Country: Algeria

Years: 1963-1964

Leader: Mohamed Ahmed Ben Bella

Ideology: Leftist

Description: HoG does not identify ideology. CHISOLS identifies leader party as FLN. DPI identifies FLN as left. Political Handbook of the World (2005) identifies FLN as “dedicated to socialism”. In the Global Party Survey 2019, 10 experts identify the average left-right (0-10) score of FLN (National Liberation Front) as 3.0. In V-Party (2020), 2 experts identify leader’s party as “Left” (-2.749) in 1977. Perspective monde identifies leader ideology as moderate left.

Years: 1965-1978

Leader: Houari Boumedienne

Ideology: Leftist

Description: HoG does not identify ideology. CHISOLS identifies leader party as FLN. DPI identifies FLN as left. Political Handbook of the World (2005) identifies FLN as “dedicated to socialism”. In the Global Party Survey 2019, 10 experts identify the average left-right (0-10) score of FLN (National Liberation Front) as 3.0. In V-Party (2020), 2 experts identify leader’s party as “Left” (-2.749) in 1977. Perspective monde identifies leader ideology as moderate left. The World Encyclopedia of Political Systems and Parties (1999) notes “A National Charter was approved by 91% of the nation’s resident voters in 1976, It affirmed “Islamic Socialism” as the guiding principle for the state and paved the way for a referendum on the new constitution… which remained in force for the next 13 years, [and] provided for a single-party socialist state” where “ political ideology was the province of the National Liberation Front (FLN).”

Year: 1978

Leader: Rabah Bitat

Ideology: Leftist

Description: CHISOLS identifies leader party as FLN. DPI identifies FLN as left. Political Handbook of the World (2005) identifies FLN as “dedicated to socialism”. In the Global Party Survey 2019, 10 experts identify the average left-right (0-10) score of FLN (National Liberation Front) as 3.0. In V-Party (2020), 2 experts identify leader’s party as “Left” (-2.749) in 1977. Perspective monde identifies leader ideology as moderate left. The World Encyclopedia of Political Systems and Parties (1999) notes “A National Charter was approved by 91% of the nation’s resident voters in 1976, It affirmed “Islamic Socialism” as the guiding principle for the state and paved the way for a referendum on the new constitution… which remained in force for the next 13 years, [and] provided for a single-party socialist state” where “ political ideology was the province of the National Liberation Front (FLN).”

Years: 1979-1991

Leader: Benjedid

Ideology: Leftist

Description: Manzano (2017) identifies ideology as leftist. CHISOLS identifies leader party as FLN. DPI identifies FLN as left. Political Handbook of the World (2005) identifies FLN as “dedicated to socialism”. In the Global Party Survey 2019, 10 experts identify the average left-right (0-10) score of FLN (National Liberation Front) as 3.0. In V-Party (2020), 2 experts identify leader’s party as “Left” (-2.749) in 1977, 1982 and 1987. Perspective monde identifies leader ideology as moderate left. Political Handbook for the World (2005) notes that FLN had a cleavage in late 1980’s because of a group “led by President Bendjedid, favoring political and economic liberalization”. Rulers notes that “As president, Bendjedid stressed agricultural production and consumer goods, increasing the role of the private sector in Algeria’s economy.” Naylor et al. (1994) notes “Benjedid was not as ideological as his predecessors and was generally regarded as a pragmatist. He reoriented direction of state-planning from the heavy capitalization of the second sector to a more balanced development thereby giving more attention to the relatively neglected first sector… He also dismantled enormous state companies and created smaller enterprises.” In addition, Naylor et al. (1994) notes that after “Benjedid was reelected in 1985. In January 1986, an “enriched” “National Charter” was published, reaffirming Algeria’s Arab and socialist identity.” The World Encyclopedia of Political Systems and Parties (1999) notes “A National Charter was approved by 91% of the nation’s resident voters in 1976, It affirmed “Islamic Socialism” as the guiding principle for the state and paved the way for a referendum on the new constitution… which remained in force for the next 13 years, [and] provided for a single-party socialist state” where “ political ideology was the province of the National Liberation Front (FLN).”

Years: 1992-1993

Leader: Kafi

Ideology: Leftist

Description: CHISOLS identifies party affiliation as none. Perspective monde identifies leader’s party as National Liberation Front (FLN). Political Handbook of the World (2005) identifies FLN as “dedicated to socialism”. In the Global Party Survey 2019, 10 experts identify the average left-right (0-10) score of FLN (National Liberation Front) as 3.0. In V-Party (2020), 2 experts identify leader’s party as “Left” (-2.749) in 1987. DPI identifies FLN as left. Perspective monde identifies leader ideology as moderate left.

Years: 1994-1998

Leader: Zeroual

Ideology: Centrist

Description: Manzano (2017) identifies ideology as centrist. CHISOLS identifies party affiliation as none. Perspective monde identifies leader party as Democratic National Rally (RND) from 1994-1995 and none from 1996 onward. World Statesmen (2020 identifies Zeroual’s party as non-party from 1994-1996 and RND after 1997. Party Facts (2020) identifies RND’s existence as “since 1997.” DPI identifies RND as centrist. Political Handbook of the World (2005) notes that RND is “Formally committed to pluralism, a ‘modern’ economy (including emphasis on privatization), and ‘social justice’”. In the Global Party Survey 2019, 10 experts identify the average left-right (0-10) score of RND (National Democratic Rally) as 3.3. In V-Party (2020), 2 experts identify leader’s party as “Center-right” (.866) in 1997. Perspective monde identifies leader ideology as center-right in 1994-1995 and does not identify ideology from 1996 onward. The centrist Democrat International (2020) identifies Rassemblent National Democratique as one of its members. The Berkley Center for Religion, Peace & World Affairs noted in 2015 that “The RND condemns political violence and attempts to restrain hardline Islamist sentiment. It supports political pluralisms, democracy, and the rotation of power” and moreover, it mentions RND as the member of the moderate Algerian coalition saying “FLN and RND currently form a majority coalition in parliament with the Society for Peace, a moderate Islamist party.” Blidi (2019) also notes that FLN and RND make a more moderate majority collation in parliament, saying that “while the Hamas movement and other opposition parties, such as the Workers’ Party, the Rally for Culture and Democracy and the Socialist Forces Front, opposed [a] Chenine [endorsement in 2019] the coalition parties… the Democratic National rally [RND]—and some independent MPs supported it before being joined by the FLN. Ortiz de Zárate (2019) writes “the rather artificial RND, the other leg of the ruling coalition, of liberal conservative tendency and launched by the former president, Liamin Zéroual, at the time when Algeria emerging from the traumatic military coup of 1992 wore a façade of constitutional democracy strongly limited and guarded”.

Years: 2000-2018

Leader: Abdelaziz Ahmed Bouteflika

Ideology: Leftist

Description: CHISOLS identifies party affiliation as none. Perspective Monde (2020) identifies Bouteflika’s party affiliation as none. World Statesmen (2020) identifies Bouteflika’s party affiliation as RND. Encyclopedia Britannica (2020) notes that Bouteflika “In 1957… joined the National Liberation Front in its fight against French rule” and that after self-imposed exile in 1981 “On his return to Algeria in 1987, he again became a member of the FLN.” Political Handbook of the World (2015) clarifies that Bouteflika’s party identification has changed, but was FLN for most of his career. It notes “The FLN also nominated military-backed Abdelaziz Bouteflika as its official candidate for the April 1999 presidential election.” But that “The factionalization of the FLN resulted in confusing circumstances under which Bouteflika was reelected (with 85 percent of the vote) on April 8, 2004, as the candidate of the RND and MSP”. He reidentified as FLN when “At a party congress in February 2005, Bouteflika was named “honorary president” of the party, his supporters having clearly regained party control” and then “President Bouteflika was reelected for a third term in 2009… officially as an independent but with the endorsement [of both FLN and RND]”. In the Global Party Survey 2019, 10 experts identify the average left-right (0-10) score of FLN (National Liberation Front) as 3.0. In V-Party (2020), 2 experts identify head of government’s FLN as “Center-left” (-1.499) in 1997, 2002, 2007, and 2012. Additionally, V-Party (2020) notes that the Bouteflika’s party ID in 2004, the RND was “Center” (.135) in 2002. Manzano (2017) identifies ideology as leftist. Perspective monde does not identify leader ideology. Of the FLN, Blidi (2019) notes that FLN and RND make a more centrist majority coalition in parliament, saying that “while the Hamas movement and other opposition parties, such as the Workers’ Party, the Rally for Culture and Democracy and the Socialist Forces Front, opposed [a] Chenine [endorsement in 2019] the coalition parties… the Democratic National rally—and some independent MPs supported it before being joined by the FLN. Johny (2019) notes “In 1999, when the country was still going through a violent phase, Mr. Bouteflika won the presidency, He stood as an independent, but with support from the military… In three years, Mr. Bouteflika… built a strong welfare state funded by revenues from oil and gas exports.” Al-Sholi (2019) notes that Bouteflika was supported by a range of coalition “between a business group that wants to speed up liberalization on the one hand, and a public-sector bureaucracy that is protecting its lifeline on the other” he continues however that “the business group that was formerly allied with Boutaflika was the one that jumped off his sinking ship first” at the prospect of a more pro-liberalization candidate. DPI identifies RND as centrist. DPI identifies FLN’s ideology as left. Ortiz de Zárate (2019) writes “Throughout his term of office, Bouteflika, claiming the label of "independent" until he finally accepted to identify himself with his lifelong party, has arbitrated in his favor a dialectic of tilting political tensions involving two officialist formations: the historic FLN, which has regained much of its former supremacy thanks to the personal favor of the president, who managed to get rid of Ali Benflis, rival and head of the social democratic wing of the formation; and the rather artificial RND, the other leg of the ruling coalition, of liberal conservative tendency and launched by the former president, Liamin Zéroual, at the time when Algeria emerging from the traumatic military coup of 1992 wore a façade of constitutional democracy strongly limited and guarded… Bouteflika announced his intention to run as an independent candidate in the early presidential elections of April 1999. Behind his candidacy, which was by no means adventurous, were powerful forces from the Armed Forces and the FLN. The latter, although a government party, had lost a lot of institutional presence during the Zéroual years and was confident that with Bouteflika at the helm of the Executive it could wrest the primacy from the National Democratic Rally (RND), the ruling party of liberal-conservative tendency created by Zéroual's entourage on the occasion of the 1997 legislative elections, which it won… With regard to the economy, the Executive [Bouteflika] launched the Economic Revival Support Plan (PSRE), which introduced a strong State interventionist nuance to the campaign of liberal reforms (deregulations, privatizations, fiscal conservatism, inflation control) that the Zéroual governments had implemented under the dictates of the IMF. Under Bouteflika, the program of transformations that was to favor the free market and the private sector continued, but at a diminished pace… The electoral results harvested by the FLN after years of defeats and discredit gave Benflis prestige in the eyes of the FLN rank and file, but the Prime Minister began to have disagreements with Bouteflika when the latter demanded his unrestricted political support. The divergences between the two men also arose over the conflict in Kabylia and, above all, over economic policy: while the president [Bouteflika] was in favor of stepping on the accelerator of liberal reforms and privatizations, not excluding the sensitive hydrocarbon sector, the head of government, showing his social democratic face, defended the "social market economy" model… On May 5, 2003, Bouteflika settled this underhanded struggle by force: he dismissed Benflis without explanation and replaced him with Ahmed Ouyahia, the head of the RND, who returned to his post after five years… Benflis replied by announcing that the FLN was no longer part of the government… Bouteflika registered his candidacy for the April 2004 presidential elections… As expected, Ali Benflis launched his rival candidacy with the official endorsement of the FLN… Since the RND backed en bloc the continuist aspiration of the incumbent, the unprecedented rift in officialdom was served, the more so because Bouteflika managed to capture the loyalty of a minority sector of the FLN, the so-called rectifiers, which disagreed with the line adopted by its secretary general. One of the Islamist formations, the MSP, added to the president's support… The VIII Congress of the FLN, between January 30 and February 2, 2005, crowned… Bouteflika's successes by electing Belkhadem, a politician with a religious and conservative profile, as secretary general and granting full backing to the policies of the Executive. As if that were not enough, Bouteflika was made honorary president of the party… Bouteflika pursued at all costs the FLN's block compliance in order to ensure the approval of his second major instrument… [In] April 9, 2009… Backed by the FLN and the RND, Bouteflika formally competed against five opponents.”

Years: 2019-2020

Leader: Abdelmadjid Tebboune

Ideology: Leftist

Description: World Statesmen (2020) identifies Tebboune’s party as FLN. Perspective Monde (2020) identifies Tebboune’s party affiliation as independent. In the Global Party Survey 2019, 10 experts identify the average left-right (0-10) score of FLN (National Liberation Front) as 3.0. In V-Party (2020), 2 experts identify head of government’s FLN as “Center-left” (-1.499) in 2017. Of the FLN, Blidi (2019) notes that FLN and RND make a more centrist majority coalition in parliament, saying that “while the Hamas movement and other opposition parties, such as the Workers’ Party, the Rally for Culture and Democracy and the Socialist Forces Front, opposed [a] Chenine [endorsement in 2019] the coalition parties… the Democratic National rally—and some independent MPs supported it before being joined by the FLN.” Perspective Monde does not identify leader’s ideology. DPI identifies FLN’s ideology as left.

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