulants:

none

6.3 Passage rituals (birth, death, puberty, seasonal):

New years honors death, and is called Ashura. They go to cemeteries and commemorate the dead

6.4 Other rituals:

Religious holidays often have special food associated with them. During Ramadan, they refrain from eating or drinking during the daylight hours, and during the final break of Ramadan, Eid al-Fitr, a large feast is consumed. The religious house of worship is a mosque, and one must be clean to enter. (4)

6.5 Myths (Creation):

Believe in the five pillars of Islam,

6.6 Cultural material (art, music, games):

They have a variety of traditional dances and music. Tisiway is traditional poetry, tasikisikit are songs performed by women, and tahengemmit are slow songs sung by older men. Children sing bellulla, and play the Fandangama, a small monocord instrument. The Tagest is a traditional dance performed while seated, and the ewegh is a large couples dance (13).

6.7 Sex differences in RCR:

Women are required to be covered while men are not. Women must wear headdresses and full length garments with sleeves (4).

6.8 Missionary effect:

French invasion attempted to colonize and modernize the Chenoua people. There were also missionary attempts to convert them to Arab culture (4).

6.9 RCR revival:

After the French invasion the Muslim religion was prominent in Algeria. Some Chenoua people remained faithful to their original Berber faith, but

6.10 Death and afterlife beliefs:

Death is marked by visiting the family of the deceased. New years eve is also used as a time to honor the dead. (4)

6.11 Taboo of naming dead people?

n/a

6.12 Is there teknonymy?

no

6.13 Briefly describe religion (animism, ancestor worship, deism, magic, totems etc.)

They are Muslim, and worship god. They believe that Mohammad was the final prophet and embodies god. (4)

7. Adornment

7.1 Body paint:

none

7.2 Piercings:

none

7.3 Haircut:

Women must cover their hair with a veil and scarf (4).

7.4 Scarification:

none

7.5 Adornment (beads, feathers, lip plates, etc.):

They wear jewelry made of leather and metal, and decorate their saddle with décor called trik (13).

7.6 Ceremonial/Ritual adornment:

none

7.7 Sex differences in adornment:

Women must wear veil while men do not (4).

7.8 Missionary effect:

The prominence of the veil became much more prominent with the arrival of French missionaries (4).

7.9 Types of clothing:

They commonly wear turbans, tunics, viels, the colors indigo and black, wool clothing in the winter (13).

8. Kinship systems

8.1 Sibling classification system:

The eldest male has the highest status of siblings. The female children have the lowest status (4).

8.2 Sororate, levirate:

Yes, women can be forced to marry a deceased husbands brother (18).

9. Other interesting cultural features (list them):

Women are believed to have magical powers

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