[Template:See also](/wiki/Template:See_also" \o "Template:See also) [Template:Pp-move](/wiki/Template:Pp-move) [Template:Pp-move-indef](/wiki/Template:Pp-move-indef) [Template:Use dmy dates](/wiki/Template:Use_dmy_dates) [Template:Coord](/wiki/Template:Coord) [Template:Infobox country](/wiki/Template:Infobox_country) [Template:Contains Arabic text](/wiki/Template:Contains_Arabic_text)

**Algeria** ([Template:Lang-ar](/wiki/Template:Lang-ar) [*Template:Transl*](/wiki/Template:Transl); [Template:Lang-ber](/wiki/Template:Lang-ber) *Dzayer*), officially the **People's Democratic Republic of Algeria**, is a [sovereign state](/wiki/Sovereign_state) in [North Africa](/wiki/North_Africa) on the [Mediterranean coast](/wiki/Mediterranean_Sea). Its capital and most populous city is [Algiers](/wiki/Algiers), located in the country's far north. With an area of [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert), Algeria is the [tenth-largest country in the world](/wiki/List_of_countries_and_dependencies_by_area), and the largest in Africa and the [Arab world](/wiki/Arab_world).[[1]](#cite_note-1) Algeria is bordered to the northeast by [Tunisia](/wiki/Tunisia), to the east by [Libya](/wiki/Libya), to the west by [Morocco](/wiki/Morocco), to the southwest by [Western Sahara](/wiki/Western_Sahara), [Mauritania](/wiki/Mauritania), and [Mali](/wiki/Mali), to the southeast by [Niger](/wiki/Niger), and to the north by the [Mediterranean Sea](/wiki/Mediterranean_Sea). The country is a [semi-presidential republic](/wiki/Semi-presidential_system) consisting of 48 provinces and 1,541 communes. [Abdelaziz Bouteflika](/wiki/Abdelaziz_Bouteflika) has been [President](/wiki/President_of_Algeria) since 1999.

Ancient Algeria has known many empires and dynasties, including ancient [Numidians](/wiki/Numidia), [Phoenicians](/wiki/Phoenicia), [Carthaginians](/wiki/Punic), [Romans](/wiki/Ancient_Rome), [Vandals](/wiki/Vandals), [Byzantines](/wiki/Byzantine_Empire), [Umayyads](/wiki/Umayyad), [Abbasids](/wiki/Abbasid), [Idrisid](/wiki/Idrisid), [Aghlabid](/wiki/Aghlabid), [Rustamid](/wiki/Rustamid), [Fatimids](/wiki/Fatimid), [Zirid](/wiki/Zirid), [Hammadids](/wiki/Hammadids), [Almoravids](/wiki/Almoravids), [Almohads](/wiki/Almohads), [Ottomans](/wiki/Ottomans) and the [French colonial empire](/wiki/French_Algeria). [Berbers](/wiki/Berbers) are generally considered to be the indigenous inhabitants of Algeria. Following the [Arab conquest of North Africa](/wiki/Muslim_conquest_of_the_Maghreb), most indigenous inhabitants were [Arabised](/wiki/Arabization); thus, although most Algerians are Berber in origin, most identify with [Arab](/wiki/Arab) identity. En masse, Algerians are a mix of Berbers with some additional elements such as [Arabs](/wiki/Arabs), [Turks](/wiki/Turkic_peoples) and Andalusians (people from southern Spain who migrated after the [reconquista](/wiki/Reconquista)).

Algeria is a [regional](/wiki/Regional_power) and [middle power](/wiki/Middle_power). The North African country supplies large amounts of [natural gas](/wiki/Natural_gas) to Europe, and energy exports are the backbone of the economy. According to [OPEC](/wiki/OPEC) Algeria has the [17th largest](/wiki/List_of_countries_by_proven_oil_reserves) oil reserves in the world and the second largest in [Africa](/wiki/Africa), while it has the [9th largest reserves](/wiki/List_of_countries_by_natural_gas_proven_reserves) of [natural gas](/wiki/Natural_gas). [Sonatrach](/wiki/Sonatrach), the national oil company, is the largest company in Africa. Algeria has one of the largest militaries in Africa and the largest defence budget on the continent; most of Algeria's weapons are imported from [Russia](/wiki/Russia), with whom they are a close ally.[[2]](#cite_note-2)[[3]](#cite_note-3) Algeria is a member of the [African Union](/wiki/African_Union), the [Arab League](/wiki/Arab_League), [OPEC](/wiki/OPEC), the [United Nations](/wiki/United_Nations) and is the founding member of the [Maghreb Union](/wiki/Arab_Maghreb_Union).

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## Etymology[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=1)]

The country's name derives from the city of [Algiers](/wiki/Algiers). The city's name in turn derives from the Arabic *al-Jazā'ir* (الجزائر, "The Islands"),[[4]](#cite_note-4) a truncated form of the older *Jazā'ir Banī Mazghanna* (جزائر بني مزغنة, "Islands of the Mazghanna Tribe"),<ref name=idrisi>al-Idrisi, Muhammad (12th century) *Nuzhat al-Mushtaq*</ref>[Template:Page needed](/wiki/Template:Page_needed)<ref name=khaldun>[Template:Cite book](/wiki/Template:Cite_book)</ref>[Template:Page needed](/wiki/Template:Page_needed) employed by medieval geographers such as [al-Idrisi](/wiki/Muhammad_al-Idrisi).

## History[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=2)]

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### Ancient history[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=3)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) In the region of Ain Hanech ([Saïda Province](/wiki/Saïda_Province)), early remnants (200,000 BC) of hominid occupation in North Africa were found. Neanderthal tool makers produced hand axes in the [Levalloisian](/wiki/Levallois_technique) and [Mousterian](/wiki/Mousterian) styles (43,000 BC) similar to those in the [Levant](/wiki/Levant).[[5]](#cite_note-5)[[6]](#cite_note-6) Algeria was the site of the highest state of development of [Middle Paleolithic](/wiki/Middle_Paleolithic) [Flake tool](/wiki/Flake_tool) techniques. Tools of this era, starting about 30,000 BC, are called [Aterian](/wiki/Aterian) (after the archeological site of [Bir el Ater](/wiki/Bir_el_Ater), south of [Tebessa](/wiki/Tebessa)).

The earliest blade industries in North Africa are called [Iberomaurusian](/wiki/Iberomaurusian) (located mainly in [Oran](/wiki/Oran) region). This industry appears to have spread throughout the coastal regions of the [Maghreb](/wiki/Maghreb) between 15,000 and 10,000 BC. Neolithic civilization (animal domestication and agriculture) developed in the Saharan and Mediterranean Maghreb perhaps as early as 11,000 BC[[7]](#cite_note-7) or as late as between 6000 and 2000 BC. This life, richly depicted in the [Tassili n'Ajjer](/wiki/Tassili_n'Ajjer) paintings, predominated in Algeria until the classical period.

The amalgam of peoples of North Africa coalesced eventually into a distinct native population that came to be called [Berbers](/wiki/Berber_people), who are the indigenous peoples of northern Africa.[[8]](#cite_note-8)[thumbnail|right|Ancient](/wiki/File:Timgad_rue.jpg) [Roman Empire](/wiki/Roman_Empire) ruins of [Timgad](/wiki/Timgad). Street leading to the Arch of Trajan. [thumbnail|left|Ancient Roman theatre in Djémila](/wiki/File:GM_Djemila_Roman_Theatre02.jpg)

From their principal center of power at [Carthage](/wiki/Carthage), the [Carthaginians](/wiki/Carthaginians) expanded and established small settlements along the North African coast; by 600 BC, a [Phoenician](/wiki/Phoenicia) presence existed at [Tipasa](/wiki/Tipasa), east of [Cherchell](/wiki/Cherchell), [Hippo Regius](/wiki/Hippo_Regius) (modern [Annaba](/wiki/Annaba)) and [Rusicade](/wiki/Rusicade) (modern [Skikda](/wiki/Skikda)). These settlements served as market towns as well as anchorages.

As Carthaginian power grew, its impact on the indigenous population increased dramatically. Berber civilization was already at a stage in which agriculture, manufacturing, trade, and political organization supported several states. Trade links between Carthage and the Berbers in the interior grew, but territorial expansion also resulted in the enslavement or military recruitment of some Berbers and in the extraction of tribute from others.

[thumbnail|right|Numidia along with Egypt, Rome, and Carthage 200 BCE](/wiki/File:Egypt,_Rome,_Carthage_and_Numidia.jpg)

By the early 4th century BC, Berbers formed the single largest element of the Carthaginian army. In the [Revolt of the Mercenaries](/wiki/Mercenary_War), Berber soldiers rebelled from 241 to 238 BC after being unpaid following the defeat of Carthage in the [First Punic War](/wiki/First_Punic_War). They succeeded in obtaining control of much of Carthage's North African territory, and they minted coins bearing the name Libyan, used in Greek to describe natives of North Africa. The Carthaginian state declined because of successive defeats by the Romans in the [Punic Wars](/wiki/Punic_Wars).

In 146 BC the city of [Carthage](/wiki/Carthage) was destroyed. As Carthaginian power waned, the influence of Berber leaders in the hinterland grew. By the 2nd century BC, several large but loosely administered Berber kingdoms had emerged. Two of them were established in [Numidia](/wiki/Numidia), behind the coastal areas controlled by Carthage. West of Numidia lay [Mauretania](/wiki/Mauretania), which extended across the [Moulouya River](/wiki/Moulouya_River) in modern-day [Morocco](/wiki/Morocco) to the Atlantic Ocean. The high point of Berber civilization, unequaled until the coming of the [Almohads](/wiki/Almohads) and [Almoravids](/wiki/Almoravids) more than a millennium later, was reached during the reign of [Massinissa](/wiki/Massinissa) in the 2nd century BC.

After Masinissa's death in 148 BC, the Berber kingdoms were divided and reunited several times. Massinissa's line survived until 24 AD, when the remaining Berber territory was annexed to the [Roman Empire](/wiki/Roman_Empire). [upright|thumbnail|left|Berber King](/wiki/File:GM_Massinissa.png) [Masinissa](/wiki/Masinissa)

For several centuries Algeria was ruled by the Romans, who founded many colonies in the region. Like the rest of North Africa, Algeria was one of the breadbaskets of the empire, exporting cereals and other agricultural products. [Saint Augustine](/wiki/Augustine_of_Hippo) was the bishop of [Hippo Regius](/wiki/Hippo_Regius) (modern-day Algeria), located in the Roman province of [Africa](/wiki/Africa_(Roman_province)). The Germanic [Vandals](/wiki/Vandals) of [Geiseric](/wiki/Geiseric) moved into North Africa in 429, and by 435 controlled coastal Numidia.[[9]](#cite_note-9) They did not make any significant settlement on the land, as they were harassed by local tribes, in fact by the time the Byzantines arrived Lepcis Magna was abandoned and the Msellata region was occupied by the indigenous [Laguatan](/wiki/Amazigh) who had been busy facilitating an [Amazigh](/wiki/Amazigh) political, military and cultural revival.[[9]](#cite_note-9)[[10]](#cite_note-10)[thumb|upright|](/wiki/File:Jugurtha.JPG)[Jugurtha](/wiki/Jugurtha)

### Middle Ages[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=4)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [thumbnail|right|Mansourah mosque, Tlemcen](/wiki/File:Mansourah-1.jpg) [thumbnail|Fatimid Caliphate at its greatest extent.](/wiki/File:FatimidCaliphate969.png) After negligible resistance from the locals, the Arabs conquered Algeria in the mid-7th century and a large number of the indigenous people converted to the new faith. After the fall of the [Umayyad](/wiki/Umayyad) Caliphate, numerous local dynasties emerged, including the [Aghlabids](/wiki/Aghlabids), [Almohads](/wiki/Almohads), [Abdalwadid](/wiki/Abdalwadid), [Zirids](/wiki/Zirids), [Rustamids](/wiki/Rustamids), [Hammadids](/wiki/Hammadids), [Almoravids](/wiki/Almoravids) and the [Fatimids](/wiki/Fatimids).

During the Middle Ages, North Africa was home to many great Scholars, Saints, and Sovereigns including [Judah Ibn Quraysh](/wiki/Judah_ibn_Kuraish) the first grammarian to suggest the [Afroasiatic](/wiki/Afroasiatic_languages) language family, the great Sufi masters [Sidi Boumediene (Abu Madyan)](/wiki/Abu_Madyan) and [Sidi El Houari](/wiki/Sidi_El_Houari), as well as the Emirs [Abd Al Mu'min](/wiki/Abd_al-Mu'min) and [Yāghmūrasen](/wiki/Yaghmurasen_Ibn_Zyan). It was during this time period that the [Fatimids](/wiki/Fatimids) or children of Fatima, daughter of Muhammad, came to the Maghreb. These "Fatimids" went on to found a long lasting dynasty stretching across the Maghreb, Hejaz, and the Levant, boasting a secular inner government, as well as a powerful army and navy, primarily made of [Arabs](/wiki/Arabs) and [levantians](/wiki/Levant) extending from Algeria to their capital state of [Cairo](/wiki/Cairo). The [Fatimid caliphate](/wiki/Fatimid_caliphate) began to collapse when its governors the [Zirids](/wiki/Zirids) seceded. In order to punish them the Fatimids sent the [Arab](/wiki/Arab) [Banu Hilal](/wiki/Banu_Hilal) and [Banu Sulaym](/wiki/Banu_Sulaym) against them. The resultant war is recounted in the epic [Tāghribāt](/wiki/Taghribat_Bani_Hilal). In Al-Tāghrībāt the Amazigh Zirid Hero [Khālīfā Al-Zānatī](/wiki/Khalifa_al-Zanati) asks daily, for duels, to defeat the Hilalan hero [Ābu Zayd al-Hilalī](/wiki/Abu_Zayd_al-Hilali) and many other Arab knights in a string of victories. The [Zirids](/wiki/Zirid) however were ultimately defeated ushering in an adoption of Arab customs and culture. The indigenous [Amazigh](/wiki/Berber_people) tribes however remained largely independent, and depending on tribe, location, and time controlled varying parts of the Maghreb, at times unifying it (as under the Fatimids). The Fatimid Islamic state, also known as [Fatimid Caliphate](/wiki/Fatimid_Caliphate) made an Islamic empire that included North Africa, Sicily, [Palestine](/wiki/Palestine_(region)), [Jordan](/wiki/Jordan), [Lebanon](/wiki/Lebanon), [Syria](/wiki/Syria), the [Red Sea](/wiki/Red_Sea) coast of Africa, Tihamah, [Hejaz](/wiki/Hejaz), and [Yemen](/wiki/Yemen).[[11]](#cite_note-11)[[12]](#cite_note-12)[[13]](#cite_note-13) Caliphates from Northern Africa traded with the other empires of their time, as well as forming part of a confederated support and trade network with other Islamic states during the Islamic Era.

The [Amazighs](/wiki/Berber_people) historically consisted of several tribes. The two main branches were the Botr and Barnès tribes, who were divided into tribes, and again into sub-tribes. Each region of the Maghreb contained several tribes (for example, [Sanhadja](/wiki/Sanhadja), Houaras, [Zenata](/wiki/Zenata), [Masmouda](/wiki/Masmuda), Kutama, Awarba, and [Berghwata](/wiki/Berghwata)). All these tribes made independent territorial decisions.[[14]](#cite_note-14) Several [Amazigh](/wiki/Berber_people) dynasties emerged during the Middle Ages in the Maghreb and other nearby lands. [Ibn Khaldun](/wiki/Ibn_Khaldun) provides a table summarizing the Amazigh dynasties of the Maghreb region, the Zirid, [Banu Ifran](/wiki/Banu_Ifran), [Maghrawa](/wiki/Maghrawa), [Almoravid](/wiki/Almoravid), [Hammadid](/wiki/Hammadid), [Almohad](/wiki/Almohad), [Merinid](/wiki/Merinid), Abdalwadid, [Wattasid](/wiki/Wattasid), [Meknassa](/wiki/Meknassa) and [Hafsid](/wiki/Hafsid) dynasties.[[15]](#cite_note-15) In the early 16th century, Spain constructed fortified outposts ([presidios](/wiki/Presidio)) on or near the Algerian coast. Spain took control of few coastal towns like [Mers el Kebir](/wiki/Mers_el_Kebir) in 1505; [Oran](/wiki/Oran) in 1509; and [Tlemcen](/wiki/Tlemcen), [Mostaganem](/wiki/Mostaganem), and [Ténès](/wiki/Ténès), in 1510. In the same year, few merchants of Algiers ceded one of the rocky islets in their harbor to Spain, which built a fort on it. The presidios in North Africa turned out to be a costly and largely ineffective military endeavor that did not guarantee access for Spain's merchant fleet.[[16]](#cite_note-16)

### Arabization[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=5)]

[Template:Main articleThere](/wiki/Template:Main_article) reigned in [Ifriqiya](/wiki/Ifriqiya), current Tunisia, a [Berber](/wiki/Berbers) family, [Zirid](/wiki/Zirid_dynasty), somehow recognizing the suzerainty of the [Fatimid](/wiki/Fatimid_Caliphate) caliph of [Cairo](/wiki/Cairo). Probably in 1048, the Zirid ruler or viceroy, el-Mu'izz, decided to end this suzerainty. The [Fatimid](/wiki/Fatimid) state was too weak to attempt a punitive expedition; The Viceroy, el-Mu'izz, also found another means of revenge.

Between the [Nile](/wiki/Nile) and the [Red Sea](/wiki/Red_Sea) were living [Bedouin](/wiki/Bedouin) tribes expelled from [Arabia](/wiki/Arabia) for their disruption and turbulent influence, both [Banu Hilal](/wiki/Banu_Hilal) and [Banu Sulaym](/wiki/Banu_Sulaym) among others, whose presence disrupted farmers in the [Nile Valley](/wiki/Nile_Valley) since the nomads would often loot. The then [Fatimid](/wiki/Fatimid_Caliphate) vizier devised to relinquish control of the [Maghreb](/wiki/Maghreb) and obtained the agreement of his sovereign. This not only prompted the Bedouins to leave, but the [Fatimidtreasury](/wiki/Fatimid) even gave them a light expatriation cash allowance.

Whole tribes set off with women, children, ancestors, animals and camping equipment. Some stopped on the way, especially in [Cyrenaica](/wiki/Cyrenaica), where they are still one of the essential elements of the settlement but most arrived in [Ifriqiya](/wiki/Ifriqiya) by the [Gabes](/wiki/Gabès_Governorate) region. The [Zirid](/wiki/Zirid) ruler tried to stop this rising tide, but each meeting, the last under the walls of [Kairouan](/wiki/Kairouan), his troops were defeated and [Arabs](/wiki/Arabs) remained masters of the field.

The flood was still rising and in 1057, the [Arabs](/wiki/Arabs) spread on the high plains of [Constantine](/wiki/Constantine,_Algeria) where they gradually choked [Qalaa of Banu Hammad](/wiki/Beni_Hammad_Fort), as they had done Kairouan few decades ago. From there, they gradually gained the upper [Algiers](/wiki/Algiers) and [Oran](/wiki/Oran) plains, some were forcibly taken by the [Almohads](/wiki/Almohads) in the second half of the 12th century. We can say that in the 13th century there were in all of [North Africa](/wiki/North_Africa), with the exception of the main mountain ranges and certain coastal regions remained entirely [Berber](/wiki/Berbers).

### Ottoman Algeria[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=6)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [thumb|upright|](/wiki/File:Barbarossa_Hayreddin_Pasha.jpg)[Hayreddin Barbarossa](/wiki/Hayreddin_Barbarossa) [thumb|Old](/wiki/File:Old_algiers_16th_century.jpg) [Algiers](/wiki/Algiers) in the 16th century, with the [Spanish](/wiki/Spain)-built [Peñón of Algiers](/wiki/Peñón_of_Algiers) in the forefront The region of Algeria was partially ruled by [Ottomans](/wiki/Ottomans) for three centuries from 1516 to 1830. In 1516 the [Turkish](/wiki/Turkish_people) privateer brothers [Aruj](/wiki/Aruj) and [Hayreddin Barbarossa](/wiki/Hayreddin_Barbarossa), who operated successfully under the [Hafsids](/wiki/Hafsids), moved their base of operations to Algiers. They succeeded in conquering Jijel and Algiers from the [Spaniards](/wiki/Spaniards) but eventually assumed control over the city and the surrounding region, forcing the previous ruler, Abu Hamo Musa III of the *Bani Ziyad* dynasty, to flee.[[17]](#cite_note-17) When Aruj was killed in 1518 during his invasion of [Tlemcen](/wiki/Kingdom_of_Tlemcen), Hayreddin succeeded him as military commander of Algiers. The [Ottoman](/wiki/Ottoman_Empire) sultan gave him the title of [beylerbey](/wiki/Beylerbey) and a contingent of some 2,000 [janissaries](/wiki/Janissaries). With the aid of this force, Hayreddin conquered the whole area between Constantine and Oran (although the city of Oran remained in Spanish hands until 1791).[[18]](#cite_note-18) The next beylerbey was Hayreddin's son [Hasan](/wiki/Hasan_Pasha_(son_of_Barbarossa)), who assumed the position in 1544. Until 1587 the area was governed by officers who served terms with no fixed limits. Subsequently, with the institution of a regular Ottoman administration, governors with the title of pasha ruled for three-year terms. The pasha was assisted by janissaries, known in Algeria as the ojaq and led by an [agha](/wiki/Agha_(Ottoman_Empire)). Discontent among the ojaq rose in the mid-1600s because they were not paid regularly, and they repeatedly revolted against the pasha. As a result, the agha charged the pasha with corruption and incompetence and seized power in 1659.[[18]](#cite_note-18) [Plague](/wiki/Plague_(disease)) had repeatedly struck the cities of North Africa. Algiers lost from 30,000 to 50,000 inhabitants to the plague in 1620–21, and suffered high fatalities in 1654–57, 1665, 1691, and 1740–42.[[19]](#cite_note-19) In 1671, the [taifa](/wiki/Taifa) rebelled, killed the agha, and placed one of its own in power. The new leader received the title of [dey](/wiki/Dey). After 1689, the right to select the dey passed to the [divan](/wiki/Divan), a council of some sixty nobles. It was at first dominated by the [*ojaq*](/wiki/Ojaq); but by the 18th century, it had become the dey's instrument. In 1710, the dey persuaded the sultan to recognize him and his successors as regent, replacing the [pasha](/wiki/Pasha) in that role, although Algiers remained a part of the Ottoman Empire.[[18]](#cite_note-18) The dey was in effect a constitutional autocrat. The dey was elected for a life term, but in the 159 years (1671–1830) that the system survived, fourteen of the twenty-nine deys were assassinated. Despite usurpation, military coups, and occasional mob rule, the day-to-day operation of Ottomon government was remarkably orderly. Although the regency patronized the tribal chieftains, it never had the unanimous allegiance of the countryside, where heavy taxation frequently provoked unrest. Autonomous tribal states were tolerated, and the regency's authority was seldom applied in the [Kabylie](/wiki/Kabylie).[[18]](#cite_note-18)

#### Privateers era[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=7)]

[thumb|](/wiki/File:Debarquement_et_maltraitement_de_prisonniers_a_alger.JPG)[Christian slaves](/wiki/Slavery_in_the_Ottoman_Empire) in Algiers, 1706 The [Barbary pirates](/wiki/Barbary_pirates) preyed on Christian and other non-Islamic shipping in the western Mediterranean Sea.[[19]](#cite_note-19) The pirates often took the passengers and crew on the ships and sold them or used them as [slaves](/wiki/Slavery).[[20]](#cite_note-20) They also did a brisk business in ransoming some of the captives. According to Robert Davis, from the 16th to 19th century, pirates captured 1 million to 1.25 million Europeans as slaves.[[21]](#cite_note-21) They often made raids, called [Razzias](/wiki/Ghazi_(warrior)), on European coastal towns to capture Christian slaves to sell at [slave markets](/wiki/Arab_slave_trade) in North Africa and the [Ottoman Empire](/wiki/Ottoman_Empire).[[22]](#cite_note-22)[[23]](#cite_note-23) In 1544, Hayreddin captured the island of [Ischia](/wiki/Ischia), taking 4,000 prisoners, and enslaved some 9,000 inhabitants of [Lipari](/wiki/Lipari), almost the entire population.[[24]](#cite_note-24) In 1551, [Turgut Reis](/wiki/Turgut_Reis) enslaved the entire population of the Maltese island of [Gozo](/wiki/Gozo), between 5,000 and 6,000, sending the captives to Libya. In 1554, pirates sacked [Vieste](/wiki/Vieste) in southern Italy and took an estimated 7,000 captives as slaves.[[25]](#cite_note-25) In 1558, Barbary corsairs captured the town of [Ciutadella](/wiki/Ciutadella) (Minorca), destroyed it, slaughtered the inhabitants and took 3,000 survivors as slaves to [Istanbul](/wiki/Istanbul).[[26]](#cite_note-26) Barbary pirates often attacked the [Balearic Islands](/wiki/Balearic_Islands), and in response, the residents built many coastal watchtowers and fortified churches. The threat was so severe that residents abandoned the island of [Formentera](/wiki/Formentera).[[27]](#cite_note-27) Between 1609 and 1616, England lost 466 merchant ships to Barbary pirates.[[21]](#cite_note-21) [thumb|The](/wiki/File:De_Engels-Nederlandse_vloot_in_de_Baai_van_Algiers_ter_ondersteuning_van_het_ultimatum_tot_vrijlating_van_blanke_slaven,_26_augustus_1816._Rijksmuseum_SK-A-1377.jpeg) [Bombardment of Algiers](/wiki/Bombardment_of_Algiers_(1816)) by the Anglo-Dutch fleet, to support the ultimatum to release European slaves, August 1816 In July 1627 two pirate ships from Algiers sailed as far as [Iceland](/wiki/Iceland),[[28]](#cite_note-28) [raiding and capturing slaves](/wiki/Turkish_Abductions).[[29]](#cite_note-29)[[30]](#cite_note-30)[[31]](#cite_note-31) Two weeks earlier another pirate ship from [Salé](/wiki/Sale,_Morocco) in [Morocco](/wiki/Saadi_dynasty) had also raided in Iceland. Some of the slaves brought to Algiers were later ransomed back to Iceland, but some chose to stay in Algeria. In 1629 pirate ships from Algeria raided the [Faroe Islands](/wiki/Faroe_Islands).[[32]](#cite_note-32) In the 19th century, the pirates forged affiliations with Caribbean powers, paying a "license tax" in exchange for safe harbor of their vessels.[[33]](#cite_note-33) One American slave reported that the Algerians had enslaved 130 American seamen in the Mediterranean and Atlantic from 1785 to 1793.[[34]](#cite_note-34) Piracy on American vessels in the Mediterranean resulted in the United States initiating the [First](/wiki/First_Barbary_War) (1801–1805) and [Second Barbary Wars](/wiki/Second_Barbary_War) (1815). Following those wars, Algeria was weaker, and Europeans, with an Anglo-Dutch fleet commanded by the British [Lord Exmouth](/wiki/Edward_Pellew,_1st_Viscount_Exmouth), [attacked Algiers](/wiki/Bombardment_of_Algiers_(1816)). After a nine-hour bombardment, they obtained a treaty from the Dey that reaffirmed the conditions imposed by [Decatur](/wiki/Stephen_Decatur) (US navy) concerning the demands of tributes. In addition, the Dey agreed to end the practice of enslaving Christians.[[35]](#cite_note-35)

### French colonisation of Algeria[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=8)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [thumb|left|Arrival of Marshal](/wiki/File:Arrival_of_Marshal_Randon_in_Algier-Ernest-Francis_Vacherot_mg_5120.jpg) [Randon](/wiki/Jacques_Louis_Randon) in Algiers in 1857 Under the pretext of a slight to their consul, the French invaded and [captured Algiers](/wiki/Invasion_of_Algiers_in_1830) in 1830.[[36]](#cite_note-36)[[37]](#cite_note-37) Algerine slave trade and piracy ceased when the French conquered Algiers.[[38]](#cite_note-38) The [conquest of Algeria](/wiki/French_conquest_of_Algeria) by the French took some time and resulted in considerable bloodshed. A combination of violence and disease epidemics caused the [indigenous](/wiki/Indigenous_peoples) Algerian population to decline by nearly one-third from 1830 to 1872.[[39]](#cite_note-39)[Template:Unreliable source?](/wiki/Template:Unreliable_source?) The population of Algeria, which stood at about 1.5 million in 1830, reached nearly 11 million in 1960.[[40]](#cite_note-40) French policy was predicated on "civilizing" the country.[[41]](#cite_note-41) Algeria's social fabric suffered during the occupation; literacy plummeted.[[42]](#cite_note-42) During this period, a small but influential French-speaking indigenous elite was formed, made up of Berbers mostly from [Kabyles](/wiki/Kabyle_People). As a consequence, French government favored the Kabyles.[[43]](#cite_note-43) About 80% of Indigenous Schools were constructed for Kabyles. [thumb|upright|](/wiki/File:Abd_al-Qadir.jpg)[Emir Abdelkader](/wiki/Abdelkader_El_Djezairi) 1865

From 1848 until independence, France administered the whole Mediterranean region of Algeria as an integral part and *département* of the nation. One of France's longest-held overseas territories, Algeria became a destination for hundreds of thousands of [European](/wiki/European_ethnic_groups) [immigrants](/wiki/Immigrants), who became known as *colons* and later, as [*Pied-Noirs*](/wiki/Pied-Noir)*.* Between 1825 and 1847, 50,000 French people immigrated to Algeria.[[44]](#cite_note-44)[Template:Page needed](/wiki/Template:Page_needed) These settlers benefited from the French government's confiscation of communal land from tribal peoples, and the application of modern agricultural techniques that increased the amount of arable land.[[45]](#cite_note-45) Many Europeans settled in [Oran](/wiki/Oran) and [Algiers](/wiki/Algiers), and by the early 20th century they formed a majority of the population in both cities.[[46]](#cite_note-46) Gradually, dissatisfaction among the Muslim population, which lacked political and economic status in the colonial system, gave rise to demands for greater political autonomy, and eventually independence from France. Tensions between the two population groups came to a head in 1954, when the first violent events of what was later called the [Algerian War](/wiki/Algerian_War) began. Historians have estimated that between 30,000 and 150,000 [Harkis](/wiki/Harkis) and their dependents were killed by the [Front de Libération Nationale](/wiki/National_Liberation_Front_(Algeria)) (FLN) or by [lynch](/wiki/Lynching) mobs in Algeria.[[47]](#cite_note-47) The FLN used hit and run attacks in Algeria and France as part of its war, and the French conducted severe reprisals. The war led to the death of hundreds of thousands of Algerians and hundreds of thousands of injuries. The war concluded in 1962, when Algeria gained complete independence following the March 1962 [Evian agreements](/wiki/Evian_agreements) and the July 1962 [self-determination referendum](/wiki/Algerian_self-determination_referendum,_1962).

The number of European *Pied-Noirs* who fled Algeria totaled more than 900,000 between 1962 and 1964.[[48]](#cite_note-48) The exodus to mainland France accelerated after the [Oran massacre of 1962](/wiki/Oran_massacre_of_1962), in which hundreds of militants entered European sections of the city, and began attacking civilians.

### Independence[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=9)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [thumb|upright|](/wiki/File:Houari_Boumediene's_Portrait.jpg)[Houari Boumediene](/wiki/Houari_Boumediene) Algeria's first president was the Front de Libération Nationale ([FLN](/wiki/FLN_(Algeria))) leader [Ahmed Ben Bella](/wiki/Ahmed_Ben_Bella). Morocco's claim to [portions of western Algeria](/wiki/Greater_Morocco) led to the [Sand War](/wiki/Sand_War) in 1963. Ben Bella was [overthrown in 1965](/wiki/1965_Algerian_coup_d'état) by [Houari Boumediene](/wiki/Houari_Boumediene), his former ally and defence minister. Under Ben Bella, the government had become increasingly socialist and [authoritarian](/wiki/Authoritarianism); Boumédienne continued this trend. But, he relied much more on the army for his support, and reduced the sole legal party to a symbolic role. He [collectivised](/wiki/Collective_farming) agriculture and launched a massive industrialization drive. [Oil extraction](/wiki/Extraction_of_petroleum) facilities were nationalized. This was especially beneficial to the leadership after the international [1973 oil crisis](/wiki/1973_oil_crisis).

In the 1960s and 1970s under President Houari Boumediene, Algeria pursued a programme of industrialisation within a state-controlled socialist economy. Boumediene's successor, [Chadli Bendjedid](/wiki/Chadli_Bendjedid), introduced some liberal economic reforms. He promoted a policy of [Arabisation](/wiki/Arabisation) in Algerian society and public life. Teachers of Arabic, brought in from other Muslim countries, spread conventional Islamic thought in schools and sowed the seeds of a return to Orthodox Islam.[[49]](#cite_note-49) The Algerian economy became increasingly dependent on oil, leading to hardship when the price collapsed during the [1980s oil glut](/wiki/1980s_oil_glut).[[50][50]](#cite_note-50) Economic recession caused by the crash in world oil prices resulted in Algerian social unrest during the 1980s; by the end of the decade, Bendjedid introduced a multi-party system. Political parties developed, such as the [Islamic Salvation Front](/wiki/Islamic_Salvation_Front) (FIS), a broad coalition of Muslim groups.[[49]](#cite_note-49)

### Civil War and aftermath[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=10)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article)

In December 1991 the [Islamic Salvation Front](/wiki/Islamic_Salvation_Front) dominated the first of two rounds of [legislative elections](/wiki/Algerian_legislative_election,_1991). Fearing the election of an Islamist government, the authorities intervened on 11 January 1992, cancelling the elections. Bendjedid resigned and a [High Council of State](/wiki/High_Council_of_State_(Algeria)) was installed to act as Presidency. It banned the FIS, triggering a civil [insurgency](/wiki/Insurgency) between the Front's armed wing, the [Armed Islamic Group](/wiki/Armed_Islamic_Group_of_Algeria), and the national armed forces, in which more than 100,000 people are thought to have died. The Islamist militants conducted a violent campaign of [civilian massacres](/wiki/List_of_massacres_during_the_Algerian_Civil_War).[[51]](#cite_note-51) At several points in the conflict, the situation in Algeria became a point of international concern, most notably during the crisis surrounding [Air France Flight 8969](/wiki/Air_France_Flight_8969), a hijacking perpetrated by the Armed Islamic Group. The Armed Islamic Group declared a ceasefire in October 1997.[[49]](#cite_note-49) Algeria held [elections in 1999](/wiki/Algerian_presidential_election,_1999), considered biased by international observers and most opposition groups[[52]](#cite_note-52) which were won by President [Abdelaziz Bouteflika](/wiki/Abdelaziz_Bouteflika). He worked to restore political stability to the country and announced a 'Civil Concord' initiative, approved in a [referendum](/wiki/Algerian_Civil_Concord_referendum,_1999), under which many political prisoners were pardoned, and several thousand members of armed groups were granted exemption from prosecution under a limited amnesty, in force until 13 January 2000. The AIS disbanded and levels of insurgent violence fell rapidly. The [Groupe Salafiste pour la Prédication et le Combat](/wiki/Groupe_Salafiste_pour_la_Prédication_et_le_Combat) (GSPC), a splinter group of the Group Islamic Armée, continued a terrorist campaign against the Government.[[49]](#cite_note-49) [thumb|Algeria is more stable than other North African countries](/wiki/File:A_Market_in_Algeria.jpg) Bouteflika was re-elected in the [April 2004 presidential election](/wiki/Algerian_presidential_election,_2004) after campaigning on a programme of national reconciliation. The programme comprised economic, institutional, political and social reform to modernise the country, raise living standards, and tackle the causes of alienation. It also included a second amnesty initiative, the [Charter for Peace and National Reconciliation](/wiki/Charter_for_Peace_and_National_Reconciliation), which was approved in a [referendum in September 2005](/wiki/Algerian_national_reconciliation_referendum,_2005). It offered amnesty to most guerrillas and Government security forces.[[49]](#cite_note-49) In November 2008, the [Algerian Constitution](/wiki/Algerian_Constitution) was amended following a vote in Parliament, removing the two-term limit on Presidential incumbents. This change enabled Bouteflika to stand for re-election in the [2009 presidential elections](/wiki/Algerian_presidential_election,_2009), and he was re-elected in April 2009. During his election campaign and following his re-election, Bouteflika promised to extend the programme of national reconciliation and a $150-billion spending programme to create three million new jobs, the construction of one million new housing units, and to continue public sector and infrastructure modernisation programmes.[[49]](#cite_note-49) A continuing series of protests throughout the country started on 28 December 2010, inspired by similar [protests across the Middle East and North Africa](/wiki/Arab_Spring). On 24 February 2011, the government lifted Algeria's 19-year-old [state of emergency](/wiki/State_of_emergency).[[53]](#cite_note-53) The government enacted legislation dealing with political parties, the electoral code, and the representation of women in elected bodies.[[54]](#cite_note-54) In April 2011, Bouteflika promised further constitutional and political reform.[[49]](#cite_note-49) However, elections are routinely criticized by opposition groups as unfair and international human rights groups say that media censorship and harassment of political opponents continue.

## Geography[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=11)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) <gallery mode=packed> File:Kabylie-neige.jpg|The [Djurdjura](/wiki/Djurdjura) Range in snow File:Tadrart Rouge.jpg|The [Tadrart Rouge](/wiki/Tadrart_Rouge) near [Djanet](/wiki/Djanet). File:El Tarf-Algerie.jpg|[El Taref Province](/wiki/El_Taref_Province), In eastern Algeria. File:Ouarsenis 2012, Wilaya de Tissemsilt (Algérie).jpg|[Ouarsenis](/wiki/Ouarsenis), range of mountains in North-Western (1985m) File:Les Aiguades.jpg|Maritime front of [Bejaïa](/wiki/Bejaïa) File:Djanet, Tassili.jpg|The [Tassili](/wiki/Tassili) n'Ajjer. File:Seraidi-Annaba.jpg|[Edough](/wiki/Edough) National Park, [Annaba](/wiki/Annaba) </gallery> Algeria is the largest country in Africa, the [Arab world](/wiki/Arab_world), and the [Mediterranean Basin](/wiki/Mediterranean_Basin). Its southern part includes a significant portion of the [Sahara](/wiki/Sahara). To the north, the [Tell Atlas](/wiki/Tell_Atlas) form with the [Saharan Atlas](/wiki/Saharan_Atlas), further south, two parallel sets of reliefs in approaching eastbound, and between which are inserted vast plains and highlands. Both Atlas tend to merge in eastern Algeria. The vast mountain ranges of [Aures](/wiki/Aures) and [Nememcha](/wiki/Tebessa) occupy the entire northeastern Algeria and are delineated by the Tunisian border. The highest point is [Mount Tahat](/wiki/Mount_Tahat) ([Template:Formatnum: 3003](/wiki/Template:Formatnum:_3003) m). [thumb|The](/wiki/File:Algeria_relief.png) [Sahara](/wiki/Sahara), the [Ahaggar](/wiki/Ahaggar_Mountains) and the [Atlas mountains](/wiki/Atlas_Mountains) compose the Algerian relief. Algeria lies mostly between latitudes [19°](/wiki/19th_parallel_north) and [37°N](/wiki/37th_parallel_north) (a small area is north of 37°), and longitudes [9°W](/wiki/9th_meridian_west) and [12°E](/wiki/12th_meridian_east). Most of the coastal area is hilly, sometimes even mountainous, and there are a few natural [harbours](/wiki/Harbour). The area from the coast to the Tell Atlas is fertile. South of the Tell Atlas is a [steppe](/wiki/Steppe) landscape ending with the [Saharan Atlas](/wiki/Saharan_Atlas); farther south, there is the Sahara desert.<ref name=LOC>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref>

The [Ahaggar Mountains](/wiki/Ahaggar_Mountains) ([Template:Lang-ar](/wiki/Template:Lang-ar)), also known as the Hoggar, are a highland region in central Sahara, southern Algeria. They are located about [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) south of the capital, Algiers, and just west of [Tamanghasset](/wiki/Tamanghasset). Algiers, [Oran](/wiki/Oran), [Constantine](/wiki/Constantine,_Algeria), and [Annaba](/wiki/Annaba) are Algeria's main cities.[[55]](#cite_note-55)

### Climate and hydrology[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=12)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [thumb|300px|Algeria map of Köppen climate classification.](/wiki/File:Algeria_map_of_Köppen_climate_classification.svg) [thumb|Saharan](/wiki/File:Vue_de_Taghit.jpg) [oasis](/wiki/Oasis) town of [Taghit](/wiki/Taghit) [thumb|left|Lake Agoulmime,](/wiki/File:Agoulmime.jpg) [Tikjda](/wiki/Tikjda).

In this region, midday desert temperatures can be hot year round. After sunset, however, the clear, dry air permits rapid loss of heat, and the nights are cool to chilly. Enormous daily ranges in temperature are recorded.

The highest official temperature was [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) at In Salah.[[56]](#cite_note-56) Rainfall is fairly plentiful along the coastal part of the Tell Atlas, ranging from [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) annually, the amount of precipitation increasing from west to east. [Precipitation](/wiki/Precipitation_(meteorology)) is heaviest in the northern part of eastern Algeria, where it reaches as much as [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) in some years.

Farther inland, the rainfall is less plentiful. Algeria also has [ergs](/wiki/Erg_(landform)), or sand dunes, between mountains. Among these, in the summer time when winds are heavy and gusty, temperatures can get up to [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert).

### Fauna and flora[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=13)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [thumb|left|](/wiki/File:Cèdre_du_Chélia_13_(Algeria).jpg)[Cedrus](/wiki/Cedrus) of Chélia in the [Aures](/wiki/Aures) The varied vegetation of Algeria includes [coastal](/wiki/Coastal), [mountainous](/wiki/Mountainous) and grassy [desert](/wiki/Desert)-like regions which all support a wide range of wildlife. Many of the creatures comprising the Algerian wildlife live in close proximity to civilization. The most commonly seen animals include the wild [boars](/wiki/Boar), [jackals](/wiki/Jackal), and [gazelles](/wiki/Gazelle), although it is not uncommon to spot [fennecs](/wiki/Fennecs) (foxes), and [jerboas](/wiki/Jerboas). Algeria also has a small [African leopard](/wiki/African_leopard) and [Saharan cheetah](/wiki/Saharan_cheetah) population, but these are seldom seen. A species of deer, the [Barbary stag](/wiki/Barbary_stag), inhabits the dense humid forests in the north-eastern areas.

A variety of bird species makes the country an attraction for bird watchers. The forests are inhabited by boars and jackals. [Barbary macaques](/wiki/Barbary_macaque) are the sole native monkey. Snakes, [monitor lizards](/wiki/Monitor_lizard), and numerous other reptiles can be found living among an array of [rodents](/wiki/Rodent) throughout the [semi arid](/wiki/Semi_arid) regions of Algeria. Many animals are now extinct, including the [Barbary lions](/wiki/Barbary_lion), [Atlas bears](/wiki/Atlas_bear) and [crocodiles](/wiki/West_African_crocodile).[[57]](#cite_note-57) In the north, some of the native flora includes [Macchia](/wiki/Macchia) scrub, [olive trees](/wiki/Olive_trees), [oaks](/wiki/Oak), [cedars](/wiki/Cedrus) and other [conifers](/wiki/Conifers). The mountain regions contain large forests of evergreens ([Aleppo pine](/wiki/Aleppo_pine), [juniper](/wiki/Juniper), and [evergreen oak](/wiki/Evergreen_oak)) and some deciduous trees. [Fig](/wiki/Ficus), [eucalyptus](/wiki/Eucalyptus), [agave](/wiki/Agave), and various [palm trees](/wiki/Palm_trees) grow in the warmer areas. The [grape vine](/wiki/Grape_vine) is indigenous to the coast. In the Sahara region, some oases have palm trees. [Acacias](/wiki/Acacias) with wild [olives](/wiki/Olives) are the predominant flora in the remainder of the [Sahara](/wiki/Sahara).

[Camels](/wiki/Camel) are used extensively; the desert also abounds with venomous and nonvenomous snakes, [scorpions](/wiki/Scorpion), and numerous insects.

## Politics[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=14)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [thumb|The](/wiki/File:Hémicycle_de_l'assemblée_populaire_nationale_(Algérie).jpg) [People's National Assembly](/wiki/People's_National_Assembly) [thumb|left|upright=.67|](/wiki/File:President-abdelaziz-bouteflika.JPG)[Algerian President](/wiki/Algerian_President) [Abdelaziz Bouteflika](/wiki/Abdelaziz_Bouteflika) Algeria is an [authoritarian regime](/wiki/Authoritarian_regime), according to the [Democracy Index](/wiki/Democracy_Index) 2014.[[58]](#cite_note-58) The [Freedom of the Press 2015](/wiki/Freedom_of_the_Press_(report)) report gives it a rating of "Not Free".[[59]](#cite_note-59) Elected politicians are considered to have relatively little sway over Algeria. Instead, a group of unelected civilian and military "décideurs", known as "le pouvoir" ("the power"), actually rule the country, even deciding who should be president. The most powerful man may be [Mohamed Mediène](/wiki/Mohamed_Mediène), head of the military intelligence.[[60]](#cite_note-60) In recent years, many of these generals have died or retired. After the death of General [Larbi Belkheir](/wiki/Larbi_Belkheir), Bouteflika put loyalists in key posts, notably at [Sonatrach](/wiki/Sonatrach), and secured constitutional amendments that make him re-electable indefinitely.[[61]](#cite_note-61) The head of state is the president of Algeria, who is elected for a five-year term. The president was formerly limited to two five-year terms, but a constitutional amendment passed by the Parliament on 11 November 2008 removed this limitation.[[62]](#cite_note-62) Algeria has universal [suffrage](/wiki/Suffrage) at 18 years of age.[[63]](#cite_note-63) The President is the head of the [army](/wiki/Algerian_Army), the [Council of Ministers](/wiki/Council_of_Ministers_of_Algeria) and the [High Security Council](/wiki/High_Security_Council). He appoints the [Prime Minister](/wiki/Prime_Minister_of_Algeria) who is also the head of government.[[64]](#cite_note-64) The Algerian parliament is [bicameral](/wiki/Bicameral); the lower house, the [People's National Assembly](/wiki/People's_National_Assembly), has 462 members who are directly elected for five-year terms, while the upper house, the [Council of the Nation](/wiki/Council_of_the_Nation), has 144 members serving six-year terms, of which 96 members are chosen by local assemblies and 48 are appointed by the president.[[65]](#cite_note-65) According to the [constitution](/wiki/Constitution_of_Algeria), no political association may be formed if it is "based on differences in religion, language, race, gender, profession, or region". In addition, political campaigns must be exempt from the aforementioned subjects.[[66]](#cite_note-66) Parliamentary elections were last held in [May 2012](/wiki/Algerian_legislative_election,_2012), and were judged to be largely free by international monitors, though local groups alleged fraud and irregularities.<ref name=fitw13>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> In the elections, the [FLN](/wiki/National_Liberation_Front_(Algeria)) won 221 seats, the military-backed [National Rally for Democracy](/wiki/National_Rally_for_Democracy_(Algeria)) won 70, and the Islamist [Green Algeria Alliance](/wiki/Green_Algeria_Alliance) won 47.<ref name=fitw13/>

### Foreign relations[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=15)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [thumb|upright=.67|Mr. Ramtane Lamamra,](/wiki/File:Ramtane_Lamamra_(cropped).jpg) [Minister for Foreign Affairs of Algeria](/wiki/Ministry_of_Foreign_Affairs_(Algeria)) [thumb|President](/wiki/File:Abdelaziz_Bouteflika_and_George_W_Bush_20080707.jpg) [Abdelaziz Bouteflika](/wiki/Abdelaziz_Bouteflika) and [George W. Bush](/wiki/George_W._Bush) exchange handshakes at the Windsor Hotel Toya Resort and Spa in Tōyako Town, Abuta District, Hokkaidō in 2008. With them are [Dmitriy Medvedev](/wiki/Dmitriy_Medvedev), left, and [Yasuo Fukuda](/wiki/Yasuo_Fukuda), right.

In October 2009, Algeria cancelled a weapons deal with France over the possibility of inclusion of Israeli parts in them.[[67]](#cite_note-67) Tensions between Algeria and Morocco in relation to the [Western Sahara](/wiki/Western_Sahara) have been an obstacle to tightening the [Arab Maghreb Union](/wiki/Arab_Maghreb_Union), nominally established in 1989, but which has carried little practical weight.[[68]](#cite_note-68) Algeria is included in the European Union's [European Neighbourhood Policy](/wiki/European_Neighbourhood_Policy) (ENP) which aims at bringing the EU and its neighbours closer. Giving incentives and rewarding best performers, as well as offering funds in a faster and more flexible manner, are the two main principles underlying the European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI) that came into force in 2014. It has a budget of €15.4 billion and provides the bulk of funding through a number of programmes.

### Military[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=16)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [thumb|Algerian Air Force](/wiki/File:Su-30dz.jpg) [Su-30MKA](/wiki/Su-30) The military of Algeria consists of the [People's National Army](/wiki/People's_National_Army) (ANP), the [Algerian National Navy](/wiki/Algerian_National_Navy) (MRA), and the [Algerian Air Force](/wiki/Algerian_Air_Force) (QJJ), plus the [Territorial Air Defence Forces](/wiki/Territorial_Air_Defence_Forces).[[63]](#cite_note-63) It is the direct successor of the [National Liberation Army](/wiki/National_Liberation_Army_(Algeria)) (Armée de Libération Nationale or ALN), the armed wing of the nationalist National Liberation Front which fought French colonial [occupation](/wiki/Military_occupation) during the Algerian War of Independence (1954–62).

Total military personnel include 147,000 active, 150,000 reserve, and 187,000 paramilitary staff (2008 estimate).<ref name=IISS\_TMB>[Template:Cite book](/wiki/Template:Cite_book)</ref> Service in the military is compulsory for men aged 19–30, for a total of 12 months.[[69]](#cite_note-69) The military expenditure was 4.3% of the [gross domestic product](/wiki/Gross_domestic_product) (GDP) in 2012.[[63]](#cite_note-63) Algeria has the [second largest military](/wiki/List_of_countries_by_number_of_military_and_paramilitary_personnel) in North Africa with the largest defence budget in Africa ($10 billion).[[2]](#cite_note-2) In 2007, the Algerian Air Force signed a deal with Russia to purchase 49 [MiG-29SMT](/wiki/MiG-29) and 6 MiG-29UBT at an estimated cost of $1.9 billion. It also agreed to return old aircraft purchased from the [former USSR](/wiki/Former_USSR). Russia is also building two [636-type](/wiki/Kilo_class_submarine) diesel [submarines](/wiki/Submarines) for Algeria.[[70]](#cite_note-70)

## Administrative divisions[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=17)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) Algeria is divided into 48 [provinces](/wiki/Provinces_of_Algeria) ([*wilayas*](/wiki/Wilaya)), 553 [districts](/wiki/Districts_of_Algeria) ([*daïras*](/wiki/Daïra)) and 1,541 [municipalities](/wiki/Municipalities_of_Algeria) ([*baladiyahs*](/wiki/Baladiyah)). Each province, district, and municipality is named after its [seat](/wiki/Capital_(political)), which is usually the largest city.

The administrative divisions have changed several times since independence. When introducing new provinces, the numbers of old provinces are kept, hence the non-alphabetical order. With their official numbers, currently (since 1983) they are[[63]](#cite_note-63) [Template:Algeria Wilayas](/wiki/Template:Algeria_Wilayas)

## Economy[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=18)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [thumb|250px|Graphical depiction of the country's exports in 28 colour-coded categories.](/wiki/File:Algeria_Export_Treemap.jpg) Algeria is classified as an upper middle income country by the [World Bank](/wiki/World_Bank_Group).[[71]](#cite_note-71) Algeria's currency is the [dinar](/wiki/Algerian_dinar) (DZD). The economy remains dominated by the state, a legacy of the country's socialist post-independence development model. In recent years, the Algerian government has halted the privatization of state-owned industries and imposed restrictions on imports and foreign involvement in its economy.[[63]](#cite_note-63) Algeria has struggled to develop industries outside hydrocarbons in part because of high costs and an inert state bureaucracy. The government's efforts to diversify the economy by attracting foreign and domestic investment outside the energy sector have done little to reduce high youth unemployment rates or to address housing shortages.[[63]](#cite_note-63) The country is facing a number of short-term and medium-term problems, including the need to diversify the economy, strengthen political, economic and financial reforms, improve the business climate and reduce inequalities amongst regions.<ref name=aaeo/>

A wave of economic protests in February and March 2011 prompted the Algerian government to offer more than $23 billion in public grants and retroactive salary and benefit increases. Public spending has increased by 27% annually during the past 5 years. The 2010–14 public-investment programme will cost US$286 billion, 40% of which will go to human development.<ref name=aaeo/>

[thumb|left|The port city of Oran](/wiki/File:Theatre_d'oran.jpg) The Algerian economy grew by 2.6% in 2011, driven by public spending, in particular in the construction and public-works sector, and by growing internal demand. If hydrocarbons are excluded, growth has been estimated at 4.8%. Growth of 3% is expected in 2012, rising to 4.2% in 2013. The rate of inflation was 4% and the budget deficit 3% of GDP. The current-account surplus is estimated at 9.3% of GDP and at the end of December 2011, official reserves were put at US$182 billion.<ref name=aaeo/> Inflation, the lowest in the region, has remained stable at 4% on average between 2003 and 2007.[[72]](#cite_note-72) [thumb|250px|Algeria, trends in the](/wiki/File:Algeria,_Trends_in_the_Human_Development_Index_1970-2010.png) [Human Development Index](/wiki/Human_Development_Index) 1970–2010 In 2011 Algeria announced a budgetary surplus of $26.9 billion, 62% increase in comparison to 2010 surplus. In general, the country exported $73 billion worth of commodities while it imported $46 billion.[[73]](#cite_note-73) Thanks to strong hydrocarbon revenues, Algeria has a cushion of $173 billion in [foreign currency reserves](/wiki/Foreign_currency_reserves) and a large hydrocarbon stabilization fund. In addition, Algeria's [external debt](/wiki/List_of_countries_by_external_debt) is extremely low at about 2% of GDP.[[63]](#cite_note-63) The economy remains very dependent on hydrocarbon wealth, and, despite high foreign exchange reserves (US$178 billion, equivalent to three years of imports), current expenditure growth makes Algeria's budget more vulnerable to the risk of prolonged lower hydrocarbon revenues.<ref name=imfart4/>

In 2011, the agricultural sector and services recorded growth of 10% and 5.3%, respectively.<ref name=aaeo/> About 14% of the labor force are employed in the [agricultural sector](/wiki/Agriculture_in_Algeria).[[63]](#cite_note-63) Fiscal policy in 2011 remained expansionist and made it possible to maintain the pace of public investment and to contain the strong demand for jobs and housing.<ref name=aaeo/>

Algeria has not joined the [WTO](/wiki/WTO), despite several years of negotiations.[[74]](#cite_note-74) In March 2006, Russia agreed to erase $4.74 billion of Algeria's [Soviet](/wiki/Soviet_Union)-era debt[[75]](#cite_note-75) during a visit by [Russian President](/wiki/President_of_Russia) [Vladimir Putin](/wiki/Vladimir_Putin) to the country, the first by a Russian leader in half a century. In return, [Algerian President](/wiki/President_of_Algeria) [Abdelaziz Bouteflika](/wiki/Abdelaziz_Bouteflika) agreed to buy $7.5 billion worth of combat planes, air-defence systems and other arms from Russia, according to the head of Russia's state arms exporter [Rosoboronexport](/wiki/Rosoboronexport).[[76]](#cite_note-76)[[77]](#cite_note-77)

### Hydrocarbons[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=19)]

[Template:See also](/wiki/Template:See_also) [thumb|left|Pipelines across Algeria](/wiki/File:Algeria_pipelines_map.jpg) Algeria, whose economy is reliant on petroleum, has been an [OPEC](/wiki/OPEC) member since 1969. Its crude oil production stands at around 1.1 million barrels/day, but it is also a major gas producer and exporter, with important links to Europe.<ref name=opb15>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> Hydrocarbons have long been the backbone of the economy, accounting for roughly 60% of budget revenues, 30% of GDP, and over 95% of export earnings. Algeria has the [10th-largest reserves of natural gas](/wiki/List_of_countries_by_natural_gas_proven_reserves) in the world and is the [sixth-largest gas exporter](/wiki/List_of_countries_by_natural_gas_exports). The U.S. [Energy Information Administration](/wiki/Energy_Information_Administration) reported that in 2005, Algeria had [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) of proven [natural-gas reserves](/wiki/Natural_gas_reserves).[[78]](#cite_note-78) It also ranks [16th in oil reserves](/wiki/List_of_countries_by_proven_oil_reserves).[[63]](#cite_note-63) Non-hydrocarbon growth for 2011 was projected at 5%. To cope with social demands, the authorities raised expenditure, especially on basic food support, employment creation, support for SMEs, and higher salaries. High hydrocarbon prices have improved the current account and the already large international reserves position.<ref name=imfart4/>

Income from oil and gas rose in 2011 as a result of continuing high oil prices, though the trend in production volume is downwards.<ref name=aaeo/> Production from the oil and gas sector in terms of volume, continues to decline, dropping from 43.2 million tonnes to 32 million tonnes between 2007 and 2011. Nevertheless, the sector accounted for 98% of the total volume of exports in 2011, against 48% in 1962,[[79]](#cite_note-79) and 70% of budgetary receipts, or USD 71.4 billion.<ref name=aaeo/>

The Algerian national oil company is [Sonatrach](/wiki/Sonatrach), which plays a key role in all aspects of the oil and natural gas sectors in Algeria. All foreign operators must work in partnership with Sonatrach, which usually has majority ownership in production-sharing agreements.[[80]](#cite_note-80)

### Labour market[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=20)]

Despite a decline in total unemployment, youth and women unemployment is high.<ref name=imfart4>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> Unemployment particularly affects the young, with a jobless rate of 21.5% among the 15–24 age group.<ref name=aaeo/>

The overall rate of unemployment was 10% in 2011, but remained higher among young people, with a rate of 21.5% for those aged between 15 and 24. The government strengthened in 2011 the job programmes introduced in 1988, in particular in the framework of the programme to aid those seeking work (Dispositif d'Aide à l'Insertion Professionnelle).<ref name=aaeo>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref>

### Tourism[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=21)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [thumb|](/wiki/File:Djanet-Algeria-night.jpg)[Djanet](/wiki/Djanet) The development of the tourism sector in Algeria had previously been hampered by a lack of facilities, but since 2004 a broad tourism development strategy has been implemented resulting in many hotels of a high modern standard being built.

There are several [UNESCO](/wiki/UNESCO) [World Heritage Sites](/wiki/World_Heritage_Sites) in Algeria[[81]](#cite_note-81) including [Al Qal'a of Beni Hammad](/wiki/Al_Qal'a_of_Beni_Hammad), the first capital of the [Hammadid](/wiki/Hammadid) empire; [Tipasa](/wiki/Tipasa), a Phoenician and later Roman town; and [Djémila](/wiki/Djémila) and [Timgad](/wiki/Timgad), both [Roman](/wiki/Ancient_Rome) ruins; [M'Zab Valley](/wiki/M'Zab_Valley), a limestone valley containing a large urbanized [oasis](/wiki/Oasis); also the [Casbah](/wiki/Casbah) of Algiers is an important citadel. The only natural [World Heritage Sites](/wiki/World_Heritage_Sites) is the [Tassili n'Ajjer](/wiki/Tassili_n'Ajjer), a mountain range.

### Transport[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=22)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [thumb|left|](/wiki/File:Les_fusillés-métro-Alger.jpg)[Algiers Metro](/wiki/Algiers_Metro) [thumb|The main highway connecting the Moroccan to the Tunisian border, was a part of the](/wiki/File:Autoroute_est_ouest_ghomri2.JPG) [Cairo–Dakar Highway](/wiki/Cairo–Dakar_Highway) project The Algerian road network is the densest in Africa; its length is estimated at 180,000 km of highways, with more than 3,756 structures and a paving rate of 85%. This network will be complemented by the [East-West Highway](/wiki/Algeria_East–West_Highway), a major infrastructure project currently under construction. It is a 3-way, 1,216 km long highway, linking [Annaba](/wiki/Annaba) in the extreme east to the [Tlemcen](/wiki/Tlemcen) in the far west. Algeria is also crossed by the [Trans-Sahara Highway](/wiki/Trans-Sahara_Highway), which is now completely paved. This road is supported by the Algerian government to increase trade between the six countries crossed: Algeria, [Mali](/wiki/Mali), Niger, [Nigeria](/wiki/Nigeria), Chad and [Tunisia](/wiki/Tunisia).

### Water supply and sanitation[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=23)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) There is a substantial increase in the amount of drinking water supplied from reservoirs, long-distance water transfers and [desalination](/wiki/Desalination) at a low price to consumers, thanks to the country's substantial oil and gas revenues. In 2011 the capital Algiers transformed its intermittent [water supply](/wiki/Water_supply) into a to continuous one, along with considerable improvements in [wastewater treatment](/wiki/Wastewater_treatment). However, there is still poor service quality in many cities outside Algiers with 78% of urban residents suffering from intermittent water supply. Another challenge is the pollution of water resources.

## Demographics[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=24)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [Template:Historical populations](/wiki/Template:Historical_populations) In January 2013 Algeria's population was an estimated 37.9 million, who are mainly [Arab-Berber](/wiki/Arab-Berber) ethnically.[[63]](#cite_note-63)[[82]](#cite_note-82)[[83]](#cite_note-83) At the outset of the 20th century, its population was approximately four million.[[84]](#cite_note-84) About 90% of Algerians live in the northern, coastal area; the inhabitants of the Sahara desert are mainly concentrated in [oases](/wiki/Oasis), although some 1.5 million remain [nomadic](/wiki/Nomad) or partly nomadic. 28.1% of Algerians are under the age of 15.[[63]](#cite_note-63) Women make up 70% of the country's lawyers and 60% of its judges and also dominate the field of medicine. Increasingly, women are contributing more to household income than men. 60% of university students are women, according to university researchers.[[85]](#cite_note-85) Between 90,000 and 165,000 [Sahrawis](/wiki/Sahrawi_people) from Western Sahara live in the [Sahrawi refugee camps](/wiki/Sahrawi_refugee_camps),[[86]](#cite_note-86)[[87]](#cite_note-87) in the western Algerian Sahara desert.[[88]](#cite_note-88) There are also more than 4,000 [Palestinian refugees](/wiki/Palestinian_refugee), who are well integrated and have not asked for assistance from the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).[[86]](#cite_note-86)[[87]](#cite_note-87) In 2009, 35,000 [Chinese](/wiki/Overseas_Chinese) migrant workers lived in Algeria.[[89]](#cite_note-89) The largest concentration of Algerian migrants outside Algeria is in France, which has reportedly over 1.7 million Algerians of up to the second generation.[[90]](#cite_note-90)

### Ethnic groups[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=25)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) Indigenous [Berbers](/wiki/Berbers) as well as [Phoenicians](/wiki/Phoenicians), [Romans](/wiki/Ancient_Rome), [Byzantines](/wiki/Byzantine_Greeks), [Arabs](/wiki/Arab_people), [Turks](/wiki/Turkish_people), various [Sub-Saharan Africans](/wiki/Sub-Saharan_Africans), and [French](/wiki/French_people) have contributed to the history of Algeria.[[91]](#cite_note-91) Descendants of [Andalusian](/wiki/Al-Andalus) refugees are also present in the population of Algiers and other cities.[[92]](#cite_note-92) Moreover, [Spanish](/wiki/Spanish_language) was spoken by these [Aragonese](/wiki/Aragon) and [Castillian](/wiki/Castilian_people) [Morisco](/wiki/Moriscos) descendants deep into the 18th century, and even [Catalan](/wiki/Catalan_language) was spoken at the same time by [Catalan](/wiki/Catalonia) [Morisco](/wiki/Moriscos) descendants in the small town of Grish El-Oued.[[93]](#cite_note-93)[left|thumb|Some of Algeria's traditional clothes](/wiki/File:Tenus_traditionnelles_algériennes_27.png) There are 600,000 to 2 million former [Algerian Turks](/wiki/Turks_in_Algeria), descendants of Turkish rulers, soldiers, doctors and others who ruled the region during the [Ottoman](/wiki/Ottoman_Empire) rule in North Africa.[[94]](#cite_note-94)[[95]](#cite_note-95) Today's [Turkish](/wiki/Turkish_people) descendants are often called [*Kouloughlis*](/wiki/Kouloughlis), meaning descendants of Turkish men and native Algerian women.[[96]](#cite_note-96)[[97]](#cite_note-97) Despite the dominance of the Berber culture and ethnicity in Algeria, majority of Algerians identify with an Arabic-based identity, especially after the Arab nationialism rising in the 20th century.[[98]](#cite_note-98)[[99]](#cite_note-99) Berbers and Berber-speaking Algerians are divided into many groups with varying languages. The largest of these are the Kabyles, who live in the [Kabylie](/wiki/Kabylie) region east of Algiers, the Chaoui of Northeast Algeria, the Tuaregs in the southern desert and the [Shenwa people](/wiki/Chenouas) of North Algeria.[[100]](#cite_note-100)[Template:Page needed](/wiki/Template:Page_needed)

During the colonial period, there was a large (10% in 1960)[[101]](#cite_note-101) [European](/wiki/Ethnic_groups_in_Europe) population who became known as [*Pied-Noirs*](/wiki/Pied-Noir). They were primarily of French, [Spanish](/wiki/Spanish_people) and [Italian](/wiki/Italian_people) origin. Almost all of this population left during the war of independence or immediately after its end.[[102]](#cite_note-102)

### Languages[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=26)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [Template:See also](/wiki/Template:See_also) [thumb|Traffic sign in](/wiki/File:Panneau_de_signalisation_multilingue_à_Issers_(Algérie).jpg) [Isser](/wiki/Isser_(municipality)) in three languages: [Arabic](/wiki/Arabic), [Berber](/wiki/Berber_languages), and French

[Modern Standard Arabic](/wiki/Modern_Standard_Arabic) is the official language.[[103]](#cite_note-103) [Algerian Arabic](/wiki/Algerian_Arabic) (Darja) is the language used by the majority of the population. Colloquial Algerian Arabic is heavily infused with borrowings from French and Berber.

[Berber](/wiki/Berber_language) has been recognized as a "national language" by the constitutional amendment of 8 May 2002.[[104]](#cite_note-104) [Kabyle](/wiki/Kabyle_language), the predominant Berber language, is taught and is partially co-official (with a few restrictions) in parts of [Kabylie](/wiki/Kabylie).

Although [French](/wiki/French_language) has no official status, Algeria is the second-largest Francophone country in the world in terms of speakers,[[105]](#cite_note-105) and French is widely used in government, media (newspapers, radio, local television), and both the education system (from primary school onwards) and academia due to [Algeria's colonial history](/wiki/French_rule_in_Algeria). It can be regarded as the *de facto* co-official language of Algeria. In 2008, 11.2 million Algerians could read and write in French.[[106]](#cite_note-106) An Abassa Institute study in April 2000 found that 60% of households could speak and understand French or 18 million in a population of 30 million then. In recent decades the government has reinforced the study of French and TV programs have reinforced use of the language.

Algeria emerged as a bilingual state after 1962.[[107]](#cite_note-107) Colloquial [Algerian Arabic](/wiki/Algerian_Arabic) is spoken by about 72% of the population and Berber by 27–30%.[[108]](#cite_note-108)

### Religion[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=27)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [Template:See also](/wiki/Template:See_also) [Template:See also](/wiki/Template:See_also) [Template:Bar box](/wiki/Template:Bar_box)

Islam is the predominant religion with 99% of the population.[[63]](#cite_note-63) There are about 150,000 [Ibadis](/wiki/Ibadi) in the M'zab Valley in the region of [Ghardaia](/wiki/Ghardaia).[[109]](#cite_note-109) There were an estimated 10,000 [Christians in Algeria](/wiki/Christianity_in_Algeria) in 2008.[[110]](#cite_note-110) In a 2009 study the UNO estimated there were 45,000 [Catholics](/wiki/Catholics)[[111]](#cite_note-111) and 50,000–100,000 [Protestants](/wiki/Protestants) in Algeria.[[112]](#cite_note-112) A 2015 study estimates 380,000 Muslims converted to [Christianity](/wiki/Christianity) in Algeria.[[113]](#cite_note-113) Following the [Revolution](/wiki/Algerian_Revolution) and Algerian independence, all but 6,500 of the country's 140,000 Jews left the country, of whom about 90% moved to France with the Pied-Noirs and 10% moved to [Israel](/wiki/Israel).

Algeria has given to the Muslim world a number of prominent thinkers. To name only a few: Emir Abdelkader, Abdelhamid Ibn Badis, Mouloud Kacem Nait-Belkacem, Malek Bennabi, Mohamed Akroun, and others.

### Cities[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=28)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) Below is a list of the most important Algerian cities: [Template:Largest cities of Algeria](/wiki/Template:Largest_cities_of_Algeria)

## Culture[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=29)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [thumb|Algerian musicians in Tlemcen. Painting by](/wiki/File:Bensari2.jpg) [Bachir Yellès](/wiki/Bachir_Yellès)

Modern Algerian literature, split between Arabic, [Tamazight](/wiki/Berber_languages) and French, has been strongly influenced by the country's recent history. [Famous novelists](/wiki/List_of_Algerian_writers) of the 20th century include [Mohammed Dib](/wiki/Mohammed_Dib), [Albert Camus](/wiki/Albert_Camus), [Kateb Yacine](/wiki/Kateb_Yacine) and [Ahlam Mosteghanemi](/wiki/Ahlam_Mosteghanemi) while [Assia Djebar](/wiki/Assia_Djebar) is widely translated. Among the important novelists of the 1980s were [Rachid Mimouni](/wiki/Rachid_Mimouni), later vice-president of [Amnesty International](/wiki/Amnesty_International), and [Tahar Djaout](/wiki/Tahar_Djaout), murdered by an [Islamist](/wiki/Islamist) group in 1993 for his secularist views.[[114]](#cite_note-114) [Malek Bennabi](/wiki/Malek_Bennabi) and [Frantz Fanon](/wiki/Frantz_Fanon) are noted for their thoughts on [decolonization](/wiki/Decolonization); [Augustine of Hippo](/wiki/Augustine_of_Hippo) was born in [Tagaste](/wiki/Tagaste) (modern-day [Souk Ahras](/wiki/Souk_Ahras)); and [Ibn Khaldun](/wiki/Ibn_Khaldun), though born in [Tunis](/wiki/Tunis), wrote the [Muqaddima](/wiki/Muqaddima) while staying in Algeria. The works of the [Sanusi](/wiki/Sanusi) family in pre-colonial times, and of [Emir Abdelkader](/wiki/Emir_Abdelkader) and Sheikh [Ben Badis](/wiki/Ben_Badis) in colonial times, are widely noted. The Latin author [Apuleius](/wiki/Apuleius) was born in [Madaurus](/wiki/Madaurus) (Mdaourouch), in what later became Algeria.

Contemporary [Algerian cinema](/wiki/Algerian_cinema) is various in terms of genre, exploring a wider range of themes and issues. There has been a transition from cinema which focused on the war of independence to films more concerned with the everyday lives of Algerians.[[115]](#cite_note-115)

### Art[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=30)]

[thumb|Mohammed Racim was a Painter and founder of the Algerian school of miniature painting](/wiki/File:Portrait-racim.jpg) Algerian painters, like [Mohamed Racim](/wiki/Fr:Mohamed_Racim) or Baya, attempted to revive the prestigious Algerian past prior to French colonization, at the same time that they have contributed to the preservation of the authentic values of Algeria. In this line, [Mohamed Temam](/wiki/Mohamed_Temam), [Abdelkhader Houamel](/wiki/Abdelkhader_Houamel) have also returned through this art, scenes from the history of the country, the habits and customs of the past and the country life. Other new artistic currents including the one of [M'hamed Issiakhem](/wiki/M'hamed_Issiakhem), [Mohammed Khadda](/wiki/Mohammed_Khadda) and [Bachir Yelles](/wiki/Bachir_Yelles), appeared on the scene of Algerian painting, abandoning figurative classical painting to find new pictorial ways, in order to adapt Algerian paintings to the new realities of the country through its struggle and its aspirations. [Mohammed Khadda](/wiki/Mohammed_Khadda)<ref name=art>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> and [M'hamed Issiakhem](/wiki/M'hamed_Issiakhem) have been notable in recent years.<ref name=art/>

### Literature[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=31)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article)

The historic roots of Algerian literature goes back to the [Numidian](/wiki/Numidia) era, when [Apuleius](/wiki/Apuleius) wrote [*The Golden Ass*](/wiki/The_Golden_Ass), the only Latin novel to survive in its entirety. This period had also known [Augustine of Hippo](/wiki/Augustine_of_Hippo), [Nonius Marcellus](/wiki/Nonius_Marcellus) and [Martianus Capella](/wiki/Martianus_Capella), among many others. The Middle Ages have known many Arabic writers who revolutionized the Arab world literature, with authors like [Ahmad al-Buni](/wiki/Ahmad_al-Buni), [Ibn Manzur](/wiki/Ibn_Manzur) and [Ibn Khaldoun](/wiki/Ibn_Khaldoun), who wrote the [Muqaddimah](/wiki/Muqaddimah) while staying in Algeria, and many others.

[Albert Camus](/wiki/Albert_Camus) was an Algerian-born French Pied-Noir author. In 1957 he was awarded the [Nobel Prize in literature](/wiki/Nobel_Prize_in_literature).

[Template:Double image](/wiki/Template:Double_image)

Today Algeria contains, in its literary landscape, big names having not only marked the Algerian literature, but also the universal literary heritage in Arabic and French.

As a first step, Algerian literature was marked by works whose main concern was the assertion of the Algerian national entity, there is the publication of novels as the *Algerian trilogy* of [Mohammed Dib](/wiki/Mohammed_Dib), or even *Nedjma* of [Kateb Yacine](/wiki/Kateb_Yacine) novel which is often regarded as a monumental and major work. Other known writers will contribute to the emergence of Algerian literature whom include [Mouloud Feraoun](/wiki/Mouloud_Feraoun), [Malek Bennabi](/wiki/Malek_Bennabi), [Malek Haddad](/wiki/Malek_Haddad), [Moufdi Zakaria](/wiki/Moufdi_Zakaria), [Abdelhamid Ben Badis](/wiki/Abdelhamid_Ben_Badis), Mohamed Laïd Al-Khalifa, [Mouloud Mammeri](/wiki/Mouloud_Mammeri), [Frantz Fanon](/wiki/Frantz_Fanon), and [Assia Djebar](/wiki/Assia_Djebar).

In the aftermath of the independence, several new authors emerged on the Algerian literary scene, they will attempt through their works to expose a number of social problems, among them there are [Rachid Boudjedra](/wiki/Rachid_Boudjedra), [Rachid Mimouni](/wiki/Rachid_Mimouni), [Leila Sebbar](/wiki/Leila_Sebbar), [Tahar Djaout](/wiki/Tahar_Djaout) and [Tahir Wattar](/wiki/Tahir_Wattar).

Currently, a part of Algerian writers tends to be defined in a literature of shocking expression, due to the terrorism that occurred during the 1990s, the other party is defined in a different style of literature who staged an individualistic conception of the human adventure. Among the most noted recent works, there is the writer, *the swallows of Kabul* and *the attack* of [Yasmina Khadra](/wiki/Yasmina_Khadra), *the oath of barbarians* of [Boualem Sansal](/wiki/Boualem_Sansal), *memory of the flesh* of [Ahlam Mosteghanemi](/wiki/Ahlam_Mosteghanemi) and the last novel by Assia Djebar *nowhere in my father's House*.

### Music[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=32)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [Chaâbi music](/wiki/Chaabi_(Algeria)) is a typically Algerian musical genre characterized by specific rhythms and of Qacidate (Popular poems) in Arabic dialect. The undisputed master of this music is [El Hadj M'Hamed El Anka](/wiki/El_Hadj_M'Hamed_El_Anka). The Constantinois [Malouf](/wiki/Andalusian_classical_music) style is saved by musician from whom [Mohamed Tahar Fergani](/wiki/Mohamed_Tahar_Fergani) is one of the best performers. [thumb|](/wiki/File:Anka.jpg)[El Hadj M'Hamed El Anka](/wiki/El_Hadj_M'Hamed_El_Anka) [thumb|](/wiki/File:Cheb_Khaled_performed_in_Oran_on_July_5th_2011.jpg)[Cheb Khaled](/wiki/Khaled_(musician)) King [raï](/wiki/Raï)

Folk music styles include [Bedouin music](/wiki/Bedouin_music), characterized by the poetic songs based on long kacida (poems); Kabyle music, based on a rich repertoire that is poetry and old tales passed through generations; Shawiya music, a folklore from diverse areas of the [Aurès Mountains](/wiki/Aurès_Mountains). Rahaba music style is unique to the Aures. [Souad Massi](/wiki/Souad_Massi) is a rising Algerian folk singer. Other Algerian singers of the diaspora include [Manel Filali](/wiki/Manel_Filali) in Germany and [Kenza Farah](/wiki/Kenza_Farah) in France. Tergui music is sung in [Tuareg languages](/wiki/Tuareg_languages) generally, [Tinariwen](/wiki/Tinariwen) had a worldwide success. Finally, the staïfi music is born in [Sétif](/wiki/Sétif) and remains a unique style of its kind.

Modern music is available in several facets, [Raï](/wiki/Raï) music is a style typical of Western Algeria. [Rap](/wiki/Algeria_Rap), relatively recent style in Algeria, is experiencing significant growth.

### Cinema[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=33)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [thumb|](/wiki/File:Chronique_des_annees_de_braise.jpg)[Chronicle of the Years of Fire](/wiki/Chronicle_of_the_Years_of_Fire), the film won the [Palme d'Or](/wiki/Palme_d'Or) prize at the [1975 Cannes Film Festival](/wiki/1975_Cannes_Film_Festival).[[116]](#cite_note-116) The Algerian state's interest in film-industry activities can be seen in the annual budget of DZD 200 million (EUR 1.8) allocated to production, specific measures and an ambitious programme plan implemented by the Ministry of Culture in order to promote national production, renovate the cinema stock and remedy the weak links in distribution and exploitation.

The financial support provided by the state, through the Fund for the Development of the Arts, Techniques and the Film Industry (FDATIC) and the Algerian Agency for Cultural Influence (AARC), plays a key role in the promotion of national production. Between 2007 and 2013, FDATIC subsidised 98 films (feature films, documentaries and short films). In mid-2013, AARC had already supported a total of 78 films, including 42 feature films, 6 short films and 30 documentaries.

According to the European Audiovisual Observatory's LUMIERE database, 41 Algerian films were distributed in Europe between 1996 and 2013; 21 films in this repertoire were Algerian-French co-productions. [*(Days of Glory)* (2006)](/wiki/Days_of_Glory_(2006_film)) and [*Outside the Law* (2010)](/wiki/Outside_the_Law_(2010_film)) recorded the highest number of admissions in the European Union, 3,172,612 and 474,722, respectively.[[117]](#cite_note-117) Algeria won the [Palme d'Or](/wiki/Palme_d'Or) for [*Chronicle of the Years of Fire*](/wiki/Chronicle_of_the_Years_of_Fire) (1975), two Oscars for [*Z* (1969)](/wiki/Z_(1969_film)), and other awards for [*The Battle of Algiers*](/wiki/The_Battle_of_Algiers).

### Sports[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=34)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [thumb|The Algeria national football team in 2015](/wiki/File:ACON_2015_CIV_ALG_(16511337801).jpg) Various games have existed in Algeria since antiquity. In the [Aures](/wiki/Aurès_Mountains), people played several games such As El Kherdba or El khergueba ([chess](/wiki/Chess) variant). Playing cards, [checkers](/wiki/Checkers) and chess games are part of Algerian culture. Racing ([fantasia](/wiki/Fantasia_(culture))) and the [rifle shooting](/wiki/Rifle_shooting) are part of cultural recreation of the Algerians.[[118]](#cite_note-118) The first Algerian and African gold medalist is [Boughera El Ouafi](/wiki/Boughera_El_Ouafi) in [1928 Olympics of Amsterdam](/wiki/1928_Summer_Olympics) in the [Marathon](/wiki/Marathon). The second Algerian Medalist was [Alain Mimoun](/wiki/Alain_Mimoun) in [1956 Summer Olympics](/wiki/1956_Summer_Olympics) in Melbourne. Several men and women were champions in athletics in the 1990s including [Noureddine Morceli](/wiki/Noureddine_Morceli), [Hassiba Boulmerka](/wiki/Hassiba_Boulmerka), [Nouria Merah-Benida](/wiki/Nouria_Mérah-Benida), and [Taoufik Makhloufi](/wiki/Taoufik_Makhloufi), all specialized in [middle distance running](/wiki/Middle_distance_running).[[119]](#cite_note-119) [Football](/wiki/Football_in_Algeria) is the most popular sport in Algeria. Several names are engraved in the history of the sport, including [Lakhdar Belloumi](/wiki/Lakhdar_Belloumi), [Rachid Mekhloufi](/wiki/Rachid_Mekhloufi), [Hassen Lalmas](/wiki/Hacène_Lalmas), [Rabah Madjer](/wiki/Rabah_Madjer), [Salah Assad](/wiki/Salah_Assad) and [Djamel Zidane](/wiki/Djamel_Zidane). The [Algeria national football team](/wiki/Algeria_national_football_team) qualified for the [1982 FIFA World Cup](/wiki/1982_FIFA_World_Cup), [1986 FIFA World Cup](/wiki/1986_FIFA_World_Cup), [2010 FIFA World Cup](/wiki/2010_FIFA_World_Cup) and [2014 FIFA World Cup](/wiki/2014_FIFA_World_Cup). In addition, several football clubs have won continental and international trophies as the club [ES Sétif](/wiki/ES_Sétif) or [JS Kabylia](/wiki/JS_Kabylia). The [Algerian Football Federation](/wiki/Algerian_Football_Federation) is an association of Algeria football clubs organizing national competitions and international matches of the selection of Algeria national football team.[[120]](#cite_note-120)

### Cuisine[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=35)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [thumb|A](/wiki/File:Bulgur_wheat_salad.jpg) [Couscous](/wiki/Couscous) based Salad Algerian cuisine is rich and diverse. The country was considered as the "granary of Rome". It offers a component of dishes and varied dishes, depending on the region and according to the seasons. The cuisine uses cereals as the main products, since they are always produced with abundance in the country. There is not a dish where cereals are not present.

Algerian cuisine varies from one region to another, according to seasonal vegetables. It can be prepared using meat, fish and vegetables. Among the dishes known, [couscous](/wiki/Couscous),[[121]](#cite_note-121) [chorba](/wiki/Chorba), Rechta, Chakhchoukha, Berkoukes, Shakshouka, Mthewem, Chtitha, Mderbel, Dolma, Brik or Bourek, Garantita, Lham'hlou, etc. [Merguez](/wiki/Merguez) sausage is widely used in Algeria, but it differs, depending on the region and on the added spices.

Cakes are marketed and can be found in cities either in Algeria, in Europe or North America. However, traditional cakes are also made at home, following the habits and customs of each family. Among these cakes, there are Tamina, Chrik, Garn logzelles, Griouech, Kalb el-louz, Makroud, Mbardja, Mchewek, Samsa, Tcharak, Baghrir, Khfaf, Zlabia, Aarayech, Ghroubiya and Mghergchette. Algerian pastry also contains Tunisian or French cakes. Marketed and home-made bread products include varieties such as Kessra or Khmira or Harchaya, chopsticks and so-called washers Khoubz dar or Matloue. Other tradionel meals (Chakhchokha-Hassoua-T'chicha-Mahjouba and Doubara) are famous in Biskra.

## Health[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=36)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) In 2002, Algeria had inadequate numbers of physicians (1.13 per 1,000 people), nurses (2.23 per 1,000 people), and dentists (0.31 per 1,000 people). Access to "improved water sources" was limited to 92% of the population in urban areas and 80% of the population in rural areas. Some 99% of Algerians living in urban areas, but only 82% of those living in rural areas, had access to "improved sanitation". According to the World Bank, Algeria is making progress toward its goal of "reducing by half the number of people without sustainable access to improved drinking water and basic sanitation by 2015". Given Algeria's young population, policy favors preventive health care and clinics over hospitals. In keeping with this policy, the government maintains an immunization program. However, poor sanitation and unclean water still cause [tuberculosis](/wiki/Tuberculosis), [hepatitis](/wiki/Hepatitis), [measles](/wiki/Measles), [typhoid fever](/wiki/Typhoid_fever), [cholera](/wiki/Cholera) and [dysentery](/wiki/Dysentery). The poor generally receive health care free of charge.[[122]](#cite_note-122) Health records have been maintained in Algeria since 1882 and began adding Muslims living in the South to their Vital record database in 1905 during French rule.[[123]](#cite_note-123)

## Education[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=37)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [thumb|](/wiki/File:Nouria_Benghabrit-Remaoun_in_Blida.JPG)[Nouria Benghabrit-Remaoun](/wiki/Nouria_Benghabrit-Remaoun), Minister of National education

Since the 1970s, in a centralized system that was designed to significantly reduce the rate of illiteracy, the Algerian government introduced a decree by which school attendance became compulsory for all children aged between 6 and 15 years who have the ability to track their learning through the 20 facilities built since independence, now the literacy rate is around 78.7%.[[124]](#cite_note-124) Since 1972, Arabic is used as the language of instruction during the first nine years of schooling. From the third year, French is taught and it is also the language of instruction for science classes. The students can also learn English, Italian, Spanish and German. In 2008, new programs at the elementary appeared, therefore the compulsory schooling does not start at the age of six anymore, but at the age of five.[[125]](#cite_note-125)Apart from the 122 private, learning at school, the Universities of the State are free of charge. After nine years of primary school, students can go to the high school or to an educational institution. The school offers two programs: general or technical. At the end of the third year of secondary school, students pass the exam of the bachelor's degree, which allows once it is successful to pursue graduate studies in universities and institutes.[[126]](#cite_note-126) [thumb|left|Algerian school children](/wiki/File:Des_élevesen_Algérie.jpg) Education is officially compulsory for children between the ages of six and 15. In 2008, the illiteracy rate for people over 10 was 22.3%, 15.6% for men and 29.0% for women. The province with the lowest rate of illiteracy was [Algiers Province](/wiki/Algiers_Province) at 11.6%, while the province with the highest rate was [Djelfa Province](/wiki/Djelfa_Province) at 35.5%.[[124]](#cite_note-124) Algeria has 26 universities and 67 institutions of higher education, which must accommodate a million Algerians and 80,000 foreign students in 2008. The [University of Algiers](/wiki/University_of_Algiers), founded in 1879, is the oldest, it offers education in various disciplines (law, medicine, science and letters). 25 of these universities and almost all of the institutions of higher education were founded after the independence of the country.

Even if some of them offer instruction in [Arabic](/wiki/Arabic) like areas of law and the economy, most of the other sectors as science and medicine continue to be provided in French and English. Among the most important universities, there are the [University of Sciences and Technology Houari Boumediene](/wiki/University_of_Sciences_and_Technology_Houari_Boumediene), the [University of Mentouri](/wiki/University_of_Mentouri) Constantine, [University of Oran](/wiki/University_of_Oran) Es-Senia. Best universities of qualifications remain the [University of Abou Bekr Belkaïd](/wiki/University_of_Abou_Bekr_Belkaïd) in Tlemcen and [University of Batna](/wiki/University_of_Batna) Hadj Lakhdar, they occupy the 26th and 45th row in Africa.[[127]](#cite_note-127)

## See also[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=38)]

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* [Index of Algeria-related articles](/wiki/Index_of_Algeria-related_articles)
* [Outline of Algeria](/wiki/Outline_of_Algeria)
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## External links[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=41)]

Algeria[Template:Sister project links](/wiki/Template:Sister_project_links) [Template:Wikibooks](/wiki/Template:Wikibooks)

* [People's Democratic Republic of Algeria](http://www.el-mouradia.dz/) *Official government website* [Template:Ar icon](/wiki/Template:Ar_icon) / [Template:Fr icon](/wiki/Template:Fr_icon)
* [Template:CIA World Factbook link](/wiki/Template:CIA_World_Factbook_link)
* [Template:GovPubs](/wiki/Template:GovPubs)
* [Template:Dmoz](/wiki/Template:Dmoz)
* [Algeria profile](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-14118852) from the [BBC News](/wiki/BBC_News)
* [Template:Wikiatlas](/wiki/Template:Wikiatlas)
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