

## Algerian Security policy: facing Challenges in Its Regional Context.

السياسة الأمنية الجزائرية: مواجهة التحديات في سياقها الإقليمي

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Date of send:22/03/2024

Date of acceptance:02/06/2024

Date of publication :30/06/2024

### Abstract:

The study explores the complexities of Algerian security policy within its regional context and delves into the historical factors that have influenced it over time. It also examines the core principles that underpin Algerian security approaches, providing a foundation for understanding its strategic decision-making process. Additionally, the article scrutinizes the specific initiatives undertaken by Algeria, particularly in the Maghreb and Sahel regions, to address the security challenges it faces, the article concludes that Algeria can play a pivotal role in regional security due to its geographic location and direct security connections with neighboring countries sharing borders. Through both visible and latent power, Algeria has the potential to serve robust regional interests by taking on the role of an initiating state. Furthermore, it can fulfill its role as a stabilizing force in the region, contributing to peace and security by adopting both short-term and long-term policies, while also maintaining fundamental principles and adapting to new changes and challenges.

**Keywords:** Algerian Security Policy, Regional Challenges, Maghreb Region, Sahel Region, The Algerian Role.

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## Introduction

Algerian foreign policy, since independence, seeks to provide national security and stability in the North of Africa and Sahel region, recognizing that the stability of neighbouring countries is integral in protecting its borders amidst various threats. Algeria plays a crucial role as a significant mediator, actively engaging in efforts to achieve stability, besides The Algerian diplomacy has evolved over time, transitioning from revolutionary to liberal and diplomatic approaches, even facing diplomatic isolation during the security crisis in the country in the nineties.

The current focus is on diplomatic efforts to ensure security and stability worldwide. Algeria remains committed to promote dialogue and state-building as effective means to assist neighbours to overcome challenges, emphasizing a new international system characterized by justice and equality among peoples of the world. During critical periods, Algeria encourages dialogue and state-building as optimal tools to achieve stability and ensure security across all levels and in the long run.

In this study, we will analyse Algerian security policy within the framework of the multiple challenges it faces in the regional context. The article aims to understand the foundations and principles that guide Algerian security policy in light of these regional challenges, and to identify the obstacles and challenges that confront the security measures and policies in Algeria.

Starting from the following problem statement: How can Algeria develop a comprehensive security policy to play an effective role in facing regional security challenges?

**The Hypothesis:** Algerian security policy can effectively address regional challenges by adopting and developing new roles while adapting to the evolving security landscape. By integrating innovative approaches, the policy's overall effectiveness in confronting diverse regional challenges will be greatly enhanced.

In this study, we will analyse Algerian security policy within the framework of the multiple challenges faced in the regional context that encompasses the North African region (Maghreb region) and the Sahel

Algeria's security relations with its regional neighbours present several spheres of interest, with the Maghreb region being among the most significant for decision-makers in Algeria. This strong connection can be considered from a geo-political perspective as a natural and inevitable partnership. Describing Algeria's relationship with the Maghreb as a fundamental and realistic commitment, the Maghrebi dimension is evident in Algeria's foreign policy, encompassing various points of collaboration. Given Algeria's position as the heart of the Maghreb, situated between the countries forming the Maghreb space, these factors collectively qualify it to be a focal point in the region, facing regional and international challenges and alliances.<sup>1</sup>

Next, the importance of the African coast comes into play, stretching from the Atlantic Ocean to the Red Sea, passing through 14 countries, covering an area

exceeding five million square kilometres. The western part of the coast is characterized by ethnic, religious, and tribal diversity, as well as a tribal social fabric, in addition to high population density<sup>2</sup>. Algeria is considered part of the African coast, and its southern borders extend across different regions, bordered to the south by the Sahara Desert, where its borders extend with countries south of the Sahara, such as Mali, Niger, and Mauritania.

we will review the security challenges and Algerian policies, our focus will be on the challenges faced by Algeria and the policies it adopted to overcome them, within the framework of role theory.

Given that Role theory, in the context of analysing Algerian security policy, involves examining how Algeria perceives its role and responsibilities in the regional security landscape. It explores how the country defines its position, duties, and interactions with neighbouring states and the broader international community. The analysis under role theory considers how Algeria's self-perceived role influences its security policies, responses to regional challenges, and approaches to international relations.

### **Firstly: Algerian Security Policy: Overview**

There is a crucial connection between security policies and national security, where the latter stands as the ultimate goal of all security policies. When a state seeks to protect its national security, it formulates a comprehensive set of policies and mechanisms spanning diverse domains to ensure its security.

National security policy (NSP), is a framework describing how a country provides security for the state and its citizens. National security policy is a formal description of a country's understanding of its guiding principles, values, interests, goals, strategic environment, threats, risks, and challenges in view of protecting and promoting national security. Typically, national security policy is based on a country's constitution, founding documents, and legislation. The policy clarifies behaviours and responsibilities of state institutions in providing security and upholding the rule of law.<sup>3</sup>

Therefore, it is the principles and foundations of the state that govern how the state maintains its physical, moral, or identity security, as well as the security of its citizens.

In another definition, according to the United Nations SSR Task Force, National Security Policy (NSP) provides guidelines for a country to address security needs of the people and the state. The policy incorporates the views of the Government and other institutions, as well as needs and perceptions of the people<sup>4</sup>

#### **1. The Algerian security approach:**

It is rooted in the core principles of its foreign policy, with non-interference in the internal affairs of other states remaining a fundamental and unwavering principle

in its national security doctrine. The Algerian government consistently underscores the importance of conducting all diplomatic and military actions in accordance with international law and the standards set by international organizations. Consequently, Algiers views collective action within the framework of the African Union as the most effective means of addressing the shared challenges confronting the African continent, while maintaining a stance against external interventions.<sup>5</sup>

Algeria's fierce struggle for independence from France likely instilled a deep aversion to external interference, leading to its strong stance on non-interference. Additionally, the instances of state collapse due to foreign interventions served as a catalyst for Algeria to adopt the principle of non-interference in the affairs of other nations, coupled with a reciprocal call for refraining from interference in its own internal matters.

While there is no single, specific source that defines Algerian policy, we can examine various legal instruments governing different aspects of security policy. These legal documents provide valuable insights into the country's security approach. This analysis will reference decrees related to the entities overseeing security matters. Additionally, we will explore different facets of security policy and its underlying principles, not only to confirm its presence but also to identify its potential evolution, all while recognizing the key actors involved, relying on official declarations and speeches outlining Algerian policy that they frequently match the government's declared policies. These can reveal information about the government's goals and priorities.

#### **Foundations of Algerian security policy:**

Algeria's security policy is outlined by its fundamental principles, which shape its approach to security at many levels, including the regional sphere. These principles include:

- Non-interference principle: Algeria has maintained a steadfast commitment to non-interference in the affairs of neighboring countries, it refrains from participating in military operations abroad.

- Mediation and political dialogue: Algeria seek to maintain its influence and address regional security challenges through mediation efforts and political dialogue.

- Border security: Algeria places great importance on securing its borders and preventing the infiltration of terrorist groups. This involves a significant military deployment to control its extensive 6,000 km border.<sup>6</sup>

- commitment to international legitimacy and actively participates in international arms control and disarmament mechanisms, Article 86 of the National Charter states that Algeria supported the principles and objectives contained in the Charters of the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity, which apply the right of peoples to self-determination, in particular Articles 1 and 55 of the

Charter of the United Nations and Article 2 and 3 of the Charter of the Organization of African Unity.

•supporting liberation movements, The Algerian constitution of 1963 stated in its second article: "Algeria is an integral part of the Arab Maghrib, Arab world, and Africa. It associated itself with the African countries and shares with them the aims of African unity, the elimination of foreign dominance from the continent, and cooperation among African states. Algeria was mentioning an intention to play a very active role both in Africa and the Third World."<sup>7</sup>

The security principles upheld by Algeria have remained solid since its independence, regardless of the changes in the region. These principles reflect Algeria's unwavering commitment to maintaining stability and protecting its interests.

Despite the talk of the change that occurred in the Algerian constitution regarding allowing the army to go outside the borders in operations, in reality it is not a major change, as the text states that "Algeria, within the framework of respect for the principles and objectives of the United Nations, the African Union and the League of Arab States, can participate in peacekeeping."<sup>8</sup> This does not contradict with its previous principle of commitment to international legitimacy and active participation in international arms control and disarmament mechanisms.

However, it is worth noting that some scholars are raising questions about the potential long-term impact of this steadfastness on Algeria's interests. As with any approach, it is essential for Algeria to continuously evaluate and adapt its security principles to ensure they align with evolving regional dynamics and challenges. By doing so, Algeria can effectively navigate the complexities of the changing security landscape while safeguarding its own interests.

## **2. Historical Context of Algerian Security policy:**

The Algerian security policy has undergone significant transformations since independence in 1962. We will work to delineate the historical sequence of the evolution and stability that the Algerian security policy has witnessed, including its areas of interest and the most prominent threats it faces.

From 1962 to 1965, during Ahmed Ben Bella's rule, there was a dialectic regarding the relationship between foreign and domestic policies. The active foreign policy seemed to take precedence over internal issues until a set of principles was established, some of which persist to this day. These include solidarity with liberation movements, opposition to imperialism, strengthening independence and national sovereignty.<sup>9</sup>

From 1965 to 1978, during President Houari Boumediene's era, the driving principles of Algerian policy remained unchanged. The state experienced increased diplomatic activity, affirming Algeria's presence on the international stage and supporting Arab countries in the 1967 war. The majority of foreign endeavors aimed

at serving domestic interests, reclaiming economic sovereignty, and culminated in the nationalization of French oil companies in 1971, The region stretching from Egypt to Senegal was deemed a vital security zone. Algeria dedicated a significant aspect of its efforts to the Palestinian cause during this period.<sup>10</sup>

This implies that Algeria's concerns were not limited to regional matters and tensions with Morocco, which, according to Algerian perception, became the primary threat. Instead, Algeria expanded the scope of its interests.

From 1979 to 1992, during the presidency of Chadli Bendjedid, Algeria's foreign policy witnessed significant expansion and development. Algeria played a leading role in the negotiation process between Iranian and American authorities during the Tehran hostage crisis, which concluded with the release of hostages in 1983. The geopolitical landscape of the Maghreb region experienced strategic developments, as Algerian-American relations evolved following a bilateral agreement between Morocco and Libya, impacting the balance of power in the area. Morocco took steps perceived by the United States as aligning with the primary adversary, Libya. Additionally, Franco-Algerian relations showed some improvement during this period. However, internal economic crises shifted priorities, making security concerns and foreign policy secondary. Leadership focus turned toward domestic issues<sup>11</sup>

From 1991 to 2001, this period witnessed a significant decline in Algeria's role on both the regional and international levels; the primary objective of Algerian foreign policy in the 1990s was to prevent the isolation of the country and any outside interference in its own internal conflict.

Western narration considered the crisis within Algeria a civil war, while the regime sought to convey to the outside world that Algeria was fighting terrorism. Algeria was thus engaged on multiple domestic fronts to ensure the survival of the state, while externally attempting to prove and reaffirm the legitimacy of its internal measures in response to security breaches and terrorist attacks.

Since 1999, with the election of former President Abdelaziz Bouteflika and his assumption of power, Algeria's international engagement has witnessed some acceleration. This is evident through its participation in the African Union Summit, a strong presence in the media, and the revitalization of Algerian diplomatic activities on the international stage. Additionally, Algerian diplomatic efforts began to address crises in its southern borders, such as the Tuareg issue (Azawad Movement). The year 2001 marked a turning point, as counterterrorism efforts became a significant focus, capturing the attention of American officials. Algeria was among the first countries to condemn the events of September 11, providing an opportunity for closer Algerian-American relations<sup>12</sup>

All the events witnessed by Algeria have contributed to the development of its foreign security policy within its regional environment. The core principles have remained unchanged, while priorities have shifted from one period to another to align with the specific needs of each timeframe.

The regional level, represented first by the Maghreb and the Mediterranean space, and then extending to the Sahel and desert regions, including the Arab Ocean, holds paramount importance in Algeria's political circles. Its ranking on the political agenda evolves based on the changing security threats emanating from each region.

### **Secondly: Algeria's Security Initiatives**

Algeria plays a crucial role in promoting regional stability, particularly within the Maghreb region therefore the country actively engages in diplomatic efforts to address security challenges and conflicts affecting neighbouring countries.

#### **1. The Algerian role in the Maghreb region**

Algeria has played a mediation role in various regional conflicts, demonstrating its commitment to peaceful resolutions; we will categorize Algeria's mediation endeavours into two segments: the crisis in Libya within the Maghreb space (North Africa) and the significant role played by Algeria.

Notably, the Sahel region faces prominent crises, particularly in Mali and Niger.

Starting from the Maghreb region and with the crisis in Libya that began in 2011, numerous Algerian efforts emerged to mediate and peacefully resolve the crisis.

The security challenge presented by Libya to Algeria takes a distinct form. Libya is grappling with a significant security void due to the lack of a central authority and the breakdown of its defence system. This situation has empowered militias affiliated with tribes, armed with hazardous weapons, to assert control. Consequently, the security of the Algerian-Libyan border is under threat<sup>13</sup>

Therefore, this crisis represents a direct threat to Algerian national security, necessitating action and a policy that aligns with the new situation, but based on the principles of Algerian foreign policy and security doctrine.

Algeria refrained from adopting a definitive diplomatic stance until 2014, favouring a diplomatic approach centred on a 'peaceful political solution' among the Libyans themselves while steering clear of foreign intervention. This approach gained prominence, particularly in the context of internal divisions within Libya, evolving into a devastating civil war that ultimately resulted in the state's collapse. Algeria's position solidified as the country assessed the severe repercussions, primarily on the security front, that the crisis posed to Algeria. Consequently, Algerian diplomacy actively engaged in endeavours to resolve the conflict, presenting several political initiatives.<sup>14</sup>

Algeria's principles restricted it from taking a more assertive or interventionist stance, even though the country was directly affected by the Libyan crisis. Algeria

believes that the only way to move forward is through internal political resolution and that outside interventions will only make matters worse. It considers the fact that external interventions have taken priority over domestic Libyan reconciliation, leading to the continuation of the unstable situation in that country.

The greatest damage inflicted upon Algeria due to the Libyan crisis lies in the proliferation of Libyan weapons to Algeria manifested in the assault on the Tiguentourine gas installations in Tamanrasset on January 16, 2013. Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb orchestrated the kidnapping of 250 Algerian workers and 30 foreigners of diverse nationalities, intending to negotiate ransoms with their respective governments. Despite the prompt intervention of the Algerian army, the operation to liberate the hostages has been successfully completed.<sup>15</sup>

Algerian diplomatic efforts consistently aim to bring together conflicting Libyan parties for dialogue, seeking to halt internal conflict and facilitate a new political exchange in Libya based on a strategic security foundation that prevents the influx of extremist Islamic groups from other countries into Libya.

Additionally, these efforts aim to achieve a political settlement through dialogue, involving border control on one hand and hindering foreign intervention in Libya on the other. The objective is to build state institutions capable of managing the situation. During the tenure of the former Foreign Minister, Ramtane Lamamra, it was affirmed that Algeria had initiated mediation between Libyan actors before relinquishing the initiative to the United Nations, cautioning against any political vacuum in Libya as a potential threat.<sup>16</sup>

Despite maintaining the doctrine of non-interference in domestic affairs, Algeria has increased its military cooperation with neighboring countries like Libya and Tunisia. This cooperation includes providing additional military training to Libyan and Tunisian security forces, as well as engaging in joint patrols and information exchange. However, progress on security cooperation has been hindered by Libya's internal situation.<sup>17</sup>

We can say that Algeria has a strong commitment to maintaining peace and stability in the region, which motivates its diplomatic efforts in Libya. Algeria regularly mediates talks between opposing groups in Libya by utilizing its historical connections and geopolitical influence. Algeria wants to strengthen Libyan state institutions so they can better govern and deal with internal issues by putting a political solution first. This policy emphasizes Algeria's commitment to promoting long-term peace in Libya and the wider North African area, as well as its position as regional mediator.

### **1– The Algerian role in the Sahel region**

For a considerable period, Algeria has consistently played the role of a traditional mediator in Sahelian conflicts. Algeria has been involved in mediating



peace processes that led to a resolution of past Tuareg uprisings in Mali during the periods of 1991–1995 and 2006.<sup>18</sup>

The roots of the Mali crisis can be traced back to the French colonial era, marked by the establishment of the Joint Organization of Saharan Regions. Initially, there was a push for a Tuareg state, evolving into a significant national element. Despite active support from many for this vision, the Tuareg community, anticipating a role in an independent Mali, was surprised and disheartened when excluded from key government positions after gaining independence.

The Tuareg uprising in 1963, known as the "Kidal Revolution," highlighted the natural divide between the Tuaregs and the broader population, testing the state's (Mali) fragile social contract<sup>19</sup>

And the Algerian approach to the Tuareg issue has consistently been driven by the concern about potential unrest spreading among Algerian Tuaregs and the aim to curb the influence of Libya or any neighbouring state. Algeria is fully aware of the responsibilities placed upon it during this crisis, considering its role as the dominant military power in the region, its influence in the northern part of Mali (specifically Kidal), its intermediary role in past crises in northern Mali, and its historical association as the birthplace of al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb.<sup>20</sup>

The Algerian diplomatic role gained prominence as it recognized Mali's procrastination in resolving its crisis, especially with the Tuaregs. The initial Algerian initiative occurred in the 1990s during the Gantt summit, with leaders like Chadli Bendjedid, Muammar Gaddafi, and Moussa Traoré. The summit stressed a commitment to a political resolution, avoiding military force, and addressing the rebellion in northern Mali. Goals included integrating Tuaregs into the Malian army, fostering cooperation in political and economic areas among participating countries, and developing border regions. The primary objective was to achieve security and stability in the African Sahel region while improving living conditions in northern Mali.<sup>21</sup>

Also, Algeria helped the UN maintain security operations in the conflict between Ethiopia, Eritrea, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Algeria has consistently adopted peaceful solutions and called for departures from force and aggression.<sup>22</sup>

Secondly, the current crisis in Niger arises, the military coup in July heightened concerns about the appropriate course of action. The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) insisted that the coup leaders restore the former president or be subjected to direct military intervention. Meanwhile, the governments of Mali

and Burkina Faso cautioned that ECOWAS involvement in Niger might provoke a military reaction, potentially escalating into a more extensive regional conflict.<sup>23</sup>

Algeria's role in this crisis is highlighted in the attempt to resolve the crisis peacefully on the basis of the central principles of the State, because any instabilities represent challenges to Algerian interests.

Algeria can play an effective role based on its previous experience in mediation, and there is significant importance in maintaining peace and stability in this region. Algeria is required to provide all necessary capabilities to contribute to resolving conflicts at the regional level, aiming to achieve a positive impact that reflects on the preservation of secure borders.

Algeria is concerned about instability in Niger, with which it shares a 620-mile border. If violent extremists can operate freely in Niger, that poses a direct threat to Algerian national security.

In August, Algeria suggested a six-month transition period to allow Niger to reinstate "the constitutional and democratic order" while devising "political arrangements with the acceptance of all parties in Niger." The initial reports indicating that opposing parties in Niger had embraced Algeria as the mediator turned out to be unfounded, or at least not realized. This unsuccessful attempt raises the question of whether Algeria can be readily acknowledged as a neutral mediator by the conflicting parties in Niger or if it still needs to establish that credibility.<sup>24</sup>

Algeria's efforts to play a massive regional role in the Sahel should be accepted and activated by others. While Algeria's solutions have contributed to resolving many crises, the increasing diversity of international actors involved in Africa and the evolving challenges necessitate that Algeria's role be accepted and welcomed by others. Algeria may also face numerous challenges, including changes in political systems in Africa because of coups, making the task of achieving agreements among countries more difficult. However, Algeria should move closer to activating modern roles that align with the modernity of the crises.

### **Thirdly: The Challenge of activating Algeria's Role in the Regional Context**

Activating the Algerian role or the role of Algerian security policies in the Maghreb region and the Sahel area requires a balance between the set goals and the available capabilities, as well as overcoming obstacles.

When addressing obstacles, the first contradiction lies in the dilemma between main principles of Algerian foreign policy and security doctrine<sup>25</sup> and the commitments placed on Algeria, imposed by its geographical position as a pivotal state, as well as the complexity of the challenges.

Since gaining independence in 1962, various factors have solidified the core tenets of Algeria's foreign policy and shaped its security doctrine. These can be succinctly outlined as follows: a commitment to non-interference in the internal

affairs of other nations, a pursuit of political resolutions for global conflicts, a steadfast rejection of foreign intervention, and a policy of non-involvement by the military in operations beyond Algeria's borders. These principles, evolving over time, have been enshrined as constants within the constitutional framework.<sup>26</sup>

According to the Algerian Constitution of 2016

Article 31: Algeria works towards supporting international cooperation and fostering friendly relations between countries based on equality, mutual interest, and non-interference in internal affairs. It adopts the principles of the United Nations Charter and its goals.

Article 29: Algeria refrains from resorting to war to undermine the legitimate sovereignty of other peoples and their freedom. It makes efforts to settle international disputes through peaceful means

Algeria refuses to intervene in the internal affairs of other countries, while simultaneously rejecting involvement with foreign parties or alliances under the banner of maintaining security independence from any foreign influence.<sup>27</sup>

Although in Article 31, Algeria supports international cooperation and the promotion of friendships among states, it simultaneously rejects cooperation with other states for foreign intervention or the strengthening of such foreign policies. Algeria consistently suggests that the solution to the crisis should be based on the domestic level. However, the rejection of foreign interference further demonstrates Algeria's willingness to collaborate with neighbouring states and regional organizations to address problems locally

Therefore, it has chosen the path of peaceful diplomacy or the role of mediation between conflicting parties. However, this role has not been sufficient to resolve complex crises, such as the situation in Libya, especially after foreign interventions that exacerbated the crisis.

Is diplomacy sufficient to activate Algeria's regional role? In reality, issues of national security for states can be complex, requiring diverse tools and strategies to address them. While diplomacy plays a crucial role in resolving conflicts and reaching international agreements, it is not always sufficient to address issues that threaten national security

The second obstacle is relying solely on a reactive policy to events in the region, coupled with a delay in updating the country's security doctrine and foreign policy to align with the new regional and international environment, could expose Algeria to a perpetual state of threats and endless risks. It may deprive Algeria of the ability to predict the behaviour of surrounding actors, keeping it in a vulnerable state to the symptoms of these threats.<sup>28</sup>

The increasing and complex challenges in the field of security to anticipate or predict the exact nature of these threats becomes difficult. These new security

challenges may include technological challenges, cyber challenges, health challenges such as pandemics, environmental challenges, and other factors.

In response to this situation, countries must adopt flexible and responsive security strategies that enable them to effectively deal with future challenges. The main challenge is finding a balance between responding to immediate challenges and preparing for future challenges that may be variable and unexpected.

For example, the wave of military coups in the Sahel region poses a threat of chaos and the resurgence of terrorist groups, undermining all the efforts it has made along with various regional countries to eliminate this phenomenon

Algeria, with the fourth longest land border in Africa, serves as a crucial crossroads between sub-Saharan Africa and Europe. A significant number of migrants, primarily from West Africa, enter Algeria through its 1500km border with Mali and Niger in the Sahara Desert. Despite the stable situation in Niger, migrants regularly arrive in Algeria, leading to periodic deportations of illegal immigrants. The recent coup in Niger adds a layer of complexity to the situation, potentially impacting migration dynamics in the region.<sup>29</sup>

Algeria needs to develop a proactive policy by setting short-term, medium-term, and long-term goals that enable it to engage with regional countries in creating regional stability and preventing any attempts to undermine regional security that would jeopardize national security. Mediation, financial assistance, and historical ties should be fully utilized in this endeavour.

Algeria can play an effective role as a stabilizing state. In this context, it finds itself compelled to assume the role of a contributing state in achieving and enhancing stability, contrary to the reverse situation that arises in countries that have witnessed failure and incapacity, becoming sources of crises and threats. Algeria must also take on the role of an initiative state<sup>30</sup>, where it is required, amid foreign interventions, to be the active party proposing solutions to crises and predicting their occurrence, ensuring non-interference by external parties. This aligns with steadfast principles of foreign policy. Additionally, Algeria holds a unique position to promote peace as a member in the region more than foreign intervening parties.

It can also leverage its experience as a successful model in the field of 'political/democratic transition' as long as it undergoes a transitional phase. The path to successful development projects begins by affirming values of freedom, democracy, social justice, and equality, as well as recognizing the importance of human capital within society and state institutions. Political systems that contradict the spirit of democracy and lack legitimacy in the eyes of their people will not be able to convince other nations that they are a successful model worthy of emulation or influence.<sup>31</sup>

And the Algerian Hirak in 2019 is considered one of the successful models that Algeria can promote, Some Western researchers have described it as "one of the longest, most resilient, and most peaceful political movements in both Algeria and the broader region's recent history. Despite expectations otherwise, it has proven itself capable of maintaining its strength and unity."<sup>32</sup>

Despite the political variables and the different dimensions of what came after or before the movement, its peaceful nature cannot be denied amidst the regional chaos accompanying the Arab revolutions.

Furthermore, it could be beneficial for Algeria to take on a new role considering its commitment to peace-making and its role as a mediator between conflicting parties in the region. Peacebuilding and its advancement should receive more attention rather than just supporting peace initiatives. This shift might make Algeria's role as a state dedicated to peacebuilding. more important.

Peacebuilding is an important activity because through peacebuilding, the roots of the conflict can be removed. Peace-making, peace enforcement, and peacekeeping can only slow the momentum of the conflict, but cannot eradicate the causes. As long as the peacekeeping force is available and there are constraints, there is an absence of overt violence, but once this force has withdrawn and the constraints no longer exist, the conflict often breaks out again and may even escalate. The conflict has never really stopped, it has just been suppressed due to the presence of a larger force, and its underlying causes have never been fully addressed.

The root causes of the conflict can only be removed through peacebuilding, and thus the danger of the renewal of the conflict can be reduced. Peacebuilding is the only way of starting the country and society on the road to gradual, sustainable development.<sup>33</sup>

Algeria has a solid foundation of principles that support its role in peacebuilding. It attaches great importance to reconciliation between the parties involved in the conflict within the same state, and rejects differences in order to preserve the state's sovereignty and security.

Algeria can use this principle as a starting point to support peacebuilding and move towards resolving deep-seated differences between the parties to the conflict in its region, starting with Libya and then Mali, which it has previously tried to mediate between the Touareg and the Malian government. However, with the aim of establishing peace, now Algeria must activate peacebuilding from the roots. Algeria has domestic experience in this field, which can make its role effective and trustworthy.

### **Conclusion**

Facing regional challenges in North Africa and the Sahel due to its strategic geographic position, Algeria has grappled with various challenges, necessitating efforts to secure borders and uphold internal stability, guarding against the infiltration

of chaos or organized criminal entities. Despite extensive endeavours on political, diplomatic, and economic fronts, the crises endured, further complicated by external interventions, particularly following the regional upheavals in 2011. Algeria has assumed significant, sometimes decisive, roles in the political and security crises of three neighbouring nations.

It supported UN-led negotiations in Libya, engaging in discreet diplomacy since mid-2014 to reconcile warring factions. In Mali, Algeria hosted and mediated talks between the government and northern rebel factions, striving to stabilize the country and avert northern secessionism. In Tunisia, Algeria quietly yet crucially backed the consensus between Islamists and secularists, a stabilizing force since 2014.

With a scarcity of capable and willing actors to contribute constructively to the region, especially in the Sahel, one of the world's largest partially ungoverned areas, Algeria is compelled to assume a central role. In response to the problem statement and in confirmation of the hypothesis, Algeria can play a pivotal role due to its geographic location and direct security connections with neighbouring countries sharing borders. With both visible and latent power, Algeria can activate its potential to serve robust regional interests by taking on the role of an initiating state and presenting a successful political model. This is particularly crucial given the political systems in the region, which are either failing, precarious, or stagnant.

Flexibility and proactive measures are essential to effectively tackle both immediate and future challenges, Algeria can fulfil its role as a stabilizing force in the region, contributing to peace and security while maintaining its sovereignty and adherence to core foreign policy principles.

#### **Recommendations:**

1. The integration of innovative roles, such as proactive regional mediation, crisis management, and strategic leadership, peacebuilding will contribute to the policy's overall efficacy in confronting diverse regional challenges.

2. Enhanced Regional Cooperation: Algeria should strengthen collaboration within the Maghreb, leveraging its geopolitical significance to foster regional alliances.

3. Diplomatic Initiatives: Continue diplomatic efforts, emphasizing dialogue and state-building, as effective tools for long-term stability.

4. Adaptive Security Measures: Implement flexible security measures that address evolving regional challenges, balancing moral-normative and security imperatives.

5. International Engagement: Actively engage with the broader international community to address global and regional security concerns.

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