

## Cultural security of countries in the age of digital culture: stakes and challenges

Received date:05/02/2025 Accepted date:20/11/2025 Published date:28/12/2025

Yazid Boussag<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> University of Setif 2, Algeria, Email: [yazidboussag29@gmail.com](mailto:yazidboussag29@gmail.com)

### Abstract:

The study aims to elucidate the state of cultural security in Algeria in the context of the accompanying threats of cultural globalization. It does so by uncovering the various impacts of globalization that have posed a threat to the identities of communities, particularly in the face of cultural openness to other incoming cultures through visual, auditory, and other forms of communication.

The study has arrived at the following conclusions: Undoubtedly, the transformations witnessed in our world today, along with the numerous significant changes and variables it undergoes, have encompassed all aspects of life, accompanied by technological advancements and progress. This has led to a profound change in various life domains, particularly in the significant alterations observed in social life, and the negative effects it has on social development processes.

**Keywords:** Secret immigration, Cultural security, Globalisation.

Corresponding Author: Yazid Boussag, Email:  
[yazidboussag29@gmail.com](mailto:yazidboussag29@gmail.com)

## **Introduction :**

Many researchers believe that the phenomenon of illegal migration has become one of the most significant social dilemmas in this era. This is due to its negative repercussions on the economic, social, and cultural dimensions of countries and communities, affecting their security and stability. This phenomenon has given rise to various forms of crime, most notably human trafficking networks. Migration is considered by scholars as a source of security threat to advanced (receiving) countries, affecting their identity. However, this phenomenon has negative implications as the increasing number of migrants can threaten social security, and subsequently, national Identity.

**The study attempted to pose the following research problem: To what extent can illegal migration from the Sahel region affect cultural security and identity in Algeria?**

To address this primary research problem, the researcher attempted to follow a specific methodology that allows for a comprehensive understanding of various aspects of the main topic. Therefore, to answer the research problem, it is necessary to delve into the following key points

- **First theme : Regulating the Phenomenon of Migration in Light of Cultural Security**
- **Second theme : The Growing Phenomenon of Illegal Migration from the African Sahel through Algeria as a Transit Zone**
- **Third theme : The Implications of Illegal Migration from the African Sahel on Cultural Security in Algeria**
- **Conclusion:**

**First theme : Defining Study Concepts**

**First, the Concept of Legal Migration:**

The phenomenon of legal migration appears in various forms, including voluntary immigration for various reasons, such as seeking better opportunities, escaping conflict and wars, or improving one's cultural and educational conditions. Legal migration can also involve leaving one's family and homeland in search of livelihood or seeking a safe haven; Migration can be classified into two categories: legal (regulated) or illegal (unregulated). Legal migration implies leaving one's homeland for various purposes, such as seeking better economic prospects, safety from threats like terrorism or war, or humanitarian asylum due to fear, terror, conflicts, and wars. (kawi Bohniya.p,35)

As for illegal migration, the use of this concept raises some ambiguity that the boundary between the legitimate. Illegality remains totally unclear, and several names are called illegal migration, including irregular migration. It is an acceptance of illegal migration, both of which call this phenomenon because it is contrary to the laws it establishes. States in the matter of crossing borders and considering that they are concealed from the eyes of border guards and also called clandestine immigration, then. The migrant enters the country of destination and lives surreptitiously.

The concept of illegal migration is used primarily in a legal sense and implies that it is contrary to the laws and regulations on immigration, movement and movement of individuals between States. It is defined as such migration, which takes place in illegal ways due to the difficulty of travelling and the difficulty of legitimate migration . (Mahmoud, 2003)

Migration, whether irregular or illegal, is a global phenomenon present in advanced countries such as the European Union and the United States, which are considered among the most affected by it. This phenomenon has gained significant importance due to media attention

and has become a fundamental challenge in the relations between the two shores.

Illegal migration : is defined as the movement of an individual or a group from one place to another in a secretive manner, in violation of immigration laws as internationally recognized. (Ahmad Rashad Salam, 2010)

Legitimate migration: is defined as such organized and legal migration, which takes place in accordance with the requirements of international norms and rules of form and legality and which are required in accordance with the law of each individual state. it is based on the following:

- The migrant must carry a travel document.
- It must not be prohibited from leaving the country to which it belongs for legal reasons.
- Obtaining legitimate permission to enter the State wishing to migrate.
- To enter the places to be entered from the designated and permitted places.
- To consume and terminate his residence in the country as permitted and prescribed in accordance with its laws and regulations and the period of time obtained.

The procedural definition of illegal or clandestine migration in Algeria was termed "el harga ", a term commonly used in Morocco and Algeria in particular, a word derived from a burning burn, and the reason for the designation was said to be that "Burning" when he decides to travel by death boat, not only burns his documents linking him to his country of origin, but burns his entire past in desire of a new reality, if miracle

occurs and writes a new life, as those who cut the Mediterranean Sea heading to the south of Europe in "death boats.". (Ghazali, 2015)

The preceding definitions make it clear how the phenomenon of illegal migration and its various impacts are linked to humanitarian

security issues in general. They also highlight the crises that arise from the dysfunction resulting from its failure to be addressed. There is a close connection between the phenomenon under study and the various economic, social, political, and security contradictions that occur between one country or region compared to others. Consequently, we find that addressing the effects of this phenomenon has taken on various methods and approaches from one country to another, whether they are countries of origin or destination for migration. These methods have taken on multiple facets, ranging from security-based approaches to developmental ones.

### **Secondly, the concept of cultural security:**

The topic of cultural security is considered one of the most vital issues raised by the contemporary Arab reality. This is because the relationship between the Arab world and the West is dialectical, with the west influencing the Arab world politically, socially, economically, and most importantly, culturally, over centuries of mutual civilizational interactions.

**Definition of cultural security :**The concept of cultural security became associated with the emergence of globalization in the early 1990s. This association has a dual significance: first, culture faced many security challenges when its scope was primarily confined to the national level, and second, globalization itself did not become truly

global until it carried cultural baggage and produced cross-border cultures. (Ali Mustafi "Remarks on the concept of security")

Both facets converge to express a state of interdependence between globalization and culture in a way that defies simplistic economic and technological views of globalization. Speaking about cultural security may imply a certain contradiction and divergence that doesn't align with a precise meaning. While the term "culture" tends to connote creativity, openness, and interaction, the term "security" alludes to defense, contraction, and conservatism. When culture seeks its security, it searches for what isolates it from other cultures, potentially leading to its own impoverishment or even a slow self-destruction as it veers away from its essence as a culture. (Abdullah BalkzizAbdu .3/6/2009 Emirates)

### **Thirdly, the concept of globalization:**

The term (Globalization) is used in multiple contexts and encompasses various concepts, influenced by its diverse aspects and fields of impact. This term has gained increased usage and prevalence in the modern era. Thinker Mohammed Abed Al-Jabri defines globalization as "a system that transcends the state, nation, and homeland, and instead, it works towards fragmentation and dispersion." Some researchers have even divided the phenomenon of globalization into four dimensions :

**Social globalization:** refers to the emergence of non-governmental organizations and institutions aimed at promoting the creation of a global civil society that monitors the activities and policies of states in areas such as human rights, the environment, crime, and various social issues.

**Cultural globalization:** on the other hand, refers to the emergence of a borderless world where ideas, information, news, values, and



behavioral trends move freely on a global scale with minimal state intervention (AbdelhamidZouzou, AbdelhamidZouzou, Political Role of Migration to France Between the 1914\_1939 Wars, Algeria University publications, 2007.)

As an addendum to this definition, it can be said that cultural globalization is an attempt to unify values, ideas, and behavioral patterns in their various forms within both Western and non-Western contexts, or in other words, it involve the dissemination and promotion of Western cultural thought

**Economic globalization:**is based on the concept of a market economy. It involves the global dominance of market principles and their laws across the entire globe to create a unified global trading area. Economic globalization calls for the spread of free-market economics as a reference model and the promotion of the values of productive competition .

**Political globalization :** is centered around the dissemination of Western ideals of democracy, political pluralism, human rights, and individual freedoms on a global scale. (Jado.p.27)

In addition to the various dimensions of the challenge posed by illegal migration, there is also the profound issue of asylum, one of the most significant humanitarian matters intertwined with the security situation in the region. According to the 1951 Geneva Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, a refugee is defined as "a person who is outside their home country or country of nationality, and who is unable or unwilling to return to that country because of a well-founded fear of persecution based on their race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion." Such individuals are in need of protection and are often outside their usual country of residence due to

events or fears that make their return to that country undesirable or impossib. (Toufik riwaya)

### **Second theme :The increasing phenomenon of illegal migration from the Sub-Saharan region towards Algeria.**

The regional environment of Algeria is considered fertile and dynamic but has also given rise to numerous threats. Algeria faces significant security challenges due to its geographical location, which has created a conducive environment for the production and amplification of these security threats on various levels. In this context, several threatening and encroaching factors have emerged, characterized by their immense ability to spread and infiltrate, leading to a complex security situation that has impacted the stability and security of Algeria.

Illegal migration is considered an international phenomenon that poses a security threat to most countries worldwide, including Algeria, where it has proliferated significantly. This has necessitated the study of its causes, patterns, and the ways in which undocumented migrants enter the country, as well as their methods of evasion. The aim is to gain a comprehensive understanding of the multifaceted aspects of illegal migration in Algeria.

#### **Firstly, the reasons for illegal migration:**

This phenomenon in Algeria has become a significant security threat, and to understand it, it is necessary to investigate its causes and the influencing factors. The most important reasons and factors can be summarized as follows:

-Historical and Geographic Factors: The historical relationships between North African countries and European countries stem from the colonial period, which has remained a significant driver for migration to European countries, especially France, which is one of the most important colonial powers in Europe. Therefore, the reasons for

migration can be attributed to historical factors dating back to the French colonial presence in Algeria . (Zouzou, 2007,)

Additionally, there are geographic reasons that contribute to outward migration. The geographical location of Algeria, its proximity to the European continent, and its access to the Mediterranean Sea have made it a significant driver for Algerians to migrate to Europe. Algeria serves as a gateway to economically and technologically advanced northern countries. This has led to an increase in the number of illegal migrants, especially African migrants, who enter Algerian territory with the intention of crossing into European countries to pursue their goals and aspirations. (Collinson, 1996 )

It is evident that geographical factors play a crucial role in explaining the reasons for illegal migration in Algeria. Algeria's important strategic location has made it a transit country sought by many illegal migrants fleeing harsh conditions. This has led to an increase in the pace of illegal migration from some African countries suffering from these problems.

Historical and geographical factors help in understanding the dynamics of illegal migration in Algeria and in explaining why illegal migration flows continue towards European countries.

There are also several economic reasons, including the clear economic disparities between the Southern countries, which are the source of migration, and the Northern countries, which attract migrants due to fluctuations in development in the Southern Mediterranean. Additionally, the failure of government policies relying on the private sector to provide employment opportunities for youth has played a role in this phenomenon.

The social reasons for illegal migration include the failure to address social problems such as poverty, hunger, diseases, and unemployment.

Additionally, there is a societal perception of social success demonstrated by migrants when they return during holidays. Political reasons also play a role, as political parties have failed to address the societal issues and provide programs that fulfill the aspirations of the youth. Geographical factors come into play due to the proximity of North African countries like Algeria, Morocco, and Tunisia to Europe. These three countries serve as transit regions for migrants coming from Africa, especially from the Great Lakes region, leading to the spread of migrants towards Europe. (Naji Abdelnor)

The legal reasons for illegal migration are related to the inability to travel or migrate through legal means. When legal migration options are limited, migrants may resort to illegal routes. This issue began when European borders were closed in 1974. Some European countries, such as France, have historically attracted Moroccan migrants, and this historical connection has contributed to the problem. Furthermore, statistics indicate that 62% of illegal migrants turned to illegal migration due to visa restrictions.

The political reasons are among the most significant factors that drive individuals to external migration. These reasons include the pressure, force, threats, and foreign military intervention exerted by any country. Additionally, internal political pressure plays a crucial role. In most developing countries, democracy is lacking, and dictatorial regimes prevail. Individuals are often detained in prisons and detention centers without any trial. Furthermore, internal revolutions and military coups are also factors contributing to political instability and driving people to seek refuge abroad.

**Secondly, reasons and factors for the increase in irregular migrants in Algeria include:**

**First -Humanitarian Treatment and Suitable Conditions: Irregular migrants from Africa often find better treatment and more suitable**

conditions in Algeria compared to neighboring countries like Morocco and Libya. This has led a significant number of them to settle in Algeria.

**Second -Difficulty in Monitoring Movement:** The lengthy and rugged nature of Algeria's southern borders, along with the mingling of migrants with the Tuareg people in the southern regions, makes it challenging to monitor their movements. The Tuareg people have relative freedom of movement across the borders of Algeria, Mali, and Niger, and irregular migrants have taken advantage of this situation to enter Algeria without significant obstacles.

**Third -Attraction of Algeria and Other Countries:** Algeria, along with countries like Cameroon, Nigeria, Mauritania, and Libya, is considered a preferable region for rest and work among African irregular migrants.

**Forth -Legal Vacuum and Weak Regional Coordination:** There is a legal vacuum in how to deal with irregular migrants, and regional coordination, both among host countries and source countries, is often lacking. Coordination usually occurs when European countries issue orders, or during crises related to irregular migrants. For instance, there have been tensions between Algeria and Morocco over allegations of lax border security when returning irregular migrants to their countries of origin.

**Fifth -Proximity to Crisis Belt:** Algeria's proximity to the crisis belt in the Sahel region, characterized by internal conflicts and humanitarian crises, contributes to increased migration. Countries like Chad, which experiences constant conflicts between the north and eover, the loss and death of migrants in the deserts resulted (Nur )

**Increased risk from illegal immigrants :**

After organized crime networks benefited from their despair or even "Their ambition for power and wealth" to exploit them to achieve their aims and objectives clandestine migrants produce, wherever they resolve or pass through various forms of organized crime from prostitution, Smuggling, trafficking in drugs, arms and human beings, forgery of official documents, banknotes and whitewashing of funds s health ", as well as incurable diseases and associated health pests in general, Especially the fear of AIDS transmission in Africa to Algeria (67% of the world's virus carriers are in Africa according to United Nations statistics for 2007) which poses a serious threat to the health and identity of members of Algerian society as a result of clandestine migration, because "migratory flows contribute to the destruction of the structure of their communities of origin and the reconstruction of future societies". This can be said in Algeria's case because the majority of migrants coming from Africa differ in their cultural and cultural patterns and customs from that of Algerian society. (Some of them are Muslim), even though they have little impact in this regard compared to the identity threat coming from the north.

Illegal immigration, which occurs in a secretive manner, is considered one of the most significant current threats to Algeria's national security originating from the African context. The secrecy of these movements makes them extremely challenging to monitor and hinders the Algerian state's sovereignty in addressing them due to their transnational nature. The primary driver of illegal African migration is the inability to create an internal African environment capable of meeting the population's natural (security and survival), psychological (human dignity, identity), and particularly material (employment, income, and greater individual earnings) aspirations. This leads many young people, in particular, to seek better living conditions, pushing them to explore any means of migrating to Europe, the continent of dreams, even if it costs them their lives. (Abisir Ahmed Talib previous reference)

Regarding Algeria and its legal regulations governing immigration, we can distinguish between three main cases: (entry denial, deportation, expulsion). Entry denial is the procedure applied to foreigners upon their entry or immediately after their entry, leading to their immediate removal without any grace period. This is done for security reasons related to the higher interests of the state, due to their unauthorized entry or failure to follow the formal procedures for foreigners' entr.. (Talib A )

In the context of the impact of illegal immigration on security and development in the Sahel region, the province of Tamanrasset, located in the southernmost part of Algeria, is one of the most affected and widely spread areas when it comes to illegal immigration. It serves as one of the major crossing points for African citizens heading towards the northern provinces of Algeria and, from there, to the northern Mediterranean shores of Europe. Tamanrasset's importance is attributed to its vast borders with both Niger (1,300 km) and Mali (7,011 km). This has led to a clear and rapid increase in the presence of illegal immigrants. The number of illegal immigrants rose from 5,430 in the year 2000 to 10,702 in 2004, representing an increase of approximately 60.13% (nadir, 2014).

The stability of these migrants in countries such as Algeria usually comes at the stage when they fail to cross and traversing the other bank, thereby organizing them into the region's growing migrant communities s population ", where many estimates indicate that more than 100 thousand migrants from African countries reside in Algeria and Mauritania, while Libya houses about one and a half million migrants, The number falls below 100 thousand in Tunisia and Morocco and in view of the current situation of the Maghreb States, which is characterized by uncertainty as a result of structural transformations and affecting the economic and social conditions of the Moroccan

population. In particular in Libya, this leads to the assertion that illegal migration is on the rise. and could pose a real security dilemma for Moroccan partners on the one hand and in their security relations with Southern Mediterranean countries, These States usually believe that they are not making much effort to curb this phenomenon.

In addition, the displacement of refugees can inflame the feelings of secession, as a result of the extension of ethnicities beyond the State's borders, or the establishment of armed groups that threaten the security of the unity of States, such as the Tuareg situation in the Sahel States and the possible spread of rumblings and insurgency to the Maghreb States, particularly Libya and Algeria. (Tawfiq rewaya).

The possibility of threatening social cohesion and construction as a result of the prevalence of strange ideas and manifestations, and the absence of a sense of belonging constitutes a threat to elements of national identity.

- - The transmission of epidemics and lethal attitudes such as sida and malaria as a result of some of them

- The possibility of exploiting or mixing with them by terrorist groups and even by transnational criminal organizations, as well as any activities that would help them to live or provide transportation funds. Among the most widespread activities are counterfeiting currency and earning by means of money. sorcery and witchcraft.. (Lakhdari, National Security Strategy in Jazz, 2006/2011)

Illegal migration is so threatened by national culture that it is difficult to integrate migrants because of their different identities and cultures, which are new cultures in the community based on ethnic, linguistic and religious grounds. It is difficult to recognize the cultural difference that exists in these groups.

The phenomenon of migrants feeling alienated in their new society can lead to a lack of belonging and loyalty, which can destabilize the host community. This, in turn, may push some undocumented migrants towards engaging in criminal activities, deviating from social norms, and even participating in destructive actions.

Additionally, one of the effects that threaten society is the emergence of informal settlements where undocumented migrants live illegally. In these settlements, essential services are often lacking, and social problems such as theft and drug abuse can be prevalent.

\_The spread of unusual practices in society, such as witchcraft, especially among African migrants who sell herbs and magical remedies, can have an impact on society by influencing it in various ways.

Illegal migration also has societal effects through the proliferation of bribery. This is the method through which undocumented migrants attempt to obtain forged administrative documents to stay in the country. It is also a threat to cultural security by creating cultural minorities within societies and raising questions about cultural diversity within them.

Furthermore, many of the Africans present in Algeria have become a threat to the region due to the risks they pose on multiple fronts. They engage in practices such as witchcraft, fraud, scams, and arms trafficking, especially since their home countries often have a proliferation of weapons. They also bring weapons and drugs with them for sale in Algeria, either for stability or to smuggle them to the other side of the Mediterranean, in addition to carrying out armed attacks against Algerian citizens. Moreover, they can escape because they are largely unknown to the Algerian security forces (Heinoni2019 )

On the other hand, it has become evident that illegal migration has had very negative effects on Algerian societal security. Non-legal immigrants often introduce various forms of vices and practices unrelated to Algerian society wherever they settle in Algerian cities or pass through them. They frequently bring with them the characteristics of their own society and strive to preserve their identity. With the influx of a large number of illegal immigrants to Algeria, the Arab-Islamic-Amazigh Algerian identity is now threatened with potential penetration.

On the other hand, the arrival of illegal migrants and the various and challenging diseases they carry, such as HIV/AIDS and different sexually transmitted infections, poses a danger to the health of the population. It's worth noting that the highest percentage of those affected by this deadly disease at the national level has been recorded in the Tamanrasset province. Additionally, the deteriorating health condition of illegal migrants is exacerbated by social and psychological isolation resulting from their transition from the environment and society they were familiar with to a different one.

Despite the tremendous efforts made by Algeria to combat the influx of illegal migrants, it has not been able to completely halt it. Security-focused approaches alone have proven ineffective, and therefore, it is necessary to adopt a comprehensive new approach to preserve Algeria's cultural security.

### **Conclusion:**

It is worth noting that regardless of the forms that migration takes, which involve a variety of reasons and motives as we have previously indicated, human migration and movement processes are not a biological process - as is the case in the animal kingdom - and they also do not occur in a vacuum, but are determined and driven by social and cultural contexts in the first place. Migration in its entirety is a transition or transformation from an undesirable context or situation for migration



in order to achieve psychological and material satisfaction and social adaptation and its inability to satisfy needs and desires, to another context or situation in which the potential for achieving all of these things is available, even to a relative degree, on the one hand. On the other hand, the psychological characteristics of individuals play a significant role in explaining the tendency of some individuals, rather than others, to carry out the migration process despite their sharing with others the same conditions, characteristics and potential of the situation or social context. Based on this, we can say that there are motives or situational characteristics related to the social context, whether in which the individual or the group lives, i.e. the original homeland or the permanent place of residence, which are called push factors, in addition to the attraction factors related to the place where The immigrant wants to immigrate to it.

### **List of Sources and References:**

#### **Firstly\_Books :**

01\_Ahmed Abdul Aziz Al Asqar, Illegal Migration Proliferation, Forms and Methods, Combating Illegal Migration, Riyadh: Nayef Arab University of Security Sciences, 2010.

02\_Ahmad Rashad Salam, apparent threats to the national security of illegal migration, Riyadh: Nayef University of Security Sciences, E, 1, 2010.

04 \_ Abdelatif Mahmoud, Immigration and Threat to Morocco's National Security, Cairo, Without a Print, Center for Arab Civilization, 2003 .

05\_ Abdelhamid Zouzou, Political Role of Migration to France  
Between the 1914\_1939 Wars, Algeria University publications, 2007.

06\_ Mohammed Ghazali, Clandestine Immigration, I, Amman, Dar and  
Library Al-Hamid Publishing and Distribution, 2015.

07 Abdullah Saud al-Sarani, the relationship between illegal migration  
and the crime of human smuggling and trafficking, Riyadh: Nayef  
University of Security Sciences, 2010.

08\_ Al-Haj Ould Ibrahim, Mali's crisis, the explosion of the interior and  
the repercussions of the Territory (Al-Jazeera Centre for Studies).2012.

09\_ Lakhdar Omar Al-Dheimi, "Arab experiences in combating illegal  
migration Case study on migration Confidentiality in Algeria" (Saudi  
Arabia, Naif Arab University of Security Sciences, 2010).

**secondly \_Printed article:**

01\_ kawiBouhniya, Essam Ben-Sheikh "The phenomenon of illegal  
migration and its international effects: the case study of Algeria",  
Journal of the Arab Academy, The Arab Academy of Denmark in  
cooperation with the University of the Future, Yemen, No. 10, 2011.

02\_ Tofik Rewaya, Africa's Refugee Problem: Dimensions and  
Features, Ways of Confrontation, African Readings, n, 01.

**Thirdly\_Seminar article:**



01\_Naji Abdel Nour, " Non-military dimensions of security on average: phenomenon of illegal migration in MoroccoArab "(paper) Research presented at the International Forum on: " Algeria and security on average :reality and prospects

"RepublicofKorea",Algeria,Constantine: People's Centre for Strategic Studies, 2008).

02\_ Samir Gat, irregular migration from Sahelo-Saharan Africa towards Algeria between security handlingWith Europe, internal concerns, intervention within: International Forum: Algeria's Security Approach in the African Coast.University 08 May 1945 Calla) November 2013.

#### **Fourth\_Internet websites:**

01\_ Ben Aisha Mohammed Al-Amin, " Algerian diplomacy in the African coast between.

"<http://www.maqalaty.com/23481.html>."

02 - Ramadan Hainoni, " illegal migration and its impact on the social composition of Mantrast ".

In:(2019/03/21)<http://www.myportail.com/actualistes-news-web-2-0.php?id=3112>.

03 \_ Mona Abdel Fattah, " African refugee crisis for Europe diagnosis and treatment error, " Al JazeeraNet.  
<http://www.aljazeera.net/knowledgegate/opinions/2015/11>