

The French Third Republic and its Administrative and Economic Methods in Algeria 1870-1900

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Abstract:

This topic deals with an important issue in the history of contemporary Algeria, this period that was characterized by the French colonial policy related to the economic, social and political aspects, trying to dismantle Algerian society, through the application of many arbitrary and unjust laws in all areas, in addition to encouraging and supporting the settlement policy by restricting Algerians and forcing them to leave their property in favor of foreign settlers, and this was done through the issuance of various and diverse laws and decisions, especially during the era of the Third French Republic, the focus of our study.

Key words: policy, French, social, economic, administration, laws..

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INTRODUCTION

From the very beginning of the occupation of Algeria, France realized that its continued presence in the country was primarily linked to the success of the settlement process. To achieve this goal, France adopted various policies that encompassed different political, economic, and social aspects. Therefore, the French colonial authorities, both civil and military, worked to seize lands and dispossess Algerians by all means and methods.

The French colonial administration also sought to enact a series of exceptional punitive laws and impose them on the Algerians, which came to be known as the Indigenous Code, thereby codifying punitive measures and enforcing them on Algerian society. The French colonial authorities, since their occupation of Algeria, have sought to place collective responsibility on the Algerians for any uprising or resistance, whether collective or individual, considering it a crime that affects the public interest.

Therefore, the French administration initiated the establishment of a local administration to control the Algerians, which encompassed all aspects of life, through decrees, legislations, and laws that covered all fields. Consequently, the French authorities, especially during the Third French Republic and the establishment of civilian rule instead of military rule, enacted exceptional laws, particularly the Indigenous Code, as well as specific legislations related to the Real Estate Ownership Law. From this, the fundamental issue can be raised: To what extent did France succeed in achieving its social and economic goals in Algeria, and what were their repercussions on Algerian society from 1870 to 1900?

Through this issue, the following questions can be raised:

What are the French authorities' policies in the social aspect?
- Did the Family Law succeed in achieving its intended goals?
Did the French legislation succeed in the economic aspect and achieve its goals?

Did the Third French Republic achieve goals that the Second Empire failed to accomplish?

- What are the repercussions of these policies on Algerian society?

As for the methodology adopted in this study, it is the descriptive analytical method, in addition to relying on the comparative method to compare colonial policies in the social and economic fields.

1. Civil rule in Algeria: Civil rule in Algeria:

The French colonization, since its occupation of Algerian territory, worked on tightening control and extending its complete influence, whether through military rule that lasted nearly forty years (1830-1870) or under civil rule, which began with the fall of the Second Empire and the start of the Third French Republic in the summer of 1870. Once the French authorities settled in Algeria, they began recruiting their researchers, writers, and experts to study. Various issues related to Algerian affairs, including customs, traditions, and the lifestyles of the population in their different geographical regions, with attention to administrative, social, and economic history. The purpose behind this is to provide the colonial administration with laws through which it can tighten its grip on the Algerians. Additionally, the French attempted to extend their influence through military force and to establish numerous administrative structures to manage the affairs of the locals. (Gharbi, pages 210-213) .

The special laws issued by the French authorities, in a random and unstudied manner, served the needs of the French policy in place and the demands of French interests by enacting exceptional legislations that paved the way for inhumane practices of repression, persecution, and plunder against the Algerians. And thus, the focus at the beginning of this study was on the Indigenous Code as one of the harshest laws imposed on the inhabitants of Algeria during the period of the French Third Republic, and it was necessary to first address the background of this law.

2.1 Conditions for the establishment of the civil system in Algeria:

With the end of military rule in Algeria and the weakening of French authority represented by the Third Empire under pressure from European settlers, they attempted to appease them by issuing a decree on May 31, 1870, which liberated the heads of the three provinces in Algeria from the restrictions imposed on them by the military authorities (Bouhouch, 2015, p. 141). This marked the beginning of military rule and the beginning of civilian rule with the establishment of the Third French Republic. According to this decree, the three provinces in Algeria (Constantine, Oran, Algiers) thus gained complete independence without military control over them. For more details, see (Miyassi, 2007, page 127).

3.1 The French Third Republic:

After the French defeat against Prussia and the fall of the Second French Empire led by Napoleon III, chaos and unrest spread throughout France. As a result, a coup took place in Paris, leading to the establishment of the French Third Republic with leftist leanings in September 1870. Conversely, In Algeria, the response to the resistances was severe and spread throughout the country. Like the resistance of Sheikh El Mokrani and El Haddad, the French authorities responded to these uprisings and resistances with the most brutal methods and means, making them the dominant force controlling the entire national territory at that time, committing crimes against humanity. In return, they granted significant privileges to settlers from all over the European continent, aiming to create an alternative European society with a lifestyle different from the original Algerian society. To achieve this goal, the French authorities, during their war with Prussia, forcibly relocated large numbers of families residing in the cities of Alsace and Lorraine to Algeria, fearing their allegiance to Germany, and granted them land for free in exchange for their forced settlement in Algeria. (Allah, 2013, pages 29-30).

The French settlers welcomed the fall of the Second French Empire greatly, as they believed it constituted a significant obstacle to achieving their goals and ambitions. Additionally, it allowed for the removal of military influence and the establishment of a civilian system based on constitutional institutions, which granted them considerable power.

Meanwhile, the settlers considered Algeria a French colony, and the declaration of September 4th was seen as a victory for the settlers because it freed them from the Arab Kingdom project (Bouaziz, 2015, page 27) and encouraged the settlement policy. In these circumstances, Adolphe Crémieux was appointed as the Minister of the Interior in the National Defense Government. He issued a series of decisions that granted extensive powers to the settlers and abolished military authority based on the decrees issued on October 24, 1870. Between the years 1871-1882, 374,286 hectares, valued at 43 million French francs, were granted for settlement free of charge. The French colonial administration established no less than 197 settlement villages. From 1881 to 1890, 176,000 hectares were distributed in 3,206 shares, most of them for free (Ageron, 1882, p. 87).

On 24/12/1870, a decree was issued to abolish the military zones and gradually transfer them to civilian authority, which left the field open for colonizers to control these areas and extend their influence after the military authority was abolished. In the context of the decisions and decrees that supported the influence of these settlers, the Arab offices were abolished by the Republican government and transformed into the Native Affairs offices, also known as the Sons of the Country. From here, a new picture emerged in The French regime during that period, especially in Algeria, effectively began the rule of the civil system in Algeria, leading to the suffering of the Algerian people on all political, social, and economic levels.

Colonial practices began with all their brutality: extermination, displacement, land confiscation, and the imposition of unjust

exceptional laws against the people of Algeria. (Ageron, C., 2007, p. 242).

1.2 Overview of the laws preceding the Indigenous Code:

Since the beginning of the Third French Republic's rule in Algeria, it worked to encourage the settlement process through various means and methods, providing material incentives to raise the living standards of the settlers by offering most of the health, commercial, educational, and other public facilities.

2.2 Decrees and laws related to the protection of settlers:

The French Third Republic, from its early beginnings, worked on enacting a legal arsenal aimed at expanding the settlement process in Algeria. Thus, it adopted a specific policy by preparing parliamentary representation for the settlers in the National Assembly and establishing regional councils, advisory councils, and an administration that reflected their specific ambitions. Meanwhile, the Algerian population was disregarded and not taken into account. In contrast, a political system was created that aligned with the settlers' requirements, granting them sovereignty and leadership in governance matters. They monopolized all rights, seized all resources, occupied most public positions, and held free professions. The French colonial administration aimed to achieve two main objectives through this policy: the first was to suppress the Algerian resistance, And the reinforcement of French settlement in Algeria, after the French administration became convinced that its presence in Algeria was linked to the latter's ability to bring in a large number of French settlers and enable them to penetrate Algerian territory (A. Bleu, 1894, p. 91).

3.2 The Decrees:

From the very first moment of the French occupation of Algeria, the colonial authorities realized that their presence in this land was primarily dependent on expanding the settlement process. This would

enable them to provide land for the settlers and also dismantle the Algerian society. To achieve this.

There had to be a means to justify this action, so decrees and laws came to cover up these heinous colonial practices and grant France the right to own Algerian lands on the basis that they were all vacant and also that it had the right to do so since it was the successor to the Beylik. When France occupied Algeria, it legally became its property as it was the sovereign of this land.

About 36 decrees related to Algeria and its annexation to France were issued in 1870, which also solidified the transfer of power from military officers to the hands of French and European settlers. We will briefly touch upon some of these decrees.

. Decree of October 4, 1870:

This decree included the allocation of 6 seats for settlers in the French Parliament, as it was in 1848 when representation was only 4 seats. Thus, the political representation of European settlers in France was strengthened. And the decree of October 24, 1870, which established the position of Civil Governor General, who subsequently controlled three provinces in Algeria and corresponded with the ministers of France rather than the Ministry of War as was previously practiced.

- Decree of October 24, 1870:

This is the decree known as the Cremieux Decree, which allowed Jews to obtain French citizenship and enjoy all the privileges and rights granted by law to French nationals without having to abandon their religion or civil rights.

-Decree of December 24, 1870:

It is one of the important decrees for the settlers because it enables European settlers to expand their influence into areas inhabited by Algerian Muslims, which are managed by certain Algerian figures under French authorities, as well as the abolition of Arab offices in areas under civilian rule.

In summary, these decrees issued by France were aimed at fulfilling the desires and ambitions of the French and European settlers, which

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included strengthening the foreign element in Algeria, whether Jewish or Christian, to ensure the rapid and effective implementation of the assimilation policy, and to eliminate the Arab offices that often worked for the benefit of the French military institution in Algeria during that period. By the end of November 1870, the newspaper "Mustaqbal al-Jaza'iri," which was published in Oran, accused the Arab office men of inciting Algerians to revolt and being traitors working against the French national interest (Robert Ageron, 1966, p. 24-25). 24.25)) It also becomes clear that the settlers tried with all their might to impose their dominance so that Algeria would remain under their control and they could manage it as they wished according to a specific policy they adopted, which was as follows:

- the appropriation of Algerians' lands and the plundering of its resources, exploiting the popular revolutions during that period that rejected the French occupation in Algeria, the most prominent of which were the revolts of Sheikh El Mokrani, Sheikh El Haddad, and others.

- Exploiting the lands of Algerians and plundering their resources, taking advantage of the popular revolutions during that period that rejected French colonialism in Algeria, most notably the revolts of Sheikh El Mokrani, Sheikh El Haddad, and others.

Granting citizenship to all Europeans, whether they are Jews, born in Algeria, or brought from other European countries.

Enjoying parliamentary representation to protect their acquired interests while depriving Algerians of the most basic political and civil rights.

. 4.2 Laws:

The issue of enacting the legal arsenal and French legislation during the colonial period in Algeria was considered one of the most systematic, adopted, and dangerous policies at that time for Algerian society, due to the severe consequences it had on the structure of Algerian society. These laws were moving in a direction that served

the French public interest and the private interest of the colonizers, and this was more evident during the Third French Republic, when the rulers of that period wanted to expand the settlement process in Algeria to protect their presence and stability. Among the most important of these laws that preceded the Indigenous Code, we will attempt to mention only a few, as required by this study.

The General Seizure Law: This law, issued on June 21, 1871, came at a favorable time for the French colonial authorities, as they found in Algerian territories the best means to achieve some of their goals. They made the confiscation of the lands of the rebellious tribes a weapon to suppress the peasants' revolts. Therefore, we find them taking advantage of the opportunity presented by the revolts of Sheikh El Mokrani and El Haddad to impose the harshest punishments on the tribes participating in these revolts and to inflict material and moral damage on them, due to their understanding of the Algerian people's deep attachment to their land, their homeland. The General Seizure Law: This law, issued on 21/6/1871, came at a favorable time for the French colonial authorities, as they found in Algerian territories the best means to achieve some of their goals. They made the confiscation of the lands of the rebellious tribes a weapon to suppress the peasants' revolts. Therefore, we find them taking advantage of the opportunity presented by the uprising of Sheikh El Mokrani and El Haddad to impose the harshest punishments on the tribes participating in these revolts and to inflict material and moral damage on them, due to their understanding of the Algerian people's deep attachment to their land, their homeland. Among the measures taken by the colonial administration to suppress the locals following the Makrani Revolt, we find that it confiscated the lands of the tribes participating in the Makrani Revolt.

Approximately 550,000 hectares were confiscated under this law, and the locals paid a war tax amounting to 36,582,298 francs. If we add the amounts paid by the locals to reclaim their lands that were seized, the total reaches 64,739,075 francs (Louis Rinn, 1891, page 649),

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which is equivalent to 70 percent of their capital. The French historian Ageron also commented on this policy, stating that the expropriation of properties was not a military suppression tool; it was the first political act of the colonizers' victory. (Charles Robert Ageron, 1972, p. 228) Thus, the French colonial administration found a solution to the problem of settlers from the Alsace and Lorraine regions by granting them lands from the rebellious tribes following the sequestration law, which stipulated granting them about 100,000 hectares of the most fertile Algerian lands, with the state committing to cover all the costs of their relocation from those regions to Algeria. (Saleh, 2014, page 156).

-Warani Law, July 26, 1873:

This law is considered one of the important laws enacted during the Third French Republic due to its intended objectives. This is confirmed by the report of Orani himself, who clarified in its legal content that it aimed to achieve two goals: the first was to enable Algeria to regain its old productive capacity through a property base, and the second was to put an end to the injustice in land distribution between the current residents and those who might come through French or European immigration. The government was thus required by the National Assembly to establish private or individual ownership. However, the ultimate goal behind this law was to Frenchify Algerian land, which meant subjecting all real estate transactions to the authority of French law, considered the most significant innovation brought by this law compared to previous laws (Narcisse, 1889, pages 631-638) This law is a complementary and supplementary law to a series of laws, all supporting the idea of confiscating land from the hands of Algerians, the most important of which are:

-October 1844 Decree:

This is a decree concerning endowments and properties whose ownership has not been established by a clear and explicit contract and registered in the French real estate authorities, making them part

of French state property. Individuals who do not comply with this directive are considered neglectful, and thus the French state has the right to seize them. And also the July 1846 decree, which pertains to the confiscation of uncultivated lands and crown lands that their owners abandoned, regardless of the reasons that led to this. (DARESTE, pp. 182-183-225.223).

3.The implications of these laws in Algeria:

The French colonial policy, from the very beginning of the occupation of Algeria, was based on oppressive policies that encompassed various aspects. The French administration focused on the issues of the natives and the land, particularly the administrative and economic aspects. The goal behind this was to grant settlers extensive privileges to control the land, either through brute force or through twisted and cunning laws, which often aimed at exterminating tribes, displacing them from their land, and fragmenting the social structure of Algerian society, which was primarily based on tribes and clans. These actions intensified especially during the period of the Third French Republic, which saw a barrage of laws all serving the general interest of France and the private interest of the settlers.

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These laws and decrees gave a legal character to all practices and plans, which were mostly aimed at expanding the settlement

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movement in Algeria. A study of most French laws, especially those issued during the period of the Third French Republic, from the law of June 16, 1851, followed by the Senatus Consultum of 1863, the Warani Law, the Indigenous Law, which we are currently studying, and the law of 1897, all served the general interest of France and the interest of the settlers in particular. Beginning with parliamentary representation in the French National Assembly, which extended their influence, power, and control, and the control over the fertile lands of the crown and agricultural areas that these laws produced, leading to an increase in their trade and the development of their living conditions. These laws and oppressive measures enabled the settlers to acquire vast lands granted to them by the colonial authorities or by purchasing them at low prices. Consequently, the areas owned by Algerians decreased by approximately 45% of the total ownership, amounting to 9,225,000 hectares (Amiraoui, D.T., p. 55). Thus, from the perspective of economic settlement policy, the French occupation caused a rupture in the development of Algerian society concerning land systems and real estate transactions, thereby destroying the traditional social structure of Algerian society, which was the settlers' main objective.

On Algerian society:

Most of these laws implemented by France in Algeria served its own interests and were never in the interest of the Algerian population since the colonization of Algerian land. A researcher in historical and legal studies, especially during the period of the French Third Republic and its policies in Algeria, can clearly see that these laws served colonial interests despite the unfounded claims that they were meant to serve both settlers and natives and to establish justice. We will take the example of the law of July 26, 1873, to illustrate the consequences that ensued. The Algerians were the ones who suffered, as it was nothing more than a new tool of oppression leading to further loss of their lands. This is confirmed by the French themselves,

including the French writer Goinard, who stated that the French law had shattered communal ownership (Goinard, 1984, p. 153). Despite the fact that the man was neither an opponent nor an adversary of colonialism in Algeria, this was echoed in discussions about the 1873 Warnier Law. Historian Augustin Bernard expressed the state of misery and suffering that Algerian farmers endured due to the implementation of this law, saying: "After a few years of applying this system, it became clear that it must be put to an end because it threatens to ignite a massive revolution among the farmers (Al-Ashraf, 1983, p. 73) The 1873 law is considered one of the French laws that had dire consequences for the people of Algeria. By abolishing the right of preemption, it led Algerians to beg and become homeless, as depriving them of their land meant depriving them of their livelihood. However, the most dangerous consequence of this law, which was against the Algerian natives, was the opportunity it provided to speculators, colonists, settlers, and colonial administration employees, and engineers and other French officials, in addition to a group of Jewish usurers, exploited the state of misery that most Algerians found themselves in to seize fertile lands through deceitful and dishonorable means, for small amounts of money or in exchange for loans with interest rates reaching 50%. This led to disputes between settlers and Algerians over these transactions, and in the end, Algerians left the courts with nothing—no land and no money. This is a brief summary of what the Algerians suffered due to these unjust laws, which resulted in several popular uprisings against these French colonial policies. (Sari, 1975, page 45).

4. The Law of the Natives:

The Native Code: The French colonial administration enacted a series of legislations in the form of a law presented to the French parliament, following pressure exerted by deputies representing settlers and defending their interests in Algeria, pleading with flimsy arguments such as the lack of security and the increasing pace of disturbances,

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especially in rural areas, as well as assassinations and arson in the forests.

The state of exception, or the Indigenous Code, formed the legislative framework upon which the colonial authority in Algeria relied to deal with what they described as French Muslim subjects in the colony under the pretext of security and stability. Algerians lived under this unprecedented exceptional legal measure in a state of persecution, terror, arrest, and imprisonment. Through it, the lives of the Algerian population were transformed into a significant siege, armed with a bundle of exceptional legal provisions (Zaqab, 2015, p. 177).

1.4 The Concept of the Indigenous Code and Its Types:

The indigenous law was linked to the development of colonial legislation; it is a set of exceptional laws imposed on the Algerian natives from the beginning of the French occupation of Algeria in 1830. The 1871 uprising led by Sheikh El Mokrani was merely a pretext exploited by the French colonial authorities to enact a series of legislations in a comprehensive law known as the indigenous law. In other words, it is a series of harsh and arbitrary punishments against the Algerian population that have no connection to the general law, used by the colonial administration for control and domination. The Indigenous Code, or what is known as the "Indigena" Code, was issued on June 28, 1881. Legally, it can be defined as a set of punitive measures unrelated to the general law applied to the French. This code initially specified 41 offenses for Algerians, which were later reduced to 21 offenses and reached their final form in December 1897. (Ageron, 2000, p. 8.10).

2.4 The Special and Legal Concept of the Indigenous Code:

There are many concepts of the native law, and they can be challenged at certain points. The law was formed from a set of penalties not included in the general law, such as fines, administrative arrests, and the confiscation of individual properties of Algerians. This law was

also considered a license for administrators and military personnel (Bouaziz Y., 2009, p. 48).

2.4 Justifications for the Adoption of the Indigenous Code:

The French colonial authority considered Algerian land and the Algerian people merely as property that it had seized through occupation and colonization. Therefore, it was impossible to demand rights and equality with Europeans of different races. Since they were subjugated, they had to submit to the occupation's laws, regardless of their nature. From the beginning of France's occupation of Algeria, exceptional laws began to emerge on the Algerian scene, but the official codification occurred during the Third French Republic in 1870, with the Indigenous Code being the first title of these exceptional French laws. (Zaqab, 2015, page 178).

The colonizers took control by implementing the Native Code, which imposed a civil system that granted them extensive powers. However, the issue of the natives continued to trouble the colonizers and the French colonial authorities because they were certain that the native element could not be integrated into the French colonial system, and there was a significant gap between the colonizers and the indigenous people in terms of customs, traditions, and cultural heritage. And to protect themselves from this element that is not amenable to integration, they thought of restricting it by issuing a package of exceptional laws that threaten the interests of the colonizers who exploit its resources and wealth. Vignon also expressed his supportive stance on the Native Code in his book "France in Algeria," which, through the context of his words, attempts to justify resorting to the adoption of a special law for the Arab natives in Algeria. He stated that in the context of replacing the military system with the civil system, the colonizers feared that ordinary law would become the norm for the Arabs, which would strip the state of all legal protection. Therefore, the Native Code was issued to provide the administration with an exceptional means of repression.

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Olivier Picard also described the Native Code as a legal monster, which primarily sought to maintain French control over public life at all times by subjecting Arabs to very special treatment, "confirming that this group must always remain on the margins." Because it threatens stability (Granmezon, 2007, pages 314-315).

3.4 Forms of the Law of the Natives:

3.4 Forms of the Municipal Law: The Authority of Administrative Governors: Administrative officials considered the repressive authority in mixed municipalities after the Governor General granted all powers to exercise repressive and punitive authority against Algerians. Authority of the administrative governors: The administrative officials considered the repressive authority in the mixed municipalities after the governor general granted all powers to exercise repressive and punitive authority against the Algerians. And this oppression continued despite its abolition in 1928.

The arbitrariness continued despite its abolition in 1928. The authority of the conciliatory judges: municipalities with full powers were granted this authority, where most of the powers were returned to the conciliatory judge, who was considered the primary responsible in these municipalities. The authority of the peace judges: The municipalities with full powers were granted this authority, where most of the powers were returned to the peace judge, who is considered the primary responsible in these municipalities.

The authority of the peace judges: Municipalities with full powers were granted this authority, where most of the powers were returned to the peace judge, who was considered the primary official in these municipalities. The authority of the courts: This authority was exclusively for Algerians and was established following a decree issued on March 29, 1902, where it was spread in the form of judicial districts. Judicial authority: This authority was related only to Algerians and was established following a decree issued on March 29, 1902, where it was spread in the form of judicial circles.

Judicial authority: This authority was related only to Algerians and was established following a decree issued on March 29, 1902, and was spread in the form of judicial circles. General governor's authority: The general governor was granted wide-ranging powers. The authority of the Governor-General: The Governor-General was granted extensive powers, which included. The authority to detain in prisons, the authority to place under strict surveillance, the authority to impose collective financial penalties. (Rober., 1899, pages 500-600), this law defined many offenses, including administrative detention, which the French administration considered a necessity for punishing Algerians. It was categorized as an offense and did not rise to the level of a felony or misdemeanor, according to the French administration at that time. Additionally, there were confiscations and other arbitrary practices (Emile L., 1920, page 43).

In summary, the repressive and arbitrary measures introduced by the Native Code were a reaction from the colonial administration, particularly in response to the Algerians' insistence on confrontation and resistance against the French occupation of Algeria, starting from popular resistances to the national movement and the liberation revolution.

5. The French colonial economic policy in Algeria (Law of February 16, 1897, as a model):

1.5 Law of February 16, 1897:

After the French government confirmed the failure of the previous laws, which were mentioned earlier, in solving the real estate issue in Algeria at that time, it decided to form a committee tasked with finding reforms to be introduced into the real estate system in Algeria. However, this committee did not present new proposals but made some amendments to the existing real estate legislation. It was followed by another committee formed in 1892 for the same purpose, chaired by John Ferry. The most important proposal it presented referred the land registry system to Algeria, which had succeeded in Germany, Australia, and Tunisia (L. Emile 1911, 107). Emile 1911,

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107) Franck Chauveau took on the task of preparing a project, and on March 29, 1893, the French government viewed the project as a serious reform regarding real estate ownership, but it required a long time. However, the situation demanded urgent solutions. Therefore, on June 8, 1893, Franck presented a simpler project than the first one, which was approved by the Senate on February 21, 1894, and was actually issued on February 16, 1897 (Maurice 1900, 454).

2.5 Its content:

The law of February 16, 1897 That law did not bring about a legislative revolution in France, especially concerning Algeria; rather, it merely introduced some deficiencies and amendments that were present in the previous laws of 1873 and 1887 and attempted to address them. This law consists of 18 articles, and we can briefly touch on some points of this law. The first article of this law included the repeal of all general and partial procedures established by the second and third chapters of the law of July 26, 1873, and the law of April 28, 1887, related to private property and the establishment of individual ownership. The aim behind this was to preserve the interests of settlement, as it allowed for the maintenance of some exceptions addressed by the 1873 and 1887 laws until the issuance of property contracts. The French parliament also authorized the Algerian authorities to conduct general investigations in exceptional cases for the sake of public interest (Démontés, 1926, 337).

3.5 Its results:

Some French writings see that the law of February 16, 1897, came to achieve two main objectives, or in other words, it came to reconcile two conflicting interests: the interest of the locals and the interest of the settlers at the same time. The interest of the settlers, which was not considered by the Consulat Law of 1863, and the interest of the locals, which was not considered by the 1873 Law. In other words, it came to take the positive aspects of the previous laws.

- The 1897 law did not bring anything new for the benefit of the farmers; rather, it increased the process of stripping them of their lands. This is evident from the letter sent by the group of the Sahari tribe to the Director of the Domain in Oran, in which they complain about the arbitrary measures resulting from the application of this law. The 1897 law dealt a final blow to the system of crown land ownership, as this system, which relied on the necessity of separating land ownership from possession, was altered by the 1897 law, allowing farmers to lease crown lands, use them as collateral, or sell them (Ageron 2007, 249).

6. Conclusion:

In conclusion, this study shows that the French occupation of Algeria, since the moment they set foot on this blessed land, devised several plans that outlined various policies, whether relying on administrative methods or economic means. To implement these plans, a legal arsenal was necessary to grant them legitimacy.

Thus, ensuring the protection of its presence in Algeria required colonization, which meant granting extensive privileges and influence to the settlers in order to stabilize in Algeria and consequently extend the duration of the occupation as much as possible. Therefore, there was a rush to provide economic laws and laws related to personal and social matters, all of which were against the Algerians and never served them. Consequently, the Algerian people stood as a formidable barrier against all these plans from the beginning of the occupation until independence was achieved.

Despite the differences in the policies of the French colonial administration and the succession of its rulers, whether military or civilian, the approach remained unchanged in dealing with the Algerians. This approach involved repression, displacement, extermination, marginalization, and exclusion, based on the colonial administration's belief that it was the only way to ensure their

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subjugation to French authority and to guarantee France's continued presence in Algeria.

The French colonial authorities used various means, including laws and decrees of all kinds and forms, all aimed at one goal: the confiscation of Algerian lands, whether royal lands, crown lands, or other types of lands, in order to achieve the settlers' objectives. This began with the laws that accompanied the early period of occupation and became clearer during the civilian rule at the beginning of the Third Republic.

There was the law of June 16, 1851, then the *Senatus Consultum* of 1863, and before that, various decrees, all of which complemented the previous laws: the decree of 1844, the decree of 1845, and the decree of 1846. These decrees were followed by the aforementioned laws.

Then came the law of July 26, 1873, which complemented the previous laws but was related to the issue of regulating real estate ownership in Algeria, serving the interests of the colonial settlement in Algeria and expanding it widely to cover most Algerian regions.

And finally, all these colonial methods came, whether related to the economic aspect represented by the laws issued in this regard or the administrative aspect represented by the *Indigenous Code*, which is considered one of the most dangerous laws that encompassed various social, political, and economic sectors, as it was seen as a means of repression and oppression imposed on the Algerian people during the rule of the Third French Republic.

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