

Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research

University of Biskra

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Lectures of

Algerian foreign Policy

Second Year Master International Relations

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4TH lecture

Algerian diplomacy from 1962 to 1999

During this period, the priority was to internal requirements, work to support political stability and face security challenges affecting national unity, as well as the external threat of the sand war led by Morocco against Algeria .

President Ahmed Ben Bella had international positions comparable to the leaders of anti-colonial countries from Castro to Gamal Abdel Nasser, but he had a hardline stance towards liberation issues, especially within the framework of the Organization of African Unity, as well as the preparation for the second Bandung Conference in June 1965 in Algeria to support liberation and anti-colonial movements .

The stage of President Ahmed Ben Bella was the African pole of liberation movements, especially with the good echo left by the Algerian revolution among the peoples of the world and Africa in particular, Algeria during his reign worked to receive African leaders and presidents along with the leaders of revolutionary movements under the fixed principles of Algerian foreign policy. . [Nicole grimaud, la politique extérieur de l'Algérie , Alger : Rahma édition ; 1984 , p 272]

After independence, Mohamed Khemisti was appointed Minister of Foreign Affairs under President Ahmed Ben Bella, where he met with his French counterpart in order to determine the future of bilateral relations between the two countries, especially the economic and financial aspect in terms of freedom from the French franc and how to promote investment between the two countries in accordance with the Evian Agreement. Ardavan Amir Aslani , op cit ; P41

In May 1963, Abdelaziz Bouteflika replaced Mohamed Khemisti as Minister of Foreign Affairs, as he was not known to French circles, as he was a young man who reached 26 years, especially in these circumstances in which France is conducting its nuclear tests in the Sahara, as well as the file of immigration and Algerian workers in France.

But there was a shift in the way President Ahmed Ben Bella ruled, where he was unique in power by limiting several sovereign positions to his hand, such as the position of the head of government, the Ministry of the Interior, information and finance, in addition to his position as president of the republic, as he removed Ahmed Medghari and Abdelaziz Bouteflika from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs [Lotfi Khouli, for the revolution and the revolution, Algeria: Publications of the Boumedini Gathering, 1975, p. 106].

The Ben Bella Ahmed period was also characterized at the external level by a lack of clarity towards the two camps, although the ideological line of Algeria is

socialism, but his visit to the United States of America and then to Cuba created a blur in his position that affected Algerian foreign policy.

On the other hand, Algeria faced during the rule of President Ahmed Ben Bella its first challenge at the security and military level and at the external level, which is the sand war, represented by the Moroccan aggression against Algeria in 1963, during this war Algeria was able to gain Arab, African and international support and played the good relations between President Ahmed Ben Bella and President Gamal Abdel Nasser in gaining Egypt's support and standing by the Algerian side in this war.

These were the most important features of the rule of President Ahmed Ben Bella, which ended in a coup in 1965 and was succeeded by President Houari Boumediene .

3- President Houari Boumediene period 1965-1978:

During the tenure of former President Houari Boumediene after the coup against President Ahmed Ben Bella, Algeria faced international pressure to restore power to President Ben Bella, where diplomacy turned here to defend Algeria's perceptions, and a set of changes also coincided with, including: [Ismail Dabash, Algerian foreign policy between principled premises and international reality, Algeria: Dar Houma for Printing and Publishing, 2017, p. 151]

The Arab-Israeli war of June 1967, or what is known as the setback, and Algeria's political and military role in this war, which gave it a stronger dimension in anti-racist attitudes.

Algeria's nationalization of hydrocarbons on February 24, 1971 within the framework of the completion of national sovereignty, which contributed to the adoption of the same method by some countries.

Algeria played a leading role in the expulsion of Taiwan and China's entry into the United Nations in 1971, where Foreign Minister Abdelaziz Bouteflika was at the time.

Algeria's role in expelling the apartheid regime in South Africa in 1974 from the United Nations General Assembly.

The role played by Algeria in the October 1973 war as well as the use of oil as a weapon in this war.

The Third Non-Aligned Conference was held in Algiers, which paved the way for the presentation of economic, social and political transformations in a new

international order within the framework of the Algerian proposal at the United Nations in 1974.

Algeria's support for the Western Sahara issue, its rejection of the 1975 Madrid Convention and the recognition of the Polisario Front as the sole and legitimate representative of the Sahrawi people.

- The establishment of what is known as the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front, which came after Egypt announced its desire to conclude a peace agreement with the Zionist entity in 1977, which resulted in the boycott of Egypt and the transfer of the headquarters of the Arab League from Cairo to Tunisia.

During his rule, President Houari Boumediene relied on economic diplomacy within the traditional principles of non-alignment and the fight against imperialism, but the economic dimension in Algerian diplomacy on the incursion towards the Western camp, especially the United States of America, where he relied on a special figure, Messaoud Zaqar, where he began to be active in 1967, where he strengthened his presence in Washington and built strong relations with many important figures in the United States of America .
Ardavan amir Aslani , op cit ; P119]

Despite the fluctuation of relations between Algeria and the United States of America, especially between 1965 and 1971, economic reports show the increase in trade exchanges between the United States of America and Algeria, so Algerian-American relations were restored in 1974, but during the severance of relations between the two countries due to the 1967 war, the cooperative dimension was now based on the conclusion of the 1969 agreement, which stipulates that Algeria will sell annually 10 billion cubic meters of liquefied natural gas. For 25 years in exchange for Algeria's acquisition of technology for the petroleum industry. [Rabah Lounici, Presidents of Algeria in the Balance of History, Algeria: Dar Al-Maarifa, 2011, p. 237]

We find that the late President Houari Boumediene believed that the construction of the Algerian state as a prerequisite for building a strong state, in addition to the fact that the world is not fair under the laws and frameworks that regulate international relations at that stage, and still, as it is necessary to change the rules of the international system in accordance with justice and achieve equality in roles within the international system, especially the economic aspect within the framework of what is known as the South South and the restoration of balanced relations North-South.

Algeria tried to establish relations with the countries of the North within the framework of narrowing the gap between the North and the South, and this was

embodied in many bilateral relations, including Algerian-Swedish relations, especially during the reign of Olof Palme, the Swedish Prime Minister from 1969 to 1976 and 1982-1986 [Ismail Dabash, previous reference, p. 159], where it knew its facet and activity within the framework of a win-win relationship.

The late Algerian President Houari Boumediene also tried to rebuild Algerian-French relations with French President Giscard de Stin by inviting him to visit Algeria on April 10, 1975 within the framework of rebuilding balanced Mediterranean relations with both shores of the Mediterranean .

Algeria and the Palestinian cause:

The Palestinian cause is one of the most important issues in Algerian diplomacy, which sought to help and support it, as it supported the resolution issued at the Khartoum summit in 1967, which was expressed in three ways: "No negotiation with Israel, no recognition of the State of Israel, no peace with Israel, which Algeria supported and adhered to, especially as it declared that it is with Palestine unjust or oppressed." [Ardavan Amir Aslani , op cit ; p 126]

Rather, President Houari Boumediene sent Algerian military units to repel the Israeli aggression, which included 47 warplanes, which are what Algeria owns and kept 6 aircraft, and sent 30 tanks and three corps to the Egyptian front to support the Egyptian forces against the Israeli aggression. [Taher Zubiri, Half a Century of Struggle: Memoirs of an Algerian Chief of Staff, Algeria: Al-Shorouk Media, 2011, p. 160]

When Algeria chaired the General Assembly at the United Nations, it sought to support the Palestinian cause, where it gave Yasser Arafat the opportunity to speak on behalf of the Palestinian people on November 13, 1974, especially since this event is an exception in the diplomatic custom at the United Nations to speak a figure who is not represented by a recognized country in the United Nations forum, where President Houari Boumediene sent the file of Yasser Arafat and gave him an Algerian plane to transport him to New York. . [Ardavan amir Aslani , op cit ; p166]

On the other hand, President Houari Boumediene rebalanced Algerian-French relations, on the one hand he refused to visit a Frenchman as a fixed position he has and on the one hand did not close the door with it, but he restored the base of Marsa el-Kebir in 1968 and the evacuation of the Bousfer air base in 1970 and he also prevented the sale of alcohol to France in 1970 and ended with the nationalization of hydrocarbons in 1972 and thus restored the balance between Algeria and France within the framework of the rivalry

between the two countries . [Ahmed Taleb Ibrahim , mémoire d'un Algérien , tome 2 ; alger : edition casbah , 2008 , p 396]

President Houari Boumediene also relied on mediation diplomacy in resolving many issues, especially the Iranian-Iraqi dispute, which ended with the Algiers Agreement on March 6, 1975, and this is a great victory for Algerian diplomacy at that stage to resolve an issue of this complexity in a complex international environment..