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However, towards the end of the Ottoman rule, the economic life witnessed a significant deterioration and decline, especially in the second half of the eighteenth century. The reign of Dey Hussein (1818-1830 AD) was considered one of the most difficult periods, as it suffered from a deficit in all aspects, especially since this period coincided with the naval blockade imposed by the French forces on the Algerian coasts since 1827 AD until the fall of Algeria under French occupation. We cannot ignore the internal conditions that worsened the situation, such as the burden of taxes and various levies imposed on economic activities, which led to disobedience and rebellion, ultimately resulting in the weakness and fall of the Algerian beylik, and the end of Ottoman rule in Algeria after more than three centuries of presence.

Keywords:Dey Hussein; Ottoman period; economic situation; impact; society.

1. INTRODUCTION

Economic activity is considered one of the sectors that have a significant impact on individuals and society's lives. For this reason, rulers throughout the ages have given it priority and great importance. Economic activities in all their forms received considerable attention during the Ottoman rule of Algeria, especially in its early days. Sources, including the book "Laugier de Tassier," remind us that economic activity was very active, especially commercial and industrial activities, due to the vitality of maritime jihad activity in the Mediterranean (Laugier De Tassy, 1851, pp. 292-298). Algeria received significant financial amounts and even gifts in the form of taxes from European countries in exchange for the safety of their ships in the Mediterranean, in addition to prisoner redemption operations (Laugier De Tassy, 1851, pp. 87-88).

Agricultural and artisanal activities also witnessed significant growth, as mentioned by the travelers who visited Algeria, including "Hassan al-Wazzan," who visited Algeria in the 16th century, the American traveler "Shaw," (Shaw, 1980) and the Moroccan traveler "Al-Tamgrouti," who was fascinated by the organized markets and various goods and mentioned that Algeria was called "Little Istanbul" at that time (Al-Tamgroti, 1988, p. 90).

However, with the end of the Ottoman rule, the economic life witnessed a noticeable deterioration and decline, especially during the last period of Dey Hussein's rule (1818-1830 CE). Hence, we raise the following problem: What were Dey's attempts to improve this situation? Did he think of another alternative to achieve financial balance for the treasury? Or was the alternative to double the taxes? We will try to answer all these questions and more in this simple research paper.

To answer this problem and other problems, we followed the historical method based on description, deduction, analysis, and inference.

2. The reality of the economic life during the reign of Dey Hussein

Dey Hussein assumed power during a difficult period in which the country was experiencing a series of disturbances and rebellions, not to mention the natural disasters, famines, and epidemics that plagued the country during his reign, which extended from 1818 to 1825. The direct result of these disasters and epidemics was the scattering and death of many

inhabitants, as well as the intensification of economic hardship due to rising prices, food scarcity, and the destruction of thousands of hectares of crops (Nasser, 2009, p. 360).

2.1 Agriculture

The rural and mountainous population¹ represented the overwhelming majority of Ottoman Algeria, ranging from 90-95%, which helped to spread agricultural activity. Each region specialized in producing a certain type of crop according to the natural and climatic conditions prevailing there. Grain was famous in areas around Oran, Mascara, Ghardaia, and Constantine and was considered a major crop for both local consumption and export. Therefore, the beylerbey worked hard to seize the grain lands (Saidouni, 1985, p. 32), while fruit tree cultivation was associated with the mountainous regions of the tribes, Médéa, and Tadzult and orchards flourished in the lands surrounding the main cities, such as Algiers, Oran, Mascara, Tlemcen, Miliana, Constantine, Blida, and Médéa, with Algiers producing the largest and most abundant yield (Saidouni, 1985, p. 32).

The rice produced in the plains of Chlef and Miliana was one of the finest varieties in Algeria, with the population consuming about 5-6 quintals per year, but the powerful pashas of the Ottomans did not consume local rice, instead they imported it from Egypt (Paradis, 1980, p. 23).

The Mitidja plains, the coastal highlands, and other Algerian regions were used to cultivate grains, olives, produce wax, honey, wool, leather, and wood, most of which were intended for export rather than local consumption (Saidouni, 1985, p. 366).

It is worth noting that the forest wealth in the late Ottoman period witnessed depletion from various sides. The dey "Mohammed Ben Othman Pasha" ordered in 1789 to cut trees in the coastal area adjacent to the city of Algiers to build fifty ships. The eastern regions of the country also lost their dense forests due to the depletion of their wood by the English, who obtained wood from the forests of Annaba, Guelma, Béni Salah, Sidi Bou

1-They are divided into Subjects under various feudal demands, Cooperative tribes that enjoy certain privileges in exchange for providing certain services and Independent or allied rural residents who refuse to be ruled by the beylik, where they are obliged and requested to provide assistance in exchange for offering gifts and concessions to their elders, leaders, and religious men.

Said, and El Kala, in exchange for 200,000 francs until 1817. On the other hand, the Turks' dealings with local chiefs allowed them to exploit the forests of the Babour and Djurdjura regions (Saidouni, 1985, pp. 31-32), which encouraged grazing and made it a complementary economic activity to agricultural activity.

2.1.1 Difficulties faced by the agricultural sector

We can identify the difficulties that both agricultural activity and farmers faced² (Al-Ghali, 1997, p. 57). The latter were subjected to military campaigns, diseases, and famines that occasionally plagued the country. Agriculture could have thrived during the rule of Dey Hussein in many areas if it weren't for the oppressive tax policies that made farmers abandon their land and turn to raising livestock to avoid taxes (Al-Mailli, 1964, p. 308).

Moreover, the use of simple manual tools and equipment by farmers hindered the development of this activity. The methods and techniques of irrigation and cultivation of the marshes on the coastal plains remained unknown to the farmers. For example, the fertile plain of Mitidja was not exploited using appropriate methods and techniques because it was considered an unhealthy area due to the spread of swamp fever (Saidouni, 1985, p. 33).

The agricultural sector was affected by the natural and health conditions that the country went through. The country was hit by a serious epidemic known as the "Plague" which reappeared during the reign of Dey Hussein for seven years (1817-1824 AD), hence it was called the "Seven-Year Plague". The country also suffered from droughts in 1826 and 1827 AD, causing a decrease in crop yields. These years were known as the "Pasha's Bread" year (Ghattas, 2001, p. 60).

As a result, agricultural activity declined due to the decrease in population. For example, in the examination of Algeria, large areas remained without cultivation, and a significant part of it was converted from its ownership to the Waqf Foundation, with the number of orchards

²- The peasants were from the disadvantaged social groups, so all their efforts were directed to others and to provide luxury for the masters of the "Turkish class" without enjoying the slightest rights.

not exceeding two thousand gardens, including those in the coastal and Mitidjaregions (Saidouni, 1985, p. 360).

It is very logical that food shortages would lead to famine, such as the one that Algeria experienced in 1819 AD, which led to a shortage of grains. The Dey hurried to buy 50,000 measures of grain (Allama, 1993, p. 24), from the ports of the Black Sea to cover the consumption of the population of Algiers (Saidouni, 1985, p. 130).

It is worth noting that the plague disease is often accompanied by animal plague. In a week in 1818, the plague killed fourteen foals in the Dey's stable (Allama, 1993, p. 40).

2.2 Industry

As for Industryactivity, it has remained modest, not exceeding local handicraft industries and simple metal transformation industries such as (Saidouni, 1985, p. 34): silk, wool, and tanned leather industries. The value of imports of raw silk, most of which comes from Syria, reached \$80,000 annually, and this material was used in the production of shawls, handkerchiefs, belts, a type of hats, and fabric embroidered with gold (Schaller, 1982, p. 93). The American consul "William Shaler", who lived in Algeria for about eight years, described the silk products that are made in Algeria as beautiful, durable, and with beautiful colors. There is no European product that exceeds Algerian products in this field, so they are sold at slightly higher prices than European goods, which is why the silk industry or sericulture was one of the most popular industries during the Ottoman period (Schaller, 1982, p. 93).

The woolen products industry, such as blankets, scarves, and carpets, is also directed towards domestic consumption. Wool weaving was widespread in Algerian families and is done using traditional methods and is aimed at the consumption of individual families (Schaller, 1982, pp. 93-94). We also find the weapons and silver industry in the areas of Jerjera. In Constantine, we find the craft of leather and shell processing, making saddles and jewels. The jewelry, shoe, and "chouachi" industries are in the city of Algiers, while the woolen covers, red belts, "brans" and "zrabie" are made in Tlemcen, the Atlas Sahara, and Hossar(Saidouni, 1985, pp. 34-35).

The credit for preserving these different local industries goes back to some Andalusian and Jewish families, who inherited and preserved their industries from extinction. The Jewish community specialized in making precious jewelry and gemstones in the cities of Tlemcen, Algiers, and Constantine (Saidouni, 1985, p. 35).

For reference, the craftsmen³ were organized into groups, each group headed by a secretary⁴, such as the carpenters, shoemakers, tanners, goldsmiths, tailors, and blacksmiths (Saidouni, 1985, pp. 148-149).

2.2.1 Difficulties Faced by Industrial Activity

During the Ottoman period, industrial activity suffered from marginalization and lack of encouragement from the rulers, which limited the sector to industries and handicrafts with primitive simple tools that did not exceed local or family consumption. Imported industrial materials also damaged local materials. For example, "Venture de Paradis" mentions that Tunisian red fabric was very popular in Algerian markets, which led to the decline of Algerian fabric and its accumulation in the markets, making its use exclusive to the poor class (Saidouni, 1985, p. 34). This fierce competition helped to increase the prices of local products, and the failure of Dai Hussein to adopt a protectionist policy on the other hand, instead, he encouraged foreign imports. The result was the opening of the door to foreign imports, the increase in tax value, and the control of professional unions in the industries, which prevented the establishment of real industries even in the field of textiles, foodstuffs, and shipbuilding, despite the availability of the necessary raw materials and expertise for these industries (Saidouni, 1985, p. 37).

2.3 Trade:

Commercial activity during the Ottoman rule of Algeria was characterized by its vitality, diversity, and significant returns due to the activity of maritime jihad. However, towards the end of this period, this activity witnessed a decline and stagnation that had not been seen before, due to the alliance of European countries against Algeria and their claim of

³- According to Dr. Ghattas, may God have mercy on her soul; there are ninety-nine crafts in Algeria, in contrast to some studies that count thirty-three or a little more.

⁴- The secretary represents the supreme authority of the craft and the symbol of its existence, and he is chosen by his companions and among the skilled teachers.

the right to resist Algerian naval activity. The Vienna and La Chapelle conferences in 1814 and 1818 respectively came with decisions that appeared to abolish slavery and protect navigation security in the Mediterranean Sea, but their underlying goal was to eliminate and thwart Algerian maritime activity in the Mediterranean basin, especially in the Maghreb. For this reason, the decisions of these conferences were taken as part of international law (Saidouni, 1985, p. 63).

Thus, Ottoman Algeria was experiencing the beginning of the end of its maritime activity, which Professor "Munir Marouche" referred to as the remnants of piracy (Sahraoui, 2011, p. 87). Dear reader, you can imagine the repercussions of these events and developments on commercial activity and the local economy in general.

Here, we find ourselves facing an important and necessary question, which is: What solutions did Dey Hussein resort to or at least consider to get out of the difficult and tight financial conditions that the country is experiencing? Did he find an alternative? Or, are the alternatives and solutions that he resorted to the same solutions that his predecessors used, represented in raising the tax rate?

Trade during this period was characterized by its diversity, where there was both internal and external trade.

2.3.1 Domestic trade

It was conducted through weekly and annual markets in rural areas (Saidouni, 1985, p. 38), between different rural and urban areas, as well as between the mountainous, plateau, and desert regions. This led to the emergence of major markets that represented meeting points for different regions. For example, there were annual markets where products from mountainous regions were exchanged for products from desert regions, such as in the market of Boussaada where the inhabitants of Beni Abbes and Majana exchanged their oils for dates. Similarly, the inhabitants of Constantine purchased large quantities of oil and wax from the Kabylie region, while the inhabitants of Baylik al-Gharb exchanged grains, leather, and European fabrics with the inhabitants of the desert in the markets of the Tell region in Chlef, and made significant profits after reselling

them(Lamqadam & Shafu, 2017, pp. 71-72).

It is worth noting that most seasonal markets are held in rural areas. With the beginning of the French occupation, the Kabylie region alone had 68 markets. The Ottoman administration deliberately established these markets in the hilly and mountainous rural areas and on the borders adjacent to the desert regions, where the tribal storehouses are located, to facilitate tax collection and to subjugate rebellious tribes to the authority and tax system (Lamqadam & Shafu, 2017, p. 72).

A. Trade Routes:

- ❖ **Horizontal routes:** linking the east and west of the country, the most important of which are:
 - Tlemcen Road: linking Tlemcen, Algiers, Constantine, and Tunis.
 - Sahara Oasis Road: starting from Tafilalet and linking Ain Salah, Metlili, Ouargla, and Ghat.
- ❖ **Vertical routes:** linking the highlands and the Sahara.

The exchange between the north and south resulted in the flourishing of urban centers located between the highlands and the Sahara, such as Boussaada, El Broua, Bougara, and Biskra. The importance of some seasonal markets, such as the Lwaha market near Tiaret and the Rbayaa market south of Titteri in Ottoman Algeria, also increased (Saidouni, 1985, pp. 38-39)

2.3.2 Foreign trade

Trade was conducted with Maghreb countries such as Tunisia and the farthest Morocco, as well as with other Ottoman territories in the east. The trade relied on luxury and entertainment needs (Saidouni, 1985, p. 39). There were also trading exchanges with European countries, with France being one of the most important countries having trade relations with Algeria (Zeroual, 1994, p. 15), despite the state of hostility between the two parties. Naturally, there were imports and exports between them. American Consul William Shaler reported that wool was the most important export from Algeria to Marseille, Livorno, and Genoa. 20,000 quintals of wool were exported at a price of \$8 per quintal (Schaller, 1982, p. 163). In addition to the low-value goods (Dudu, 1989, p. 75), there were imports of luxury goods such as perfumes, fragrances, and tiles from Italy, war

equipment from Scandinavia, lead and cotton fabrics from Spain, sugar, coffee, and fabrics from England through the Strait of Gibraltar (Saidouni, 1985, p. 40), silk, sugar, pepper, fabrics, and other products from France, and jewelry, precious stones, and diamonds from Italy and France as well (Schaller, 1982, p. 102).

It is worth noting that trade was characterized by the monopoly of the Jewish community, which explains the exacerbation of the dispute and rupture between Algeria and France, which was caused by the Jews Bakri and Bougenah (Al-Madani, 1986, p. 60).

3. The efforts of Dey Hussein to revive the country's economy

Dey Hussein made some efforts, though not significant enough to meet the expectations of the people. However, history testifies to some achievements that would have been better if supported and elevated to the level of reforms, such as those witnessed by Tunisia during the same period by the Husainid beys, led by Bey Hammuda Pasha (1782-1814 CE).

Among those efforts, we can mention:

- His efforts to improve and develop agricultural production, as he instructed the minister "Yahya Agha" to ensure the safety of the population in order to establish stability for land service. He also made the lands belonging to the beylik into model farms and provided experienced workers in the agricultural field to serve them (Sahraoui, 2011, p. 87).
- His efforts to establish springs and bring water to the cities and use it in various ways⁵, including the seven springs that he established in 1823-1824 near the well-known Wadi Maghassel today called "Boufraise" outside Bab El Oued near the dome of Sidi Yakoub. This was to benefit from Wadi Maghassel and Wadi El Sed (Saidouni, 1985, p. 373). We also mention Ain El Zeboudja. It is very logical that these springs needed channels and specific aqueducts, so there were projects related to aqueducts and channels. Most of them were made of pottery, stones, or other materials suitable for building

⁵- Part of it is directed towards traditional industries that required large amounts of water, used in basins to treat leather, clean wool, and make bricks, pottery, gypsum, and others.

aqueducts. Some of them were built above ground and others below it. Ain El Zeboudja aqueduct is considered one of the latest and longest aqueducts established, measuring 11,540 meters, and was established for the purpose of collecting water from Ain El Zeboudja and the valleys of the Ben Aknoun plateau and the springs. The construction of this aqueduct required complex engineering works imposed by the nature of the area (Saidouni, 1985, pp. 373-378).

To take care of these facilities, Dey Hussein allocated endowments and habs that work to ensure the continuity and preservation of these facilities and their services, and to maintain them against any malfunction or damage. In the late Rabia Al-Awwal of 1234 AH / early January 1819 CE, the water wheel known as "Saqiya Al-Forn" located in Ain Zeboudja was imprisoned, benefiting Muslims in general from this endowment. And on the early Rabia Al-Thani of 1236 AH / early March 1821 CE, a piece of land located outside the new gate was also imprisoned, and its proceeds were used for the water wheel that enters the irrigated land of Algiers. He also endowed a Hanout at Bab Bsouika, Bab El Oued, whose benefits are returned to the water wheel that enters the irrigated land of Algiers. This dates back to the middle of Jumada Al-Thani of 1245 AH / mid-December 1829 CE (Sahraoui, 2011, p. 92).

Encouraging military industry, he requested the High Gate to supply him with the necessary bricks to build the House of Military Industry in the city of Algiers and sent a specialist to manage it. On 13 Shawwal 1240 AH / June 1, 1825 CE, Dey Hussein received a letter from Thabet Effendi "the agent of Algiers to the High Gate" informing him of the High Gate's response to Dey's request (Sahraoui, 2011, p. 95).

4. The repercussions of the economic situation on Ottoman Algeria's society

Craftsmen were exposed to a crisis of stagnation in their products and a decrease in their prices, which was due to the industry's own susceptibility to difficult climatic and social conditions (famine, epidemics, droughts, earthquakes, etc.). As the industry primarily relied on agricultural and livestock production (Yasmina & Abla, 2020, p. 25), the deterioration that hit the agricultural sector had direct consequences on the industrial sector,

causing prices to rise and production to decrease. Taxes increased, resulting in a decrease in the purchasing power of the population, in addition to the fierce competition that local goods faced against imported European goods (Saidouni, 1985, p. 37).

Algeria lost its prosperity, and its economic situation declined since the late 18th century due to mismanagement by rulers, insecurity, the spread of diseases, epidemics, and natural disasters. The plague⁶ caused significant damage, making Algeria in the late 18th and early 19th centuries an area prone to a debilitating disease that left no room for rest (Vallenssi, 1994, p. 29). The seven-year epidemic that we mentioned earlier is considered the greatest catastrophe that affected Algeria during this period. It did not remain limited to one area, but rather swept across the entire country and reached the borders of the desert, leading to a decline in population growth. In a few weeks, 10 to 20% of the population fell victim to the epidemic (Ghattas, 2001, p. 63), according to Ahmed El Cherif Al-Zahar, who stated that when he traveled to Hajj, he saw about a hundred funerals of people who died from the epidemic (El Cherif, 1974, p. 144).

Therefore, drought is followed by many serious repercussions that threaten the country and its people (Ghattas, 2001, p. 60), as it leads to famine and consequently the emergence of epidemics. Malnutrition weakens the human body's immunity, making it vulnerable to diseases and epidemics. Thus, we can conclude that there is a close relationship between climatic, economic, and social conditions of society.

5. CONCLUSION

Our study has led us to a number of conclusions, the most important of which are:

- Our study shed light on the economic life during the reign of Dey Hussein in its various activities (agriculture, industry, and trade).
- We found that the economic situation during the reign of Dey Hussein faced various difficulties and obstacles that hindered its

⁶- There is a distinguished and serious academic study on the plague epidemic, prepared by Dr. Fella Musawi Al-Qashaei, "The Plague Epidemic in Ottoman Algeria, Its Courses, Scale of Intensity, and Methods of Transmission."

development, and therefore we noticed a significant decline compared to what it was before, especially at the beginning of the Ottoman era.

- What harmed the Algerian economy was the focus on maritime activity and neglecting other activities, so when the navy weakened, the economy weakened.
- It became clear to us that the economic situation was affected by the internal and external conditions of the country.
- The harsh natural conditions (earthquakes, droughts), epidemics, and famines that Algeria experienced at the end of the Ottoman era had a direct negative impact on the economic and social conditions of the country, followed by a decline in agricultural products and crops, price increases, and famine.
- The deterioration of the economic situation had negative repercussions on the living and demographic conditions of society, as the demographic movement declined due to the high death rates resulting from famines and epidemics.
- It was difficult for Dey Hussein to confront and overcome the difficult economic situation in light of the financial hardship that Algeria was experiencing at that time.

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