



***The outset of the editorial revolution in November 1954 amidst an article
in the French colonial Left-wing newspaper La Vérité***

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Received: 26/08/2024 Accepted: 09/10/2024

Published:12/10/2024

Abstract:

The outset of the liberation revolution on November 1st, 1954 was a sneak attack for both the French occupation forces and their authorities. In response to that, the occupation mobilized all their capacities to annihilate the revolution. Thus, the French occupation scheme in Algeria was to start an active political propaganda alongside a war. This scheme was to constitute a French printing press, distributing leaflets, issuing newspapers and poetry, all in service of France and its expansion in Algeria. Similarly through media recruited known as Right and Left-wing press to underrate the revolution and revolutionaries several articles that spoke about the Algerians' right to independence were studied through a newspaper belonging to the latter.

Keywords: Algerian Revolution, French Colonialism, left-wing press, Media, National Liberation Army.

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I. INTRODUCTION:

In November 1st, 1954, the Algerian editorial revolution began. The only source of information for the French public about the operations affecting the entire country was the statements made by the colonial authorities. This was a deliberate attempt to manipulate history and mock a press that had long failed to represent the complaints of Algerians. The French leftist press called for negotiations between the French occupation and the representatives of the Front de libération nationale (FLNKS) to work towards Algeria's independence.

Thus, the main problem can be raised as such:

- To what extent the French left-wing press has succeeded in supporting the Algerian revolution?
- To what extent has the press influenced French public opinion?

The Algerian people embraced the liberation revolution with open arms, facing colonial extermination steadfastly, patience, and resilience in the face of repression, arrests, torture detentions, prisons, methods of starvation, and slavery. Hence, supporting one of the greatest revolutions of the 20th century all due to the endless sacrifices of the faithful unwavering people (al-Assali, 1984, p. 10).

1. The outset conditions:

The six historical chiefs of the FLN took it upon themselves to outset the revolution.

While in contact with three other chiefs stationed in Cairo, to represent the revolution abroad and agreement on the conduct of the armed struggle, until the liberation of Algeria.

In an Inconspicuous manner, weapon distribution began on the 8th of October, 1954 without the colonial realization (LahsanAzghedi, 2005, p. 05).

Most of the conscious activists who demanded that the People's Revolution be set on fire for Algeria to attain independence were young people holding important positions within the Algerian People's Party for their goals of independence. Undoubtedly, these revolutionary pioneers were characterized by a spirit of utmost sacrifice. They tested the various kinds of suffering, and their bodies and minds endured various oppressive and inhumane acts. Prisons and abuses committed against them have enabled each of them to draw many lessons and acquire many experiences.

Their determination grew stronger, and they solidified their commitment, taking gradual steps toward the progressive armed struggle to overcome brutal colonialism (Yusuf, 2007, p. 201).

The alien's wrongful elimination, physical liquidation, and enmity were not considered disgraceful or a minor offense in her behavior. He explained that there had

been limited efforts to move beyond the familiar discourse on the suffering of Muslim communities. Yet, the true origin of this hostile outburst is rooted in the response to rape and humiliation (Harbi, 1994, p. 154).

After enduring such brutality and degradation, it is imperative for these individuals to wholeheartedly embrace the revolution to attain the freedom that seemed unattainable for many. Therefore, the armed struggle against colonialism was an essential step to achieve this goal.

In November, at midnight, the first bullets were fired to announce the start of the revolution aimed at achieving independence. This was followed by a statement from the Revolution Command, known as the “November 1 statement”¹, which made it clear that events had moved beyond the stage of political struggle embraced by the political parties (Mohamed El Hussein Izghedi, p. 04).

Below is the revised text:

The statement outlines the following objectives, with the primary goal being independence:

- 1) Establishment of a sovereign social democracy for the Algerian State within the framework of Islamic principles.
- 2) Respect for all fundamental freedoms without racial or religious discrimination.

The statement addressed both internal and external objectives:

- 1) To achieve political cohesion by restoring the national movement’s genuine approach and eliminating all recklessness.
- 2) To gather and organize all peaceful relations among the Algerian people to dismantle the colonial regime.

External objectives:

- Internationalizing Algeria’s case.
- Achieving North African unity (Frcos, 2005, p. 430).

1.1The eve of military operations:

On the eve of military operations, the French colonial power was weakened and had not received reliable information about the events except for a statement by the colonial authorities. The Governor-General of Algeria reported that terrorist incidents had occurred, particularly in the provinces of Constantine and in the Uras region, where gendarmes had been killed. French soldiers assured the settlers that they would work to restore security and punish those responsible.

Radio Cairo provided an accurate report of the events based on information from “Mohamed Boudiaf”. It emphasized the coordination between planned work and operations during that night (Harbi, 1994, p. 01).

The lunch included all of the country's territories, with a focus on the Aras region. Leaflets were distributed to announce the rebirth of the Algerian people through the blessed liberation revolution. The leaflets invited people from all walks of life to join the FLN and the National Liberation Army in achieving the common goal of regaining national sovereignty. France cannot ignore the Algerian people's rightful claim to live in freedom and independence, just like other newly independent nations (National Organization of Mujahideen: Regional Retrenchment of Eastern States, First National Forum for Revolutionary History: is the national movement in Algeria at an impasse? the truth, 1984).

2. The attitudes of the newspaper La Vérité during the Algerian Revolution (1954-1956):

a. Introduction to La Vérité:

La Vérité was first published in April 1930 as the official mouthpiece of a new political organization within the Communist Party, aimed at communicating with the Communist League. It ceased publication with issue No. 5/255 in October 1938.

From August 30, 1940, the French committees of the Fourth International (the Workers' Party of the United States in December 1942 and then the Communist Party of the United States in March 1944) began printing the first issue of La Vérité.

Marcel HI was responsible for it until October 1943, making La Vérité the first underground newspaper in the French press. The first copies were printed using a typewriter.

Its overall political stance is Trotskyist, advocating for the struggle against fascism, imperialism, racism and displacement promoting class conflict.

The newspaper was legalized on 22 July 1945

3. Aspects of issues and problems addressed by the newspaper "La Vérité":

a. National Movement :

In its 339th issue dated 08 July to 09 September 1954, including an article titled "Africa's Problems".

- Is Algeria's national movement at a standstill?

On the first page of the newspaper, the content of the article reads:

"French Imperialism is evident in the conflicts between repressive forces and armed groups on the Tunisian border. The threatening rhetoric towards Léonard indicates a deep unrest within the population. The Algerian regime is governed by 45,000 repressive forces. In 1945, the Algerian people gathered around the MTLD party (Movement pour la Triumphant Démocratie) led by Masali el-Haj to assert their national demands. While Tunisia and Morocco were relatively quiet, the MTLD sparked movements that resonated with Algerians and gained support in France (P.Limbert , "North African problem", no. 339"meeting in the Latin Quarter, p 02;assembly in Paris on the sign of unity).

However, the aspirations of the Algerian people for independence have not been realized. The lack of comprehensive education for Algerian children is a barrier to progress. The Algerian caucus must address these challenges before any progress can be made, including the removal of the double college system.

The project is characterized by reformist deviations and a departure from the traditions of French workers. MTL D cannot remain out of touch with the evolving events in North Africa to support Morocco's national independence, which is interconnected with the struggle against French imperialism for the socialist revolution in France.

The Algerian People's Movement poses an unsolvable problem for French imperialism, similar to Morocco and Tunisia (P. Limbert , « La salle guerre d'Afrique du Nord ». No. 344, 26/11-09/12/1954, p. 02).

b. Latin Street assembly:

On Thursday, December 9, 1954, at 20:30, the Editorial Committee of Al-Haj and Victims of Repression met with students. The event received support from Jean Cassou, Yves Dechechezelles, Louis Massighou, and Laurent Schwartz (An Appeal of a Committee to Combat Colonial Repression", No. 352, 1/14 April 1955, p. 02).

c. Solidified in Paris to sow unity:

On December 1st, around 200 people gathered for an information meeting organized by the Commission for the Amnesty of Civilians Abroad, the CDRS, and the Commission for the Liberation of Masali. Louis Massagnon led the meeting, during which live testimonies of the repression in Algeria were shared. G. Montaron, the editor of the Algiers-based "Christian Certificate", spoke about the repression, as did Mr. Renée Stibbe, who described the tortures suffered by Moulay Rabah and imprisoned MTL D activists, and Yves Dechechezelles.

Garrive's friend, representing the PCI, reaffirmed our party's principled positions on the issue in Algiers and emphasized the potential for unity to counter colonial repression (Unity Against Repression". No. 344, 26/11-09/12/1954, p. 02).

4. The Dirty war in North Africa :

On the night of 31 October to 1 November, there were attacks carried out by armed individuals and acts of sabotage, including bombings of infrastructure such as roads and overhead power lines. These incidents occurred throughout Algerian territories, from Constantine to Oran. President Mitterrand addressed the National Assembly on 12-11-1954 to report on these events.

During a National Rally discussion about the events in Algeria on 12-11-1954, Mendes France mentioned that additional security forces and military reinforcements had been sent and more were on their way. He expressed the need for stronger measures to be taken.

President Mitterrand announced as well the deployment of 16 additional mobile gendarmerie squadrons, to have a total of 20 operating within 3 days. He emphasized the confidentiality of military reinforcement movements.

Whereas On 05 November 1954, the newspaper “L’information” reported that, under M. Chevalier’s orders, military reinforcements were deployed, including 3 battalions and 5 guard units.

As for “La Vie Française” newspaper acknowledged on 14-11-1954 the reality of a war that had started, urging Maréchal Juin to conclude the situation within two to three weeks before it escalated further.

a. War in Algeria:

One crucial action is to urgently summon Governor-General Soustel and have him deliver a solemn declaration: "That there is no war in Algeria." He said.

The war has been ongoing for 14 months, and it has caused major disruptions to the economic and political life in Algeria. This has led to repercussions in France, bringing about a sense of unity. The demonstrations at Saint Séverin in Paris are well-known and they include participation from young people from Rauen, soldiers from the Cherras barracks, and Courbouvoire.

The war has made its presence felt in Algeria, with some falsely using the term “war” to imply that the adversary is unbeatable, as they hide in the mountains and are different from the local population. This armed conflict, often referred to as gang activity, has had a profound impact on the Algerian people, leading to significant changes in their lives and mindsets over 14 months. Many Algerians have adapted to the realities of war, and evidence of this is increasing. Press correspondents should refrain from implying that the gangs receive aid from the population. This assistance includes providing food, money, information, and shelter as well as helping to publish telegraph columns.

The Algerian people have been deeply affected by the war, leading to alterations in their lifestyle, behavior, and tactics.

b. The immediate withdrawal of French unity forces from Algeria:

French unity forces need to be immediately withdrawn from Algeria. Today, there are no official reports of battles in Algeria, Morocco, and Tunisia. However, it is important to remember that despite the lack of official reports, French soldiers are falling every day. Dozens of young soldiers are being used by the government in oppressive ways in Algeria. The existence of detention camps in Algeria, Morocco, and Tunisia is increasingly confirmed. There are camps for young soldiers who have protested against being sent to North Africa and objected to being used as forces of repression. For example, young soldiers who protested at the Lyon station were released, but 18 of them were charged by the Military Court under Article 24.

5. North Africa Unit:

Mr. M. Paterrot stated at the National Assembly on November 12, 1954: "Since July 31, 1954, despite the military reinforcements sent to Algeria, the rebel activities have been on the rise, with Tunisia being identified as the source of the rebel movement in Algeria. We urge the Government to clarify the circumstances surrounding the supply of weapons to these gangs that surfaced on the streets of BBSk on November 1st".

Mr. M. Quili said, "The political unity of French Morocco mocks our territorial division... The events of November first in Algeria entered the fraternal circle with Tunisia 3 years ago, and 2 years ago with Morocco, and we didn't know how to break it".

Mr. M. Fouques Duporc said, "It is inappropriate to decentralize security in our North African territory. Security should be unified, benefiting only central leaders."

"On the eve of the events in Algiers, journalist Jean Morice interviewed with Le Figaro Reporter in Tunis. Stated, 'We found ourselves in the presence of armed and organized action, with enlisted supporters and a bishop obeying political slogans.'"

Therefore, a newspaper published the ongoing issue on 04-11-1954 stating: "Military reinforcements in Africa are similar to those in India and China, preventing the restoration of peace. The reinforcement method is only necessary due to the AFN's failure, as was the case in Indochina. After two months of intense operations, Fellagha show no signs of abating. The casualties are mounting, but the large forces are still present in Algeria." In addition to Deputy Superintendent Ben Jalloul words at the Assembly who said: "Fellagha? They are everywhere ", At the same gathering, MP Fontlupt – Esperader Esperader: "There is no serious rebellion in any country, and there are no people unanimously hostile to it, think, and remember, do you believe that there is resistance in France without the complicity of the population? So we must act with the population ".

Undoubtedly, the Algerian people are opposed to French imperialism!" (Algeria, No. 343, 10-23/12/1954, p. 01)

6. Appeal to the Committee on the Struggle against Colonial Repression:

On 8th March, La Vérité published an article containing the message of an Algerian national commander from the Auras. Therefore, 350 copies of the article were confiscated in French territory.

On the other hand, the anti-colonial FCL and PCI activists decided not to respond to the summonses issued by the criminal squad. The Committee for the Struggle against Colonial Repression stood in solidarity with the two newspapers, activists, and affiliated organizations.

The government has submitted on his part an emergency bill to the fascist Legal Chamber of Deputies. The bill aims to place repressive force in the hands of the military, abolish all safeguards for government opponents, and alleviate colonial

terrorism in Algeria. In short, it seeks to establish legal bases for a new massacre in Algeria and a military dictatorship in France.

To oppose this oppressive law, all working-class organizations must unite against colonial repression, which will lead to further repression in France!

It's time to take action against unjust laws, unite the front, and mobilize the masses.

The Bureau of the Committee for the Struggle against Colonial Repression convened on March 31, 1955, with attendance recorded by the Parisian Federation of the Left Socialist Party (cantingent youth will not die tocommunicate it", No. 345, 10-23/12/1954, p. 346).

6.1 United against repression:

The news was aired in Clermont Ferrand.

Cessation of Repression!

The Cabinet met on November 5, 1954. Public servants were forced to pay zakat, which was humiliating for them. The decision was made to dissolve the MTLD Democratic Liberties Victory Movement, an Algerian workers' party. Searches, arrests, and repression occurred in both France and Algeria. Mendes France, as usual, appeared as a passionate servant of capitalism and a successor to the previous government. While some benefits were provided to French workers, Algerian workers faced death and imprisonment. This dealt a new blow to Commander Masali El Haj, a veteran of the national revolutions and former Renault worker. He has been involved in 36 struggles and was sentenced to hard labor by Petain. In 1952, he was deported to Niort, where he gained the sympathy of the population and ultimately converted into Les Sables-d'Olonne.

At the same time, the French workers rejected the oppression and fascism imposed on the Algerian people. Seeing the Algerian demands for independence and freedom as rightful claim.

Firmly stating: The working class will not accept this!

Unite with us in demanding:

- The immediate and unconditional liberation of Al-Hajj Masalli and all those imprisoned in North Africa.
- Legitimate recognition of all our organizations.
- The withdrawal of all forces in North Africa.

Let's stand in solidarity with the workers of France and North Africa (No New Indouchine War!". 345, 10-23/12/1954, p. 02).

Algeria:

“Our Motherland is engulfed in flames and bloodshed. Algeria is at great risk!” with this cry of terror, the press, under the orders of the large capital, attempted to manipulate public opinion into accepting the violent repressive actions of the government's military and police operations in Algeria. Since the reply was “Go die in Algeria then” For 20-year-olds and 18-month recruits, to defend your interests, in the three sections of Algeria.

Adding “it’s our Algeria” Algeria is not for Algerians, which is true. In 15 years, over one million Algerian citizens were systematically expelled from their land. This is while less than 25,000 Europeans from the colonial administration owned more land. These Europeans own hectares that were stolen from their rightful Algerian owners" There I say it’s ours

What do Algerians want? Despite 125 years of colonialism, Algerians simply want to live as people, not as second-class citizens, in their own country. They only want fair wages - 300 francs for a farmer for a day and 80 francs for a miner, in a country like Algeria with vast natural resources that have made it a target for exploitative capitalism. They just want to be lifted out of unemployment, and to have access to land, culture, and industry. Instead, many are forced to immigrate to France where they face racism, unemployment, and low-paid, exploitative work. They want to be masters in their land, to be free, and to have independence. But what options remain for the Algerian people to demonstrate their aspirations? None! elections? The only electoral rights they have... (Algeria, No. 343, 10-23/12/1954, p. 01)

6.2 The press release will not lead to the death of the unit's youth:

The following text presents concerns about the deployment of young French troops to Algeria and questions the government's decision to continue sending troops to what is described as a "dirty new war." There is criticism of the French government for placing elite troops in Algeria without proper equipment and weapons, and it is suggested that this may be driven by political considerations rather than genuine concern for the troops' well-being. The text also mentions the risk of alienating the population and expresses concern about young people being used to maintain a certain image or reputation, drawing a parallel with historical sacrifices made during wartime.

6.2.1. Detestable coercion:

An opinion campaign is supporting this policy. Since the end of the Vietnam War, everyone in the barracks has been hoping to revoke the 18-month law and 15-month return. The officers are completely in agreement and are saying: “The troublemakers in Algeria are holding us back. We will deal with them and then return to shorten the period of national service (Les jeunes de contingent ne mourront pas pour le communiqué , n° 345, 10-23/12/1954, p. 01)

7. No to the new Indo-China War:

Activists from various groups released a press statement in Lion condemning the repression in Algeria, focusing specifically on **the French involvement**.

However, the French interior minister, (president later on) Mr. Mitterrand, stated: Not only can the Germans dismantle the torture and execution chambers, we are capable as well. Adding, "The national demands of Algeria cannot be considered equivalent to a citizen uprising in French territory". In this case he declared: "negotiations through war is the only option", "We have decided to act with great determination and immediate suppression."

Confirming in the same statement that:" as French citizens, they do not want a new war in French territory or a new war in Indo-China"

On other hand the United Nations, and human rights agreed that France must recognize the right of the people of Algeria to act in their own interests. No defenders, CRS, or aircraft can prevent nine million men from overthrowing the colonial forces dispatched by France.

Therefore a signed agreement by Mr. Vincent Auriol on behalf of France stated:

- Everyone has the right to nationality.

- No one can be deprived of their nationality or denied the right to change their nationality.

While reminding the French about the horror of Hitler's appalling impact on France (Pas de nouvelle guerre d'Indochine ! , n° 345, 10-23/12/1954, p. 02)

II. Conclusion:

After initiating military action in November 1954, the Algerian revolutionaries understood the need for a media strategy to counter the false information spread by the colonial media and to convey the principles of the Algerian revolution both domestically and internationally.

While the French and Yemeni press continued to downplay the revolutionary efforts and the recent losses suffered by the French occupation army, leftist media outlets began shedding light on the Algerian cause and advocating for its independence.

By acknowledging this setback alongside other political and military defeats, and by recognizing the will of the Algerian people for freedom and independence, the French had to accept the rising influence of the revolutionary media.

III. References and Comments

1- One of the most prominent documents of the revolutionary texts is the blessed analysis, namely the historical manifesto of November, whose detailed phase in Algeria's history, Against the confrontation of principles and values of human, civilizational and even media dimensions, one of the most prominent of these

values that the architect of the liberation revolution has endeavored to enshrine in the first statement of historical immersion and then in the course of armed struggle. And then in the course of the armed struggle that brought the revolt to its manifestation the meanings of freedom, justice and defence human rights, The defence of human rights, in its entirety, is a noble principle on which we have forgotten the most trusted and universal declarations calling for the rejection of slavery and the entrenchment of the values of equality among human beings. He played a major role in consolidating the principles of Algerian maternity, so we had to maintain their foundations and principles in the process of maintaining national unity. As well as in the consolidation of the constants and values of the identities of the Algerian people, (Rashid Meyad Principles and deportation from November 1, 1954)

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