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Lectures of

# *Algerian foreign Policy*

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**The roles of Algerian foreign policy - Africa as a  
model –**

Africa has great importance in Algerian foreign policy for many reasons, the most important of which is the geostrategic depth, the political aspect, the common history, as well as the current data, especially with regard to the current security threats, and for this we find Africa an important place in its diplomacy that extended from the independence of Algeria to the present day.

President Abdelaziz Bouteflika stressed on many occasions the importance of Africa for Algeria, where he stated, "Algeria has always considered itself an African country in the first place without denying its belonging to the Arab and Mediterranean world, but we in Algeria think Africanly and raise our destiny with the fate of Africa.." [Wahiba Dala, Algerian politics towards Africa 1999-2016, Algerian Journal of Public Policies, Issue VII, June 2015, University of Algiers 3, p. 7]

After independence, Algeria inherited the most important principle, which is to support peoples in liberation from colonialism and the principle of the right of peoples to self-determination, Algeria's experience during the liberation revolution, which has come to be called this style of foreign policy African policy of Algeria [Moncef Bekay, Algeria's role in the liberation of Africa and the elements of its African diplomacy, Algeria: Dar al-Ummah, 2017, p. 35], which was evident in the various charters of the revolution, beginning with the statement of the first of November and then the conference Soummam and the Cairo Conference and the Tripoli Program approved by the revolutionary leadership in June 1962, then the Constitution of 1963 and then the National Charter of 1976 and the Constitution of 1976, which referred to Algeria's adoption of the principle of the right of peoples to self-determination. The framework issued on June 23, 1953 is Gaston Davier was Minister of Overseas Affairs in the government of Guy Moll, which was formed on January 2, 1956 after the victory of the Republican Front and refers to this law, which concerns the countries of black Africa, where he took into account the Algerian revolution and its support over black Africa through the establishment of laws that prevent violent disputes within these countries (see Ahmed Benflis, op. cit., p. 133).

and the referendum on what is known as the federal union in order to obstruct the political activity of the Algerian revolution in Africa.[ Ahmed Benflis, The Foreign Policy of the Algerian Revolution: Constants and Variables, PhD thesis, University of Algiers, 2007, p. 129]

The basic principles of Algeria's foreign policy came from Africa, which revolved around the adoption of a policy of good neighborliness and the defense of the African continent from external influences, and in this context Algeria played a prominent role in the issue of consolidating the principle of solidarity between countries, especially third world countries, in the fateful issues, especially the issue of the right of peoples to self-determination.

The FLN gave a place to Frantz Fanon, where he was entrusted with the task of reconnaissance in northern Mali to link these countries to the Algerian revolution, where he noticed the possibility of linking this region to the establishment of a third base south of the Sahara through which the first, fifth and sixth states are supplied with weapons and equipment, by consolidating contacts with Mali [ibid., p. 131], and here lies the importance of this region for Algeria as well as directing the effort to link these areas with the Algerian revolution and It then becomes a working area in Algerian foreign policy.

The National Liberation Front discovered during the liberation revolution the importance of Africa politically and its role in the decolonization and eradication of colonialism, especially the countries of sub-Saharan Africa and the Sahel because it is considered a vital extension of Algeria and a front to achieve victory in African issues, for example winning the support of the fighter Frantz Fanon and making him a representative of the interim government in Accra and even the entire African continent [ibid., p. 131] The personality of Frantz Fanon has its weight and Algeria realized the importance of this fighter in Support emancipatory causes.

Algerian diplomacy also emphasizes in international forums the issue of human rights, especially in Africa, and this is what it sought in the issue of the elimination of racial discrimination in Africa, especially in South Africa, Namibia and Zimbabwe [Moncef Bekay, previous reference, p. 38].

One of the foundations and principles of the African policy of Algeria is to respond to the objectives and principles of the Organization of African Unity, especially the historical goal related to the liberation of the African continent and the strengthening of the freedom of its peoples, and this is what was referred to in the first article of the Charter of the Organization of African Unity, "The right of all people to control their destiny is an inalienable right." Moncef Bekay, op. cit., p. 39]

On this basis, Algerian diplomacy has built its strategy with regard to the fateful issues concerning the African continent, despite the difference in views among African leaders on some issues related to the conduct of the affairs of the

Organization or the nature of its organs, but Algeria played a prominent role in bringing views closer.

This is evident in the Malian government's support for the Algerian revolution when its representative at the United Nations confirmed in September 1960 that "our position on the Algerian issue was a direct factor in the division of Mali that we support the independence of Algeria, this position is the position of all African countries" [Ahmed B.N. Fleiss, *op. cit.*, p. 137]

Since the Algerian revolution, Algeria has focused on the African depth of the Algerian revolution, which later became the main guide of Algerian foreign policy to draw the movement of support for liberation movements in Africa, which necessarily reflect on Algeria and its security and stability.

From this standpoint, Algeria sought to make the Organization of African Unity a regional organization with weight in international relations and to solve internal issues and crises effectively, this diplomatic activity enabled Algeria to win the position of Deputy Secretary-General of the Organization when its structures were formed in 1964 until 1974 in addition to being the official spokesman of the Organization.

Algeria did not stop in its African policy on international forums and political platforms, but extended to the actual support for the liberation movements that were seeking independence, especially France, and here Algeria relied on the support of the most representative movements of the peoples of the region, such as the African Party for the Independence of Guinea and Cape Verde led by Amicar Cabral, the Front for the Liberation of Mozambique, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Angola, the African People's Union of Zimbabwe led by Joshua Nkomo and the People's Organization of Southwest Africa SWAPO. Founded in 1959 under the leadership of Sam Nujoma in addition to the African Conference in South Africa, and not only at this point, but also adopted permanent representations in Algeria in addition to financial support and the provision of training framework for fighters in these military groups where the FLN established a special apparatus headed by Jalloul Malaika [Ahmed Benflis, *op. S. Ibiq*, p. 46] who was entrusted with the task of coordinating with African liberation movements and was based in Villa. Boumaarouf, who was flocked by the leaders of the liberation movements to activate press and political conferences, described the leader Cabral Algeria as the Mecca of the free.

Algeria also played the role of the Organization of African Unity through the Committee for the Liberation of Africa, which worked to discuss all issues related to colonies in Africa and how to find solutions to them and provide material and military support to these liberation movements.

Algeria also focused in its African policy on the need for Africans to benefit from the resources and capabilities enjoyed by these countries and to exploit them better, where Algeria contributed to the issuance of a regulation by the United Nations General Assembly No. 1803 of December 14, 1962, which includes the right of permanent sovereignty of peoples and states over their natural resources, and thus freedom from the grip of colonialism and the achievement of economic independence. [Moncef Bekay, op. cit., p. 49]

Algeria did not stop there in the sixties and seventies of the last century, but maintained this policy in Africa for decades because of the importance of this region, which represents a strategic geographical depth for Algeria, and Algeria was and is still betting on the issue of achieving security and peace in Africa, where do you see that this peace, security and stability can only be through two basic strategies, namely sustainable development and political stability from During the new mechanisms represented in May known as good governance, where this proposal came in Algerian foreign policy with President Abdelaziz Bouteflika, where he developed a vision based on resolving international disputes peacefully, and this is what happened in the Algerian role of the Eritrean-Ethiopian conflict, as well as in the issue of what is known as the NEPAD initiative to achieve development and good governance in Africa.

#### 1- Contribute to the peaceful resolution of African conflicts :

The issue of security and peace in Africa is among the most important issues and the main issues on which Algerian foreign policy depends to achieve it in light of the current international changes, because the issue of security and peace is mainly reflected on the stability of the continent and on Algeria by virtue of Algeria's direct contact with African countries, whether directly or indirectly.

On the other hand, Algeria, in its African dimension in the period in which President Abdelaziz Bouteflika took office, wants to restore Algeria's position, especially since this position witnessed a decline in the eighties and then a retreat with the security crisis in the nineties, which affected the Algerian presence in the African continent, especially with the escalation of the Egyptian and Moroccan role in the region and the Sahel and Sahara region in particular, and this is considered a threat to the strategic interests of Algeria, especially the issue of security and Stability is the key to any development that is intended to succeed in the world, Africa and Algeria in particular.

In one of his speeches, President Abdelaziz Bouteflika stressed the importance of resolving conflicts peacefully in Africa through the African Union and before that the Organization of African Unity "... As a founding member of the Organization of African Unity after independence, Algeria still believes that the

continental organization plays a fundamental role in affirming the political identity and achieving the economic unity of the continent..."[ Wahiba Dala, op. cit., p. 13]

On the other hand, with the increasing security threats in the world and Africa in particular, Algeria began to give importance to this dimension in its foreign policy, especially Africa, in the context of increasing foreign interventions in the continent, which reflected on the issue of stability. Algeria rejects the foreign military presence specifically in the continent and the countries of Algeria because this presence for it is considered an actual threat to it as a magnet for terrorist groups that Western countries consider a target for, which is mainly reflected on security and development efforts in Africa.

Among the mechanisms adopted by Algeria in the issue of achieving security and peace in the African continent within its African policy is the establishment of what is known as the African Peace and Security Council within the institutions of the African Union, which gave it great importance in its African foreign policy, as evidenced by the appointment of Mr. Ramtane Lamamra as its president, instigated by Algeria to be in the highest position of this important institution within the African Union.

Algeria is working to bring aid and material and political support from international and regional organizations to promote work within the African continent for many reasons, including material reasons related to the cost required by the issue of maintaining peace and security in Africa, and the second issue is technical matters that also require strengthening the role of African organizations in this field, which is the peaceful resolution of international conflicts.

The issue of the establishment of the African Peace and Security Council dates back to the 35th summit held in Algiers, in which the issue of combating terrorism was agreed upon, where this was embodied in the 37th session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity held in Lusaka, Zambia 9-11 July 2012, where it was decided to integrate the Central Organ of the Mechanism for Conflict Prevention and Management within the structures of the African Union [Establishment of the African Union, Official website taken <https://au.int/ar/constitutive-act>]With the change of its name and the desire to establish a more effective body in the maintenance of peace and security in Africa, and as a result came the declaration on the establishment of the African Peace and Security Council at the first African Union Summit in Durban, South Africa in July 2002 and entered into force on December 26, 2003 and began the actual practice of its work on July 25, 2004.

We can present a vision about the objectives of this Council, through which the objectives of Algerian foreign policy appear, this Council aims to reduce international conflicts, maintain peace and security in Africa, promote good governance, protect human rights and develop a common defense policy for the African Union countries.

This Council came according to a set of principles, the most important of which are: [ The structures of the African Union are taken from the official website <http://www.peaceau.org/fr/page/104-african-peace-and-security-architecture-apsa>]

- Peaceful settlement of African conflicts.
- Respect the inherited boundaries upon gaining independence.
- Respect for the sovereignty and unity of Member States

The right to intervene in only three situations: war crimes, genocide and crimes against humanity.

We can note that the issue of interference in the internal affairs of countries has changed with the political and security changes in the world and in the African continent in particular, and here we find that the field of intervention was determined in the issue of the results of conflicts related to war crimes and conflicts, and this matter is considered pivotal in the issue of intervention, which is a sacred principle in the foreign policy of African countries and one of the principles of the Organization of African Unity, which adapts to international transformations and then actual practice. As happened in Darfur and Somalia, despite Algeria's reservations about its participation in military operations outside the country.

Thus, we find that Algeria has played and continues to play an active role in supporting the issues of peace in the African continent and expressed this at the Algiers Summit in 1999 of the Organization of African Unity, where it called for making the year 2000 the year of peace and security in Africa, and Algeria strengthened its orientation at this point by creating a strong axis in its relations with African countries, especially Senegal, Nigeria and South Africa, these countries that are really considered countries. It has political and economic weight in the African continent and can play an effective role in resolving issues of security and peace in Africa through the overall framework, which is the African Union.

In addition to ending the Ethiopian-Eritrean conflict signed on December 12, 2002, Algeria was able to contribute to the ceasefire and the consolidation of

peace in the Democratic Republic of the Congo by urging the parties to implement the Lusaka ceasefire agreement of July 10, 1999 and then Algeria's initiative to hold a mini-summit on April 30, 2000 devoted to the study of the situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Thus, we find that Algeria plays an important and essential role in the African continent by contributing to the resolution of international conflicts, and the proof of this is not only participation as a mediator in international conflicts, it is the appointment of former Foreign Minister Ramtane Lamamra as President of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union, and this does not show the importance of the Algerian role in resolving African conflicts peacefully.

## 2- Algerian foreign policy and development approach in Africa:

Among the goals that Algeria seeks at the level of the African continent, we find the issue of sustainable development in the African continent, development is a strategic goal of Algerian foreign policy in general and in Africa in particular, Algeria since the Non-Aligned Summit in 1974 in Algeria, and it calls for the reconstruction of a just international economic system that takes into account the rights of peoples to manage their natural resources and rebalance economic relations between third world countries and developed countries with the aim of establishing a fair system in the world.

Considering that Africa is the largest part of the countries of the South, it represents a third of the world's natural resources, Algeria has called many times to invest effectively in this area, where it began in the Cold War period through what is known as nationalization and now through development approaches that express one of the most important goals of Algerian foreign policy in the African continent.

The most important mechanism that Algeria contributed to finding with the advent of President Abdelaziz Bouteflika is NEPAD, or what is known as the Partnership for Development in Africa. This initiative presented by Algeria with its African partners in the framework of finding ways to achieve more stability in the continent and create a suitable environment for development and achieve development leaps at various levels to confront poverty, migration and wars in light of the exacerbation of foreign debt and the exploitation of multinational companies of the capabilities of African countries found only This mechanism to activate it and through it fights the manifestations of corruption and achieves good governance with various major and rich countries in the world.

This initiative falls within the framework of what is known as development diplomacy [Wahiba Dala, previous reference, p. 11] within the framework of



Algeria's quest to achieve development in the African continent, and for this the African circle in Algerian foreign policy is among the most important circles that have great importance and vitality, whether directly or through other circles such as the African Union or the United Nations, this initiative brought by South African President Thabo Mbeki and with the help of Algerian President Abdelaziz Bouteflika and Elenigeri Oba Sanjo to prepare a development plan in the African continent known as the Millennium Development of Africa and came on the principle of participation by strengthening security and attracting investment and the private sector to various economic sectors in the African continent.

This initiative is based on following up and organizing the extent of compliance with the rules and standards directed to good governance through highly qualified and well-known African personalities in this field periodically and evaluatively for a group of some African countries.

The tasks were distributed as follows :

1. South Africa with the African Union: Peace and security issues for the resolution of African conflicts.
2. Algeria with the Economic Commission for Africa for good governance and enterprise.
3. Nigeria with the African Development Bank in the field of economic integration.
4. Egypt specializes in agriculture and access to international markets.

Algeria's diplomatic role can be summarized as follows [Ben Khalif Abdelwahab, Geopolitics of International Relations, Algeria: Dar Cordoba for Publishing and Distribution, 2016, p. 37]:

Regional mediator: This data applies to the Algerian role in the mediation it carried out during the successive financial crises between 2012-2015, where it achieved significant gains in bringing the financial parties closer together, which ended with the 2015 Algiers Agreement.

- Regional defender: Through this role, Algeria defends the gains of neighboring countries of independence and national sovereignty in various regional forums and international forums, whether at the level of the United Nations, the African Union, or in any regional and international organization.

Regional leader: This role applies to the country that has different and large capabilities and capabilities compared to the countries in its territory, which qualifies it to play an effective and influential role at the regional level.

Active independent: means the existence of a state characterized by neutrality and non-alignment with any party to the crisis, but this does not constitute an obstacle to its active and important role at the international and regional levels, especially since positive neutrality earns the state the confidence and satisfaction of the conflicting parties, which applies to Algeria in the financial and Libyan crises.