

MOROCCAN NORMALIZATION AS AN EXTENSION OF AFRICAN-ISRAELI RAPPROCHEMENT: IMPLICATIONS FOR ALGERIAN NATIONAL SECURITY



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Abstract:

This article examines Israel's quest to gain access to the African continent in order to break its political isolation, enhance its legitimacy, and ensure its international presence, as well as to maintain its hold on the occupied Palestinian territories. This is done by establishing communication bridges with as many African countries as possible, the study aims to shed light on the Moroccan-Israeli normalization as an extension of Israel's previous rapprochement with African countries and to analyze the implications of Moroccan normalization on Algerian national security, given the geographic proximity between Algeria and Morocco.

The study concludes that the goal of Moroccan-Israeli normalization is an attempt to undermine Algeria's growing regional influence. It also suggests that the Moroccan regime's alignment with Israel aims to further its expansionist ambitions in the south towards the Western Sahara and to seek legitimacy by aligning with an actor that holds hostility towards Algeria due to its steadfast positions on the Palestinian issue.

key words: Africa; Algeria; Morocco; normalization; Israel.

ملخص: يبحث هذا المقال في سعي إسرائيل للوصول إلى القارة الأفريقية من أجل كسر عزلتها السياسية، وتعزيز شرعيتها، وضمان وجودها الدولي، وكذلك الحفاظ على سيطرتها على الأراضي الفلسطينية المحتلة. يتم ذلك من خلال إنشاء جسور اتصال مع أكبر عدد ممكن من البلدان الأفريقية.

وتهدف الدراسة إلى تسليط الضوء على التطبيع المغربي الإسرائيلي كامتداد لتقارب إسرائيل السابق مع الدول الإفريقية، وتحليل تداعيات التطبيع المغربي على الأمن القومي الجزائري، بالنظر إلى القرب الجغرافي بين الجزائر والمغرب. تخلص الدراسة إلى أن هدف التطبيع المغربي الإسرائيلي هو محاولة لتقويض النفوذ الإقليمي المتنامي للجزائر. كما يشير إلى أن اصطفاك النظام المغربي مع إسرائيل يهدف إلى تعزيز طموحاته التوسعية في الجنوب والسعي إلى الشرعية من خلال الاصطفاف مع جهة معادية للجزائر بسبب مواقفها الثابتة من القضية الفلسطينية.

الكلمات المفتاحية: إفريقيا؛ الجزائر؛ المغرب؛ التطبيع؛ إسرائيل..

1. Introduction:

The term "Normalization" from the perspective of international relations, refers to the transition from a state of conflict or war between two or more countries to the establishment of natural diplomatic, economic, and cultural relations. It entails disregarding the prevailing disputes either through resolving them, ignoring them, or accepting one party's conditions imposed by another party.

Israel considered always considered normalization as a crucial issue through which it seeks to solidify its presence in Palestine and penetrate the Arab and Islamic African region. It employs a calculated strategy to attempt to dismantle Arab cohesion and unity. Israel has been making intense efforts to strengthen its security and economic presence by establishing robust relationships. It has targeted North Africa under the guise of peace and economic and political normalization, starting from the southern parts of the African continent, extending to the east and west, Sharon, with his strategic theory, argued that Israel's security extends beyond Arab countries, encompassing Turkey, Pakistan, Iran, and Africa. He regarded Africa as a strategically significant location that allows Israel to play an active role in the Red Sea region. The objective is to encircle Arab countries through the African continent, gradually defeating, penetrating, and isolating them from their common Arab and Islamic issues. Algeria, in particular, pays a steep price for its unwavering support for liberation causes worldwide, including the Palestinian and Western Sahara issues.

The recent normalization of relations between Morocco and Israel has significant implications not only for the two countries involved but also for the wider region. Some people have viewed this development as a continuation of the ongoing reconciliation between Israel and African nations, which has gathered steam in recent years. However, this move has also raised concerns for Algeria, which has historically been a staunch supporter of the Palestinian cause and has had tense relations with Morocco. This paper explores the implications of Moroccan-Israeli normalization for Algerian national security and the wider North African region. Overall, the normalization of relations between Morocco and Israel has the potential to impact the North African region in various ways. While

some view it as a positive step towards greater cooperation and stability, others are concerned about the implications for Algeria and its longstanding support for Palestine. Although the full extent of these implications is still unknown, it is obvious that both regional actors and international observers will continue to closely monitor this development.

Overall, the normalization of relations between Morocco and Israel is a complex issue that has the potential to create both positive and negative impacts in the North African region. Although it is unclear how this development will affect Algeria and its relations with Palestine, it is obvious that both regional players and international observers will be paying close attention to it.

By the end of 2020, the Rabat Agreement was signed, re-establishing full relations between Morocco and the Zionist entity, placing Morocco among the countries that have normalized ties. This agreement is part of the "Peace Agreements" series, initiated in mid-September 2020 with the involvement of Arab countries, under the name of the "Abraham Accords." The Moroccan decision to restore relations with the Zionist entity came after conditional commitments from former US President Donald Trump.

Undoubtedly, this normalization has implications for Algeria, further exacerbating the threats it faces along its southern borders through the coastal region.

The research problem revolves around the fact that normalization with Israeli occupation is a complex and multifaceted issue with significant dimensions and implications. Some Arab countries have entered a new phase by recognizing this entity as a state and engaging in political and systemic relations with it. The danger of this entity is further exacerbated by its geographical proximity to Algeria through Morocco and its repercussions on Algerian national security. Therefore, the central focus of this study is to answer the following key question: What are the implications of Moroccan normalization as an extension of African-Israeli rapprochement on Algerian national security? From this central question, several sub-questions emerge, as follows:

1. What are the mechanisms of Israeli-African rapprochement?

2. What are the contexts and objectives of Moroccan normalization?

3. How did Moroccan normalization affect Algeria's national security?

To answer the central problem and its branches, the following hypotheses were formulated:

1. Moroccan expansionist ambitions in Western Sahara played a prominent role in Morocco's resort to normalization with Israel.

2. The objective of Moroccan-Israeli normalization revolves around an attempt to undermine Algeria's growing influence in its regional domain.

The study aims to analyze Israeli penetration of the African continent, followed by normalization with Morocco and its implications for Algerian national security. It also aims to clarify the Moroccan-Israeli normalization and its objectives. Consequently, it attempts to examine the coherence between Israeli objectives in Africa and then with Morocco, as well as the requirements for protecting Algeria's national security from the threats posed by this external actor in the region.

The nature of the subject under study necessitates specific methodological approaches and theoretical frameworks that will be adopted in this study, namely the case study method:

The case study method was employed by studying Israeli intervention in Africa, followed by the normalization with Morocco and its impact on Algerian national security. Eventually, the study aims to arrive at results that enable an examination of the overall impact of Israeli intervention in Africa on Algerian national security in its African dimension.

The study is divided into two main axes: starting with studying the paths of Israeli normalization with African countries, and then normalizing it with Morocco. In the second part of the study, we explore the repercussions of normalization on Algerian national security, and the regional role assigned to Algeria in confronting these threats.

2. FOUNDATIONS OF THE ISRAELI STRATEGY FOR ACCESS TO AFRICA AND THE NORMALIZATION WITH MOROCCO AS AN OUTCOME

Israel seeks expansion and spread to achieve many strategic goals and interests, foremost of which is gaining international legitimacy and recognition, and this is what it wants to achieve by penetrating the African continent through the normalization of its relations with many countries of the continent. The last of which is normalization with Morocco, and we will try through this part of the study to know the status of the African continent in the Israeli perception, the goals it seeks to achieve, the content and contexts of the Moroccan-Israeli normalization, and to find out how Israel played on the tense relations between Algeria and Morocco.

2.1 Africa in Israeli National Security Calculations

Scholars and researchers specialized in Zionist and Israeli studies agree that Israel's overarching strategy is primarily based on the Zionist ideology, which considers the state of Israel as the result of its implementation. This strategy is strongly and directly influenced by the historical circumstances of the establishment of this state in a significant and essential part of the Palestinian region, as well as the strategic position of this region in the heart of the Arab world and the Middle East in general.

It becomes evident, therefore, that comprehensive national security represents the primary objective in Israeli strategic planning across political, military, and geographical levels. Thus, Israel's regional expansion and the increase in the territory it directly occupies in Palestine and neighboring Arab countries, or over which it exercises political or economic influence within the circles vital to its national security, according to the visions of its leaders and strategic thinkers, aim to increase its vital depth for the implementation of policies of immigration and settlement. This also aims to create demographic and material facts on the ground that pose a significant challenge to the dormant Arab rights. Therefore, Israel rejects mentioning borders in its official documents in accordance with the Zionist strategic policy of David Ben-Gurion, who used to say: 'Wars will shape the state's borders, and these borders will be larger than those designated by the United Nations.' (Sighif tum, 1968, p. 07) Another Zionist strategist, Moshe Dayan, explained after the 1967 war that 'the primary goal of the path we are taking is to draw a new map and establish new

borders. The end of the conflict will be achieved in the final analysis that includes the comprehensive reality of the existence of a Jewish state here, which is of such strength and importance that it becomes impossible to destroy it, and it will be necessary to coexist with it (Yshirji dan, 1993, p. 36)

In the same context, Eyal Alon clarified the specificity of the Israeli concept of national security, stating: 'It is the culmination of a state's interactions with its immediate and distant environment, which reflect its strength, preparedness, means, and executive capability to defend its vital interests and achieve its national goals (Eabd alrahman eawatif, 1974, p. 18)' Consequently, successive Israeli governments have diligently sought international support beyond the American and European spheres, which have provided continuous care, financial, political, moral, and military backing. Therefore, Israelis are inclined to establish diverse relationships with countries on other continents, particularly in Asia, Africa, and Latin America. This inclination has been linked to various considerations and criteria, the most prominent of which are:

A. Economic Criterion:

The Israelis perceive these continents, especially Africa, as underdeveloped countries susceptible to economic invasion, market penetration, and exploitation of their natural resources. Former Israeli Foreign Minister Abba Eban clarified in the National Defense College in 1964 that Israel's economic future would largely depend on its economic activities in the developing countries in Asia, Africa, and Latin America. This necessitates the development of its network of relations with these countries (Almarjie nafsih, p. 108)" "In addition to the economic gains, Eban called for seeking rapprochement with newly independent African countries to attract them and gain their support in international forums."

B. Strategic Criterion:

Israeli officials sought to give Israeli national security a regional and international dimension by establishing a network of relations with as many countries as possible in Asia and Africa, neighboring non-Arab countries, recognizing the strategic importance of these regions and their geographical location, in order to encircle the components of Arab national security. Former Israeli Prime Minister

Levi Eshkol stated, "Israel sought to establish relations with countries in Asia, Africa, and Latin America to ensure its security, guarantee its existence, and support its international position, which yields strategic advantages that positively impact its national security" (Kuhin dafid, 1963, p. 92).

C. Geographic Criterion:

The Israelis consider African territories geographically close to the Zionist entity compared to the distance between it and the United States. It is worth noting that until the second half of the 1950s, this entity had very close relations only with a few African countries, such as Liberia, which was the third country to recognize Israel (Geography, 2023).

In the second half of the 1950s, the Israeli perception of the African continent started to crystallize in what was known as the African orientation in Zionist foreign policy. This was led by Moshe Sharett, the Foreign Minister at the time, in response to the Bandung Conference held in 1955, which internationalized the Algerian cause in its struggle against French colonialism, with Egypt, led by President Gamal Abdel Nasser, playing a prominent role, along with Asian countries such as India and Indonesia. This raised concerns among Israelis and encouraged the Tripartite Aggression against Egypt in 1956, which resulted in the opening of the Straits of Tiran to Israeli navigation in the Red Sea.

Hence, the interest in Africa became linked to an economic criterion in addition to the political and geostrategic criterion. David Ben-Gurion stated at the time, "After securing freedom of navigation in the Strait of Eilat, Africa takes priority in Israel's international relations because these relations will achieve highly significant results for both sides" (Kuhin dafid, 1963, p. 93) Moshe Sharett considered Africa as "an important field from our perspective that should not be allowed to fall into a void after its countries gain independence because filling this void with unfriendly forces would be a setback for us" (Eabd alrahman eawatif, 1974, p. 24)

Sharett adds, "Our interest in Africa also stems from the historical ties, some dating back to the recent past and others to the beginning of this century, where African countries like Kenya offered the Zionist movement the opportunity to establish a homeland that would fulfill

the national aspiration (Almarjie nafsih, p. 25)”

However, the underlying truth behind these Zionist positions is their view of Africa as the easiest gateway for penetration, infiltration, and expansion. Ben-Gurion believed that the most secure path to peace and cooperation with our neighbors is through gaining as many friends as possible in Africa, who would understand the importance of Israel and its ability to contribute to the progress of developing nations, as they would convey this concept to Israel's neighbors."

2.2 Israeli objectives in Africa and their strategic dimensions

Israeli objectives in Africa and their strategic dimensions can be summarized as follows:

A. Political objectives:

Israel aims to overcome its isolation and gain more international legitimacy. It seeks to counter Arab efforts to tighten the siege around the Zionist entity. Israel intends to establish diplomatic relations with as many African countries as possible to facilitate economic and security activities. It also aims to counter the racist image of the entity through media, cultural activities, and diverse aid. Additionally, Israel strives to gain support from African Americans for its positions and demands in the American arena.

B. Economic objectives:

These include opening African markets to Israeli products and Jewish investments, securing primary resources, and ensuring energy supplies from the continent. This would lead to economic ties between some African countries and the Zionist economy. The following Israeli objectives can be observed in this field:

- Increasing Israeli exports abroad to generate foreign currency income and reduce the trade deficit.
- Opening African markets to Israeli technology, especially products from Israeli arms industries, to enhance capabilities, sustain and develop these industries, and reduce production costs, while increasing Zionist influence through trade.
- Accessing the necessary raw materials for the Israeli industry from Africa, especially precious metals, strategic minerals like uranium, gold and copper, as well as oil and diamonds.

- Exploiting investment opportunities, particularly in the mining and manufacturing sectors.
- Revealing the Arab deficit in providing technical assistance and meeting the consumer goods and other needs of the African continent.

C. Security objectives:

These encompass intelligence cooperation, arms manufacturing, and defense of Western interests, especially American interests, in order to undermine Arab interests and weaken Arab influence in the continent. Israeli security objectives include the following:

- Establishing cooperation channels and information exchange between Mossad and African intelligence agencies, setting up communication centers and information gathering specific to Mossad activities related to African and Arab liberation movements.
- Engaging in covert operations for the benefit of the United States and providing military support to its clients through organizations and regimes that cannot receive direct and overt assistance from the U.S. government.
- Contributing to increasing political instability, encouraging separatist movements, and undermining the unity aspirations of the African Union.
- Contributing to efforts to keep the African continent within American spheres of influence and ensuring its resources and wealth are subjected to global capitalism.
- Undermining the foundations and components of Arab-African solidarity and thereby depriving Arabs of Africa as a strategic, economic, and security depth in their favor (Aabd aleaziz rabie muhamad, 1986, p. 35).

2.3 Tracks of Moroccan-Israeli Normalization and its role in straining Algerian-Moroccan relations

The normalization agreement signed between Morocco and 'Israel' falls within the framework of the 'Abraham Accords,' which are an extension of the process of normalizing relations between 'Israel' and Arab countries, under the auspices of former U.S. President Donald Trump."

A. The content of the Moroccan-Israeli normalization in the context of the Abraham Accords:

The normalization agreement signed between Morocco and "Israel" falls within the framework of the Abraham Accords. At the end of 2020, Rabat joined the ranks of the reconcilers after reaching an agreement that reinstated full relations between Morocco and the Zionist entity and established them. This agreement is part of a series of "peace agreements" that began to be signed in mid-September 2020 with some Arab countries, under the auspices of former U.S. President Donald Trump. The Abraham Accords was officially signed on September 15, 2020, at the White House in Washington, D.C., between the Israeli Foreign Minister and the foreign ministers of the UAE and Bahrain. The Moroccan decision to restore relations with the Zionist entity came after a conditional commitment from former U.S. President Donald Trump and recognition of the Moroccan sovereignty over Western Sahara in exchange for Moroccan-Israeli normalization.

Undoubtedly, the Moroccan normalization has cast its shadow over Algerian-Moroccan relations because the main point is that normalization with Morocco indicates an attempt to impose a policy of *fait accompli* in the Western Sahara issue. Initially, when diplomatic relations were resumed between the two parties, Moroccans still had some doubts. The reason is that President Trump signed a proclamation recognizing America's sovereignty over the occupied Western Sahara on December 10, 2021 (Alshaykh eabd alhafiz hamd, 14, maris 2019, pp. 04-05), about a month before the end of his term. Therefore, the Moroccan regime feared that the newly elected President Joe Biden would backtrack on the relevant proclamation and return to adopting the previous U.S. policy towards the Sahara issue, under pressure from those who reject this new direction in foreign policy.

While Israelis felt great excitement when diplomatic relations with Morocco were restored, especially when the first direct commercial flight between Tel Aviv and Rabat was inaugurated on March 22, 2020, there was a divergence of opinions among Moroccan activists on social media. Some welcomed it along with America's recognition of Moroccan sovereignty over the Western Sahara and considered it a joyful news and a triumphant victory (Almarjie nafsih, pp. 4-5).

B. The Israeli Role in Fueling Relations between Algeria and Morocco:

The mutual fear between Algeria and Morocco has turned the Maghreb region into a semi-permanent zone of tension characterized by political and security instability. In this regard, we can refer to the perspectives of proponents of the new realism theory on security. They view security from the standpoint that the international system is chaotic, and therefore achieving security becomes the ultimate goal for states. Accordingly, the efforts exerted by the Algerian state to secure itself are perceived as a threat to the Moroccan state, which leads to a reciprocal response known as the security dilemma. If mutual distrust exists, it can spiral into a cycle of action and reaction, further increasing the fears of both parties (Sharay mabruk tariq, 2004, p. 106).

The mutual fear and suspicion that characterize the relations between the two countries (Algeria and Morocco) have their roots in the pre-independence era. The disagreements between them intensified after independence due to the Moroccan perception that parts of the Algerian territory (Béchar and Tindouf) are an extension of Moroccan sovereignty. Morocco relies on weak historical arguments for this claim, while Algeria emphasizes the sanctity of inherited borders from the colonial era and rejects any encroachment on its sovereignty. The disagreements between the two countries further escalated when the issue of Western Sahara became an additional factor of instability in the Maghreb region and Africa, amid the competition for leadership in the region between Algeria and Morocco. This competition has deepened divisions and differences in the Maghreb region. Algeria, with all its weight, stands alongside the Polisario Front in defense of the rights of peoples to self-determination based on its proud history of supporting and championing this cause. As a result, Morocco accuses Algeria of supporting the Sahrawi rebels who seek secession from Morocco, according to their claim (Alshaykh eabd alhafiz hamd, 14, maris 2019, pp. 4-5).

Recently, Algerian-Moroccan relations have witnessed significant tension and diplomatic escalation, culminating in the severing of

diplomatic ties between Algeria and Morocco. This followed Morocco's normalization with Israel in 2020, in exchange for the recognition of Moroccan sovereignty over Western Sahara by former US President Donald Trump through a tweet on the social media platform Twitter. This step represented one of the main motives for severing diplomatic relations between Algeria and Morocco, especially after Israeli officials threatened Algeria from Moroccan territories. Additionally, the so-called espionage case targeting Algerian officials by the Makhzen using the Israeli "Pegasus" program contributed to this. Former Algerian Prime Minister Abdelaziz Djerad expressed Algeria's discontent with Morocco's normalization of relations with the Israeli entity and its targeting of Algerian stability. He affirmed the existence of a genuine foreign desire to bring "Zionism" to the borders of Algeria and called on the political class and elites to unite and work towards Algeria's stability" (Bontems C, 1984, p. 32)

3. IMPLICATIONS OF ISRAELI-MOROCCAN NORMALIZATION ON ALGERIAN NATIONAL SECURITY

When discussing Algerian national security, it is important to address a significant issue known as regional security. The security of a country is inherently linked to the security of its surrounding environment and the security circle it belongs to. Any challenge within a country, if not decisively addressed, will have repercussions that extend beyond its borders, inevitably affecting neighboring countries. This is the case with Algeria, as it belongs to fundamental security spaces that both influence and are influenced by its stability, prosperity, and even in times of conflict, its security and stability. Foremost among these security spaces or circles is the Maghreb region, especially with Israel's proximity to Algeria's western borders and its clear efforts behind normalizing its relations with Morocco. Israel seeks to expand its influence in the African continent and undermine Algeria's growing role, particularly after the campaign it conducted with other Arab countries against the African Union's decision to accept Israel as an observer member. In the following, we will work on identifying the various threats targeting Algerian national security.

3.1 Foundations of Algerian National Security

The components of national security in Algeria, or the foundations upon which it is built, are considered sources of state power. There is no doubt that political weight and the strength of a state are the result of natural, human, economic (Alhaj ealay, 2005, p. 113), and military factors. These factors stem from geographic, historical, and cultural realities that have characterized Algeria and influenced its positions since ancient times. These foundations or factors can be summarized as follows:

A. Geographic Factor:

The geographic factor of a state, including its location, size, shape, and natural resources, plays a crucial role in shaping its understanding of security and in formulating its domestic and foreign policies. The geographic nature of a state is the primary pillar in forming its national strength (Muqalad sabri asmaeil, 1985, p. 157). Although political geographers do not attribute equal importance to all geographic factors in terms of impact, they emphasize the effectiveness of the geographic factor in a state's policy.

Historical Factor:

If the historical factor refers to the influence of historical experiences on the lives of people, their living patterns, behavioral characteristics, interpretation of the past, evaluation of the present, and their outlook on the future, then Algeria's history, filled with invasions and revolutions, has shaped the Algerian mentality, which is imbued with values of chivalry and a culture of resistance. These experiences have accumulated in our historical consciousness and popular sentiment, creating a preoccupation with readiness for resistance and countering aggression. The Algerian people's experience with occupation did not go in vain, as they derived significant lessons from it (aleaziz, 02 juiiat 2005) leaving imprints in the collective imagination of Algerians. It formed a cultural heritage on which any attempt to formulate a concept of Algerian national security relies.

B. Economic Factor:

Algeria, due to its location and vast area, possesses numerous natural resources, including petroleum, gas, and other raw materials, as well as considerable plant and animal wealth. The country seeks to exploit these resources using the latest technologies developed

through technological research in order to achieve comprehensive development. **Source spécifiée non valide.** However, these resources do not automatically translate into power. They must be harnessed to develop the country's economy by utilizing what technological advancements have produced.

C. Human Factor:

With a population of approximately 45 million people as of 2022, Algeria is considered a country with a medium population size relative to its area and a major country within its regional context. However, in terms of population distribution, population density in Algeria, especially in border areas, is relatively low. This represents a weak point that could be exploited to threaten Algerian national security (Alhariri mursi muhamad, 1991, p. 180). However, it is worth noting that population size is not always a supporting factor for national security.

D. Military Factor:

Regarding Algeria and based on the constitutional provisions, particularly those related to safeguarding the nation's independence, securing the defense of its territorial integrity, ensuring its safety, and protecting its vital areas, the military institution has been working since independence to modernize itself through the development and enhancement of its military capabilities. Investments have been made in training, research, and training on the control of the latest military technologies. Over time, Algeria's military capabilities have grown. (Almarjie nafsihi, p. 192)

3.2 Implications and Consequences of Moroccan-Israeli Normalization on Algerian National Security

A. Internal Consequences of Normalization:

By closely monitoring Israel's behavior, it becomes clear that this entity invests in internal conflicts that arise among minorities, whether ethnic or religious, as well as governments. Israel seeks to undermine the security and national unity of Algeria by focusing on the Amazigh (Berber) issue, considering it a viable threat against Algeria. The Moroccan regime supports Israel in this endeavor, as reflected in the statements made by the Moroccan ambassador to the United Nations when he announced Morocco's support for a separatist movement,

referring to the "Terrorist Movement for Kabyle Independence" (MAK) (Filmun rijin).

The Kabylie region has often experienced disturbances due to its specific demands, such as the Amazigh Spring, which gave rise to the MAK movement advocating for Kabyle separatism. Its members exploit the Kabylie region's situation and attempt to exploit it for their own benefit by using the image of operations in their malicious campaign. They use it as a pretext to solicit foreign intervention in Algeria's internal affairs. This scheme involves several elements affiliated with the separatist movement abroad, with funding and support from foreign countries such as France and Israel (Shaelan jasimi, 2011, p. 675)

B. External Consequences of Normalization:

For Israel, Africa represents a strategic depth and a vital location due to its geographic proximity. It also holds significance in the Arab-Israeli conflict as it surrounds Arab countries that are hostile towards Israel, such as Algeria and Tunisia. Israel has worked to strengthen its relations with several African countries, including South Sudan, Chad, and Rwanda. It also aims to expand its relations with other African nations like Nigeria, particularly in the field of security cooperation, including counterterrorism efforts. This involves providing intelligence assistance, security services, military training, and arms trade. This step poses a blockade to Algeria, especially amid growing concerns over Tunisia's potential acceptance of normalization with Israel in light of its economic crises and mounting pressures (Finan muhsin khadijat, 1997, p. 11).

By establishing natural ties with African countries, Israel seeks to secure their votes in its favor in international forums. This further deepens the gap between Algeria, as a staunch opponent of normalization, and other African countries aligned with Israel. Consequently, it signifies Israel's increased penetration in Africa. On another note, the competition between Algeria and Morocco over trans-Saharan gas pipeline projects has added a new dimension to the political conflict between the two countries. This was particularly evident when Algeria refused to renew the gas transportation contract through Morocco, which expired in late October 2021. Instead, Algeria replaced it with the "Medgaz" pipeline, directly transporting

gas to Europe via Spain. Thus, the energy sector has become a battleground in the conflict between the two nations.

It is expected that Israel will offer Morocco a gas supply agreement, whereby the latter will meet its market's natural gas needs with Israeli gas. Additionally, Israelis could also supply Madrid and neighboring markets by reactivating the Moroccan-Spanish gas pipeline as an alternative to Algerian gas. This explains Israel's efforts to ignite the region and seek further privileges. However, the people of the region feel greatly disappointed. While they were anticipating the activation of the institutions of the Arab Maghreb Union and the vision of a strong Maghreb union that unites them, Morocco has officially normalized relations. This normalization is merely an extension of previous undisclosed rapprochement and normalization (Almarjie nafsih, p. 13).

Conclusion:

The analysis of the implications and outcomes of Moroccan-Israeli normalization demonstrates its significant impact on the regional dynamics in the Maghreb region, and Algerian national security in particular. This can be affirmed through the following conclusions:

- Israel seeks to establish security and military alliances with some African countries and Morocco with the aim of creating disturbances in Algeria's internal and external environment.
- The Moroccan-Israeli normalization is an attempt to undermine Algeria's growing regional influence.
- The alignment of the Moroccan regime with Israel aims to fulfill expansionist ambitions in the southern Western Sahara region and for the deteriorating monarchy to gain legitimacy by approaching a party that harbors animosity towards Algeria due to its firm stance on the Palestinian issue.
- The expulsion of the Israeli envoy, Sharon Bar-Li, who serves as the Deputy Director General for African Affairs at the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs, from the African Union summit in Ethiopia last February, is further evidence of Algeria's influence and strong positions within its African network.
- Through our study of normalization, we have proposed a set of recommendations that should be taken into account to confront Israeli-

Moroccan normalization and mitigate its potential implications on Algeria's internal and external security:

- Given Algeria's central location at a strategic intersection and its conflict resolution structures, it is essential for Algeria to accurately assess these strategic components to achieve its desired national goals and effectively address the threat to national security.
- Algeria should capitalize on its opportunity as a non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council for the 2023-2024 term, which serves as another indication of its growing regional and international role. It should strengthen its defense of just causes, in line with its steadfast principles, with the Western Sahara issue at the forefront.
- Algeria should work towards neutralizing and isolating Israel in Africa and the Maghreb region.

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