

The Algeria-China Partnership: Realities, Challenges, and Future Prospects**الشراكة الجزائرية الصينية: الواقع - التحديات والآفاق المستقبلية****CADI Mohammed, BENLADGHEM Fethi**

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Received: 01/01/2025**Accepted:** 31/03/2025**Published:** 31/03/2025**Abstract:**

This study analyzes the evolving Algeria-China partnership, examining its key drivers, current realities, and future prospects. The partnership has deepened significantly, with China emerging as a critical economic partner for Algeria, particularly under the Belt and Road Initiative. Key areas of cooperation include energy, infrastructure development, and trade. While the partnership offers significant economic opportunities for Algeria, challenges remain, including debt sustainability and the potential for over-reliance on the energy sector. The study explores avenues for future cooperation, such as expanding into sectors such as renewable energy, agriculture, and technology, and emphasizes the importance of addressing challenges to ensure a mutually beneficial and sustainable partnership.

Keywords: China, Algeria, economic partnership, Belt and Road Initiative, economic challenges.

Jel Classification Codes : F15, N47, N45, N7, F19

ملخص:

تحلل هذه الدراسة الشراكة الجزائرية الصينية المتطورة، وتفحص محركاتها الرئيسية، والحقائق الحالية، والآفاق المستقبلية. وقد تعمقت الشراكة بشكل كبير، مع ظهور الصين كشريك اقتصادي حاسم للجزائر، وخاصة في إطار مبادرة الحزام والطريق. وتشمل مجالات التعاون الرئيسية الطاقة، وتطوير البنية التحتية، والتجارة. وفي حين توفر الشراكة فرصًا اقتصادية كبيرة للجزائر، إلا أن التحديات لا تزال قائمة، بما في ذلك استدامة الديون، وإمكانية الاعتماد المفرط على قطاع الطاقة. وتستكشف الدراسة سبل التعاون في المستقبل، مثل التوسع في قطاعات مثل الطاقة المتجددة والزراعة والتكنولوجيا، وتؤكد على أهمية معالجة التحديات لضمان شراكة مفيدة ومستدامة للطرفين.

الكلمات المفتاحية: الصين، الجزائر، الشراكة الاقتصادية، مبادرة الحزام والطريق، التحديات الاقتصادية.

تصنيفات JEL: F15، N47، N45، N7، F19

INTRODUCTION:

The Algeria-China partnership has emerged as a significant force in contemporary international relations, characterized by a growing interdependence across various sectors. This study delves into the multifaceted dimensions of this burgeoning relationship, analyzing its key drivers, current realities, and future prospects. With China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) playing a pivotal role in shaping this partnership, the study examines the economic, political, and social implications of this growing engagement.

This paper is about Sino- Algerian relations, with a special focus on the Belt and Road initiative (BRI). It offers a comprehensive approach to China–Africa relations and is a review of those relations on the move. It reveals the history of the relationship to gain a better understanding of the present and to try to foresee the future. The aim is to provide a deeper understanding of China's role and impact in Africa and Algeria as a door or bridge of Africa, and how the relations have developed. It examines how China's soft power, comprising economic ties, aid, diplomacy, and culture, has served the goals of its government, and how Africans have perceived it's approach. The central question is to How far will economic relations between China and Algeria reach under the Belt and Road strategy?

Research objectives and importance:

The research on the Algeria-China partnership is essential for gaining a comprehensive understanding of the current and future dynamics between the two countries. It holds significant value not only in examining the economic, strategic, and political dimensions of the relationship but also in exploring how this partnership can evolve to address emerging global challenges and opportunities.

Method and tools:

We have adopted an analytical approach in this study, as this study will provide a comprehensive understanding of the economic, political and social dynamics. Using modern tools such as geographic information systems and data visualization, making it accessible to various stakeholders interested in understanding the implications of this growing partnership.

To learn about the topic, the research was divided into four main axes:

- I- Sino-Algerian relations.
- II- The reality of the Sino-Algerian partnership.
- III- The implications of Sino-Algerian relations for development in Algeria in light of the Belt and Road strategy .
- IV- Obstacles and prospects for Sino-Algerian relations.

1- Sino-Algerian relations.

1-1 The History of Sino-Algerian Relations

The relationship between China and Algeria has undergone a significant transformation over the decades, shaped by historical, economic, and geopolitical factors. The roots of Sino-Algerian relations date back to the mid-20th century, with both countries sharing a commitment to anti-colonial struggles and a mutual desire to strengthen South-South

cooperation. Below is an overview of the key phases and developments in the history of Sino-Algerian relations.(Belaa ,2023,P60/61).

1-1-1 Early Years: Anti-Colonial Solidarity (1950s-1960s)

The foundations of Sino-Algerian relations were laid during the Algerian War of Independence (1954-1962), when Algeria sought to free itself from French colonial rule. At this time, China, under the leadership of the Communist Party, was emerging as a global power with a strong anti-colonial stance. Both countries found common ground in their opposition to imperialism, particularly French colonialism, and supported each other's political causes. .(Zellagui-Boutorra.2020.P218)

1950s-1960s: During this period, Algeria was fighting for its independence, while China had already undergone its own revolution in 1949 and was seeking to establish itself as a leader of the global anti-colonial movement. China expressed its solidarity with Algeria's struggle, offering both moral and material support, particularly to the Algerian National Liberation Front (FLN).

1962: When Algeria gained independence in 1962, the Chinese government was one of the first to recognize the new state, establishing formal diplomatic relations shortly thereafter. Algeria's post-independence leaders, including President Ahmed Ben Bella, were sympathetic to China's revolutionary ethos and policies.(DJENDI SARRA.2022.P633)

1-1-2 The Early Diplomatic Relationship (1960s-1970s)

After Algeria gained independence, Sino-Algerian relations began to strengthen both politically and diplomatically. China and Algeria found common ground in their support for the newly independent states of the Global South and their shared commitment to socialism and anti-imperialism.

1960s-1970s: Throughout the 1960s and 1970s, Algeria and China cooperated within the framework of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), which sought to maintain neutrality in the Cold War rivalry between the U.S. and the Soviet Union. Both countries were part of the broader movement advocating for the rights of developing nations to choose their political and economic systems free from foreign intervention.

1971: One of the significant milestones in Sino-Algerian relations was Algeria's support for China's admission to the United Nations in 1971. Algeria's vote was pivotal in gaining China's seat at the UN, signaling their deepening political cooperation.

1970s: During this period, China provided technical and financial assistance to Algeria in areas such as infrastructure development. One notable example is the construction of the iconic *Tizi Ouzou* dam and other large-scale infrastructure projects, which were part of China's efforts to build strong ties with African nations through economic cooperation. (DJENDI SARRA.2022.P633)

1-1-3 Period of Divergence and Realignment (1980s-1990s)

The 1980s and 1990s witnessed a shift in Sino-Algerian relations, as both countries faced internal challenges and global political changes. Algeria's political landscape was marked

by a period of instability, and China underwent economic reforms under Deng Xiaoping, shifting its focus towards modernization and market-oriented reforms.

1980s: During this decade, Algeria was grappling with economic challenges, including the decline in oil prices, which affected its economy. Meanwhile, China was undergoing a major transformation, as it shifted from a centrally planned economy to one that integrated elements of the market system. As a result, while diplomatic relations remained cordial, economic ties between the two countries were less significant compared to the earlier period.

1990s: The 1990s saw political turmoil in Algeria, including a violent civil war (the "Black Decade") and a transition to a more liberalized economy. During this period, China was more focused on its internal economic reforms and the integration of its economy into the global market. Despite this, both nations maintained diplomatic ties, and China's growing role in Africa would later contribute to a resurgence of economic and political engagement with Algeria. (Zellagui-Boutorra.2020.P219)

1-1-4 Strengthening Economic and Strategic Ties (2000s-Present)

The early 21st century marked a period of revitalization in Sino-Algerian relations, driven by mutual economic interests, particularly in the energy sector, and China's growing influence in Africa. By the 2000s, China had become a major economic power, and Algeria, with its vast oil and gas reserves, was an attractive partner for Chinese investment and trade.

2000s: A significant turning point in Sino-Algerian relations came in the 2000s, as China's growing demand for oil and gas coincided with Algeria's need for foreign investment to develop its energy infrastructure. China's state-owned oil companies, such as Sinopec and the China National Petroleum Corporation (CNPC), entered Algeria's energy sector, signing major contracts for oil exploration and production.

2004: In 2004, China and Algeria signed a strategic partnership agreement, which laid the foundation for increased trade and cooperation in a variety of sectors, including energy, infrastructure, and manufacturing. Algeria, in turn, became one of China's key partners in Africa, particularly due to its wealth of natural resources.

2006-2008: During this period, China invested heavily in infrastructure projects in Algeria, including road construction, housing, and energy facilities. Chinese companies were involved in some of Algeria's most ambitious infrastructure projects, such as the construction of the East-West Highway, a major highway network spanning the length of the country.

2010s-Present: In the 2010s, trade between the two countries expanded dramatically, with China becoming one of Algeria's largest trading partners. China's investments in Algeria also diversified beyond energy and infrastructure, with growing interest in sectors like telecommunications, agriculture, and manufacturing. By the 2020s, the partnership had evolved into a comprehensive strategic and economic collaboration, with China playing an increasingly important role in Algeria's development. (Zellagui-Boutorra. 2020.P220)

Sino-Algerian relations have followed almost the same pattern as Sino-African relations. Initially, they were marked by their ideological and political character but after the 1970s, they took other forms based essentially on trade and investment. Algeria is a particularity in the Sino-African partnership, Chinese companies present themselves in the country as effective partners with know-how and whose implementation costs are advantageous. However, the financing component of the various projects is mainly provided by Algeria, unlike many African countries that borrow from China to finance their development projects. China offers several types of credit lines for African countries whose repayment is made in the medium and long term, it even offers credits backed by raw materials (credits guaranteed by natural resources). At maturity, if the debt is not cancelled and the State in question finds itself in difficulty, repayment is made with raw materials or by granting privileges to Chinese companies. (BOUABBACHE, LAICHE ,2022,P557).

1-2 Belt and Road Initiative (BRI):

China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) has been a key feature of the partnership in the 21st century. Algeria joined the BRI, and many large-scale infrastructure projects in Algeria, such as roads, railways, and ports, have been financed by Chinese investments. These projects aim to enhance Algeria's connectivity within Africa and with global markets, positioning the country as a key hub for trade and transport

In an effort to consolidate bilateral relations, the two countries signed last November the second five-year plan for comprehensive strategic cooperation for the period 2022-2026, which aims to continue intensifying communication and cooperation in all fields, including economy, trade, energy, agriculture, science and technology, space, health, human and cultural communication, in addition to enhancing the alignment between the development strategies of the two countries. .(DJENDI SARRA.2022.P634)

China's growing presence in Africa has drawn mixed reactions from academics and the media. It has been argued that China is draining Africa's industrialization potential and extracting Africa's resources without any significant benefits for Africa. China is thus seen as contributing to Africa's underdevelopment and deindustrialization. However, some have seen China as a development partner for Africa. They argue that China's presence in Africa is beneficial to both China and Africa. As a result, there is no consensus on whether China's growing presence in Africa is sustainable for Africa or whether the relationship is unsustainable. (Ogbe , Orhero Abraham 2023.P1038).

China engages in two main types of "partnership diplomacy" in the MENA region: strategic partnerships (SPs) and comprehensive strategic partnerships (CSPs).¹⁰ According to Georg Strüver's study of Chinese partnership diplomacy, relations between partner countries under an SP have the following four characteristics:

1. They go beyond typical diplomatic relations, involving consistent meetings between government officials and agencies to develop communication and trust.
2. They do not fall within the confines of treaty- based alliances or coalitions.
3. They are more "goal-driven" than "threat-driven," typically focusing on areas of mutual cooperation in economics, culture, security, and technology.

4. They are characterized by an emphasis on behavior and institutional processes.(ADEL,ANNAL,2020,P3).

2- The reality of the Sino-Algerian partnership

The Sino-Algerian partnership has significantly deepened in recent years, encompassing various sectors like energy, infrastructure, and trade. China has become Algeria's largest trading partner, with bilateral trade exceeding \$10 billion in 2023. Key projects include the construction of 6,000 km of railway lines in Algeria and cooperation in aerospace and energy. Both nations view this partnership as crucial for their respective development strategies.

The Sino-Algerian partnership has grown significantly in recent years, encompassing various sectors like energy, infrastructure, and trade.

In the economic field, the pace of the bilateral partnership is witnessing a continuous acceleration through the completion of many projects of strategic importance to the Algerian economy, such as the central port of Cherchell, the exploitation of phosphate and iron, and the development of the railway network, which is likely to raise the level of Chinese investments in Algeria. (ZEMOURI- BELKACEMI.2017.P502/503)

Algeria launched a raft of major infrastructure projects mainly to build low-cost government housing (a central political issue for successive governments in Algeria), extend the railway network as well as embark on the mega East-West highway project, the latter being estimated at US\$

11.2 billion.³⁹ Besides some contracts for natural resource exploration, Chinese companies have benefited from a large amount of the infrastructure contracts. By the end of 2002, Algeria has signed 198 labour contracts with China totalling a contractual value of US\$ 1.898 billion and a business turnover of US\$ 902.48 million.⁴⁰ By 2007, the value of the contracts signed between Chinese state-owned companies and Algeria was the highest in Africa and the fifth in the world making Algeria China's most important contract provider in Africa. (Alden , Aggad-Clerx , 2012,P8)

Energy Cooperation:

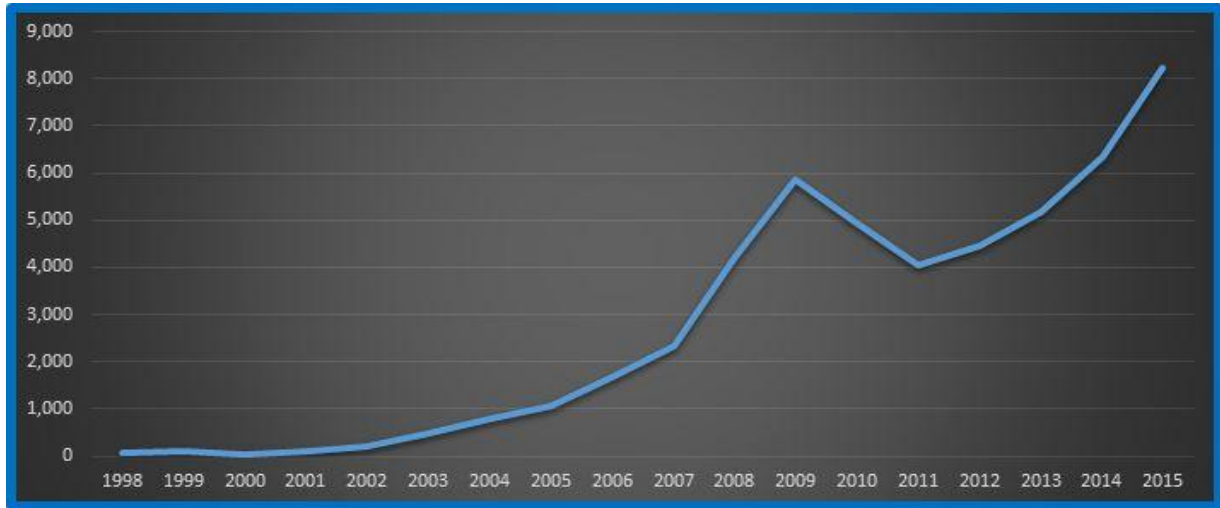
Algeria as a Key Energy Supplier: Algeria is a significant supplier of oil and natural gas to China. This energy trade forms a crucial part of their economic relationship.

Chinese Involvement in Algerian Energy Projects: Chinese companies, such as CNPC and Sinopec, are actively involved in various aspects of Algeria's energy sector, including:

Exploration and Production: Chinese companies participate in oil and gas exploration and production activities within Algeria.(Bellahmar -Hamza .2023.P693/694)

Infrastructure Development:

Fig (1): Number of Chinese Construction Contracts in Algeria



Source: <https://www.mei.edu/publications/sino-algerian-relations-path-realizing-their-full-potential>

Chinese companies contribute to the development of Algeria's energy infrastructure, such as pipelines and refineries.

2-1 Benefits for Algeria:

Access to Chinese Market: Energy exports to China provide Algeria with a significant market for its resources.

Investment and Technology Transfer: Chinese involvement brings investment and technology transfer to Algeria's energy sector, potentially enhancing its capabilities.

Work is currently underway to strengthen the Algerian-Chinese partnership in the fields of new and renewable energies, especially solar photovoltaic energy, hydrogen, wind energy and geothermal energy, in addition to the field of equipment manufacturing and exploitation of mineral resources used in renewable energy industries.

Infrastructure Development:

Algeria has been undertaking significant infrastructure development projects in recent years, aiming to modernize the country and improve connectivity. Here are some key areas:

Transportation:

Roads: The construction and upgrading of roads, including the crucial East-West Highway, have been major focuses. This highway aims to improve connectivity between different regions of the country.

Railways: Efforts are underway to modernize and expand the national railway network, improving passenger and freight transport.

Ports: The development and modernization of Algerian ports are crucial for enhancing maritime trade and economic activity.

Energy:

Power Generation and Transmission: Investments have been made in expanding power generation capacity and improving the national electricity grid.

Renewable Energy: Algeria is developing renewable energy sources, such as solar and wind power, to diversify its energy mix.

Telecommunications:

Broadband Infrastructure: Efforts are underway to expand broadband internet access across the country, improving connectivity and digital inclusion.

Water Resources:

Dam Construction: The construction of new dams is a priority to improve water management and ensure water security.

Challenges:

Funding: Securing adequate funding for large-scale infrastructure projects can be challenging.

Implementation: Delays and cost overruns are common challenges in infrastructure projects. (ZEMOURI- BELKACEMI.2017.P509)

Maintenance:

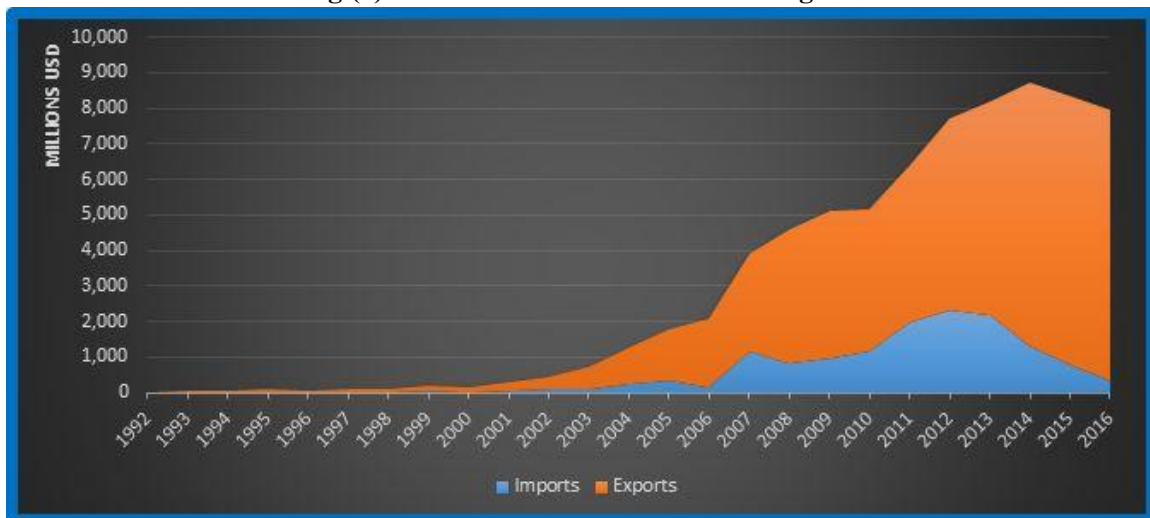
Ensuring the long-term maintenance and upkeep of infrastructure is crucial for its sustainability. (ZEMOURI- BELKACEMI.2017.P510)

Trade: (Bellahmar -Hamza .2023.P697)

China has become Algeria's largest trading partner, surpassing France in recent years. Chinese exports to Algeria include electronics, machinery, and textiles, while Algeria exports primarily oil and gas to China.

Free Trade Agreement: China and Algeria are also in discussions about increasing trade cooperation, with plans to deepen ties under the framework of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

Fig (2): China's Bilateral Trade with Algeria



Source: <https://www.mei.edu/publications/sino-algerian-relations-path-realizing-their-full-potential>

2-2 Belt and Road Initiative (BRI):

Algeria is an important partner in China's Belt and Road Initiative, which aims to improve infrastructure and trade links between China and countries across Asia, Africa, and Europe.

As part of the BRI, China has committed to financing and building critical infrastructure projects in Algeria.

Financial Sector:

Chinese banks have been increasingly involved in providing financing for projects in Algeria, helping facilitate the smooth flow of investments. Some of the major Chinese banks, including the Export-Import Bank of China, have extended loans to Algeria for infrastructure and energy projects.

Challenges:

Local Economy: While the influx of Chinese investments has been beneficial for Algeria's development, it has also led to concerns over the dominance of Chinese firms in key sectors, especially in construction and energy. Some local businesses have raised concerns about competition.

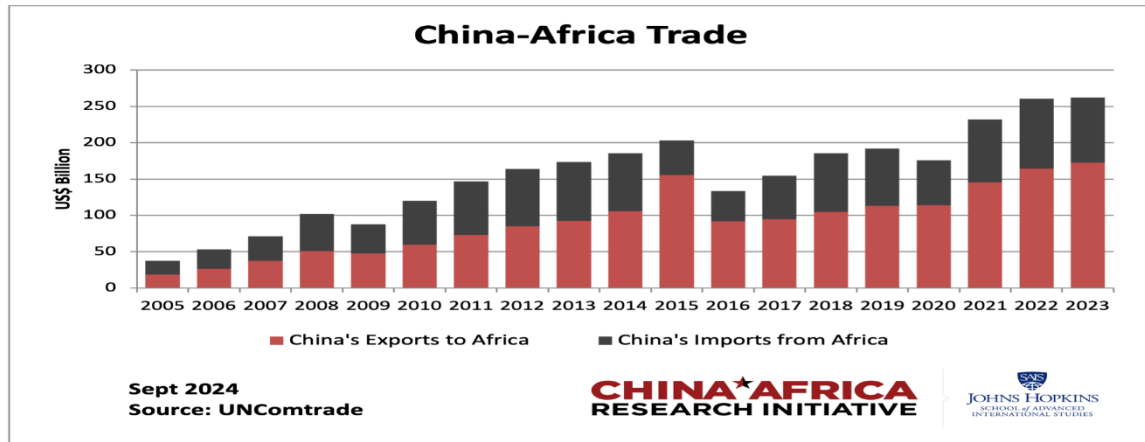
Political Dynamics: Algeria's political landscape is complex, and changes in government or economic policies can affect the flow of foreign investments, including from China.

Environmental and Social Issues: Large-scale infrastructure projects funded by China have occasionally faced criticism for their environmental impact and the working conditions for local labor.

The Chinese-Algerian economic relationship is robust, with significant investments in infrastructure, energy, manufacturing, and technology. As part of the broader China-Africa partnership, Algeria is a crucial player in China's Belt and Road Initiative. While there are challenges, the long-term outlook for Chinese investments in Algeria remains positive, contributing to the country's modernization and economic growth.

- As of 2023, China is Algeria's largest trading partner. The bilateral trade between the two countries has seen steady growth.
- 2022 Trade Volume: Algeria and China's trade volume reached approximately \$10.5 billion in 2022, up from around \$8.5 billion in 2021. This reflects a steady increase in trade over the past decade.
- Exports from Algeria to China: Algeria primarily exports oil and natural gas to China, along with minerals and some agricultural products. Oil and gas account for about 80% of Algeria's exports to China.
- Imports from China: Algeria imports a variety of goods from China, including machinery, electronics, construction materials, and automobiles. China's exports to Algeria were valued at approximately \$4.5 billion in 2022.

Fig (3): china-africa Trade



Source: <http://www.sais-cari.org/data-china-africa-trade>

2-3 Investment:(Belaa Djaouida .2023.P62)

Chinese investment in Algeria has expanded across sectors like energy, construction, and manufacturing.

2-3-1 Key Areas of Chinese Investment in Algeria:

Infrastructure Development:

Construction and Engineering: Chinese companies have played a significant role in Algeria's infrastructure development. For instance, China State Construction Engineering Corporation (CSCEC) has been involved in building roads, bridges, and housing projects. A high-profile example is the construction of the Algiers Metro system, which was largely funded and built by Chinese companies.

Railways and Transport: China has also been heavily involved in the modernization and expansion of Algeria's railway system, including upgrading rail tracks and stations. The China Railway Construction Corporation (CRCC) has been a key player in these projects.

Energy and Oil Sector:

Oil and Gas: Algeria, being one of Africa's largest oil and gas producers, has attracted significant Chinese investments in its energy sector. Chinese companies, such as Sinopec and China National Petroleum Corporation (CNPC), have invested in oil exploration and production in Algeria.

Renewable Energy: In recent years, China has also begun to invest in Algeria's renewable energy sector, especially solar power, which is seen as a key area for Algeria's future energy diversification.

Manufacturing and Industry:

Chinese investments have been expanding into Algeria's manufacturing sector, particularly in industries such as cement production, textiles, and electronics. For example, Chinese companies have invested in cement plants, which are crucial for supporting Algeria's construction sector.

Technology: Chinese firms, particularly in telecommunications, such as Huawei, have been investing in Algeria's technology infrastructure. Huawei has been involved in building networks and providing equipment for Algeria's telecoms.

Chinese Investment in Algeria (2018-2022) : (Bellahmar -Hamza .2023.P699)

- 2018: \$2.5 billion
- 2019: \$3.0 billion
- 2020: \$3.2 billion
- 2021: \$3.5 billion
- 2022: \$4.0 billion

3- The implications of Sino-Algerian relations for development in Algeria in light of the Belt and Road strategy

China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), also known as the Silk Road Economic Belt and the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road, is a global infrastructure and development strategy that was launched in 2013 by President Xi Jinping. The initiative aims to enhance global trade and stimulate economic growth across Asia, Africa, and Europe by developing trade routes resembling the ancient Silk Road. (Zellagui-Boutorra. 2020.P225)

3-1 Key Aspects of China's Belt and Road Strategy:

Infrastructure Development:

One of the core goals of the BRI is to build and upgrade infrastructure—such as roads, railways, ports, airports, and energy pipelines—across participating countries. These projects are intended to foster greater connectivity between countries and regions, making trade more efficient and facilitating economic growth.

China has invested heavily in construction projects, leveraging its state-owned companies and financing mechanisms to build critical infrastructure in partner countries.

Trade Expansion:

The BRI aims to increase trade flows between China and partner countries by improving logistics and reducing trade barriers. By improving infrastructure and connectivity, the initiative seeks to reduce transportation costs and time, making it easier to exchange goods. The initiative also fosters regional economic cooperation, with China seeking to enhance its role as a trading hub in Asia and globally. (Zellagui-Boutorra. 2020.P226)

Investment and Financing:

China is providing significant loans and investments to partner countries to finance BRI projects. The China-led Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) and the Silk Road Fund are key financial institutions supporting the BRI.

These investments help developing countries build critical infrastructure but have also raised concerns over the sustainability of debt for some of the participating countries, leading to debates about the long-term financial implications.

Geopolitical Influence:

The BRI is seen as part of China's broader geopolitical strategy to extend its influence globally. By financing and building infrastructure in developing countries, China aims to strengthen bilateral ties and enhance its strategic position in key regions.

In particular, the initiative is seen as a way for China to engage with countries in Asia, Africa, and Europe, promoting regional stability and increasing its influence in global trade.

Africa:

The BRI has a growing footprint in Africa, where China is involved in building major infrastructure projects such as railways, ports, and airports. Notable projects include the Mombasa-Nairobi Railway in Kenya, the Addis Ababa-Djibouti Railway in Ethiopia, and the Lamu Port-South Sudan-Ethiopia Transport Corridor.

Investments also focus on resource extraction, including mining and energy projects, which align with China's broader economic and strategic interests in the continent. (Messaoudi, Kheladi.2024 P492)

3-2 Algeria's Position in China's Belt and Road Strategy: (Bellahmar -Hamza .2023.P692/693)

Geopolitical and Strategic Importance:

Algeria is located in North Africa, with access to both the Mediterranean Sea and the broader African continent. This makes it an important gateway for trade between China and other countries in the Maghreb, Sub-Saharan Africa, and even parts of Europe.

As a large country with significant natural resources (especially in oil and natural gas), Algeria holds strategic value for China, both as a resource supplier and as a potential hub for distributing goods to other regions.

Energy Cooperation:

One of the key areas of cooperation between China and Algeria within the framework of the BRI is the energy sector. Algeria is a major exporter of oil and natural gas, and China has invested heavily in these sectors.

Chinese companies like Sinopec and China National Petroleum Corporation (CNPC) have been involved in oil and gas exploration and production in Algeria. This ties into China's broader energy strategy to secure energy resources for its growing economy.

Under the BRI, the development of energy infrastructure, such as pipelines and energy transport networks, is essential for securing energy flows from Algeria to China and other markets.

Infrastructure Development:

Algeria, like many African countries, has benefited from Chinese investment in critical infrastructure as part of the BRI. China has been involved in building and upgrading roads, railways, ports, and housing projects.

In the past few years, Chinese companies have built and expanded ports, including the Hamdaniya Port (which could serve as a vital point in facilitating trade with Europe and Asia), and have also helped modernize Algerian railways.

China has invested in key infrastructure projects that aim to enhance connectivity within Algeria and with neighboring countries, boosting the flow of goods and services. This is central to the BRI's vision of improving trade routes.

Trade and Investment:

China is Algeria's largest trading partner, and the BRI has helped cement these economic ties. Algeria's exports to China mainly consist of oil, natural gas, and minerals, while imports from China include machinery, electronics, and construction materials.

The BRI framework is designed to improve trade connectivity between China and Algeria by improving infrastructure and reducing trade barriers, such as logistical inefficiencies.

Additionally, Chinese companies have increasingly invested in the manufacturing sector in Algeria, especially in industries such as cement production, textiles, and electronics.

Transportation and Connectivity:

The BRI seeks to improve land and maritime connectivity. For Algeria, this means enhancing infrastructure that can facilitate the movement of goods to China and beyond.

Key projects include the China-Algeria railway initiatives, which could be linked to broader Trans-African rail networks, and efforts to expand port capacities to improve trade routes along the Mediterranean and to Asia.

Algeria's strategic location allows it to serve as a regional hub, connecting China with other African countries and serving as a gateway for goods and energy flows between China and Europe.

Cultural and People-to-People Exchanges:

The BRI also includes initiatives to improve cultural exchange and people-to-people ties. Algeria has seen an increase in Chinese scholarships, academic exchanges, and cultural events, which contribute to strengthening bilateral relations.

Increased trade and investment have also fostered closer business and governmental ties between the two countries.

Regional Influence:

Algeria's participation in the BRI aligns with its broader goals of enhancing its regional influence and improving its economic development. By partnering with China, Algeria can attract investments and improve infrastructure that may boost its regional competitiveness. Algeria is also strategically positioned as a partner for China in the North African and Mediterranean regions, which are important for China's global trade networks.

3-3 The Djebilet mine : (Farid , Malek , Amira , Nabil .2022.P74)

The Djebilet mine is an iron ore mining site located in Algeria, specifically in the southern part of the country. This mine gains its importance because it contains large iron ore deposits that form part of Algeria's efforts to diversify its economy and reduce its dependence on oil and gas exports. The Djebilet mine has long been a major player in Algeria's mining sector.

Key details about the Djebilet mine:

Iron ore reserves:

The Djebilet mine is known for its large iron ore reserves, with estimates indicating that it contains more than 100 million tons of iron ore. These reserves make it an essential part of Algeria's mining industry.

The iron ore extracted from Djebilet is of high quality, making it attractive for domestic use and export.

Chinese investment:

Over the past years, China has shown interest in Algeria's mining sector, including the Djebilet mine. Chinese companies have invested in developing and modernizing mining operations in Algeria.

Chinese companies, known for their expertise in mining technology, have been involved in projects aimed at improving the efficiency and scale of mining operations in Algeria.

Expansion Plans:

There have been efforts to expand the capacity of the Djebilet mine, upgrade its infrastructure, and increase production. This includes upgrading processing facilities and expanding rail or transportation lines to better deliver extracted ore to local markets or export terminals.

3-4 Hamdaniya Port : (DJOUADI Nouredine.2016.P400)

Hamdaniya Port is a port located on the Mediterranean Sea in Algeria, . The port is parts of Algeria's broader effort to improve its trade infrastructure and increase the volume of goods transported via maritime routes, especially as part of its economic diversification goals.

Strategic Importance:

The port's location makes it strategically important for the export of goods, particularly minerals, oil, and gas, and for the import of various industrial and consumer products.

It is part of Algeria's broader strategy to enhance its maritime infrastructure, contributing to economic diversification beyond the oil and gas sector.

Economic Role:

The port plays a role in facilitating trade between Algeria and other countries, particularly in Europe and the Mediterranean region.

The port also supports local industries, including the processing of minerals, agriculture, and manufacturing, helping to supply raw materials and receive finished products from overseas.

4- Obstacles and Prospects for Sino-Algerian Relations:

Sino-Algerian relations have evolved significantly over recent decades, largely driven by trade, investment, and geopolitical considerations. However, despite the promising growth, several obstacles persist that can hinder the full realization of this partnership. On the other hand, the potential prospects for a deeper and more diversified relationship remain substantial.

4-1 Political and military relations between China and Algeria

The political and military relationship between Algeria and China has evolved significantly in recent years.

Strengthening Political Ties:

The relationship has deepened beyond economic cooperation, moving towards a more comprehensive strategic partnership.

Regular high-level visits and exchanges between leaders have fostered closer political ties.

Growing Military Cooperation:

China has become a significant supplier of military equipment to Algeria, including arms and defense technology.

This military cooperation contributes to Algeria's defense capabilities and regional influence.

Alignment on Global Issues:

Both countries share similar views on many global issues, such as non-interference in internal affairs and the need for a multipolar world order.

They have collaborated on various international platforms, including within the United Nations.

Factors Driving the Shifts:

Shared Interests: Both countries share common interests in combating terrorism, promoting regional stability, and developing their economies.

China's Growing Global Influence: China's increasing global influence has made it an attractive partner for many countries, including Algeria.

Diversification of Partnerships: Algeria seeks to diversify its international partnerships to reduce dependence on traditional Western allies. (Yahia H. 2022.P64).

The future of the international system is determined by the actors in the international arena, and this scientific paper has demonstrated that efforts to revitalize Algerian foreign policy impose a change and reform of the traditional ideological pattern in terms of principles and foundations on which to adopt a new effective strategy that contemplates the changes that have occurred in the international environment. Whatever the case, the impact of Chinese policy in Africa cannot be seen as merely an economic phenomenon and enough. From the Chinese perspective, there are narrow economic considerations in addition to the long-term strategic goals of ensuring the provision of basic energy sources. From the Algerian perspective, there are direct economic interests represented in The returns on direct trade, in addition to political and strategic considerations, are represented by the call to go east to create new opportunities alternative to the Western imperialist powers.(boulal.2022.P211)

4-2 Future Prospects

In recent years, Sino-Algerian relations have been characterized by a combination of strong economic collaboration, political cooperation, and challenges in certain areas. While China's investments continue to play a central role in Algeria's development, there have been concerns over the social and economic impacts of these investments, such as labor disputes and debt sustainability. Additionally, geopolitical factors—such as Algeria's

relationships with European powers, the United States, and Russia—also influence its engagement with China.

Despite these challenges, both countries remain committed to enhancing their partnership. China's growing influence in Africa and Algeria's desire to diversify its economy beyond oil and gas make for a promising future, with potential areas of collaboration in renewable energy, technology, and green infrastructure.

The history of Sino-Algerian relations reflects a dynamic and evolving partnership, rooted in shared anti-colonial ideals, economic cooperation, and geopolitical alignment. From the early days of anti-colonial solidarity to the present day, the relationship has deepened and diversified, particularly in the fields of trade, investment, and infrastructure development. While there are challenges to be addressed, the future of Sino-Algerian relations looks promising, particularly as both countries navigate a rapidly changing global environment.

4-3 Obstacles in Sino-Algerian Relations

Economic Overdependence on Energy Exports:

Obstacle: The Algerian economy remains heavily reliant on oil and gas exports, which makes the economic relationship with China largely centered around energy. While China is a significant consumer of Algerian oil and gas, the narrow focus on this sector limits the scope for broader economic cooperation.

Bureaucratic and Governance Challenges:

Obstacle: Algeria's complex bureaucratic system and regulatory environment can be a major barrier to the smooth execution of projects and investments. The country's administrative inefficiencies and lack of transparency can discourage foreign investors, including Chinese companies.

Debt Burden from Chinese Investments:

Obstacle: Many infrastructure projects in Algeria are financed through loans from China, part of China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). This has led to growing concerns about Algeria's mounting debt, which could become a burden in the future, especially if the returns from these projects do not meet expectations.

Cultural and Social Tensions:

Obstacle: Chinese companies often bring their own workers to Algeria for large infrastructure projects. While this is common in many countries, it has led to tensions in Algeria, where local populations may feel sidelined. Cultural differences and a lack of local employment opportunities can generate resentment.

Geopolitical Competition:

Obstacle: Algeria has long-standing relationships with other global powers, such as France and Russia, which are also key players in Algeria's energy and military sectors. This geopolitical complexity can make it difficult for Algeria to fully align itself with China on all issues, especially when China's interests conflict with those of other global actors.

Environmental and Sustainability Concerns:

Obstacle: Infrastructure projects, especially those driven by the BRI, often face environmental scrutiny. Chinese companies are sometimes criticized for not meeting international environmental standards in their projects, which can cause backlash from local communities and environmental groups.

4-4 Prospects for Sino-Algerian Relations

Infrastructure Development and Investment:

Prospect: Algeria's infrastructure needs are vast, ranging from transportation networks (roads, railways, ports) to energy facilities and housing. China, as a leading investor and contractor, has the expertise and financial capacity to meet these needs. This could lead to large-scale projects that enhance Algeria's industrial and economic development.

Renewable Energy Cooperation:

Prospect: As the world transitions toward renewable energy, Algeria has significant potential in solar and wind energy. With China's technological prowess in green energy, there is a strong opportunity for cooperation in the renewable energy sector. China's expertise in solar panel manufacturing and wind turbine technology could be pivotal for Algeria's energy transition.

Economic Diversification:

Prospect: China can assist Algeria in diversifying its economy by providing investments in sectors beyond oil and gas, such as manufacturing, agriculture, and technology. For example, Chinese companies could invest in Algerian industrial parks, helping develop the country's manufacturing base.

Trade Growth:

Prospect: China is already Algeria's largest trading partner, and the potential for growth in trade is significant. Algeria exports natural resources to China, while China provides manufactured goods, machinery, and electronics to Algeria. Both countries stand to benefit from expanding this trade beyond energy and raw materials.

People-to-People and Educational Ties:

Prospect: As part of strengthening bilateral relations, both China and Algeria have the potential to build stronger people-to-people ties through cultural exchanges, educational programs, and language learning. China's Confucius Institutes and scholarships can increase the number of Algerians studying in China, which would lead to a more sophisticated understanding of each other's cultures and business practices.

Strategic Partnership in Africa:

Prospect: Algeria, as a key player in North Africa, can help China enhance its presence and influence in the region. By strengthening bilateral ties, China can use Algeria as a gateway for further expansion into other African markets, particularly in energy, infrastructure, and development projects.

Conclusion:

The Algerian-Chinese partnership offers significant opportunities for both countries. However, Algeria needs to carefully manage this relationship to maximize benefits while mitigating potential risks. This includes:

Diversifying the Economy: Reducing over-reliance on energy exports and diversifying its economic base.

Promoting Local Content: Encouraging greater local participation in Chinese-funded projects to maximize job creation and technology transfer.

Negotiating Fair Terms: Ensuring fair and equitable terms in all agreements with China to protect Algerian interests.

Addressing Social and Environmental Concerns: Prioritizing sustainable development and mitigating potential negative social and environmental impacts of Chinese investment projects.

By carefully navigating these challenges and leveraging the opportunities presented by the partnership, Algeria can maximize the benefits of its relationship with China while ensuring sustainable and equitable development for its people.

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