



***Algerian Foreign Policy Towards the Palestinian Issue: Between Summit
Diplomacy and Humanitarian Diplomacy***

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Abstract:

The Palestinian issue is the most prominent and complex in the international arena, as it is multidimensional, combining political and religious, geographical and historical, national and Global, which makes it subject to many attractions and the subject of a geopolitical and sectarian conflict, which affected the settlement process, which in turn poses a prominent challenge to Algeria, which seeks with all its weight to support the Palestinian cause until the Palestinian people have independence.

This study aims to shed light on the Algerian diplomatic efforts and endeavours towards the Palestinian cause since independence to the present day by going through all the stations to which Algeria has contributed to defending the Palestinian cause and by all types of diplomacy focusing on summit diplomacy and humanitarian diplomacy, especially after the transformations that the Middle East region has known, and the repercussions of the normalization process on the future of the Palestinian cause in light of the transformation of Arab regimes and the change of their orientations after the Arab Spring, which did not affect the principles and obligations of Algeria and assume full responsibility in defending the Palestinian cause and the firmness of its positions.

Keywords: *Algerian foreign policy, the Palestinian issue, summit diplomacy, humanitarian diplomacy.*

I. INTRODUCTION

Algerian diplomacy has been known for its steadfast positions on just issues since independence, despite the many historical stations it has passed through in its development and the transformations the Algerian regime has known. Despite the succession of presidents, it has remained firm in its positions and support for liberation movements and fighting all forms of colonialism. The Palestinian issue is the core of this trend.

The Palestinian issue was not only a colonial issue, but it was a humanitarian and moral issue, in light of the decline in Arab support for it and light of the dwarfing and containment of the conflict by the colonial Western powers by transforming it from an Arab-Israeli conflict to a Palestinian-Israeli conflict, up to what is happening today, where it has become a conflict between the people of Gaza and Israel, or what the media promotes as a conflict between the resistance movement Hamas and Israel; but Algeria did not abandon the issue but paid all its weight in defence of the Palestinian people and their legitimate right to independence of their country and the establishment of an independent state of Palestine.

Algeria's consistent and supportive positions on the Palestinian issue have put it in front of many challenges imposed on it by the international arena, especially in light of the tensions between the major powers, the conflict of influence and interests, the decline of the Arab role and its division amid the normalization process and the multiplicity of loyalties, which posed an additional challenge to the Algerian foreign policy.

Through this paper, we are trying to answer the main problem :

How did Algerian diplomacy support the Palestinian cause in light of its challenges?

To answer these problems, the study was divided into three main axes. The first section studied Algerian foreign policy, focusing on its determinants and principles. The second section focuses on Algerian diplomacy's efforts to support the Palestinian cause, and the third section highlights its challenges in resolving the Palestinian issue.

II. Algerian foreign policy: a study in the determinants and principles

Since the independence of Algeria today, the Algerian foreign policy has witnessed a continuous transformation; this transformation is mainly related to the process of building, unifying and then consolidating the national state, on the one hand, and the other hand to the need to adapt to the international situation, which was defined in this historical period of great geopolitical and geostrategic turmoil, which did not immediately partially stabilized after the Cold War Gaza since the Al-Aqsa flood operation on October 07, 2023, which exposed all The practices of the major powers that adopt double standards as a determinant of their foreign policy, unlike Algeria, which has remained conservative in its principles of championing Just Causes and decolonization, and the Palestinian issue is the core of this trend.

Algeria's foreign policy was based on a set of principles and determinants, which have shaped its orientations since independence to the present day without being neutral from them, despite the transformations that its regional and international environment has known and which it has tried to adapt to without compromising these principles, which will be defined in the following:

1. Determinants of Algerian foreign policy:

Algerian foreign policy is based on a set of basic determinants that combine internal and external, natural and institutional, which in its entirety constitute the general framework that guides foreign policy, despite the multiplicity of classifications of these factors; some classify them based on geographical, political, economic, military and social factors, and

some adopt the classification of "holistic" and "Rosenau" to crystallise the external behaviour of international unitsⁱ, which is the classification that we will adopt in this study.

Internal determinants

Internal determinants are: "variables that are located within the framework of the state unit itself, because they are related to its self-formation and structure, and do not arise as a result of interaction with other state units," and these variables play a very important role in drawing up the foreign policies of countries and determining their orientations, internal determinants include the following variables:

1.1. Geopolitical determinants

Geography and history generally determine the features and directions of each country's foreign policy and constitute the most important elements of power and status. These elements include a set of factors such as geographical location, area, topography and climate of the country in addition to the natural resources contained in this location by its central location in the heart of the Maghreb region, which forms a junction and link between other spaces; it is a connecting area between sub-Saharan Africa and Europe across the Mediterranean and also connects the Middle East and the Atlantic Ocean. Algeria is located at an important strategic intersection point and at the centre of regional and international balances, which directly affects its foreign policy and orientations within its vital spaces, most of which flow in this area following its perceptions, principles and goals.

Algeria is located in northwest Africa with an area of 2,381,741 km, which makes it the largest African, Arab and Islamic country; its North-South Extension is 1,900 km, while its eastern extension ranges from 1,200 km on the northern Mediterranean waterfront, and 1,800 on the Tindouf-Ghadames line. Its land borders extend to 6343 km and adjoins seven countries: from the East, it is bordered by Tunisia with a border strip of 965 km and Libya with a border strip of 982 km. On the western side, the Sahrawi Arab Republic has a 42 km long border strip. Morocco has a 1,559 km long border strip, representing 24.85% of its total land border, which is considered the longest Border with neighbouring countries. From the south, it is bordered by Mali with a border strip of 1376 km, Niger with a border strip of 956km, and Mauritania with a border strip of 463 kmⁱⁱ. As for the number of inhabitants, the population of Algeria reached 46.7 million in January 2024ⁱⁱⁱ.

Accordingly, Algeria is opening up and connecting with several geopolitical circles, represented by the Maghreb Circle, the African Circle, the Arab Circle, and the Mediterranean Circle. This affects the direction of its foreign policy within the framework of its principles,

opening up wider spaces and making it move from the regional dimension to the international dimension.

Geoeconomic determinants

Algeria has enormous potential that makes it one of the rich countries, which qualifies it to be an economic power, an essential economic actor in its geopolitical circles and the world as a whole, as it ranks sixth globally in natural gas production^{iv}, and the eighth place in terms of its reserves, and the fourteenth place in oil reserves^v. It is one of the oil-exporting countries, though it is a gas country more than oil.

Despite the diversification of the Algerian economy in the third millennium and the recovery of the market for mining products such as iron and cement, as well as other agricultural and industrial materials, the fuel sector remained the heart of its economy due to the size of its reserves on the one hand. As a strategic commodity, on the other hand, it forms the backbone of the global economy and industry and fuel for disputes, conflicts and wars between countries at the same time, which is the general scene in conflicts in the Middle East as well as in eastern Europe, as the Russian-Ukrainian war is a good example of energy wars. However, the background of the conflict is mainly related to the location of the geopolitics of Ukraine within the Russian biosphere.

For Algeria, Energy has strengthened its international standing and contributed significantly to the imposition of its foreign policy, especially in the context of the Russian-Ukrainian war, which was an opportunity to pass its policy towards Europe, and perhaps the pressure exerted on the Spanish government, following its blatant interference in the Sahrawi affair, and its support for Morocco's autonomy plan in Western Sahara, as this led to the suspension of relations between the two countries, which suffered heavy losses to Madrid is a good proof of the importance of energy in international relations.

Geostrategic determinants

Geostrategy is a foreign policy directed primarily by geopolitical and geoeconomic factors that affect and benefit military and political planning. Like other strategies, it concerns the suitability of means for ends.

From this point of view, geostrategy aims to highlight the actual military value of the geographical location, which gives a special personality to the state and directs its policy and strategy, influences its strength and position within the security stakes in its geopolitical environment, affects how its vital interests and the role it can play in the international community, and its political, economic, and even military decisions are taken by the state^{vi}. The geographical location plays a big role in shaping countries' strategy and reflects their strength in their geopolitical space; therefore, Algeria is opening up to many spaces. This

provokes the process of their alignment or confrontation and clarifies the perception of these countries of Algeria and how they consider or perceive it, whether it is a partner Power, a strategic actor, a competitor or a neutral country. This directly affects its foreign policy and how it relies on its geostrategic elements to implement its foreign agenda and protect its interests.

Personal determinants

Personal factors are among the most important determinants of any country's foreign policy. If the president has an offensive personality, then foreign policy will be headed in this direction, and if his personality is defensive,

As for Algeria, its foreign policy was characterized by the control of personal factors in it, to some extent, due to its experience in practice after independence, where it was noted the control of the presidential institution over the right of foreign policy, planning and implementation since independence, due to the Algerian constitutions granting broad powers to the president in directing and determining the internal and foreign policy of the country.

External determinants

The nature of the international system: The international or regional system is one of the most important determinants of countries' patterns of power distribution within a unipolar or multipolar international format. It is based on political and military blocs and axes, as is the case today in the bloc of Western powers under the umbrella of the United States of America and Britain and the bloc of Eastern countries under the umbrella of Russia and China or the forces of the eastern camp previously^{vii}, one also notes the emergence of other political and economic blocs that have affected the dynamics of international relations and imposed themselves in fact as the ASEAN and BRICS grouping, which in turn polarizes some countries; within this sharp polarization by many blocs, it is difficult for countries to adopt a policy of isolation, as he puts it between several options and at the same time risks. Entering into some alliances to protect their national security can cause them at the same time risks of the fall or decline of the influence of these blocs^{viii}, especially if they are hostile or their policy contradicts with other blocs, which can be observed in the tensions and clashes taking place in the Middle East and precisely with the Palestinian issue; although Russia and China contradict their policies with the United States, they all support the Zionist entity, and do not support the Palestinians; in contrast, Algeria enters the Eastern bloc with distinctive relations with Russia first and China, in contrast, the Russian policy in Africa completely contradicts the Algerian orientation on the continent, and even negatively affected it, especially with the strengthening of Russia The coup in Mali.

International institutions: International institutions play an influential role in the foreign policy of states, they regulate the Foreign Relations of states and resolve disputes between them by international law, but they are characterized by double standards so that the major countries use them to achieve their interests even if this contradicts the principles of international institutions as such, which we noted in the Security Council resolutions on the Palestinian the question of the effectiveness of summit diplomacy in light of the dominance of the major powers International institutions.

International political processes: Political dynamics in the international context affect the foreign policy of states through the nature of relations between political units, whether cooperative or conflict, based on the national interest of the state in the position taken, according to the principle of action and reaction, reciprocity, and according to the position of the state of regional and international balances, which raises the problem of preserving the principles of the state's foreign policy and taking care of its interests within an international format intertwined relations and interests.

1. Principles of Algerian foreign policy

The Algerian foreign policy is based on a set of basic principles, which were included in most international charters and approved by various international and regional organizations, which were confirmed in the Constitution of the Republic of 1976, in its articles 86 to 93, and in the Constitution of 2016, in its Articles 29 to 31; and continued to work until today, and included the adoption of the principles and objectives contained in the charters of the United Nations, the organization of African unity and the Arab League; Good-Neighbourliness, support for international cooperation, peaceful settlement of disputes, non-interference in the internal affairs of states, and support for the right of peoples to self-determination.

1.1. The positive good neighbour principle

Through this principle, Algeria aims to strengthen relations with its neighbours in the Maghreb and Africa, considering that simple good neighbourliness, which means non-interference in internal affairs and non-aggression, is insufficient to ensure stability and peace between neighbouring countries. However, it must be given a positive interpretation by working to strengthen relations between these countries, eliminate all factors of misunderstanding, open means of communication and consultation with foreign armies, or allow the establishment of foreign military bases on the Border. Positive, good neighbourhoods can also be promoted through developing relations between neighbouring countries by strengthening trade exchanges, cultural exchanges, and cooperation with all sectors and fields.

1.2. Support of international cooperation

International cooperation is one of the most important principles of Algerian foreign policy, as stated in Article 93 of Chapter VII of the Algerian constitution," the support of international cooperation and the development of friendly relations between states, based on equality, mutual interest and non-interference in internal affairs, are two basic principles of national policy"^{ix}. It also includes the conclusion of necessary treaties and agreements for this purpose and exercises border cooperation within the framework of the competencies of regional authorities, as determined by the law governing cooperation and the internal law of states; by this principle, Algeria has signed an agreement of brotherhood, cooperation and good neighbourliness with all neighbouring countries except Morocco, as well as signing several cooperation agreements, memorandums of understanding, which are implemented through committees high-level cooperation and Sectoral Technical Committees for follow-up. The Ministry of foreign affairs is the one that oversees all these agreements, meetings and committees, and due to the importance of cooperation in the Algerian foreign policy and in strengthening its regional role, the Algerian agency for international cooperation for solidarity and development^x was established on February 11, 2020.

1.3. Peaceful settlement of disputes

Article 89 of the Algerian constitution of 1976 states: "The Algerian Republic, by the charters of the United Nations, the organization of African unity and the Arab League, shall refrain from resorting to war to infringe the legitimate sovereignty and freedom of other peoples"^{xi}.

Algeria has always sought to resolve disputes by peaceful means, a principle that is an essential condition of Algeria's Foreign behaviour towards its regional and International Space, given its compatibility with the first principle of the United Nations Charter, which calls for the necessity of States refraining from the use or threat of force, as well as the second principle, which requires the resolution of international disputes by peaceful means such as negotiations, investigation, mediation, arbitration and legal settlement of disputes to maintain security and peace.

1.4. Non-interference in the internal affairs of states

The principle of non-interference is one of the key principles in Algeria's foreign policy, which it has defended since independence, and continues to defend today, despite the changing nature of security threats and challenges, as many strategists have pointed to the need to reconsider this principle, but Algeria always remains committed to it, which it defended in regional crises such as the Libyan crisis, and then the Mali crisis, and preferred a

peaceful solution within its regional framework, to prevent any foreign interference that would inflame conflicts and destabilize, spread the jihadist ideology of Islamic movements and unite separatist sentiments^{xii}.

Article 90 of the Algerian constitution of 1976 states that "in fulfillment of the principles and objectives of non-alignment, Algeria strives for peace, peaceful coexistence and non-interference in the internal affairs of states", as stated in Article 93 "support for International Cooperation and the development of friendly relations between states based on equality and mutual interest, and non-interference in international affairs are two fundamental principles of national policy"^{xiii}.

1.5. The principle of respect for the borders inherited from colonialism

Article 91 of the same Constitution states: "No part of the national territory shall be ceded at all"^{xiv}.

Since its independence, Algeria has defended this principle, sought to spread it to all the countries of the continent, and resorted to it in many border disputes on the continent, especially the dispute over Western Sahara; after independence, Algeria demarcated its borders with some neighbouring countries to avoid border disputes with these countries; defended its territorial unity through this principle, due to the continuation of the principles of May 27, 1970, and then the Rabat Treaty on June 15, 1972, and then turned to the rest of its neighbours to control Border with them to avoid any disputes.

1.6. The support of people's right to self-determination

Algeria has worked through its historical struggle to combat colonialism and support libertarian movements in self-determination. This principle is enshrined in the Algerian constitution in Article 92, which states: "The struggle against colonialism, imperialism and racial discrimination is a fundamental axis of the revolution, and Algeria's solidarity with all peoples in Africa, Asia and Latin America in their struggle for their political and economic liberation and their right to self-determination and independence is a fundamental dimension of national policy"^{xv}.

This principle did not differ from what was endorsed by the United Nations in its principles, where, in the second paragraph of Article I, it referred to the right of self-determination through: "the development of friendly relations between nations based on respect for the principle that the rights of peoples should be settled and that each of them should have their self-determination, as well as the adoption of other appropriate measures to promote public peace"^{xvi}.

III. Algerian diplomacy and the Palestinian issue

The Palestinian issue is one of the constants of Algerian foreign policy, despite what Algeria knows about internal and external political changes. Algerian-Palestinian relations stretch back to before the independence of Algeria when the Palestinian issue was the focus of the Algerian national movement in the Forties of the last century. The Palestinian people saw it as a model of liberation and independence in the Algerian liberation revolution. However, after independence, Algeria worked to support the Palestinian cause in international, continental and regional forums and on several levels, both at the level of summits and the humanitarian level; summit diplomacy and humanitarian diplomacy are its most important tools.

Summit diplomacy and humanitarian diplomacy

Summit diplomacy or direct diplomacy is one of the most important forms of diplomacy because it gives a direct dimension to the practice of foreign policy to heads of state, through which major issues of great importance are discussed as an alternative to secret diplomacy. The summit diplomacy also gives dimensions, psychological overtones, and symbolic meanings, affecting the participating parties and the public opinion of states. It also sends official messages to all influential circles affected by the issues studied at this meeting. Perhaps the message sent by Algerian President Abdelmadjid Tebboune during the meeting between Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas and the delegation of the Islamic resistance movement (Hamas) led by the head of its political bureau, Ismail Haniyeh, is the best evidence of Algerian support for the cause at the highest level.

Humanitarian diplomacy is intrinsically linked to many valuable and ethical dimensions. First, it is related to the human person, working to help and protect him, and second, it works for the benefit of the vulnerable through appropriate diplomatic tools and measures at the right time so as not to aggravate the dangers and disasters to which they are exposed. Humanitarian diplomacy refers to using diplomatic tools and strategies to address humanitarian crises and promote the protection of civilians and their rights.

Humanitarian diplomacy plays an important role in Algeria's foreign policy, as Algeria, through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and other agencies such as the Algerian Red Crescent, works to address humanitarian emergencies and promote the rights of the affected population, despite all the challenges it faces, especially the difficulty of reaching relief places, where the arrival of aid to the people of Gaza was the biggest challenge to Algerian humanitarian diplomacy during the period of the Zionist aggression after the events of the Al-Aqsa flood.

1. The Palestinian question in the Algerian perception 1962-1989

The Palestinian issue is at the heart of the Algerian foreign policy concerns, because it is linked to several dimensions, whether it is the Arab national dimension, the Islamic religious and emotional dimension, or the human dimension; in addition, it is considered an issue of liberation from colonialism, which is one of the principles of its foreign policy, and despite the succession of presidents and the impact of the personal dimension on the directions of Algerian foreign policy, but the positions of Algerian diplomacy remained fixed towards the Palestinian issue; at a stage before independence, the Palestinian issue occupied the attention of the Algerian national movement in the Forties of the last century, and after independence; Algeria worked to the voice of the Palestinian people to the international community and definition In 1963, Algeria hosted the opening of the first office in the name of the Palestinian Fatah movement,^{xvii} which was an important window to communicate the Palestinian cause to the world, as it demanded in 1964 during the Arab League conference, which was the first conference attended by Algeria after independence, to enable the Palestinians to have an entity representing them, where it was agreed to establish the Palestine Liberation Organisation as a representative of the Palestinian people under the leadership of Ahmed Shaqiri. Algeria also participated in the 1967 and 1973 wars against the Zionist entity and provided material, military and diplomatic support to the Arab armies^{xviii}. It was accompanied by the Arab boycott of petroleum during the 1973 Arab-Israeli war and its use as a pressure card to deal with the West supporting the Zionist entity.

In 1974, Algeria worked to introduce the Palestine Liberation Organization to the United Nations when Algeria chaired the meeting and enabled the late Yasser Arafat to address the UN body for the first time in the history of Palestine.

In addition to the above, Algeria supported the Palestinian cause and resisted all forms of betrayal of the cause; the resilience and response front was established (Algeria, Syria, Yemen, Libya, Iraq, and the Palestine Liberation Organization), which confronted the Camp David agreement (1978), and considered it a conspiracy on the Palestinian cause, Egypt was boycotted, and the headquarters of the Arab League was moved to Tunisia.

Following the split that took place between the Palestinian factions (Hamas and Fatah) in 1982, Algeria played a mediation role between them, whose negotiations lasted for several years until it hosted the 18th summit of the Palestinian National Council in 1987, which gave a strong impetus to the Palestinian struggle and re-strengthened the internal front, and mediation culminated in the declaration of the establishment of the state of Palestine on November 15, 1988 in Algeria after the 19th session of the Palestinian National Council.

The Palestinian cause 1989-2025

Despite the political circumstances that Algeria experienced in the Black decade, which occupied it with its internal situation, attention to the Palestinian issue remained continuous, albeit at a small pace, but with the restoration of Algeria's political and security stability, the Algerian diplomatic machine launched towards external action, in the context of summit diplomacy, Algeria intensified its efforts to defend the Palestinian cause in international forums at the level of the United Nations, continental regional organizations, the Arab League and the African Union, condemning the crimes of the Zionist entity against the Palestinian people, but at the humanitarian level, Algeria did not hesitate to provide assistance and material and moral support for the Palestinian people, and renewed After the Second Intifada in 2000, Algerian cities witnessed massive demonstrations in support of the Palestinians, in addition to intensive Algerian diplomatic action at the United Nations, the Arab League and the African Union condemning the violations practiced by the Zionist entity against the Palestinian people.

Algeria supported the United Nations initiative in 2014 by making November 25 of each year a day of solidarity with the Palestinian people, as it called during the 27th session of the Arab Conference of Arab Parliaments held in Cairo in April 2018, through the speaker of the National People's Council said Bouhaja to activate the item of the Palestinian issue in the agenda of the Arab and international parliaments, as expressed Algeria's categorical rejection of the recognition by the United States of America of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel, which Algeria considered a violation of the peace initiative in the region, a violation of the rights of the Palestinians, and a violation of international legitimacy.

Algeria considers al-Quds al-Sharif, the capital of Palestine, one of the holiest sites of the Arab and Palestinian people, which cannot be ceded or disposed of, and it is not allowed to touch it.

With the wave of normalization that occurred in 2020 and its aftermath, this is what Algeria considered a betrayal and a stab to the Palestinian cause, which led to the deterioration of its diplomatic relations with the printing countries, especially with its neighbour Morocco, Algerian President Abdelmadjid Tebboune stated that "Algeria will not bless and will not participate in the rush towards normalization and will not recognize a state named Israel".

Algeria also defended the right of the Palestinian people to establish a Palestinian state with Al-Quds Al-Sharif as its capital through the speech delivered by the Algerian President "Abdelmadjid Tebboune" during the 75th session of the UN General Assembly on September

23, 2020, stressing that the Algerian position on the Palestinian issue is fixed, irreconcilable and will not change no matter what regional and international changes occur^{xix}.

Diplomatic work continued to support the Palestinian cause and reform the Palestinian house. Algeria worked to unite the Palestinian side by signing a reconciliation agreement between Hamas and Fatah in Algeria in 2022 to hold elections and form a unity government. In 2023, Algerian President Abdelmadjid Tebboune held a meeting with Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas with a delegation from the Islamic resistance movement (Hamas) led by the head of its political bureau, Ismail Haniyeh, which comes within the framework of unifying the Palestinian class.

Algeria has remained supportive of Palestine, as it has defended the Palestinian people during the aggression against it since the Al-Aqsa flood operation on October 07, 2023. It has pushed with all its diplomatic weight at the level of the UN Security Council and the UN General Assembly, as well as the UN Security Council, to stop the ongoing Zionist aggression on the Gaza Strip. The Algerian diplomatic efforts in supporting the Palestinian cause during the first three months of its accession to the Security Council focused on three main axes:

First, we need to intensify the deliberations on the Palestinian issue within the Security Council, as Algeria has taken the initiative to convene several meetings at the Security Council level on the Israeli aggression on the Gaza Strip. Since last January, the Security Council has held at least seven (7) meetings at the request of Algeria alone, which were devoted to discussing the developments of the Israeli aggression on the Gaza Strip in various aspects and its repercussions.

Secondly, strengthening the diplomatic momentum for the Palestinian cause outside the Security Council, especially in international and regional organizations, where special emphasis has been placed on working to strengthen the common positions of the various organizations to which Algeria belongs, starting with the League of Arab states, passing through the African Union, the organization of Islamic Cooperation and reaching the Non-Aligned Movement. Innovative and unprecedented formats were also used, such as the consultative meeting organized at the initiative of Algeria between the members of the Security Council and the families of the Palestinian victims fleeing the Gaza Strip, to pressure the Security Council to shoulder its responsibilities.

Third and finally, the initiative to put forward draft resolutions on the Palestinian issue, where Algeria submitted a proposal to stop the forced displacement of the Palestinian people before the Security Council^{xx}, which was adopted by general agreement in January 2024, and Algeria also submitted a draft resolution demanding an "immediate ceasefire and the immediate and unconditional release of all hostages"^{xxi}, in May 2024, a resolution was

successfully adopted, as it is the first resolution issued by the Security Council, but also from a procedural point of view, being the first substantive resolution submitted jointly and uniformly by elected members in the history of the United Nations.

On the other hand, the issue of the full membership of the state of Palestine in the United Nations has emerged with great force and urgency as the optimal approach that would fortify the two-state solution in the face of the denial and rejection of this solution by the Israeli settlement occupation^{xxii}.

2. The challenges facing Algerian diplomacy

The regional and international tensions and their impact on the future of the Palestinian cause

The Palestinian cause is one of the most complex issues at the regional and international levels. Regional and international tensions around it have increased its complexity on the one hand and its multiple intertwined dimensions on the other (religious, political, moral, National, geopolitical, and global). Its geopolitical position in the Middle East makes it the object of ambitions of international powers, and its historical, religious and civilizational dimension as a holy land made it the subject of a Sunni-Shiite sectarian conflict on the one hand; and between Islam and Christianity and Judaism on the other hand, all this has increased the complexity of the Palestinian issue, which poses a prominent challenge to Algerian diplomacy, as The Sunni world, led by Saudi Arabia, has become penetrated by the wave of normalization that most Sunni countries have known, in addition to the shameful attitudes of the Arab countries that have made Algeria in confrontation with the normalization countries and in the face of the entity that was able to penetrate Morocco and settle on its western borders, which poses a direct threat to its national security.

Therefore, Algeria has come into confrontation with the entity on the one hand and with its supporters on the other; the weight on its diplomacy has also increased. Instead of focusing on supporting the Palestinian cause, its efforts have become divided between Arab reunification, reforming Arab–Arab relations, and seeking to gather international support and hold it morally responsible for the Palestinian cause.

What has increased the burden of the task is the spread of the wave of instability in its regional environment, as well as in most Arab countries, especially after the wave of the Arab Spring and its security challenges, the spread of hybrid security threats, the escalation of jihadist movements, the failure of states, the fall of most of the Arab regimes that supported the Palestinian cause.

In addition to the above, the escalation of the conflict of influence and interests between international powers and the stumbling of negotiating tracks, which prevents the

embodiment of any solution to the issue, has further complicated the task of Algerian diplomacy, especially since most of the regional actors are subject to the dependence of external forces, which affects the initiatives that have been subjected to the conflict of influence and interests, which reflects the regional competition between local actors on the one hand and external actors on the other, which seek to pass its policy in the region to serve its interests and the interests of its allies.

The split of the Arab and Islamic positions on the issue

The reduction of the Palestinian issue and its transformation from an Arab-Israeli conflict to a Palestinian-Israeli conflict and its transformation today between the Gaza Strip and the entity negatively affected the course of the settlement of the crisis and increased the weight of the task of Algerian diplomacy; therefore, it has become working on several fronts, which requires a double effort; it seeks to reunite the Arab by sharp internal divisions, which are sometimes more deadly than armed confrontations; in addition to seeking to attract forces Other Islamic or African actors or other countries that believe in the cause, to strengthen and support their position towards the Palestinian cause.

Maintaining its strategic interests

In light of Algeria's continued and unconditional support for the Palestinian cause, it is exposed to many external pressures, which affect its strategic interests, and also pose a direct threat to its national security, which we have observed in the continuous quest of the Zionist entity through its allies and agents to destabilize Algeria, as well as its approach to becoming in confrontation with Algeria through its increasing relations with Morocco, which granted it strategic advantages in the region in exchange for recognizing its right over the Republic of Western Sahara.

Algeria's security and political threat in its region is no small matter, and it greatly affects its policies and future. Thus, Algeria faces great challenges in maintaining its firm and established principles in supporting the Palestinian cause at all levels diplomatically and humanely, preserving its strategic interests, and protecting its national security.

IV. Conclusion

What can be learned from the above discussion is that Algeria has remained steadfast in its positions of support for the Palestinian cause despite the pressures exerted by the international powers and the transfer of the Zionist threat from the Middle East to the western borders of Algeria, following the normalization of Morocco with the Zionist entity, which was the result of severing diplomatic relations between the two countries, and increasing escalation, which threatens to break out war between the two neighbours at any moment.

Algerian diplomacy proved its strength at the international level and earned the respect of many international powers for its steadfast position and open challenge to world powers. The statements of the permanent representative of Algeria to the United Nations, Ammar Ben JAMA, in the Security Council are the best proof that" despite the American veto, Algeria's determination will not tire and will not tire until the Security Council assumes its full responsibilities."

The arrangement and unification of the Palestinian, Arab and Islamic forces will give a strong impetus to the Palestinian cause and will contribute to finding a final solution to the crisis.

Algeria faces many challenges and threats posed by the international environment today, which must be met by strengthening the internal front, preserving historical and political gains, doubling strategic vigilance, fortifying its borders, and carefully studying its strategic options while diversifying its allies and strategic partners.

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