



## *The development of colonial local administration in the southern provinces between the two wars 1920-1939*

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### Abstract ;

*The Algerian colonial authorities enacted some laws and legislation related to the post-occupation groups in southern Algeria, which eventually gave financial and administrative autonomy to the totality of the southern regions. In fact, it came to dedicate the beginning of the project to separate southern Algeria from the rest of the other Algerian regions, as the local administration system in Algeria is one of the oldest local systems, as it can be traced back to the Ottoman era. at the beginning of the sixteenth century (1516 AD).*

*Since it set foot in the desert regions, the colonial power has tried to sever the connection, especially after colonial studies confirmed through contact between northern and southern Algeria through the exploratory campaigns that preceded the occupation process, that the southern Algerian possesses a large store of experience in the field of division and dispersal of natural resources, and to achieve this It relied on the power of its administration, displacement and marginalization, based on its legal arsenal, and thus subjected the Algerian South to a special, exceptional legal system in preparation for its separation and isolation from the northern regions .*

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## 1. introduction:

Since it set foot in the desert, the colonial powers tried to sever relations, especially after colonial studies confirmed the number of contacts between north and south Algeria through pre-occupation campaigns with large stocks in southern Algeria, a company with extensive experience in the field of separation and decentralization of natural resources and reliance on administrative power to achieve this Displaced and marginalized, on the basis of its legal arsenal, which made southern Algeria a special legal system prepared for its separation and isolation from the north(Ibrahim, 1996, pg. 77).

Through this article, we are trying to answer some questions related to this topic: Why did the colonial authorities resort to the military regime in southern Algeria at that time, what did they cancel from the northern region? Through the French conquest of the military regime in southern Algeria?

## 2. Objectives

The nature of the south and its rugged geography is difficult from the process of colonial military penetration into these areas, then the military regime has become, from the perspective of the colonial authorities, the appropriate and most appropriate model for accelerating expansion operations on the one hand, and on the other hand, this regime cuts off communication between the north and the south, especially with regard to the issue of material supplies And the humanity that the resistances in the south received from the inhabitants of the north, because the

historical experience for the French proved that the link between the north remained continuous even during the colonial expansion in Algeria.

This was confirmed and embodied by the popular resistances that took place in the north, and which established bases for them in the south. Also, the resistances that started in the south had an extension and spread in the north. This is what Rudolph repliedFriedrich Gerhard Rohlfs we find it from the words of the German traveler who visited the regions of the south, especially the Oranian South region and witnessed its events and details, as he indicates in an advice he gave to the French in order to expand the circle of occupation, as he says: First of all, the French must move their borders to the state of Wadi Saoura, from there exactly emanates all Hardships and all chaos so long as the French do not seize these natural borders, there will be no lasting calm in the south of the province of Oran. (Lyautey, 1937, p. 06).

This confirms that the problems that the colonial authority was suffering from in the northern region came from the south, which is a reference to the resistance movements that took the south as their stronghold, as a center of support and resurgence. Therefore, France realized that this connection has become a threat to colonial politics in Algeria, and has become one of the obstacles that must be removed in a systematic and regulated manner.

On the other hand, the Algerian borders with neighboring countries, especially the western ones, were a major concernAnd its support for the resistance to

implement its colonial project, through its dying of an Algerian woman, and this was manifested in the way that it took the Moroccan Fakiq region as a clear stronghold in the resistance of Sheikh Bouamama 1905-1881 was safe for her, and therefore the security situation in the Oranian south became, according to the colonial authority, very dangerous due to what was called the Moroccan chaos. (Yves Lacoste, 1984, p. 385).

The rioters penetrated us: when he said that 'Lyautey', which was expressed by General Lyautey easily, because the 1845 treaty agreed upon between Morocco and France indicates that there are no borders, and the regional media established between the two countries as long as the lands in the south were not cultivated and readable played a major role in amplifying the issue of exacerbating the deteriorating security situation in the Oranian south To take this as a way to justify military intervention in the region.

- The intensification of European rivalry in the far north of Morocco and Western Sahara, especially between France, Germany and Spain, and for fear of the transfer of the circle of competition and conflict to the Algerian Sahara, the colonial power hastened to settle the Moroccan and Saharan crisis through a diplomatic solution by holding an international conference in 1906 in Algesiras in Algieras. This came as a culmination. There are secret agreements with the countries involved in the conflict, which he called thieves' agreements (Yves Lacoste, 1984, p. 387).

At the same time, France accelerated the process of occupying the Algerian

desert and subjugating it to order in Sirte, which the army feared would be seen as an empty space, as the Marshal of Sirte said in his report to King Louis Philippe in 1845 AD: The desert must be Algeria, or in other words, the regions Located behind the mountains, a third category of administrative authorities, in this area there are no traces of the age of the centenarians, and the army does not set foot except to suppress chaos or conditions for preparation.

The colonel in Algeria refused to finance military campaigns in southern Algeria from the budget of Algeria, which had become independent from Paris since 1900, considering that to be the prerogative of the Paris government. Ducastry even considered that the Algerian south had wasted half a century for the Paris government, and squandered the huge funds that were estimated at millions. It is better to invest it in expanding France's influence in vital regions, such as Al-Aqsa Morocco, for example. This situation left behind a crisis between the political authority and the military leadership in Paris, which resulted in a kind of hesitation, even a retreat from the project of occupying the Algerian Sahara, even for a while. (Tillion André, p. 628).

In his analysis of this situation that the occupation of the region Charles André Julien (Ch.-A) believes that the Algerian south in general and the Oranian south in particular were long and difficult at the same time, and this is due to religious and geographical reasons, which are the reasons that cost the French government huge losses in lives and money, and caused a stifling political crisis And a loud media

uproar in France, where the parliament and the press called for the necessity of withdrawing the French forces from the military operations they are engaged in in order to occupy the southern Algerian desert.

Hence, the goal of establishing the desert military teams, or what was known as the warehouse, was to reduce financial expenditures and human losses in the region.

It consisted of recruits from allied tribes. The people faced by the French government, and the colonial authorities incurred, and it is divided into two units: the infantry unit, and the cavalry unit, and the first desert company was established in the Touat region in 1902.

The Makhzen forces were employed by virtue of their knowledge of the secrets of the desert and its difficult geography in pursuing the men of the resistance, which were taking from an area and organizing their ranks, and the task that was assigned to the south as a stronghold and a safe haven to compile lists of these paramilitary teams is no different from the task of the Arab affairs offices *Bureaux des Affaires Arabes* and the role of the Goums people teams.

In fact, in the eyes of the French government in Paris, the Algerian Sahara represents not only the economic reserve, but also a security center and a strategic location that can secure its presence across the continent and along its coasts, especially Africans. Then it tried to pass some laws to isolate it from the rest of Algeria, special legislation that makes it a special territory. For France Marshal Sirte confirmed this.

### 3. Southern Algeria in the French legal system (Tillion André, p. 629)

The law of August 14, 1902 determined the military legal status of the southern region of Algeria, and its budget was determined by a law issued on December 30, 1903, in which local resources were spent through the needs of the civilian population and the costs of the military occupation fell on the shoulders of the Paris government.

Indeed, up until this point, these laws were content with creating new organizations rather than creating political entities.

Rather, it contented itself with creating a new organization that states that the lands of the south are an integral part of Algeria, of the administrative type, after being recognized in content and therefore part of France, meaning that France's intentions to separate the south from Algeria have not yet been clarified. (Lehuraux, 1937, p. 171).

This method was approved on 12/23/1901 a draft resolution stipulating that the Council calls on the government to study the project of administrative and financial organization of southern Algeria.

It should be noted that the colonial authorities kept Arab taxes in all their forms in southern Algeria at a time when they were abolished by the Decree of December 01, 1918 in the northern regions.

Because the aim of the French Parliament's approval of the establishment of an administrative unit called the Algerian South was for financial considerations, as the Parliament expressed its desire to see the expenses of occupying the lands of the Algerian South, limited to

what is very necessary, and among the means leading to this result is a method referred to by the Budget Committee in General Council 1902, are local taxes.

And the decree of August 04, 1904 came to set the administrative structure and form for these regions, which was supported by the decree of August 14, 1905 that clarified the administrative and military organization of the southern regions, which are coping with their security nature that did not reach its end. (Bidjawi, 1961, p. 353).

However, the actual embodiment of the military-administrative division It was delayed until August 05, 1920. In this way, the population in the south of Algeria was punished by law, and the people were the Indjina law and the military rule law.

Accordingly, the Algerian south was divided into four regions, namely: the military region of Ain Sefra,

Its administrative seat is Ain As-Safra, the military region of Ghardaia with its administrative seat is Laghouat, the military region of Toqourt with its administrative seat of Toqourt, the military region of Al-Wahat with its administrative seat of Ouargla. appointed at the head of all, Annexes and Cercles annexes, one of which was a commander in chief with the rank of major, and each region was divided into districts and each annex was divided into military centers run by a military officer. and attached to Twat "Tamimon" (L Algérie et Sahara, Encyclopédie de l'Empire Français, T II, 1946, p. 283).

The military region of Touggourt included the center of Awlad Jalal and its annexes of Biskra, Touggourt and Oued Souf.

On January 11, 1929, a decree was issued that included a new amendment regarding the administrative division

For the regions of the south of Algeria, especially Article 3 of it, where it indicated that the military region of Ain As-Safra became composed, according to this amendment, of the annexes of Meshreya, Al-Beidh, Al-Ain Al-Safra to which the center of Beni Ounif belongs, and the annex of Bechar, in addition to the district of Western Sahara, which is located in Beni Abbas, which includes all of the annexes: Tawat, Qourara with the Tamimoun Center, and the annex whose headquarters is Saura.

This amendment, as stated in Article 2 of the decree, came after France was able to extend its full control over all the provinces of the Oran South, and worked to organize it according to what serves its interests by preparing decrees and decisions. (Lehuraux, 1937, p. 172).

The French occupation authorities intervened with all their powers and capabilities to change the Algerian administrative system, especially the local administration, as it has a direct relationship with the lives of citizens.

The administrative apparatus in Algeria has turned into a real war machine that destroys the lives of citizens and robs them of their means of subsistence day after day through the exercise of strict legal powers through the domination of the bureaucratic lung and its control over the destinies and interests of people to the extent that it considered itself the sponsor of the state, and a tool to maintain its security and continuity and preserve Its secrets, and it did not accept any

competition from any party that would take this role away from it, and it did not accept any criticism or observations related to the set of interests and privileges offered by administrative work, and this situation created a real struggle between the indigenous people and the settlers, and despite the attempts of change and improvement made by the colonial authorities, it was unable to gain the confidence of Algerians by increasing the volume of services and adapting to the changes accompanying the revolution.

At this stage, control was assigned to executives, those who take advantage of the lack of political power to expand their circle of privilege and fame, and this situation continued until it was replaced by the laws issued on February 06, 1919, where it was allowed that every village with a population of more than one hundred residents be elected by a representative, provided that the number of Algerian deputies does not exceed twelve, regardless of the importance of population density.

This weakens the Algerian membership, especially when it comes to voting, and for the interests of the Europeans to prevail at all times. Mixed decisions are issued related to the daily lives of the people. The matter depends on determining the number of Algerian members, but by buying and they are loyal to the occupation authorities. (Le Journal Officiel de l'Algérie, Du)

Some colonists in the 1840s talked about the difficulty of the civil administration in Algeria, which numbered one hundred and ten thousand Europeans, and noted that it is more difficult than the army administration and the Arab

administration, as it does not show more leniency towards the employees, and the work seems more arduous, and this administration has entered into conflict with those who tried to limit its power in the form of laws, decrees and decisions of justice, and it does only the minimum towards the conduct of its field of specialization while it is practical for

For the interests of her league, and despite that, the goal of the occupation administration was to bring the level of administration in Algeria closer to that of the metropole.

One of its goals was to manage and control the people in the first stage, and in the second stage to rule and manage the people, and in the third stage, influenced by the success of Emir Abdul Qadir as a civilian, it tried to find a management model that would live up to local customs, and this is what necessitated resorting to traditional leaders such as "Al-Khalira," "Al-Bashagha" and "Al-Qayed", whose authority is confirmed and their sources are guaranteed. (Saad Allah, 2009, p. 19).

Accelerated because based on it called (Bugeaud) considers that in a country coexisting with others it is headed by a paramilitary administration and a civil administration, so it is necessary to expedite the formation of Arab offices headed by a prominent officer.

It was noticed later that the officials in the Arab office are interested in that three things: liters, horses, and women, and there is another kind of true knowledge about her personality, so she is interested in the people's language, traditions, and all those things.

However, these offices quickly declined due to weak defense systems that led to the killing of some leaders of the local government, and the persecution of the people by the government in 1859 through the head of the Algerian Court of Appeal: No justice, persecution and harassment issued by the Arab bureaucracy, one direction of the people angered them, and this is what It pushed them to suppress them with weapons. This accusation also caused unrest in the tribal areas, which also witnessed unrest, as the wave against the army that spread in Algeria was not understood after that, which paved the way for the collapse of the administrative system of the local administration. (Claude, 1987, p. 45).

It is nothing more than a tool in the hands of elected officials and they use it in the name of the public interest as a tool to achieve their goals and ambitions. Therefore, it is not surprising that these municipalities work through the public policy system, whether at the level of the local administrative level or the central agency, in line with the exercise of coercive power to carry People to obey the law to be implemented locally, whenever possible against such minimum force.

So, the first beneficiary of this amendment is colonialism, which placed barriers that prevent individuals from realizing their desires and aspirations (Treyer, 1966, p. 78).

Hence, we find that the political pressure exerted by colonialism falls on all levels of the administrative hierarchy, whether it is on the scale of the central departments, or the municipalities remote from the capital, and this is with the

intention of imposing hegemony in order to control the members of society, through strict laws, so the reform was The second is in her favor, and she rejects it if it harms her interests.

The formation of the Joint Commission for the Exploitation of the Saharan Regions as an economic organization was placed in a federal perspective for the French state, as approved by the Constitution of the Fifth Republic. The aim was to achieve the final separation of the Algerian south from the motherland of Algeria, and to embody economic development for the inhabitants of the south, given that they form with the African Sahel countries a coherent territorial unit. Thus, there is no relationship with the north and south of Algeria, and the countries bordering the south of Algeria have more right to its resources and wealth (Treyer, 1966, p. 83).

#### **4. management characteristics in the south**

From the legal arsenal distributed by the colonial authorities in administering the south legally, the southern region of Algeria became a private colony with administrative and financial autonomy. With this independence it is entitled to own public property and to grant concessions directly subject to the powers of the railway governor (Bulletin de Liaison Saharienne, Nouvelles Sahariennes-, Tome12, N°41, mars 1961, p. 83).

It is only about Algeria, as the supreme chief executive of the south. He also supervises the preparation of the draft budget for the southern military region, which is submitted to the Board of Directors of the General Judiciary, where

there are interests, which are to administer the south, and the budget is implemented by decision after submitting it to the Minister of Interior.

Therefore, it can be said that the administrative organization in the southern region represents a private third party, and it differs from the civil administration in northern Algeria and from the system of protection imposed by French colonialism in neighboring countries (Tunisia and Morocco) with a military system embodied in southern Algeria from the French government and the local government (Yazid, p. 75).



## 5. Conclusion

As it approached the Sahara, the colonial rulers sought to sever ties, especially the pre-occupation campaign with large stocks in southern Algeria, a company whose colonial studies had extensive experience in this field.

After ascertaining the number of contacts between north and south Algeria through separation and decentralization of natural resources, and relying on the administrative authority to achieve this, expelled and marginalized according to its legal means, the south made Algeria a special legal system prepared for separation and isolation from the north.

The nature of the south and its rugged geography made the process of colonial conquest of these areas difficult, and from the point of view of the colonial authorities, the military government had no right to accelerate expansion in the region, and it became the most appropriate model on the one hand, and on the other hand, this system cuts off communication between the north and the south

Especially with regard to the issue of supplies and humanity that the southern resistance received from the inhabitants of the north, as the French witnessed the continuation of relations with the north even during the colonial expansion of Algeria.

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