

Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research

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Department of Political Science

Lectures of

Algerian foreign Policy

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Prepared by

Dr Djeddou Foued

5th lecture

Algerian diplomacy from 1962 to 1999-2-

1*President Chadli Bendjedid

During the tenure of President Chadli Bendjedid, the adoption of policies and positions consistent and complementary to President Houari Boumediene, whether at the regional or international level, but the Algerian foreign policy has witnessed an escalation in its external performance, as President Chadli Bendjedid opened up to the West, especially with the adoption of a policy of political and economic openness, where we can summarize the most important diplomatic activities during the rule of President Chadli Bendjedid, namely: [Mohamed Bouacha, Algerian Diplomacy, Beirut: Dar El Jeel, 2004, p. 34]

Algeria mediated in the issue of the liberation of American hostages at the US embassy in Tehran, which gave another dimension to the Algerian diplomatic role, as Algeria rapproched with the United States of America, and this was embodied in providing technical and military assistance to Algeria.

Tunisia was neutralized from the Algerian-Moroccan dispute through the Agreement of Fraternity and Accord signed in March 1983.

- Supporting African relations by strengthening relations with the powerful countries in Africa, including Nigeria, which played an important role in the accession of Western Sahara to the Organization of African Unity in 1982.
- The visit of French President François Mitterrand to Algeria, which is the continuation of cooperation between the two countries, and President Chadli Bendjedid had a visit to France in 1983 and also another visit to the United States of America in 1985, and this reflects the new orientation of Algeria towards the West, which coincided with international transformations at that stage with the beginning of the US-Soviet rapprochement and the dominance of pragmatism in international relations. Algeria tended at this stage to build relations with the West according to This logic .
- The visit of the British Queen to Algeria, which is another orientation towards the West.

Rebuilding Maghreb relations by building the Maghreb Union and bringing the Sahrawi issue within the framework of the United Nations.

Algeria mediated in resolving the Iraqi-Iranian conflict, in which Algeria lost former Foreign Minister Mohamed Siddiq Ben Yahia following the bombing of the Algerian plane on the Iraqi-Turkish border on May 3, 1982.

President Chadli Bendjedid visited Iran in 1982, where Algerian-Iranian relations were good, but Algeria played the role of sponsor of Iranian interests in Washington after the severance of Iranian-American relations, and this represents Iran's confidence in Algeria and the confidence of the United States of America in Algeria as a positive mediator between the two parties. Sid Ahmed Ould Salem, Algerian-Iranian relations are mostly dead, taken from Al Jazeera Studies, www.aljazeera.net dated 22/08/2018]

Algeria mediated the resolution of the Lebanese issue by participating in the Taif Agreement.

Algeria's support for the Palestinian cause, which gave it the possibility of declaring the establishment of a Palestinian state in Algeria.

As for the second Gulf War, Algeria's position through President Chadli Ben Jaid was the reservation about directing an Arab force led by the West to strike Iraq, and this does not mean that Algeria stands by Iraq, but Algeria's position was clear and strict, and this is what Major Lakhdar Boureggaa quoted in a statement to Al-Shorouk TV. Any Algerian soldier even if in civilian clothes to Saudi Arabia" [This is what Chadli told the American ambassador in Cairo about the invasion of Iraq, Al-Khabar newspaper.]

What distinguished this phase of President Chadli Bendjedid rule was the decline of the role of the president's personality in directing Algerian foreign policy, unlike Hawari Boumediene and the emergence of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs as an effective bureaucratic body in directing Algerian foreign policy, where Foreign Minister Mohamed Siddiq Ben Yahya played a key role in solving many international issues, and thus the course of Algerian foreign policy-making changed at this stage from the previous one through the basic role of the bureaucratic apparatus, represented by the Ministry of External.

Algerian foreign policy during the national crisis :

At this stage, Algeria entered a security and political crisis as a result of the suspension of the electoral path and the beginning of violence in Algeria and the spread of terrorism and an institutional vacuum that led Algeria to adopt external behavior in line with the situation it is experiencing, and we can determine the institutions that existed at that stage, after the announcement of the cancellation of the electoral process, the formation of the High Council of State assumed the functions of the presidency from January 1992 until the symposium of national accord in January 1994, where Boudiaf was appointed president of Algeria, but He was assassinated to succeed Ali Kafi, after which Yamin Zeroual came to

power with presidential elections in 1995. [Abdullah Belhabib, previous reference, p. 130]

At this stage, Algeria relied on four basic strategies in its foreign policy: [Ibid., p. 165]

Self-motivation strategy: This strategy aims to emphasize Algeria's regional role and the need to engage in regional and international political calculations, as Algeria adopts international principles related to international peace and security as well as strengthening international cooperation, which is embodied in some agreements and statements such as Algeria's role in the Tripartite Commission "Algeria, Burkina Faso, France", which led to the peace agreement between the Nigerien government and the Touareg movement in 1995, and Algeria's positions on the Moroccan Union. Arab.

□ The strategy of rigidity: This strategy aims to show Algeria's independence from dependence and non-submission to pressure by emphasizing its regional strength to resist all types of interference by consolidating the principles of Algerian foreign policy, and this came after the decision to cut relations with Iran as well as the responses provided by the Algerian Ministry of Foreign Affairs towards European accusations.

□ Adoption strategy: This strategy means commitment to norms and international legitimacy and this strategy has appeared clearly in the Algerian external behavior during the peak period either to justify the internal behavior directed abroad or in international forums and this was manifested with the inauguration of President Mohamed Boudiaf President of the Republic by sending envoys to him abroad, where Mr. Ali Haroun and Reda Malik were sent to the Netherlands, Sweden and Denmark on 12/03/1992 to explain the situation in the country.

Bargaining strategies: This strategy is at the heart of Algeria's foreign political behavior, where there are large spaces for diplomatic maneuver, and this strategy aims to achieve the highest degree of profitability where it linked terrorism as a central topic in its foreign policy and linked its foreign perception with the international community to terrorism.

It is worth mentioning at this stage the transformations that have occurred in foreign policy in terms of the order of geostrategic priorities in Algerian foreign policy, where the order of the Mediterranean dimension has been modified in terms of precedence compared to the African dimension, as stated in the preamble of the 1996 Constitution as follows: "Algeria is the land of Islam and an integral part of the Arab Maghreb and an Arab, non-Mediterranean and

African land" [Samir cat, Algerian foreign policy in Africa, Democratic Center, Berlin, Germany, 2017], this is the first time since Algeria's independence that Africa's position in Algeria's external priority has declined and given importance to the Mediterranean dimension, due to the transformations that took place in that period, which is the building of the European Union, where it became a regional and international power, and Algeria's desire to have strong ties with a neighboring economic force in light of the new challenges.

Algeria hastened to strengthen the European partnership within the Barcelona Declaration of 1995, where the negotiations began, but Algeria adhered to the principle of customs dismantling gradually to protect its national economy, which is not ready for this stage, and did not agree to the political conditionality related to the political and security situation in Algeria, but this did not diminish the importance of progress in negotiations and benefiting from European aid to the Maghreb region, knowing that Algeria concluded a cooperation agreement with the European Community on 01/07/1976 over a period of 20 years.

Abdelmajid, "Algeria and the Barcelona Process: Opportunities and Challenges", intervention delivered at the International Forum on Arab Economic Integration as a Mechanism for Improving and Activating the Euro-Arab Partnership, University of Setif, 8-9 May 2004, p. 2].

The security situation and the instability that Algeria experienced in the decade did not prevent Algeria from moving towards neighboring countries, especially the European Union, and realizing its geopolitical and economic value in building future relations between Algeria and the European Union, especially since what unites Algeria and the European Union are economic determinants as Algeria is among the most important gas exporters to Europe, in addition to security cooperation in the fight against terrorism.

The most important developments of Algerian diplomacy during this period can be summarized:

- Liberation of Africa: Algerian diplomacy has mobilized itself since the early years of independence towards the liberation of Africa and was its first destination in the framework of solidarity with liberation movements and away from French hegemony in the African continent, which made it a base from which Algerian diplomacy to the world is launched, Algeria supported the African National Congress in South Africa materially and politically and contributed to the establishment of what is known as the Editorial Committee by

the Organization of African Unity. Abdallah Belhabib, *Algerian Foreign Policy in Light of the Crisis 1992-1997*, Amman: Dar Al-Raya, 2012, p. 17.]

B- A global economic system: In the seventies, after Algeria nationalized its oil on February 24, 1971, Algeria began a diplomatic campaign with the need to recognize the right of peoples to dispose of their natural resources. [Ibid., p. 19]

It went on to call for a new economic order within the framework of the Group of 77 in 1967 [Nicole grimaud; opcit p 294] and enshrined it at the Non-Aligned Conference held in Algiers on 5-9 September 1973 and the sixth extraordinary session of the General Front of Nations held on 9 April 1974 on the proposal to reform the system of international economic relations.

C- The eighties and the mediation stage:

Algeria relied on the policy of mediation for many factors, including: [Abdallah Belhabib, op. cit., p. 21.]

Many African countries gained their independence.

Demanding a new economic order.

The economic crisis that hit Algeria.

These factors affected the external political behavior of Algeria, forcing it to move towards calm and mitigate the causes of conflict and tensions, and the beginning was within the framework of Maghreb relations through the application of the principle of the positive right of neighborliness expressed by President Chadli Bendjedid in his speech to the nation on December 20, 1981, and this principle includes the exclusion of border disputes and the establishment of public cooperation across borders, where agreements were signed with Niger, Mali and Mauritania to demarcate the borders and It carried out a mediation operation in 1981 to free the American hostages held by Tehran, where conditions were met in Algeria agreed to by both parties, namely the United States and Iran [Abdullah Belhabib, op. cit., p. 22.] which is sovereignty / independence / integrity, this mediation allowed to strengthen its hegemony and prestige, i.e. the Algerian ambassador in Tehran, Mr. Abdelkrim Gharib, was the first diplomat to visit the American hostages.

Algeria also participated in the tripartite committee with Morocco and Saudi Arabia to settle the Lebanese crisis.

As for the stage of the national crisis between 1992 and 1999, Algerian diplomacy was based on a strategy of defending itself, especially within the framework of what is known as who kills whom, and the media and diplomatic

blockade that Algeria was subjected to at that stage, where a set of factors affecting Algerian foreign policy during this period, namely:

- 1/ Cancellation of the electoral process.
- 2/ Bloody violence that cost 200,000 people.
- 3/ The assassination of the head of state.
- 4/ The question of human rights.[Ibid., p. 33.]

This has affected Algeria's external isolation, as Algerian foreign policy has turned into a key tool in managing the crisis externally.

In addition to economic factors such as dependence on hydrocarbons as a main source of income and reserves from the difficult campaign and dependence on profit distribution, which prompted borrowing from abroad and resorting to debt, especially with the International Monetary Fund within the framework of the 1994 Standby agreement, which affected the independence of decision-making in Algerian foreign policy.