
THE GREAT ALGERIA.

1. History of Algeria.

1.1 General History.

Algeria, a former French colony, is located at the Maghreb in North Africa. Majorly known as the “Arabic country in the North.” Many Empires have left legacies there, such as the Ancient Roman ruins, the Ottoman people and the French.

The country was occupied by the French and considered a French Protectorate from the 1847 to 1962. Algeria achieved its independence in 1962 and was officially called People’s Democratic Republic of Algeria. Though they received independence, the influence of the French culture and language was retained.

1.2 Last 50 years.

The people of Algeria were ruled by dynasties. The Arab-Amazing dynasties ruled from the 8th to the 16th century and it became a part of the Ottoman Empire. The Ottoman Empire ruled Algeria as its province for 300 years. Although Algiers, Algeria’s capital city, remained a part of the Ottoman Empire, the Ottoman government ceased to have effective influence there. The decline of the Ottoman Empire was achieved by the Algerians and they attained independence. Hardly had they enjoyed it when they were involved in the war of the conquest by the French in 1830. In 1847, the French suppressed the Algerian resistance and Algeria was declared a department of France in 1848.

The French forced their culture and their language on the people of Algeria. They fulfilled their obligation by the Berlin Conference and developed its agricultural sector and technology. The French ensured development was carried out.

The Algerians who got to study in France decided that they were in disagreement with the French way of life and developed resentment on the French ethics and religious activities and most of all, their superiority over their people. The educated elites decided to start revolutionary politics and started a war of independence as from the 1954-1962 (www.Britannica.com). The Algerian army raised a strong war and the French decided to hold negotiations to end the war. Achieving independence in 1962 under the National Liberation Front (FLN), which was formed in 1954.

After attaining independence, the country was ruled by a single socialist party (almost termed as dictatorship). Though attaining independence, the French culture and language was retained in Algeria. The Head of state and government became the President and the Prime Minister as well. The government put their energy in country development and self-reliance. They faced a Military coup in 1992 and the president was overthrown which slowed democratization.

Currently, Algeria is an independent nation with the president having a maximum of 2-5-year term, as well as the Prime-minister, with its own currency, government independence and a developed and among the best armed forces in Africa.

2. Defense

2.1 Military Structure.

The Algerian People's National Armed Forces is the military force of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria. Algeria has the second most powerful army in Africa after Egypt and ranked 25/133 armies of the world. The army include the ground forces, the Algerian Air Force and the Navy air force.

The army has a personnel of 792,350 and an active force of 520,000 with 72,350 left for reserve(www.ispionline.it), all in between the age of 18-40 years of age.

Algeria, with the second strongest army in Africa, allocates 25% of its funds to defense. This amounts to a budget of US\$9.8 Billion in 2018. Which is the reason why it's currently the largest military spender in the African region(www.businesswire.com).

The country receives 75% of its weapons from Russia(www.insamer.com), contributing to 52% of the Russian arms market. The other weapons are acquired from China, France, South Africa, Germany, Italy, Turkey and the United States.

2.2 Dependency on other nations and membership alliances.

Algeria receives the best equipment from Russia and have a very good internal military training. The military receive sufficient funding that comes especially from the presence of oil and natural gas industry. This makes it easy to carry out military expeditions with the best arms and technology development. Therefore, they require no aid from any foreign country in terms of funding or acquisition of arms.

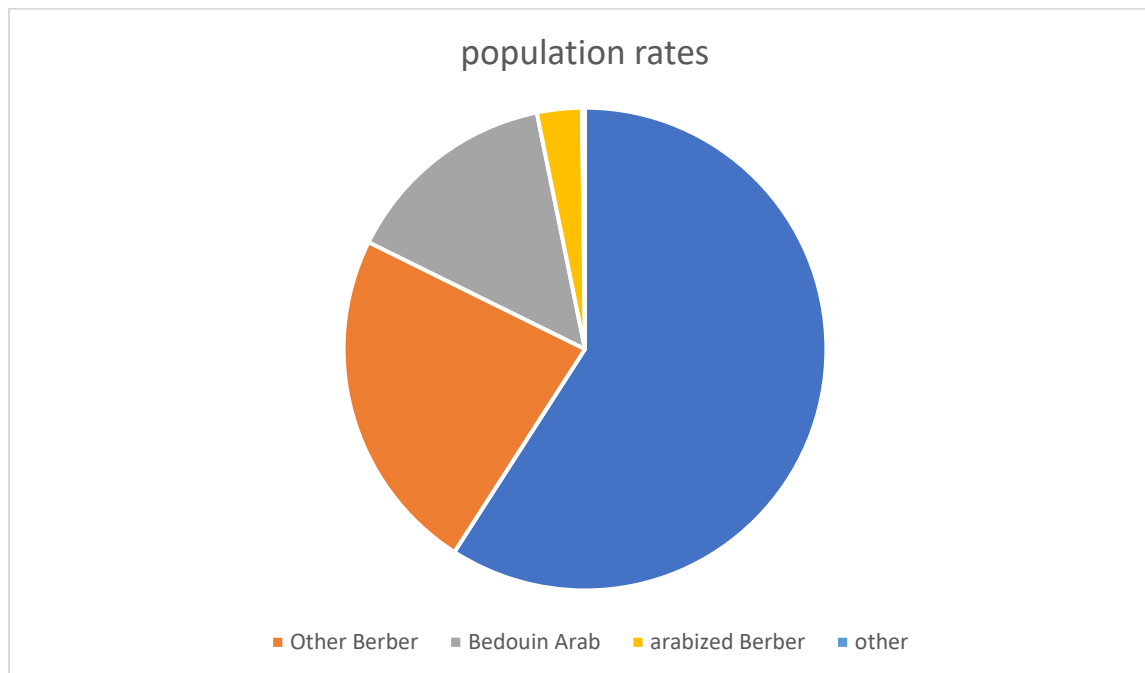
3. Cultural factors.

3.1 Ethic groups.

Algeria is recognized as the largest country in Africa with a population of 43,583,00 as of 2019(www.statista.com). Due to the frequent external migration, the population reduced by 32,227 and the ratio of the total population was 1,020 males per 1,000 females, which is higher than the global sex ratio in the world approximately 1,016 males to 1,000 females as of 2019. The male population is at 50.5% (21,985,844) currently while the female population is at 49.5% (21,577,596), with birth year to date as 453,567 and population growth year to date as 346,729. All with a life expectancy of 74.5 years.

Three out of four of the country are Arabs, one out of five of the country are Amazigh, Tuareg nomads and European settlers (French, Italian, Maltese.) The official language as of 1990 was Arabic and is the Modern Standard Arabic which is taught in schools. After achieving independence from the French, they had a policy of "Arabization" to promote the indigenous Arabic and Islamic cultural values whereby Arabic became the

national medium and primary language of instruction in the primary and secondary schools. After a while, Amazigh language was made another national language and in 2016, it became an official language.



3.2 Religion.

Algeria, famously known as the Muslim country of North Africa, is a country with Islam as the major religion in the country. Earlier before the French colonists appeared, the Algerian people were involved in trade where they met with the Arab people. The more the Arab people were in the country, the more the people in Algeria learnt the Arabic culture, this was due to the Arab invasions of the seventh century. That was when the Arab-Amazigh dynasties took control over Algeria and expressed leadership over it. After the Ottoman Empire rule was over, the people of Algeria had mastered the Islamic culture from the Arabs. Their brief period of independence helped them to explore their religion that even after the French colonized them, their Islamic culture was not eroded. Once independence was achieved by the Algerians, they introduced the “Arabization” policy which was to restore their Arabic culture that had been suppressed by the French rule. Islam became integral in their Algerian nationalism.

Religion in Algeria is dominated by Muslims with over 99% of the population adhering to Sunni Islam of the Maliki school of jurisprudence. The remaining 1% includes the Christians, Jews, Ahmadis, Shia Muslims and Ibadi Muslims. Their cultural identity is currently known as the Sunni Muslims of Maliki rite.

The Algerian Constitution declares that ‘Islam is the state religion’ (article 2) but also declares ‘the freedom of creed and opinion is inviolable’ (article 36); prohibiting discrimination, ‘all citizens are equal before the law’ (article 29). Despite Islam being the state religion, the people do have a freedom of religion and freedom from discrimination.

3.3 Cultural History.

Algeria's fascinating culture is owed to its historical influences. Algeria was colonized by the French for over a century that the second most spoken language in Algeria was French (after Arabic). The tribal and ethnic groups also contribute to the Algerian culture. Due to the Arabic culture, the people of Algeria are greatly influenced by the Islamic traditions in social norms and etiquette. For this reason, there are religious schools (mosques and madrasas) spread all throughout the country to train the children on the Islamic culture and traditions.

4. Political structure.

4.1 Origin of political structure.

The political structure of the Algerian community was not that developed before its colonization. The Ottoman Empire that ruled over them made Algeria a province of the Ottoman people. This meant that the Algerian community had no control over them. Once the Ottoman rule over them ceased, the Algerian committee settled to develop a way of governing themselves, they settled on a clan-based operation that resembled the Ottoman rule over them. Therefore, the senior most clan had leadership over all the others. After enjoying a short term of independence, the French took control over them and set up a French system of government, where all government leaders were from the colonizers themselves. It was only the people who were willing to accept the French way of culture that were considered to take education and pursue the Western culture. Those that received this education would be given opportunities in the leadership positions, though the lower in rank ones, just so that the African people may be more willing to give in to the French rule.

Their current political structure is due to the effects of the colonization by the French. Whereby at first, they were a single party state but after the amendment of the constitution, they became a multi-party state. The single party that had authority over them then, was the National Liberation Front (FLN) which led the country to its independence.

4.2 Constitution and government.

After the independence of the Algerian people, they came up with new constitution which was voted in by the citizens in the 1963 referendum. As from 1963 to the mid-1980s, there was a system of governance that included the triple alliance army, and a single party state. The country was ruled by a single socialist party that the people referred to as almost dictatorship. In 1989, there was a revision of the constitution that in turn opened up a pluralistic competition of parties aside from the National Liberation Front (FLN), which was the only recognized party at the time. A second constitution was voted in in 1976 that encouraged socialism, and restored the political institutions to their primacy. The constitution was modified in 1986 and allowed the free market reforms. In 1989, the new constitution that was modified was put in place after the referendum carried out on 23 February by 73%. The reforms included; multi-parties, freedom of expression, freedom of association, and freedom of assembly, freedom of political speech, freedom of protest, it had no mention of socialism. In 1992, there was a coup by the military that took over the government and there was a declared state of emergency that led to the Algerian Civil War. This resulted in the modification of the

constitution in 1996. The constitution that was modified in 1996 was modified again in 2008 and later replaced by the 2016 constitution which is the fundamental law of Algeria.

The Algerian government therefore practice the presidential and semi-presidential system which is a democratic and republican government. This system includes the fact that the president is the head of state and the prime minister is the head of government. The government is takes up the executive power whereas the legislative power is taken up by the government and the two chambers of parliament. The two chambers of parliament include; The People's National Assembly and the Council of the Nation. The head of state, the President, is elected to a 5-year term, renewable once. The President is the head of the Council of Ministers and the High Security Council. He appoints the Prime Minister who is the Head of Government. The Prime Minister then appoints the Council of Ministers. Algeria is divided into 48 provinces(wilaya)headed by (walis)governors who report to the Minister of Interior. The wilayas are further divided into dairas and further into communes. Each other communes and dairas are each governed by an elected assembly. As from 2016, the government and the constitution have neither been amended or nor changed to date, 2020.

4.3 Stability and policy of present government.

The present government is stable but the country is in continuous sanction despite the efforts of the government's efforts. The poverty of Algeria became a problem after the collapse of the economic growth. The present government faces an economic sanction problem and more to that, the corruption in its leaders. There is a poor self-sufficiency system due to poor governance and leadership. The current government is making its citizens doubt the accountability of its leaders and the credibility of democracy.

The instability of the current government interferes with its organization and fulfilment of its responsibilities.

5. Natural resources.

5.1. Basic commodities produced.

When the French colonized Algeria, they developed the agricultural production in the area and led to the discovery of minerals and had the machinery to carry out the extraction process. They built industries and factories and set up mining sites with all equipment needed and they began to export the products to their own country for refining and the manufacturing of produce and all benefits were directed to the French only.

The Algerian people received their independence and since the country was already discovered and developed, the government decided to keep up with the mining and economic activities. They became recognized for their industrial produce. Some of the commodities include; oil, natural gas, and mineral deposits (iron ores, zinc, lead, mercury ores and phosphate deposits).

5.2 Trade agreements.

Algeria is a major member of the Pan-Arab Free Trade Area (PAFTA). These trade agreements include; The Arab Maghreb Union (AMU), which they joined in 1989 and are members together with its neighbors, Tunisia, Algeria, Libya, Morocco and Mauritania. The main objective of this trade agreement was to reach the economic and political unity of North Africa and can create a common market in the Maghreb region.

The Euro-Mediterranean Partnership (EUROMED) ensures that Algeria (which joined in 2005) receives Duty-free access to the European Union market for their manufactured goods, ensuring them preferential treatment for the agricultural, processed agricultural and fisheries products.

Most of all is the Association agreement with the European Union, which is its largest trade partner and absorbs a major part of the Algerian International Trade (50.3%). This makes Algeria EU'S 20TH largest partner for imports and 24th largest partner for exports. This Free Trade agreement with the EU grants preferential treatment to its exports to the EU. This agreement was signed in 2002 and put in practice in the year 2005. EU's main exports to Algeria are machinery(22.2%), transport equipment(13.4%), agricultural products(12.8%), chemicals(12.8%) and finally, iron and steel (10.2%). Though Algeria is not yet a member of the World Trade Organization(WTO), it is a single tariff regime for all partners outside its free trade agreement agreements.

2017, Algeria had exports and imports that add up to the value of US\$1.8 billion and US\$1.2 billion respectively. Intra-Africa exports account for 5% of Algeria's total exports and intra-African imports for 3% of Algeria's total imports. The exports are dominated by petroleum gas, 90% and solid sugar whereas the imports cover coffee, food preparations, copper wire and tobacco. The top trading partners are its neighbors, Tunisia, Morocco and Egypt.

5.3 Degree of self-sufficiency.

Over the years, Algeria has been held back in its development in trade and other activities in the country, hence, they have become very dependent on the foreign countries as well as its neighbors. Algeria's poverty became a problem in the 1980s after the collapse of the economic growth and the rise in their oil prices in the international markets. This led to an economic downturn and rising unemployment and poverty. They therefore have very poor self-sufficiency.

Algeria is currently fuel-sufficient, since it is the largest African oil and gas producing country. Following the difficult period for both sectors in the country, Algeria is strengthening its position in global oil and gas. The country aims to be more self-sufficient by taking initiatives which include; irrigating 25% of its arable land (which is over 20 million acres). It currently irrigates 3.2 million acres Of the arable land. The country is involving itself in more agricultural produce, hence attaining self-sufficiency in the key crops such as wheat and maize, so as to import less food from other countries, in turn lowering the country's import bill. Them being petroleum producers and producers of the natural gas, the government has decided to privatize those sectors so that the investors may be more interested in the activity and raise the economic level of Algeria.

6. Economy.

6.1 Monetary system.

Algeria has a currency that is called the Algerian dinar that is sub-divided into 100 centimes, centimes are now obsolete due to their extremely low value. Dinar was derived from the Roman denarius whereas the Arabic word 'santeem' is derived from the French 'centime', since Algeria was under the French occupation. The Algerian dinar is used in both Algeria and Sahrawi Republic. The inflation rate of the Algerian dinar is at

4.1%. The dinar was introduced on 1 April 1964, replacing the Algerian new franc at par, its code now being DZD.

6.2 Dependency and debt.

Algeria is a youthful country that is dependent on oil and gas production. Most of its economy has been built on the export of oil and natural gas both in Africa and to its trade partners outside of Africa, its oil and gas exports make up 95% of its external revenue and 60% of the state's budget. It is the third biggest crude producer in Africa and the world's ninth producer of natural gas.

When the oil prices fell all over the world, the economy of Algeria was hit hard, because it was dependent on the oil exports. Once their economic situation was hit, they had no option but to acquire loans so as to keep up with their budget and their people's needs. For this reason, Algeria has garnered up a total of 4189.00 USD million shillings (www.tradeeconomics.com). Algeria has planned to increase its oil production and the natural gas, therefore increasing its exports and earning more external revenue, increasing amount of money in the country to aid in the payment of its debts.

6.3 Membership of economic and trade organizations

Algeria has a mixed economic system that includes a variety of private freedom, combined with centralized economics planning and government regulation. Hence, Algeria is involved with several trade organizations such as; Arab Maghreb Union, League of Arab League, Organization of Islamic Cooperation, Economic Commission for Africa, Islamic development bank, Economic Commission for Africa and finally, the African Development bank.

These memberships have helped Algeria to improve in its trading activities and to improve on its economy. The main problem that has faced Algeria, which is lack of a sustainable oil growth production and export of the natural gas, has been fixed by its memberships to the economic and trade organizations. The African bank has managed to loan part of its funds to aid Algeria to manage its growth and its production. This aid has helped them to keep up with the export and its production. Algeria is now on its way to train its self-sufficiency and its constant supply of exports and to upgrade of its external revenue.

7. Views on world problems.

7.1 Role and influence in the world.

Algeria has been noted for the support it offered the third world countries on policies and their independence movements. Algeria is involved with the Arab League, the African Union and as well, the United Nations. Algeria maintains its diplomatic relations with more than 100 countries and over 90 countries maintains its diplomatic representation in Algiers.

7.2 Membership of blocs and geo-political groupings.

An indispensable broker of stability in North Africa and Salem, is the term that has been used to describe the famous Algerian country. Insecurity and polarization are on the rise across the region, having created no relations with its neighboring countries, Algeria is having a hard time with its Inter-African associations. Some

call it 'Algeria's return' to regional politics after its long absence due to the 'black-decade' civil war in the 1990s. The approach it's using is promoting of the inclusion and its compromise to stabilize its neighbors.

Algeria has been found to priorities its relations with the US government and the European Union. They are therefore recalibrating its foreign policy to involve its neighbors more in order to improve its relations with them. Algeria has been seen to play crucial roles in the political security of three of its neighboring countries, as of 2011.

In Libya, it has backed its UN negotiations and conducted its own discreet diplomacy since mid-2014 in order to reconcile warring factions. In Mali, Algeria has hosted and bordered talks between the government and northern rebel factions, to stabilize the country and also prevent northern secessionism. In Tunisia, Algeria has been a critical backer of consensus between Islamists and secularists, therefore providing a source of stability.

Algeria is a member of several trade blocs where they export and import produce according to the agreements they have signed. As for the political blocs, Algeria is focusing on improving its relations together with the other neighboring countries so as to set political ties and to have political stability amongst themselves. The Algerian government having been colonized by France, has caused some disputes between them (Algeria) and Morocco (also former colony of France) this has therefore created tension between these two neighboring countries.

Due to Algeria's produce of very many minerals as well as natural gas and oil products, the countries that surround it are coming up and forming ties with it in order to benefit from its export and Algeria to benefit from the other countries' exports. Algeria has been a competitive nation that has maintained very strong ties with the US and the EU and therefore, it has benefited from the export revenue earned. From the time the oil prices were reduced and Algeria suffered a great loss, it realized that they had to focus on other areas of the economy. This included agriculture and Africa still developing in it, Algeria sought to form some ties with the African countries and boost its economic growth and stop sinking into its own poverty.

So far, the ties are being formed and Algeria has began importing agricultural goods from fellow African countries, reducing the import costs and raising their revenue and working on their self-sufficiency goal. With the steps being taken by Algeria, the ties will be formed in a short while and its economy will be restored in due time.

8. Geography

8.1 Bordering countries.

Algeria is the largest country in Africa and the tenth largest country in the world. The coordinates that encompass Algeria are 28.00'N3.00E. It is located in North Africa amidst the Atlas Mountains and the Saharan desert. It has 919,000 square miles of land, bordered with the Mediterranean Sea towards the North, a coastline 620 miles long. Algeria is bordered towards the west by Morocco and the Western Sahara, towards the East, Tunisia and Libya and finally towards the South, Nigeria, Mali and Mauritania. 80% of Algeria's land is made up of desert.

Countries bordering Algeria.

Country	Border length(km)
Mali	1376
Morocco	1559
Libya	982
Tunisia	965
Niger	956
Western Sahara	42
Mauritania	463

8.2 Topography.

Algeria is divided into three basic longitudinal zones generally east-west: The Mediterranean Zone or Tell: The High Plateaus, including the regions of Great and Small Kabilla: and finally, the Sahara Desert, accounting for at least 80% of the land covered by Algeria. About half of Algeria is 900m(3,000ft) or more above sea level, and about 70% of the area is from 760 to 1,680m (2,500 -5,500ft) in elevation. The highest point of Algeria is found to be at Mount Tahat (3,003m/9,852ft), located in the Ahaggar Range of the Sahara. The lowest point is at Chott Melrhir, which is -40m. None of the rivers found in Algeria are navigable and only the main rivers of the Tell have water all year. Most rivers flow irregularly since they depend on the water upon an erratic rainfall. Algeria's longest river is called the Chelif River which is 230km. Algeria lies on the African Tectonic plate. Northwestern Algeria is a seismologically active area.

The climate in Algeria is arid to semiarid due to the fact that 80% of its land is covered by a desert. In Algeria, the terrain is mostly high plateau and desert, mountains and a narrow coastal plain. Though most of the land is a desert, the people of Algeria sought other ways to improve their economy and are practicing irrigation, making agriculture a developed activity in Algeria. This also opened doors for pastoralism, which is an activity carried out by the people of Algeria, and is successful too. Algeria, the great country to the North, largest in Africa and a developing nation, surrounded by other countries and the Mediterranean Sea, with its 80% land covered by the desert, is still moving with a developing aim.