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Lectures of

Algerian foreign Policy

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Algerian diplomacy since 1999

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The stage after the arrival of President Abdelaziz Bouteflika to power, especially the period 1999 to 2006, where the President did Article 77 of the Algerian Constitution, which gives the President of the Republic the power to approve and direct the country's foreign policy, in addition to other institutions that contribute to the Algerian foreign policy-making process such as the Ministry of Defense and Foreign Affairs. [Wahiba Dala, op. cit., p. 85]

Levels of influence of external factors on Algerian foreign policy :

Before talking about Algerian diplomacy after 1999, it is necessary to address basic points, namely the levels of influence of external factors on Algerian foreign policy, namely :

□ Regional level [Wahiba Dala, previous reference, p. 87]: The nature of the geographical location of Algeria made it a vital area subject to the influences of the external environment in its regional surroundings, and therefore it is looking for structuring the regional role in the region, especially the Maghreb, African and Arab space, in order to find channels of dialogue, cooperation and resolve crises peacefully.

On the Arab front, Algeria relied on an approach based on the system of regional blocs and work to revive them, as well as improve Arab relations such as Sudan, Tunisia and Morocco, and push the path of the Maghreb Union forward.

As for the African front, Algeria sought to revive its regional role through the organs of the African Union, contribute to the resolution of African conflicts such as the Eritrean-Ethiopian conflict, and contribute to the experience of NEPAD, in addition to Algeria's participation in the Group of Eight as a representative of the African continent.

At the international level: Algeria sought to improve its relations with the United States of America at all levels through its participation in the Atlantic dialogue with NATO, visits to Washington and making the file of combating terrorism the link with the two countries, especially after the events of September 11, 2001, in addition to adopting a strategy of diversifying partners such as China and the European Union, without forgetting the French partner, which maintains its relationship with Algeria despite its often lukewarm experience.

Beginning in 1997, foreign activity began to move by focusing on media circles and some newspapers with a wide spread and political figures, but with the advent of President Abdelaziz Bouteflika in 1999, activity began towards intensifying external work, focusing on America and Europe, and Africa took the largest share and with the events of September 11, 201, it was an opportunity for Abdelaziz Bouteflika's diplomacy towards returning to the world and the most important data on which Algerian diplomacy relied, namely: [Mohamed Bouacha, op. cit., p. 39]

1/ Africa Algeria participated in the 35th Summit of the Organization of African Unity in its capacity as Chair.

2/ Extraordinary Summit of African Unity, Sirt, Libya, 1999.

3/ Session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York, October 1999.

4 / Rimini gathering in Italy August 2000.

5 / Africa-Europe Summit in Cairo April 2000.

6 / Sixth Summit in Africa and the Middle East, May 2000

7/ NEPAD initiative.

Through these meetings, Algeria tried to present its perceptions of African issues as follows:

The continent suffers from ethnic conflicts and disputes.

-The nature of the problems because they differ from the problems of the rest.

The fragility of the African economy.

President Bouteflika also travelled 31 times between 1999 and 2002 to defend African causes, highlighting the possible activities of Algerian diplomacy.

Focus on peace and development for Africa's advancement.

- Contribute to ending the war between Eritrea and Ethiopia

- Algeria's persistence and adherence to the principle of the right to self-determination of the people without compromising on it.

Algeria has chosen the Ethiopian-Eritrean dispute as a starting point to improve Algeria's image externally by employing his relations and diplomatic experience to resolve the contentious issue between Ethiopia and Eritrea, so President Abdelaziz Bouteflika appointed Ahmed Ouyahia as his special envoy to manage the Ethiopian-Eritrean file, where he was serving as Minister of Justice and did not assign the Minister of Foreign Affairs to this file and this during a whole

year and after that the file was followed by Abdelkader Messahel, Minister Delegate to the Minister of Foreign Affairs in charge of Former African in addition to the Algerian mission in Ethiopia.

What can be noted is that the file remained confined to Justice Minister Ahmed Ouyahia within the framework of the close relationship with the President of the Republic and the rest to the negotiating delegation and even the one who implements the instructions. [Mohamed Bouacha, op. cit., p. 123]

On the other hand, President Abdelaziz Bouteflika was able to restore relations with Iran after cutting them off, and then fluctuated during the era of Presidents Ali Kafi and Yamin Zeroual, where he visited in October 2003 [Sid Ahmed Ould Salem, previous reference] and cooperation agreements were concluded, and even went until Iran was ready to provide Algeria with nuclear technology .

On the other hand, President Abdelaziz Bouteflika focused on the Mediterranean dimension and the strengthening of European cooperation, and here it is worth noting that President Abdelaziz Bouteflika had already agreed with "Romano Prodi", President of the European Commission during his visit to the headquarters of the presidency of the European Union in mid-October 2001 on the need to speed up the signing of the partnership agreement between the two sides and postpone the adjudication of files that have not been finally resolved, the most important of which is freedom of movement. People and cooperation in the field of security and information exchange [Cham Farouk, "The importance of the Arab-European partnership in improving the investment climate: a case study of Algeria", intervention delivered at the International Forum Arab Economic Integration as a Mechanism for Improving the Euro-Arab Partnership, University of Setif, on 8-9 May 2004, p. 6], and indeed the final agreement was reached on 22/04/2002 and entered into force on September 1, 2005, Algeria's goal of this partnership is to link the national economy with economies. President Bouteflika's awareness of Algeria's delay in taking its place in the Mediterranean space compared to Tunisia and Morocco on the one hand, and compared to the capabilities and capabilities possessed by Algeria on the other hand, so he was keen to speed up the conclusion of this agreement even if all matters are not resolved and the outstanding files are studied, and this highlights the importance of the Mediterranean dimension in Algerian foreign policy.

It is also noted that the post of Foreign Minister under President Abdelaziz Bouteflika was initially succeeded by three ministers, Ahmed Etaf, and the president found him when he took power and he lasted in office for eight months (April - December 1999) without being assigned serious tasks - he remained on the sidelines until he was appointed ambassador to Britain in the winter of 2001

and the second Youssef Yousfi, former Minister of Mines, was the conduct of foreign affairs formally and then appointed ambassador of Algeria to Canada, and the third Abdelaziz Belkhadem, His role is also merely the manager of this institution.

He relied on Ahmed Ouyahia to supervise the Algerian mediation in the Horn of Africa in its difficult and dangerous stage, and he is the one who works as Minister of Justice, and this at a time when there is a minister in charge of foreign relations, Ahmed Etaf, the reason is due to the discomfort of some of the latter because of his mismanagement of foreign affairs, especially with Arab countries, which have been very denounced regarding - especially Libya - and the Gulf countries.

Algerian foreign policy strategies at this stage :

Foreign policy is based on a set of strategies and tools that were used at this stage, where this stage was strongly concentrated by President Abdelaziz Bouteflika, where he wanted to be a president with full powers, and also restored Algeria to its international status and thus the strategy of controlling the institution of the presidency in the process of building foreign policy.

Algeria also relied at this stage on what is known as shuttle diplomacy [shuttle diplomacy depends on the speed of movement and explaining the positions and circumstances of the other party, as well as on the possession of hidden and declared means of carrot or threat to help push in the direction of overcoming obstacles and reaching limited practical results (see Political Encyclopedia, vol. 2, Beirut: Arab Institute for Studies and Publishing, 1991, p. 672 [[Henry Kissinger is considered among those who engineered diplomacy, as he termed him diplomacy step by step he performed in particular in mediating in the Arab-Israeli conflict (see Mohamed Bouacha, previous reference, p. 147)] This principle adopted by Algeria, especially when it mediates a file within the framework of mediation and applies it when the crisis intensifies, as it applied it in the mediation between Iraq and the Shah of Iran in 1975, as well as in the release of hostages as well as in Mediation between Ethiopia and Eritrea, this diplomacy pushes the president to come to the conflict zone and devote a lot of effort and money in order to reach a solution to this dispute. [Mohamed Bouacha, op. cit., p. 148]

The principle of summit diplomacy:[*ibid.*, p. 158]

It is among the methods adopted by Algeria in its foreign policy, especially during the African Summit held in Algeria 35, as well as in the Eritrean-Ethiopian crisis led by President Bouteflika and the President of the

Organization of African Unity The concept of diplomacy is intended to move from the level of representatives of presidents and kings to assume these personally the task, especially during crises and major issues, a new and effective method of support after World War II was employed to control danger sites, especially if there is a desire and will when the owners The actual decision that negotiates themselves in such cases explains why President Bouteflika moved to the place to negotiate with the actual decision-makers in each of the two municipalities.