Reading in Political Economy

Volume 60 · Issue 2 · 2026
Pages 1360–1370

ISSN 0079-9874 (Print) · e-ISSN 0305-814X (Online) politonomia.org.ua/rpe

Algerian Foreign Policy in the Regional Space: Between Historical Principles and New Imperatives

Dr. Adel Mahsas[1], Dr. Lila Aissaoui[2]

[1] Doctorate in Political Science and International Relations, Faculty of Law and Political Science, University of Tizi Ouzou, Algeria, Email: mahsas468@gmail.com

[2] Doctorate in Political Science and International Relations, Faculty of Law and Political Science, University of Tizi Ouzou, Algeria, Email: lilaaissaoui21819@gmail.com

Received: 24/06/2026 | **Accepted:** 06/10/2026 | **Published:** 11/11/2026

ABSTRACT

This study addresses a topic of current concern to specialists and warranting particular scholarly attention. It examines the course of Algerian foreign policy in its historical and security dimensions, from the post-independence period to the beginning of the present century and its most recent developments. It does so by unpacking the relationship between history, mechanisms, region, and role, especially in light of the successive and rapid crises that have affected the Maghreb and Sahel border belt and the Mediterranean space. The study also assesses the effectiveness and efficiency of Algerian foreign policy in confronting both traditional and emerging security threats.

The study offers real added value by highlighting Algeria's attention to its immediate surroundings, namely its neighboring countries, which are witnessing shifting roles and unprecedented dynamism, including transformations in their social structures. It also examines the requirements of Algeria's regional role and the country's capacity to deal with events, developments, and crises. Ultimately, it seeks to establish whether Algeria continues to rely on the principles of its foreign policy and on most of the mechanisms previously adopted, after assessing their effectiveness in light of the demands of the current century. It concludes by proposing a set of pillars that, in the authors' view, would increase the effectiveness and efficiency of Algerian foreign policy in its Arab, African, Mediterranean, and wider regional spheres.

Keywords: Algerian foreign policy; historical principles; Algerian security doctrine; Algerian regional space.

INTRODUCTION

The post–Cold War security environment has undergone marked changes at many levels—concepts, issues, and actors alike—making it a pivotal turning point in the definition of the concept of security and in the emergence of new threats, with the rise of non-state actors imposing what may be called a wave of deepening and broadening of states' foreign policy.

By virtue of its geographic position, which opens it to the Maghreb, Africa, and the Mediterranean, Algeria cannot disregard its vital extension in building and protecting its national security. This is especially so given the emergence in the region of new threats, such as state failure, ethnic conflicts, and crises that have produced direct

How to cite: Mahsas & Aissaoui (2026). Algerian Foreign Policy in the Regional Space: Between Historical Principles and New Imperatives. Reading in Political Economy, 60(2), 1360–1370.
© 2026 The Author(s). Published by Reading in Political Economy.

and indirect military interventions in both Mali and Libya (the Tuareg crisis and the chaotic proliferation of weapons), together with the alliance of terrorist networks, organized crime, and illegal migration toward the European shore of the Mediterranean in an interconnected chain. This has obliged neighboring states, foremost among them Algeria, to activate various preventive mechanisms to limit the effects of regional instability and to draw on a foreign policy with historical weight, using approaches that keep pace with developments and crises.

The significance of the study lies in two main areas. The first is scientific: building an integrated conceptual framework from which to identify the historical principles and diplomatic legacy on which Algerian foreign policy rests, in relation to the situations and crises that threaten the region's stability. The second is to investigate the methods and mechanisms Algeria has adopted to deal with the changes taking place in its regional space, thereby providing added value through further data and analysis relating to Algerian foreign policy, with a view to improving its external performance in the face of the region's realities and crises.

The study also draws on an important doctoral thesis entitled "The Constant and the Variable in Algerian Foreign Policy in Light of the Security Threats of Neighboring Countries, 1999–2018," by Dr. Abderraouf Ben Chehib, in which the author raised the question of the viability of Algeria's continued adherence to the constants enshrined in its constitutions after independence, particularly as regional conditions change. It likewise draws on the article by Sidi El-Mokhtar Mohamed Diallo, "The Historical and Intellectual Dimensions of the Crisis in Northern Mali," in which the author presented the history of Algerian diplomacy toward Mali, the inherited ideas and prevailing perceptions, and the positive role of Algerian foreign policy in mediation, dialogue, and the management of the various crises Mali has experienced, the gravest of which was the 2012 crisis, whose consequences persist to this day.[1]

In order to highlight the historical roots of Algerian foreign policy and the efforts Algeria has made over decades to limit the escalation of threats emanating from its regional neighborhood, to understand the role it has played in managing crises and tensions there, and to evaluate its performance in doing so, we adopted the following research question:

To what extent does Algeria adhere, in its foreign policy, to its historical principles in light of the new imperatives of the regional space?

In unpacking this question, we pose the following sub-questions:

- What are the contents, orientations, and dimensions of Algerian foreign policy in the aftermath of independence?
- What role does Algeria play in addressing the surrounding crises and threats, amid regional and international competition?
- In managing neighborhood crises, has Algeria been guided by its doctrinal legacy and established principles despite changing circumstances?
- What are the strengths, setbacks, and successes that affect the effectiveness of Algerian foreign policy in the regional space?
- Is Algeria required to change its foreign policy in light of the specificities of the new phase?

This research relies on the historical method, tracing the development of Algerian foreign policy and its engagement with the political and security situation in its neighborhood, and drawing on historical events as entry points for explaining many aspects of the study. It also uses the case-study method to gather and analyze in depth information and data on the case under study, which operates at two levels: the first is the region itself, and the second is the approaches and mechanisms Algeria devises in dealing with developments in its regional space.

1. ORIENTATIONS OF ALGERIAN FOREIGN POLICY AFTER INDEPENDENCE

Foreign policy is one of the fundamental keys to explaining the behavior of states, revealing the logic that governs them in terms of their goals and objectives in defending their vital interests.

1.1 The Contents of Algerian Foreign Policy

Foreign policy rests on intellectual reference frameworks that make it somewhat rigid in its positions toward the transformations the world is undergoing, particularly in its regional neighborhood. This sometimes causes it to deviate in dealing with transformations that may affect the national security of the Algerian state. These frameworks, in all their diversity, are set out in the principles that emerged in the aftermath of independence.

Algeria's successive constitutions stipulated a set of fixed principles, which Algeria adopted in accordance with the international provisions recognized in the United Nations, the League of Arab States, and the Organization of African Unity. The most prominent of these principles are the following.

a. Delimitation of Borders with Neighboring Countries

Algeria holds that it must adhere to the borders inherited from colonialism and delimit its frontiers with neighboring states. This position dates from the first border problem with Morocco after independence, which was addressed through the Ifrane Agreement of 15 January 1969, the Tlemcen Agreement of 27 May 1970, and the Rabat Treaty of 5 June 1972. Through these agreements the border question between the two states was settled, and Algeria urged the demarcation of its borders with its neighbors Tunisia, Mauritania, and Libya—the last having previously been fixed under the 1956 Libyan–French agreement—in order to consolidate relations among the states of the Arab Maghreb.[2]

b. The Principle of Cooperation among Neighboring Countries

Algeria attaches great importance to the principle of cooperation in order to realize intra-regional cooperation among its parties. It is activated across borders through consultation, with a view to strengthening and developing neighborly relations between local groups or regional authorities of two or more adjoining states, and it also includes the conclusion of treaties that activate cooperation and place it within legal frameworks. For this reason Algeria signed cooperation and partnership agreements with neighboring countries, except Morocco, at the end of the 1960s. The most prominent was with Tunisia, concerning the development of the industrial units located along the border strip between the two countries; it was accompanied by the creation of a mixed-economy Algerian–Tunisian partnership in the commercial field, by customs exemption between the two countries, and by various joint security agreements on combating terrorism and organized crime.[3] Algeria also believes that the critical situation in Libya and Tunisia after the Arab Spring revolutions has become a direct threat to its national security, through the movement of weapons and terrorists into its territory. This prompted it to strengthen cooperation and coordination with its neighbors and to work to play a coordinating role in overcoming the crises.[4] Algeria also launched an initiative within the framework of the Joint Operational General Staff Committee, comprising an action plan to begin cooperation and coordination in confronting common challenges.[5]

c. Managing Crises by Peaceful Means

Algeria is committed to the principles of the United Nations Charter, in particular the obligation of states to refrain from the use or threat of force in their international relations, and to seek the settlement of disputes and the management of crises—within a single state, between two states, or among a group of states—by peaceful means, adopting initiatives and action plans based on good offices, negotiation, and mediation, with a view to reaching settlement and preserving peace and security.[6]

d. Non-Interference in the Internal Affairs of States

Article 2 of the United Nations Charter provides for non-intervention in the internal affairs of states, as does the Charter of the League of Arab States. States fall within a sphere of influence and being influenced by what happens around them; and where political and social systems are heterogeneous, adherence to this principle imposes mutual respect for the political systems of neighboring regions and non-interference in what takes place within them. Intervention leads to a spiral of conflicts that exhaust states first and foremost economically and in terms of security. This has placed Algeria before two principal challenges: the first is instability in neighboring countries, and the second is disregard for international charters following foreign interventions in the region, which have aggravated conditions in general and in the African Sahel in particular.[7]

e. Support for the Self-Determination of Peoples

Standing with liberation movements and the self-determination of peoples is an additional element in the Algerian conception of relations from a positive perspective, because it is not found within the charters of regional and international organizations. The principle also falls within the framework of the Algerian people's struggle against French colonialism to win freedom. Algeria has applied this principle to many just causes in pursuit of decolonization on the continents of Asia and Africa, and it continues to use it in support of the Sahrawi cause. On this basis, Algeria's position on the issue rests on principles that have been constant for a decade: Algeria calls for granting the Sahrawi people freedom and independence, and it values the efforts of the

United Nations to resolve the issue.[8]

1.2 The Dimensions of Algerian Foreign Policy

The theoretical literature on foreign policy identifies two main categories of objectives that states seek to realize through their external behavior:

First category: objectives that serve national interests and sovereignty and everything falling within the vital interests of the state and the projection of influence.

Second category: objectives that serve idealism and the support of world peace, the right of peoples to self-determination, and humanitarian principles.

Accordingly, Algeria attaches great importance to the Maghreb, African, and Mediterranean circles, and works in accordance with objectives and dimensions that serve world peace and humanitarian principles. The most important of these are as follows.

a. The Maghreb Dimension

The point of departure of Algerian foreign policy is "cooperative/integrative." Algeria's international endeavor has always been to promote Maghreb cooperation founded on consultation, in an effort to preserve regional peace and security and to value the complementarities among all countries. The Maghreb region and integration with its states rest on historical and strategic conceptions and backgrounds built on good neighborliness and non-interference in the internal affairs of states. Algeria also works to resolve crises and conflicts by peaceful means and to preserve the region's stability. Algerian foreign policy activity at the Maghreb level has thus been marked by an effort to overcome differences and the instability of intra-Maghreb relations, as well as to build consensus and bridge the divergence in the political orientations of the Maghreb states' governing regimes.[9] Proceeding from the founding charter of the Arab Maghreb Union, Algeria is also concerned with the security of member states against external threats, and it is the party most attentive to any infringement of the national security of the member states.[10]

b. The Arab Dimension

Algeria was not the only Arab state affected by the phenomenon of terrorism, which also struck other Arab states such as Egypt and Saudi Arabia, and eliminating this phenomenon required close cooperation among Arab states. Algeria's engagement with this situation resulted in the signing of the Arab Convention for the Suppression of Terrorism, which entered into force in May 1999, with the aim of achieving security and peace in the region.

c. The African Dimension

Most of the objectives of Algerian foreign policy toward Africa do not depart from the general framework of the specific objectives that determine its external behavior: building cooperative relations or taking part in settling conflicts and crises by peaceful means, whether within or between states. The objectives relating to Algeria's national interests emerge clearly in the preservation of national security, especially along the border strip with Libya and Tunisia, which are experiencing instability and various forms of smuggling and organized crime from Morocco. As for Mali, it is geopolitically a contact state, and its recurrent crises have effects and consequences for Algeria, such as the refugee question and terrorism. In the face of these endless security threats, Algeria had to defend its vital objectives and preserve the identity of a foreign policy built on its historical and civilizational heritage and the principles of the Liberation Revolution, and to affirm the peaceful resolution of crises with an African depth.[11]

d. The International Dimension

Algeria seeks to preserve its international standing through intensive diplomatic activity, reflected in visits to a large number of countries, which have produced reciprocal visits by heads of state and by international bodies and organizations. These helped to convince world public opinion that the security situation in Algeria had genuinely improved, preparing the ground for developing Algeria's various external dealings. Algeria's positive adaptation to the nature of the new international order also helped to strengthen its international standing, as did its hosting of numerous international events and the improvement of its position in various international rankings, particularly in the consolidation of democracy and human rights. According to the 2005 annual American report on respect for religious freedoms, Algeria was classified among the countries whose positions are considered acceptable; the

same is true of the annual report for the same year of Reporters Without Borders on press freedom, in comparison with certain Arab and Islamic countries. These reports helped to consolidate Algeria's standing at the international level. As for the strategy of diversifying partners adopted by Algerian foreign policy, it enabled Algeria to develop its commercial and security relations with the United States of America, to strengthen its relationship with China, and to develop relations with Russia, especially in the military field, alongside a strong presence in various international bodies and organizations.[12] Algeria's foreign policy is likewise based on strengthening its partnerships, particularly neighborhood and Mediterranean ones, through partnership agreements on a win-win principle, in addition to supporting and encouraging all development projects of newly independent states in accordance with the principle of good neighborliness, in order to advance their economies and promote sustainable development.[13]

2. FOUNDATIONS OF THE ALGERIAN SECURITY DOCTRINE AND ITS POLITICAL DIMENSIONS

The security doctrine derives its importance from being a guide that directs and determines the state's security policy in both its internal and external dimensions. It also represents a conception that defines the methodology by which the state approaches its security and identifies the best policies for achieving it. It takes ideological forms when it reaches the level of a homogeneous intellectual system that provides explanations of reality in the security field for these visions. In general, the security doctrine supplies the security actors in the state with a coherent theoretical framework of ideas that helps achieve their national security objectives and shapes decision-making in line with the state's foreign policy. The security doctrine is the set of interrelated rules, principles, and doctrinal systems that determine a state's security behavior—cooperative or non-cooperative—and its decisions at the local, regional, and international levels. It defines how leaders view and read their security environment and how national power, in all its economic, political, and social forms, is used,[14] as well as how this power is employed to achieve the state's strategic interests; it also helps leaders understand reality.[15]

2.1 Foundations of the Algerian Security Doctrine

A set of factors, including history and geography, intersect in the Algerian security doctrine, and they have had a direct and evident influence on its formulation since independence. Historically, Algeria's revolutionary path to recovering territorial sovereignty and its beliefs are foundations of its doctrine, which were reflected directly in its external orientations in both their regional and international aspects.[16] Algeria's location and its political, historical, and geopolitical depth also play a fundamental role and make it a zone of intersection, by virtue of its adjacency to the northern shore of the European Union and to the south in the depth of Africa. This strategic area has left Algerian security exposed on different sides. The formulation of Algeria's security doctrine is therefore influenced by the geopolitical and strategic factor and by the humanitarian character of its support for liberation movements. The transformations the world has known, particularly after the collapse of the Eastern bloc, the emergence of new supranational threats, and the growth of interdependence among international parties, also led Algeria to reconsider the asymmetric threats facing Algerian national security, moving from the hard concept of security to the expanded concept at the level of analysis.[17]

As for the ideological side, the most prominent objectives drawn were the support of liberation movements, such as support for the Palestinian cause, and the sanctity of national unity. In addition, Algeria faces other security threats, such as illegal migration from Africa toward the other shore of the Mediterranean, drug trafficking, and the close links between organized crime and international terrorism, especially in the African Sahel region.[18]

2.2 The Political Dimensions of the Algerian Security Doctrine

As Algeria lies within the African, Maghreb, and Mediterranean geopolitical space, it is among the first to be affected by security threats. By virtue of neighborhood, Algeria must work to consolidate its relations in the regional sphere in general, to develop and establish frameworks of cooperation, and to take into account the international changes that have affected the region and international relations as a whole. This necessitated the development of an integrated and comprehensive strategy in which foreign policy takes into account all internal conditions and all risks in the region, with a focus on confronting the challenges arising from external intervention in its various forms and at all levels.[19] For this reason, Algeria has been careful to focus on the following points:

- Relying more on mechanisms of regional action and coordination among the parties and actors concerned with peace and security, especially in the Sahel–Saharan African region, in order to facilitate access to sufficient funding for implementing projects, to widen the circle of consultation of an economic nature, and to strengthen economic diplomacy, by seeking development in order to eliminate poverty and hunger and to build effective mechanisms of good governance.
- Affirming Algeria's role and persuading the North African states of its regional role, which would contribute to solving the region's problems far from any external intervention.
- Relations of cooperation and consultation with the other, politically, strategically, and culturally, built on respect and the values of freedom, for the sake of understanding and careful analysis of all options and strategies available to serve Algeria's interests, and engagement in the economic, social, and security affairs of the region.[20] The Algerian security approach, in seeking to give effect to the dimensions of security, also requires a joint strategy among the Sahel countries of Africa to combat terrorism and organized crime, on cooperative frameworks that establish a structure of peace and development in the region.
- Algeria is considered a pivotal state in the region amid the crises surrounding it in its neighborhood. In adopting the concept of security, it therefore sought to focus on its various dimensions—economic, cultural, political, and military. The political dimension has played, and continues to play, the role of first guarantor of Algeria's national security amid the expansion of the concept of security. The criterion of power also constitutes a principal support of Algerian foreign policy and of the formulation of its regional role. Algeria's security map likewise takes into account the nature of the threat and the objective, as well as the level of the security response. Algeria's handling appeared sharp in the hostage crisis at Tiguentourine (in southern Algeria, on the border with Mali), owing to its fear of the extension of Western intervention in Mali. The military resolution at Tiguentourine was therefore a multidimensional message sent by Algeria to different parties. It can be read as a message to terrorist organizations that Algeria will not be a backyard governed by the balances of the situation in Mali, since the security act relates essentially to operations of deterrence in the approach.[21]

3. PROPOSALS FOR AN EFFECTIVE AND PRACTICAL ALGERIAN FOREIGN POLICY

In light of the reality of a turbulent regional and international environment and rapidly unfolding events, a number of means must be adopted to safeguard national interests, particularly with regard to foreign policy, in confronting the causes of crisis and instability in neighboring countries.

3.1 Imperatives of External Conceptions

These may be conceived and summarized in the following points.

a. A Peaceful and Balanced Political Discourse

This principle requires Algeria to adopt in its foreign policy a political discourse based on the diplomacy of peace, by conducting high-level political dialogue and through the positions it takes on events. Although building a strong national army protects Algeria's sovereignty and independence and preserves its international standing, Algeria should adopt a new language that gives priority to its soft power and to the development of friendly relations in the regional and international political, economic, and cultural context, and to respect for human rights.

b. A Zero-Problems Rule with Neighboring Countries

Like any country, Algeria needs mutual interdependence with other states, especially its neighbors. The recent events in the region have undoubtedly proven the importance of the role it can play. Its foreign policy must therefore be framed around settling all problems through a cooperative path in dealing with neighboring countries, in particular by strengthening intra-regional economic exchange, except for neighboring parties that are hostile to Algeria and to its principles and positions on just causes, or that are allied with entities foreign to the region and that display hostility toward Algeria and the causes of the nation.

c. Diversifying Strategic Options and Alternatives

Algeria must multiply and diversify its policy of strategic options and alternatives, especially in dealing with the major international powers outside the Western sphere, so that the state does not remain a prisoner of some major

powers in confrontation with others. This includes what has been achieved in recent years, with Algeria reaching understandings and elevating its relations to the strategic level, particularly with Mediterranean countries, and seeking to advance economic relations with developing and emerging powers, especially those with which it shares historical relations and common interests.

d. Preventive Diplomacy

The new Algerian foreign policy should be formulated on the basis of taking proactive steps before crises emerge and escalate to a dangerous level, by adopting a policy of security for all, high-level political dialogue, and regional economic integration, and by entering into conciliatory reconciliations, good offices, and fact-finding to address outstanding problems. Algeria should work to play a more effective role in its regional, Mediterranean, and even international environment. To achieve this end, emphasis must be placed on making Algeria's representation in international and regional organizations more effective, by pushing Algerian talent to fill posts in these organizations, especially since Algeria pays a considerable share of the budgets of the organizations of which it is a member. Intensive Algerian representation in these posts would constitute an international reference for Algerian foreign policy and would ease the access of Algerian diplomacy to centers of international decision-making, giving Algeria an influential role in shaping international decisions, in addition to performing an effective and influential role in resolving regional crises in their Maghreb, African, and Mediterranean dimensions, and attending to every issue related to global stability. To achieve this, Algeria should establish a mechanism of dialogue with organizations of which it is not a party, such as the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the countries of Central Africa, and even the Gulf Cooperation Council, the European Union, the organizations of western and eastern Asia, and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, and should seek to take part in their meetings as an observer whenever possible.

3.2 Domestic Foundations for a More Effective External Presence

These are of great importance in the process of making foreign policy and in its regional and global influence. Developed states allocate dedicated research and think-tank centers whose task is to study the foreign policy adopted by the state, its viability, and its future in the short, medium, and long term. This places decision-makers in Algeria before the true picture of the roles Algeria should play, through the adoption of a comprehensive and long-term action plan that determines the method and pathways for achieving long-term objectives using available resources.[22] The presence of a planning element enables the state and its decision-makers to move from the routine administration of foreign policy files and issues to effective leadership, which harmonizes with the state's internal environment and requirements. Accordingly, we present below the most important necessities that help the state to confront potential neighborhood crises.

a. Strengthening Participation

Algerian foreign policy must proceed in a way that reflects the priorities, demands, and international aspirations of the Algerian people. The requirements of Algerian society must be integrated into the state's foreign policy, and that policy must express its vision, since any conflict between the two would make it difficult to achieve an effective, responsible, and successful foreign policy. Algerian foreign policy should therefore be formulated in a way that enables the Algerian people and specialists to evaluate its performance periodically.

b. The Identity of the State and Its Value System

It is important to reflect on the philosophy of the state, its basic values, and its culture in the process of drawing up the state's national strategy. Only strategies consistent with Algeria's core values will succeed, and a lack of clarity about the state's philosophy and values before the national strategy is drawn up removes the conditions for success. Clarity of the state's philosophy and core values lends greater legitimacy to political systems, provided they do not exceed the limits of the state's core values, and gives greater strength, presence, and influence in the regional environment. The nature of the state's core values, the degree of belief in and action upon them, and its value culture are all factors that influence the effectiveness of its role toward events and crises, whether internal or regional.

c. The Nature of the State's National Objectives

A national objective may be defined as a particular situation associated with a firm desire to achieve it through allocating the necessary effort and capabilities required to move this situation from the stage of theoretical conception to the stage of implementation or material realization. National objectives do not arise from a vacuum; rather, they are determined by influences and circumstances that clarify the general framework of the objective and the means required to implement it. The national objective should be of interest to, and shared by, the largest part of the state's citizens, and the national government should be responsible when adopting this objective and provide the capabilities necessary to achieve it. For Algeria's regional leadership to be realized at the level of the African continent, all the actions of officials must accord with this conception, which will govern their behavior and lead them to act in favor of everything that contributes to achieving this objective, mobilizing all material and moral capabilities, hard and soft power, to achieve it.

d. Defining the State's Vision

A clear conception should be presented of what the state's position ought to be in the future, that is, defining the state's place within its regional and international system. This vision is all the more important because it will be the first basis against which the state's performance is evaluated and the foundation upon which it is built. Applying this proposition to Algeria, in order to manage the affairs and crises of the region, a clearly defined strategy for its foreign policy must be drawn up, setting out its objectives, its priorities, and practical plans for achieving them, allocating the capabilities and means for implementing them, and fixing the time frame for completing the objectives set. This will transform the nation's energies into actions and political facts that increase the value and power of the state, its presence, and its position regionally and globally.[23]

CONCLUSION

By virtue of its geographic and strategic position, Algeria has been affected by the course of events on the northern edge of the African continent, especially in the African Sahel. This effect is chiefly the product of several factors, including geographic proximity and Algeria's wide openness to it, which has left its land borders considerably exposed to multiple sources of security threats and to their complex levels. Their repercussions have accordingly carried growing weight and consequences for Algerian national security, as discussed in the sections of the study, the development of those threats over decades having been driven by a set of internal and international variables.

The weakness of the state-building model in Mali, ideological and ethnic diversities, and the deepening of ethnic loyalty at the expense of national loyalty, as well as waves of illegal migration, in addition to threats emanating from criminal organizations and the engineering of internal crises by external actors, have contributed to penetrating the cohesive fabric of the African Sahel states in general and of Mali in particular, and have deepened and complicated security conditions and political stability, both internally and with neighboring countries.

In view of several considerations—geographic, societal, cultural, economic, and historical extension—Algeria, through its foreign policy, has activated its diplomatic and security role in many crises, contributing to curbing and containing the security threats of all kinds that may penetrate its borders. It played the role of an effective mediator through its fixed principles, its rejection of violence, its support of political dialogue, and the success of many negotiations, and its rejection of foreign intervention. Through its diplomacy Algeria was also able to find a consensual basis for many crises, far from military solutions, according to a political approach and an integrated dialogue that includes all parties, and the process has spanned all sectors, especially those relating to defense, security, and the economic field.

From the foregoing we conclude the following.

First: Algeria has adhered to specific principles of its foreign policy from independence to the present day and is unwilling to change them, particularly as they have proven their effectiveness in the current environment, which is marked by the acceleration of events and actors. This will lead it to new challenges in line with continuing changes in order to preserve its standing in its regional neighborhood, for nature abhors a vacuum, so that Algerian national security will be linked to how far it keeps pace with developments and to the nature of the parties concerned.

Second: The logic of the use of military force in international relations still plays a fundamental role in influencing the course of international political interactions, and Clausewitz's famous dictum that "war is the continuation of politics by other means" still resonates strongly with the powers influential on the international stage. Algeria must therefore attend to building and developing its national defense system and its military power in a manner commensurate with the state's weight and geopolitical capabilities, so as to secure the equation of prevention and defense.

Third: Algeria must draw up a strategy for an offensive and flexible foreign policy, that is, one that does not content itself with diplomatic reactions grounded in fixed ideals and principles, in order to pursue an effective policy that serves the state's interests, especially its security interests. We are in a phase that calls for a review of the priorities of Algerian foreign policy to secure a comfortable position on the regional and global map. The positive role and performance of Algerian foreign policy is therefore evident in its reliance on an approach committed to its principles and historical legacy, and on a conscious view that recognizes the scale of the continuing security risks and challenges surrounding it and the difficulties and obstacles that beset this role. The results achieved so far nonetheless augur well for the possibility of achieving the objectives set, or part of them, despite emerging and accelerating challenges. Algeria's affirmation of its essential standing, through reviving its role in its regional space, which represents its strategic dimension and sphere of interest, must therefore become a role that is stronger and more effective in the future.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Afif, Ahmad Khalif. "The Libyan Revolution, February 2011–2013: Specificity and the Challenges of the Transitional Phase." Dirasat: Human and Social Sciences, no. 3 (2015). Amman: University of Jordan.

Aidoun, Hamidi. "Border Security and Its Geopolitical Repercussions on Algeria." Master's thesis, University of Mohamed Boudiaf, M'sila, Algeria, 2015.

Al-Jasour, Nazim Abd al-Wahid. The Problem of Borders in the Arab World. Amman: Dar Majdalawi for Publishing and Distribution, 2001.

Antil, Alain, and Sylvain Touati. "Mali et Mauritanie : pays sahéliens fragiles et États résilients." Politique étrangère, 2011.

Belkacemi, Rokia. "Maghreb Integration: A Study of Challenges and Future Prospects." Master's thesis, University of Mohamed Khider, Biskra, Algeria, 2011.

Ben Antar, Abdennour. The Mediterranean Dimension of Algerian Security. Algiers: Al-Maktaba al-Asriyya, 2005.

Ben Chehib, Abderraouf. "The Constant and the Variable in Algerian Foreign Policy in Light of the Security Threats of Neighboring Countries, 1999–2018." PhD diss., University of Salah Boubnider, Constantine 3, Algeria, 2019.

Bousselham, Abdelkader. Regards sur la diplomatie algérienne. Algiers: Casbah Éditions, 2005.

Bouzid, Aicha. "The Engineering of Algerian Foreign Policy in Light of Sovereign Constants: The Western Sahara Issue as a Case Study." PhD diss., National Higher School of Political Science, Algiers, 2017.

Dalaa, Wahiba. "The Role of External Factors in Algerian Foreign Policy, 1999–2006." Master's thesis, University of Algiers 3, 2008.

Dandane, Abdelghani. "The New Regional Algerian Foreign Policy: An Analytical Reading of the Sources of Strength and the Justifications for Failure." Paper presented at the International Conference on the Regional Role of Algeria: Determinants and Dimensions, University of Guelma, Algeria, 14–15 March 2014.

Diallo, Sidi El-Mokhtar Mohamed Salah. "The Historical and Intellectual Dimensions of the Crisis in Northern Mali." African Readings Journal, no. 6 (2013).

El-Aib, Salim. "Algerian Diplomacy within the Framework of the African Union." Master's thesis, University of Hadj Lakhdar, Batna, Algeria, 2011.

Group of Maghrebi Experts. “The Libyan Crisis and Its Repercussions on the Maghreb Region.” Journal of the Center for Mediterranean and International Studies, no. 6 (2011). Tunis: Center for Mediterranean and International Studies.

Hamza, Houssem. “The Geopolitical Circles of Algerian National Security.” Master’s thesis, University of Hadj Lakhdar, Batna, Algeria, 2011.

Hussein, Fawzi Hassan. Strategic Planning for Foreign Policy and National Security Programs of States: The United States of America as a Model. Beirut: Dar al-Manhal al-Lubnani, 2013.

Kat, Samir. “Algerian Foreign Policy in Africa: Developments and Determinants.” Journal of Political Science and Law, no. 1 (2017). Berlin: Arab Democratic Center.

Lahlouh, Belkacem. “The Role of Algerian Diplomacy in the Settlement of Armed Conflicts.” Master’s thesis, University of Saad Dahlab, Blida, Algeria, 2004.

Saadaoui, Omar. “The Algerian National Security Doctrine from a Geostrategic Perspective: A Reading of the Tiguentourine Operation.” Journal of the Maghreb Pioneer for Research and Studies, no. 4 (2014).

Sayej, Mustapha. “Algeria and Regional Security: The Diplomatic Settlement of the Crisis in Mali and Its Future Repercussions on Regional Security.” Algerian Journal of Political Studies, no. 2 (2014). Algiers: National Higher School of Political Science.

Sempa, Francis. “U.S. National Security Doctrines Historically Viewed.” American Diplomacy, 2003. Accessed 15 January 2026. http://www.americandiplomacy.org.

Wulf, Herbert. “The Scope of the Non-Military Threat.” In Armament, Disarmament and International Security. Translated by Fadi Hammoud. Beirut: Center for Arab Unity Studies, 2004.

Zerif, Chaker. “The Algerian Security Dimension in the Sahel and Sahara Region of Africa: Challenges and Stakes.” Master’s thesis, University of Hadj Lakhdar, Batna, Algeria, 2010.

Ziani, Salah. “Transformations of the Algerian Security Doctrine in Light of the Growing Challenges of Globalization.” Al-Mufakkir Journal, no. 5 (2010). Biskra: University of Biskra.

NOTES

[1] Sidi El-Mokhtar Mohamed Salah Diallo, “The Historical and Intellectual Dimensions of the Crisis in Northern Mali,” *African Readings Journal*, no. 6 (2013).

[2] Salim El-Aib, “Algerian Diplomacy within the Framework of the African Union” (master’s thesis, University of Hadj Lakhdar, Batna, Algeria, 2011), 31.

[3] Abderraouf Ben Chehib, “The Constant and the Variable in Algerian Foreign Policy in Light of the Security Threats of Neighboring Countries, 1999–2018” (PhD diss., University of Salah Boubnider, Constantine 3, Algeria, 2019), 132.

[4] Group of Maghrebi Experts, “The Libyan Crisis and Its Repercussions on the Maghreb Region,” *Journal of the Center for Mediterranean and International Studies*, no. 6 (Tunis: Center for Mediterranean and International Studies, 2011): 7.

[5] Ahmad Khalif Afif, “The Libyan Revolution, February 2011–2013: Specificity and the Challenges of the Transitional Phase,” *Dirasat: Human and Social Sciences*, no. 3 (Amman: University of Jordan, 2015): 174.

[6] Belkacem Lahlouh, “The Role of Algerian Diplomacy in the Settlement of Armed Conflicts” (master’s thesis, University of Saad Dahlab, Blida, Algeria, 2004), 28.

[7] Abdelkader Bousselham, *Regards sur la diplomatie algérienne* (Algiers: Casbah Éditions, 2005), 25.

[8] Nazim Abd al-Wahid al-Jasour, *The Problem of Borders in the Arab World* (Amman: Dar Majdalawi for Publishing and Distribution, 2001), 161.

[9] Samir Kat, “Algerian Foreign Policy in Africa: Developments and Determinants,” *Journal of Political Science and Law*, no. 1 (Berlin: Arab Democratic Center, 2017): 85.

[10] Rokia Belkacemi, “Maghreb Integration: A Study of Challenges and Future Prospects” (master’s thesis, University of Mohamed Khider, Biskra, Algeria, 2011), 75.

[11] Mustapha Sayej, “Algeria and Regional Security: The Diplomatic Settlement of the Crisis in Mali and Its Future Repercussions on Regional Security,” *Algerian Journal of Political Studies*, no. 2 (Algiers: National Higher School of Political Science, 2014): 9.

[12] Wahiba Dalaa, “The Role of External Factors in Algerian Foreign Policy, 1999–2006” (master’s thesis, University of Algiers 3, 2008), 108.

[13] Aicha Bouzid, “The Engineering of Algerian Foreign Policy in Light of Sovereign Constants: The Western Sahara Issue as a Case Study” (PhD diss., National Higher School of Political Science, Algiers, 2017), 58.

[14] Houssem Hamza, “The Geopolitical Circles of Algerian National Security” (master’s thesis, University of Hadj Lakhdar, Batna, Algeria, 2011), 54.

[15] Francis Sempa, “U.S. National Security Doctrines Historically Viewed,” *American Diplomacy*, 2003, accessed 15 January 2026, http://www.americandiplomacy.org.

[16] Salah Ziani, “Transformations of the Algerian Security Doctrine in Light of the Growing Challenges of Globalization,” *Al-Mufakkir Journal*, no. 5 (Biskra, Algeria: University of Biskra, 2010): 6.

[17] Herbert Wulf, “The Scope of the Non-Military Threat,” in *Armament, Disarmament and International Security*, trans. Fadi Hammoud (Beirut: Center for Arab Unity Studies, 2004), 120.

[18] Hamidi Aidoun, “Border Security and Its Geopolitical Repercussions on Algeria” (master’s thesis, University of Mohamed Boudiaf, M’sila, Algeria, 2015), 86.

[19] Chaker Zerif, “The Algerian Security Dimension in the Sahel and Sahara Region of Africa: Challenges and Stakes” (master’s thesis, University of Hadj Lakhdar, Batna, Algeria, 2010), 148.

[20] Alain Antil and Sylvain Touati, “Mali et Mauritanie : pays sahéliens fragiles et États résilients,” *Politique étrangère*, 2011, 12.

[21] Omar Saadaoui, “The Algerian National Security Doctrine from a Geostrategic Perspective: A Reading of the Tiguentourine Operation,” *Journal of the Maghreb Pioneer for Research and Studies*, no. 4 (Algeria, 2014): 53–54.

[22] Abdelghani Dandane, “The New Regional Algerian Foreign Policy: An Analytical Reading of the Sources of Strength and the Justifications for Failure” (paper presented at the International Conference on the Regional Role of Algeria: Determinants and Dimensions, University of Guelma, Algeria, 14–15 March 2014).

[23] Fawzi Hassan Hussein, *Strategic Planning for Foreign Policy and National Security Programs of States: The United States of America as a Model* (Beirut: Dar al-Manhal al-Lubnani, 2013), 75.