

The Study of Algeria's Potential Accession to BRICS Through SWOT Analysis

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Abstract:

This research discusses the prospects of Algeria's eventual accession to the BRICS group by using an extensive SWOT analysis. Based on a descriptive approach, the research relies on various economic indicators and geopolitical criteria to discuss Algeria's internal economic strengths and weaknesses and external opportunities and threats that could affect its entry into BRICS. The report highlights Algeria's vast natural resource wealth and geopolitical position as key strengths, while structural economic deficiencies and institutional challenges constitute major constraints. On the external side, shifting global power dynamics and the rising agenda of the BRICS represent tantalizing opportunities, but also threats amidst rising competition and geopolitics uncertainties. This study makes a novel contribution to the debate regarding Algeria's place in the global economic game and its strategic orientation in the changing multipolar global order.

Keywords: Algeria; BRICS; SWOT analysis.

Jel Classification Codes : F 02, F 63, R 11.

Résumé :

Cette recherche examine les perspectives de l'éventuelle adhésion de l'Algérie au groupe des BRICS à travers une analyse SWOT approfondie. En adoptant une approche descriptive, l'étude s'appuie sur divers indicateurs économiques et critères géopolitiques afin d'analyser les forces et faiblesses internes de l'économie algérienne, ainsi que les opportunités et menaces externes pouvant influencer son entrée au sein des BRICS. Le rapport met en évidence la richesse considérable de l'Algérie en ressources naturelles et sa position géopolitique comme principaux atouts, tandis que les déficiences structurelles de l'économie et les défis institutionnels constituent des contraintes majeures. Sur le plan externe, les mutations de l'équilibre des puissances mondiales et l'essor de l'agenda des BRICS représentent des opportunités prometteuses, mais également des menaces dans un contexte de concurrence accrue et d'incertitudes géopolitiques. Cette étude apporte une contribution novatrice au débat concernant la place de l'Algérie dans le jeu économique mondial et son orientation stratégique face à l'ordre mondial multipolaire en mutation.

Mots clés : Algérie ; BRICS ; analyse SWOT.

Jel Classification Codes : F 02, F 63, R 11.

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I. INTRODUCTION

BRICS, originally a political initiative established by Jim O'Neil, began with China, India, Russia, and Brazil, and was later joined by South Africa. Although it started as a relatively unstable partnership, BRICS has evolved into a significant and ambitious economic organization that challenges the dominance of global institutions like the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (Iqbal, 2022). Collectively, the BRICS countries contribute a substantial portion of the global GDP, account for over 16% of world trade, cover approximately 30% of the world's land area, represent around 44% of the global population, and produce more than 40% of the world's energy. As one of the most influential economic groups, BRICS plays a crucial role in the global economy, striving to achieve a position that reflects the capabilities and ambitions of its members. Despite various factors that could aid in BRICS's success, particularly in the wake of the COVID-19 crisis, overcoming the challenges posed by the existing global system remains a significant difficulty (Akram Neamah et al., 2022).

The financial crisis of the early 21st century, Britain's exit from the European Union, the rise of protectionism, bilateral trade wars, climate change, technological disruptions, and the COVID-19 pandemic—each with profound impacts on both present and future generations—have highlighted the urgent need to restore multilateral cooperation. To accelerate recovery post-pandemic and foster economic growth, there is a critical need to build capacities, promote trade, and develop innovative solutions to mitigate the epidemic's effects, particularly on the most vulnerable populations. BRICS countries are expected to play a central role in global governance by supporting the development of countries in the Global South through their dedicated efforts (Brics, 2021).

South Africa and Brazil are expected to make significant political and economic contributions to the BRICS group. Their inclusion is supported by their status as leading developing economies in the Global South and their similar challenges. China and India, the world's two most populous countries, are the second and third largest economies, respectively. Russia boasts the world's largest land area and energy reserves, while Brazil has the largest economy in Latin America, and South Africa, though the third-largest economy on the continent, is the most developed in Africa. Despite varied opinions on the homogeneity of the member countries, China aims to strengthen political and economic ties with Africa to become a leading global power by 2049, marking its centennial. From 2013 to 2017, South Africa's annual growth rate was 1.5%, compared to the BRICS average of 3.5%, with China and India each at 7.15%.



South Africa's GDP stands at \$309 billion, about a quarter of Russia's \$1,396 billion, while South Africa's population is 56.5 million versus Russia's 144 million.

On the contrary, South Africa is the weakest member of BRICS, with the lowest public debt at \$157.102 billion, compared to Russia's \$206.96 billion. South Africa's GDP represents 16% of Africa's total GDP (Alejandro Jesús, 2019). This indicates that potential heterogeneity among BRICS members can be managed, especially given that there is no final agreement on accession terms. Several countries, including Argentina, Iran, Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Cuba, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Comoros, Gabon, and Kazakhstan, have expressed interest in joining BRICS.

Given the necessity for cooperation and alliances among countries, especially in the face of globalization and market dynamics, Algeria has recently expressed its desire to join BRICS. The logic of serving common interests and achieving mutual benefits supports this ambition. Algeria believes that its economic advantages justify its request for membership despite existing challenges. The country maintains that its bid to join BRICS is valid after making efforts to fulfill the membership requirements. Algeria participated in the BRICS Summit at the end of 2023 and previously took part in the virtual summit held in Beijing on June 23, 2022.

This research seeks to assess Algeria's potential membership in BRICS based on SWOT analysis. It will look at some of the major strengths and weaknesses of the Algerian economy (the internal environment) and significant opportunities and threats (the external environment). While there have been growing discussions on BRICS expansion, there has not been much scholarly research specifically investigating Algeria's preparedness and strategic alignment within BRICS through systematic tools like SWOT analysis. The following questions will be addressed in this analysis: Does Algeria have what it takes to become a member of BRICS, and what are the expected gains, especially in areas that Algeria needs to improve upon, such as the acquisition of technology and investment increase? On this basis, this research is premised on the hypothesis that Algeria's internal strengths and weaknesses, as well as external opportunities and threats, will greatly influence its future potential accession to BRICS.

The key hypothesis of this study assumes that Algeria's inherent strengths, such as wealth in resources, and inherent weaknesses, characterized by low economic diversification, combined with external opportunities such as South-



The Table (1) below displays the most frequently used words in previous studies related to the topic, including Africa, development, the South, economy, BRICS, countries, Algeria, and growth. This indicates that the BRICS bloc has become a tangible goal for many countries, such as Algeria, seeking to advance their economic development.

Table (1): Frequency statistics for more than one repeated word (The most frequent terms related to the topic)

Word	Frequency
Africa	3587
Development	2762
South	2455
Brics	2294
Countries	2159
Economic	2055
Algeria	1892
Growth	1542

Source: Nvivo14 program output

Table (2) presents the least frequently used words relevant to the analysis in this study. Given that Algeria has officially expressed its desire to join BRICS, the key question is: What benefits could this accession bring to Algeria in critical sectors such as health, innovation, technology, employment, energy, digitization, investment, knowledge, services, supply chains, infrastructure, and information?

Table (2): Frequency statistics for more than one repeated word (The least frequent terms that are related to the topic)

Word	Frequency
Health	828
Innovation	781
Technologies	717
Employment	584
Energy	557
Digital	543
Cooperation	528



Knowledge	498
Investment	480
Services	480
Blockchain	438
Infrastructure	436
Information	429

Source: Nvivo14 program output

Below, we present the most significant previous studies in chronological order, which were used to identify the knowledge gap addressed by this study. These studies cover key variables discussed from various perspectives. While they share some aspects with our study, they differ in terms of analysis, methodology, and the variables examined. The studies include:

(Camila & Oliveira, 2017) study examines the progress of innovation in BRICS countries both collectively and individually from 2008 to 2013. The study relies on the Global Innovation Index as its primary data source, which measures innovation using various inputs and outputs. Two analyses were conducted: First, the overall innovation index for BRICS countries demonstrated a sharp decline during the economic crisis of 2008-2009, followed by a tentative recovery. Second, a regression analysis was performed on the inputs and outputs for each country. This analysis revealed a low R^2 value, indicating that the relationship between inputs and outputs was not well-explained at the individual country level. However, when considering the BRICS countries as a group, the R^2 value of 64% suggests a significant relationship.

(Wyk & Viljoen-Bezuidenhout, 2018) study examines whether a relationship exists between financial development and economic growth among BRICS countries from 1996 to 2016. The research utilizes secondary data from Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa, analyzed using balanced panel data techniques. Key variables in the study include GDP growth, foreign direct investment, population, real interest rates, gross fixed capital formation, and domestic credit to the private sector, selected based on data availability. Time series data were sourced from the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF). The findings reveal both long-term and short-term relationships between economic growth and financial development. The study suggests that BRICS countries should focus on the most relevant variables to enhance economic growth, noting that statistics and financial resources can vary across different economies.



(Rai & Chaturved, 2018) study utilizes panel data from 1998 to 2016 to explore the causal relationship between energy consumption and GDP in BRICS countries (Brazil, Russia, China, India, and South Africa). The study reveals a long-term equilibrium relationship involving the unemployment rate, economic growth, and information and communication technology (ICT). It identifies a bidirectional causal relationship between economic growth and ICT in the BRICS nations and supports a cyclical causal link among economic growth, ICT, and the unemployment rate. The study suggests that implementing policies to develop ICT could accelerate growth and help address unemployment issues in these countries.

The study by (Gorelova et al., 2021) explores how BRICS countries facilitate the active involvement of foreign citizens from partner nations, considering the global market's territorial and sectoral segments. Using expert panels, the study aims to harmonize initially divergent expert opinions into more unified regulations. It suggests that increasing educational exports can boost the number of foreign students enrolling in higher education institutions within BRICS countries. Based on a factor analysis of the tasks and forecasts for the national education systems of BRICS nations, the study developed a survey matrix in the field of science.

(Alnafrah , 2021) study aims to assess the efficiency of sub-processes within the National Innovation Systems (NIS) of BRICS countries and identify where system errors occur. The study uses bias-corrected network data envelopment analysis (DEA) to evaluate the efficiency of the overall NIS as well as its individual sub-processes. The findings indicate that BRICS national information institutes struggle with commercializing the results of universities and research institutions, although they perform better than other countries in generating scientific and technological knowledge. The study suggests that the issues with the national information security systems in BRICS countries are not due to a lack of resources but rather to management and institutional challenges. It recommends that BRICS countries implement transitional measures to enhance innovation performance and address institutional weaknesses caused by insufficient collaboration between schools and businesses.

(BESSACHI, 2021) study on the SWOT analysis of potential regional competitiveness in Algeria aims to assess the impact of external environmental forces and macroeconomic factors, alongside Algeria's specific internal characteristics, on regional competition. The study's results indicate that Algeria possesses numerous natural resources that could be leveraged for new business ventures. Additionally, there are opportunities in renewable resources; however,



the primary threat stems from political instability in neighboring border countries.

(Brahim & Dahou, 2023) study explores the potential for enhancing Algerian exports through BRICS membership. This descriptive study examines how Algeria can effectively address the challenges of increasing exports. The study argues that joining BRICS could significantly improve export performance, serving as a strategic move both for implementing economic recovery programs and for diversifying income sources to mitigate oil price fluctuations. It concludes that developing Algerian exports is feasible by improving the quality of local production.

These studies were referenced to gain insights into various aspects of our research. They differ from our study in that we use a SWOT analysis to examine Algeria's potential accession to BRICS by identifying the key weaknesses and strengths of the Algerian economy, as well as the main opportunities and challenges it might encounter. This approach aims to provide an objective assessment of the likelihood of success by balancing the expected benefits against the potential costs.

In addition, there are many studies reflect the range of BRICS studies of issues from macroeconomic integration and financial inclusion foreign trade behavior and competitiveness, technological transformation using Industry 4.0, to ESG performance and capital structure determinants. (Syed, 2025) study examines the impact of global and regional economic integration on financial inclusion in BRICS countries for the period 2000-2022 using composite indices from principal component analysis and panel regression models. The findings show that while both forms of integration foster financial inclusion, global integration has a higher impact than regional integration. In addition, economic growth and institutional quality appreciably improve both access to and usage of financial services, while technological progress—measured by mobile subscriptions—mostly facilitates access without significantly increasing usage levels. The study concludes that policymakers in BRICS countries need to prioritize improving global economic integration in order to increase financial inclusion levels. (Vavilina et al., 2025) argue that the increasing contribution of BRICS to the world economy makes the analysis of trends in their foreign trade relevant. The paper examines the dynamics and structure of BRICS exports and imports for the period 2000–2022, with an emphasis on major items like food, raw materials, and energy resources that make up around 40% of trade turnover. Findings indicate accelerated export growth against imports due to intensified raw material supply and competitiveness. Exports are prevailingly high-tech



products with added value, whereas imports continue to be resource-intensive. In general, BRICS trade volumes considerably increased, elevating their world share and economic and political power. (Yadav et al., 2025) examine the potential of Industry 4.0 in BRICS countries through a review of studies conducted until 2022. The authors identified 423 pertinent papers from the Scopus database and compared them according to research methodology, technologies employed, and industrial sectors. The findings indicate that China and India are at the forefront, with 61% of the investigations concentrating primarily on enhancing productivity, reducing waste, energy efficiency, and sustainable operations. This research is significant as it identifies areas where further study is warranted and also provides recommendations to contribute to future policy development and promote global collaboration for sustainable development in BRICS nations. (Bagh et al., 2025) study the effect of ESG performance, firm-level, industry, macroeconomic, and financial determinants on capital structure, based on 3,420 listed companies from BRICS nations (2013–2022). Findings indicate that ESG performance lowers market leverage but raises book leverage, whereas firm size and asset tangibility increase leverage, and profitability, risk, and growth opportunities decrease it. At an industry level, concentration and munificence decrease leverage, while dynamism increases it; GDP growth and inflation are negatively associated, whereas private credit is positively associated. Country-specific analysis reveals disparate impacts across BRICS, indicating the necessity for managers and policymakers to align financing strategies with sustainability and economic conditions.

Regardless of their differing focuses, there is a recurring argument running throughout all works: each study strongly emphasizes the significance of economic integration, technological advancement, and institutional quality in shaping BRICS' development trajectory. Methodologically, most studies rely on quantitative tools such as panel regression, systematic review, and descriptive–quantitative trade analysis, reflecting the empirical nature of BRICS scholarship.

The works considered here cumulatively evidence that BRICS research abounds with macroeconomic, innovation, and financial integration studies. Enlargement dynamics are explicitly considered in few works, while even fewer focus on Algeria's preparedness via a frame worked approach. Most works continue to be either BRICS-wide or sectoral, without a comprehensive approach to accession viability.

Therefore, This study tries to bridge this gap by applying a SWOT analysis model in the case of Algeria, carefully comparing internal strengths and

weaknesses with external opportunities and threats to evaluate Algeria's potential membership in BRICS.

II. METHODS AND MATERIALS

This study employs SWOT analysis, a framework that assesses a business's strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats. Strengths (S) and weaknesses (W) are considered internal factors, while opportunities (O) and threats (T) are external

Figure (2): SWOT Analysis

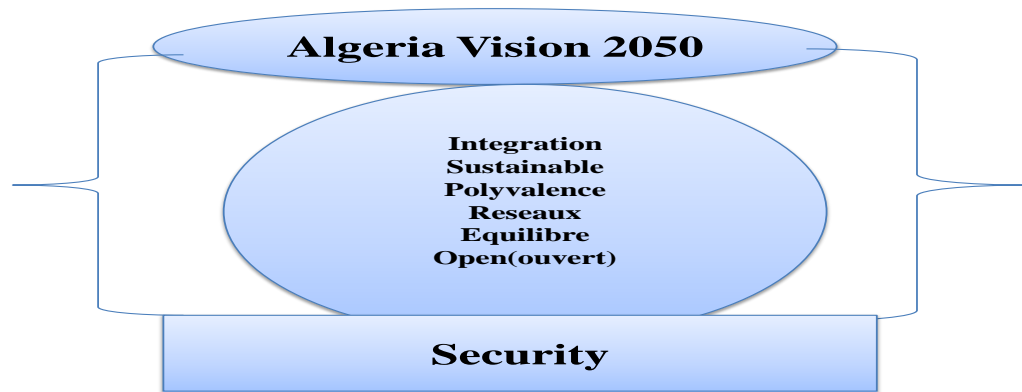


factors. The primary goal of SWOT analysis is to evaluate internal potential and limitations, as well as likely opportunities and threats from the external environment. Figure (2) illustrates the structure of SWOT analysis.

III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Since the beginning of the third millennium, Algeria has pursued a vision centered on sustainable development, balance, relationship networks, diversification, openness, and integration at the sectoral, local, and international levels. In light of global changes and challenges, particularly the Covid-19 pandemic in 2019, achieving comprehensive security has become an essential focus for Algeria's future plans, extending at least until 2050, as depicted in Figure (3). Finding a genuine partnership to ensure this security is crucial, especially given the failure of the Euro-Mediterranean partnership, which previously fell short of achieving Algeria's strategic objectives and resulted in significant financial losses.

Figure (3): Basic Important Axes of the Future Vision of Algeria 2050



Source: The research is based on the "Establishment of Algeria's National Vision 2030," prepared by the Korea Development Institute (KDI) in collaboration with the Secretary to the Prime Minister in charge of Prospective and Statistics in Algeria, and the Ministry of Strategy and Finance, Republic of Korea, in 2013.

As a result, Algeria is exploring new partnerships to achieve its national security and economic development through a win-win approach. BRICS has emerged as a prominent alternative. Algeria's official request to join BRICS reflects this strategy, which involves both strengths and weaknesses, opportunities, and challenges. These aspects are detailed in Figure 04, based on SWOT analysis.

Figure (4): SWOT for the Algerian Accession to BRICS

<p>Weaknesses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Rentier economy ✓ The economic exposure ✓ Security challenges, especially at the borders 	<p>Strengths:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Strategic location ✓ youth community ✓ Large and varied energy storage ✓ Huge agricultural potential ✓ Algeria's peaceful history in international relations
<p>Opportunities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ The importance of Africa in Chinese and Russian strategy as a market and natural resources potential ✓ Suitable international conditions for emerging economies to locate 	<p>Threats:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ The unipolar international system (the domination of the United States of America). ✓ The reaction of the European Union, particularly France

Source: The researcher's work.



III.1. Weaknesses

The Algerian economy is heavily reliant on oil revenues and faces significant security challenges, particularly at its borders. It is one of the most fossil fuel-dependent countries in Africa, with over 85.71% of its energy generated from fossil fuels (Africa's Energy Future Is Renewable Its sustainable economic development depends on it, 2023). Oil revenues contribute substantially to the GDP, accounting for 97% of Algeria's total exports. This dependence on oil has led to an economy that is largely driven by oil rent, resulting in a consumption-oriented society rather than a productive one. In 2021, Algeria's GDP was \$163 billion, according to World Bank data, which is significantly lower than South Africa's GDP of \$419 billion, the smallest economy in BRICS, making it two and a half times larger than Algeria's. Hydrocarbon production and export earnings are central to the Algerian economy, with the hydrocarbons sector accounting for 19% of GDP, 93% of export products, and 38% of budget revenues between 2016 and 2021. Algeria aims to diversify its economy to enhance revenue sources and improve employment prospects, particularly for youth, who faced an unemployment rate of 31.9% in 2021, compared to 12.7% for the overall labor force (The world bank, 2023).

Using the economic exposure index and the degree of economic exposure, we can gain a clear understanding of the interactions between the Algerian national economy, the global economy, and the economies of BRICS countries. Economic exposure, defined as the ratio of total exports and imports to GDP, provides a basis for comparison. To give this indicator practical meaning, we use it to derive an economic exposure index, allowing us to calculate the degree of economic exposure (Ameen, 2005). Tables 3 and 4 illustrate this for the period 2009-2021, since the foundation of BRICS. We calculate and compare the economic exposure index and degree of economic exposure for both Algeria and the BRICS countries, using the Chinese economy as a reference due to its status as the world's second-largest economy and the strongest within the BRICS group.

It is important to note that an Economic Exposure Index greater than 40 percent indicates significant economic exposure. For instance, if a country's Economic Exposure Index is 50 percent, it means that a complete severance of its economic relations with the outside world would lead to a 50 percent impact on its GDP. However, this general conclusion should be approached with caution, as numerical values alone may not fully capture the role of trade in the national economy. Comparing India to China, as shown in Table (3), reveals that India's

exposure index is generally better than China's across most years. This suggests that India's GDP is less affected by foreign trade fluctuations compared to China. This discrepancy requires further objective analysis and explanation.

Table (3): Economic Exposure Index

Year	Economic Exposure Index*					
	South Africa	India	Brazil	Algeria	Russia	China
2009	41,16	31,46	17,23	61,56	40,50	43,27
2010	45,09	34,41	17,82	60,50	42,58	48,86
2011	50,90	42,09	18,82	60,36	41,34	48,23
2012	52,20	43,03	19,28	58,47	39,16	45,32
2013	55,50	42,02	19,61	57,21	37,65	43,46
2014	56,40	38,53	18,80	55,49	39,08	41,06
2015	53,55	31,47	20,38	52,04	39,20	35,74
2016	51,89	27,29	18,09	48,19	37,06	32,81
2017	49,95	28,25	18,46	47,77	37,56	33,36
2018	51,45	31,05	22,16	50,38	41,80	33,27
2019	50,85	28,62	22,12	46,54	39,78	32,06
2020	50,32	24,35	25,92	39,63	38,47	31,70
2021	56,69	30,49	32,04	46,63	44,85	34,09

Source: Prepared by researchers, based on World Bank data, available at :

https://data.worldbank.org/?_gl=1*fmtz6e*_gcl_au*MTY4MTk1NDM3NS4xNzI0MTU5MzE3

, last visited(2024/07/12)

* $(X + M)/GDP$.

According to Table 4, Algeria and South Africa have a high degree of economic exposure to China compared to Russia and India. Developed countries, such as Britain, show a balance between exports and imports, reflecting a stable reliance on foreign trade components. For example, Britain's total exports and imports account for about 37% of its GDP. While Britain imports various foodstuffs and raw materials, it exports high-quality manufactured goods and international services, contributing to a high standard of living. In contrast, developing countries like Algeria exhibit a lack of balance in their trade exposure. Algeria relies heavily on oil exports and imports most manufactured goods, especially high-tech items, resulting in a structural trade imbalance.

Foreign trade indicators reveal that Algeria's trade balance favors BRICS countries. Algeria imports \$6.35 billion worth of goods from China annually, while its exports to China amount to only \$1.08 billion, primarily fuels and energy derivatives. In 2021/2022, trade between India and Algeria was

approximately \$1.39 billion, while trade with Russia reached nearly \$3 billion in 2023. Algeria's trade with Brazil totaled \$3.8 billion, making Algeria Brazil's second-largest partner in Africa. Algeria's exports to African countries were \$1.6 billion in 2023, with imports from Africa totaling \$1.4 billion. Most trade transactions occur with just five African countries. Algeria's non-hydrocarbon exports were only \$206 million, representing 12% of its total exports, with 98% going to four or five African nations. In comparison, India's trade volume with China reached \$115.83 billion in 2022, a 34% annual increase, while trade with Russia surpassed \$18.2 billion. The trade balance is favorable to Russia, with \$17.2 billion in Russian exports to India and \$992.73 million in Indian exports to Russia. Russia is now India's seventh-largest trading partner.

Algeria's extensive border strip exposes it to threats from subversive groups, drug traffickers, and increased asylum and migration flows, particularly following recent coups in Mali and Burkina Faso, and the current situation in Niger. This creates additional burdens for Algeria if military interventions occur. Border security is crucial for state security, and Algeria aims to protect it amidst various threats, including economic, social, environmental, health, military, and cyber threats. Additionally, international competition influences these threats, as global forces address them based on their interests (Nadjia Belkhatir & Siham, 2021).

Table (4): Degree of Economic Exposure

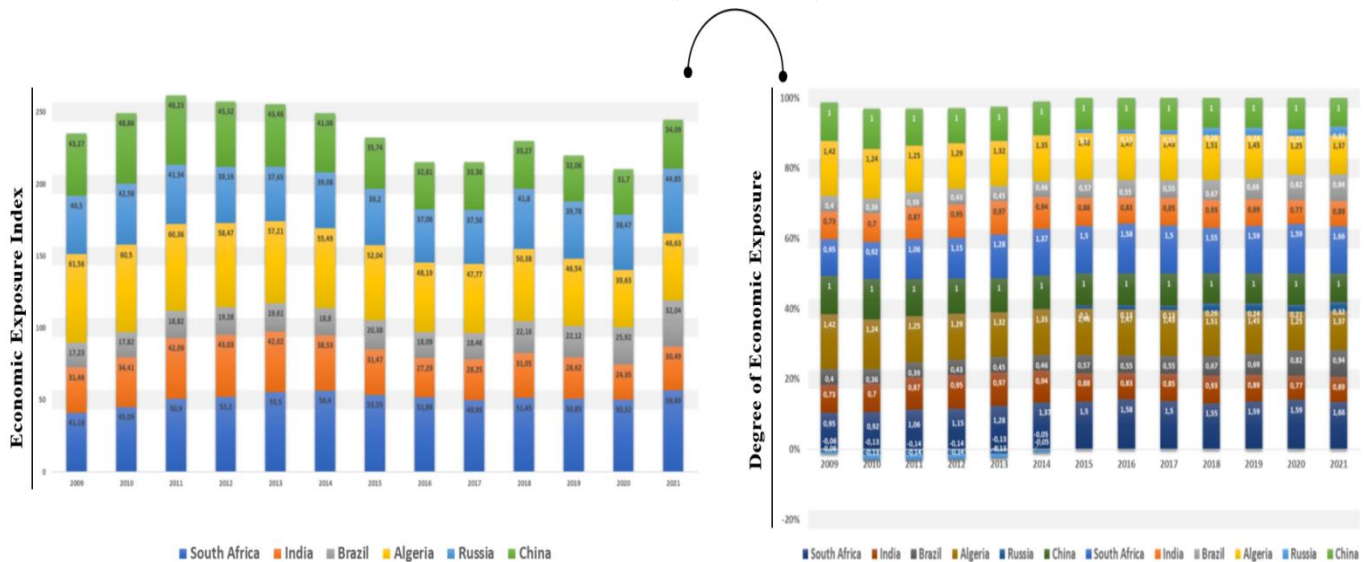
Year	Degree of Economic Exposure*					
	South Africa	India	Brazil	Algeria	Russia	China
2009	0,95	0,73	0,40	1,42	-0,06	1,00
2010	0,92	0,70	0,36	1,24	-0,13	1,00
2011	1,06	0,87	0,39	1,25	-0,14	1,00
2012	1,15	0,95	0,43	1,29	-0,14	1,00
2013	1,28	0,97	0,45	1,32	-0,13	1,00
2014	1,37	0,94	0,46	1,35	-0,05	1,00
2015	1,50	0,88	0,57	1,46	0,10	1,00
2016	1,58	0,83	0,55	1,47	0,13	1,00
2017	1,50	0,85	0,55	1,43	0,13	1,00
2018	1,55	0,93	0,67	1,51	0,26	1,00
2019	1,59	0,89	0,69	1,45	0,24	1,00
2020	1,59	0,77	0,82	1,25	0,21	1,00
2021	1,66	0,89	0,94	1,37	0,32	1,00

Source: The researcher's work based on the data of the World Bank.

* Economic exposure index for a country/ Indicative exposure index (China)

The Figure (5) illustrates both the Economic exposure index and the degree

Figure (5): The Economic exposure index and the degree of economic exposure of Algeria and BRICS (2009/2021)



of economic exposure of Algeria and BRICS as it is mentioned below.

Source: Prepared by researchers based on data in Tables 3 and 4

III.2. Strengths

Algeria has undeniable assets that could enable it to become North Africa's regional power due to its strategic location and considerable economic potential, many factors clearly

Algeria's future potential is substantial, thanks to its geographic advantages, demographic profile, oil wealth, significant agricultural potential, peaceful international relations, and robust security sector. As the largest country in Africa, the Arab world, and the Mediterranean region, Algeria spans approximately 2,382,000 square kilometers. Its strategic location connects North Africa with Europe through the Mediterranean Sea.

Economically, Algeria holds the fourth-largest economy in Africa and the Arab world, with a gross national product of \$187 billion. Its population of 46 million makes it the tenth most populous country on the continent. The country is advancing regional and continental integration through major infrastructure projects, including the Algiers Port, the Hamadiye Port, and the 10,000-kilometer



Trans-Saharan Highway, which links northern Algeria to Nigeria, Tunisia, Mali, Chad, and Niger. Additionally, the 5,000-kilometer Trans-Saharan gas pipeline facilitates the export of Nigerian natural gas to Europe, while a fiber optic network project enhances connectivity. Algeria also boasts the second-largest road network in Africa, extending over 140,000 kilometers, and a comprehensive railway network that will reach 12,500 kilometers by 2030.

In recent years, the Algerian economy has experienced moderate growth. Over the past decade, China, as the BRICS leader, achieved an average growth rate of 7 percent, Russia 2.8 percent, India 6 percent, South Africa 1.4 percent, Brazil 1 percent, and Algeria averaged 2.2 percent annually. According to the African Development Bank, Algeria's economy began recovering in 2021 with a 4 percent growth, driven by increased oil production and higher oil revenues, which helped counterbalance rising investment spending. In 2021, the economy rebounded with a 3.4 percent GDP growth, recovering from a 5.1 percent contraction in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Non-hydrocarbon GDP growth accelerated to 3.7 percent, supported by private consumption, reduced import volumes, and a resurgence in agriculture and consumer-oriented manufacturing and services (The world bank, 2023).

Algeria is actively working to diversify its economy and reduce its dependence on oil by focusing on sectors such as industry, agriculture, tourism, and infrastructure investment. In 2023, Algeria ranked third in Africa and among the top ten globally for its Human Development Index, with a score of 0.745, indicating high development. The country's population, as of August 26, 2023, stands at 45,708,872, making it the 34th most populous nation. The median age is 28.2 years (Table (5)). Since gaining independence in 1962, Algeria has increased its literacy rate to 80.2%, with 87.2% for men and 73.1% for women. The country has 96.7% school enrollment and over 100 universities across various disciplines, reflecting its promising future production capacity, especially if further investments are made in education and training.

Table (5): Population of Algeria

Year	Population	Yearly % Change	Median Age	Density (P/Km²)	World Population	Algeria Global Rank
2023	45,606,480	1.57 %	28.2	19	8,045,311,447	34
2022	44,903,225	1.64 %	28.0	19	7,975,105,156	34



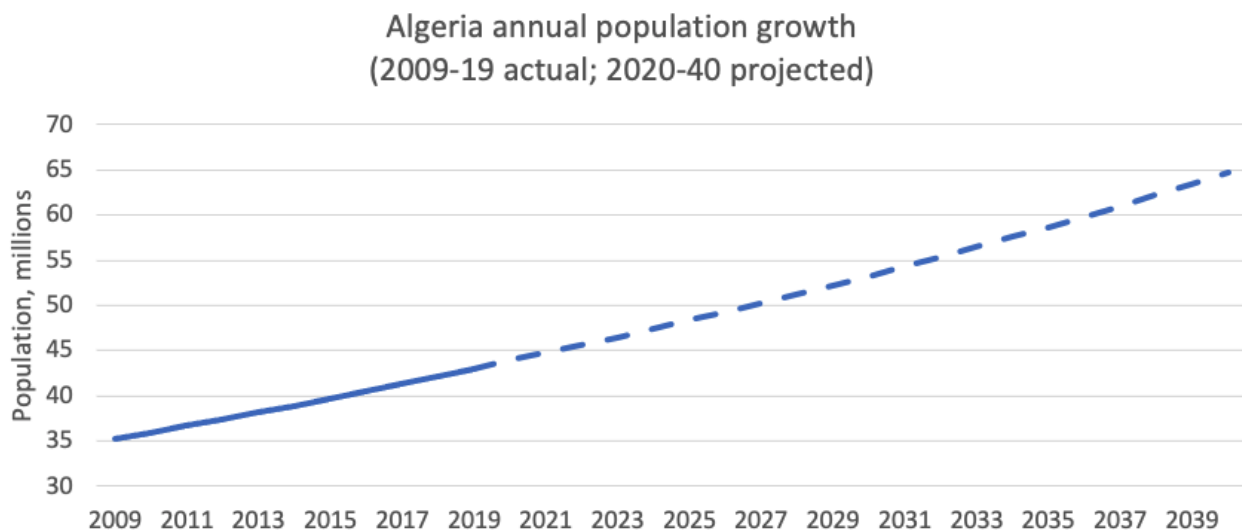
2020	43,451,666	1.75 %	27.6	18	7,840,952,880	35
2015	39,543,154	1.98 %	26.5	17	7,426,597,537	33
2010	35,856,344	1.70 %	25.1	15	6,985,603,105	34
2005	32,956,690	1.38 %	23.1	14	6,558,176,119	34
2000	30,774,621	1.56 %	20.7	13	6,148,898,975	34

Source: The researcher's work based on **Worldometer** (www.Worldometers.info)

Elaboration of data by United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division. World Population Prospects: The 2022 Revision. (Medium-fertility variant).

Growing at an average pace of 2 percent per year for the last 10 years, the nation's population increased from 35 million in 2009 to 43 million in 2019. Sustaining this growth rate would result in a total population of 53 million by 2030, and nearly 65 million by 2040(Figure (6)).

Figure (6): Algerian annual population growth (2009-19 acual ;2020- 40 projected)



Source: Michael Hochberg ,(2020),Algeria charts a path for renewable energy sector development, available at <https://www.mei.edu/publications/algeria-charts-path-renewable-energy-sector-development>,(last visited 26/08/2023).

Energy is crucial for development, playing a key role in accelerating economic growth, creating job opportunities for youth, supporting health, and



improving living standards. Diversifying the energy mix and transitioning to renewable sources can mitigate environmental risks, enhance energy security, and promote economic independence. The shift to clean energy can also generate jobs throughout the supply chain. By 2050, Africa's energy sector is projected to support 28 million jobs, with renewable energy jobs expected to rise from over 300,000 today to 8 million. To achieve Sustainable Development Goal 7, Africa must invest US\$190 billion annually in energy from 2026 to 2030, with 70% allocated to clean energy. Energy sector investments need to nearly triple each year until 2030. Globally, wind and solar account for 90% of new renewable electricity generation. Algeria, with its high solar radiation, generates between 1,850 and 2,100 kilowatt-hours per square meter annually, totaling about 3,500 hours of sunlight per year in desert areas. Additionally, Algeria's Mediterranean coast spans about 1,500 kilometers with wind speeds exceeding 8 meters per second, complemented by winds from the southern Sahel (International Trade Administration, 2023). The Sahara Desert covers 86% of Algeria, which ranks 21st globally in potential solar energy production.

Algeria is also one of Africa's largest hydrocarbon producers, with oil and gas revenues historically making up about half of the national budget and 90 percent of export earnings. The national oil and gas company, Sonatrach, has been pivotal in the country's political, social, and economic development. With the 10th largest natural gas reserves globally, oil and gas exploration has been a rapid and lucrative means of growth for Algeria. The nationalized oil and gas sector symbolizes the country's independence and sovereignty, fueling its push towards investing in renewable energies. Given its vast potential, Algeria is poised to become a major player in the future energy market, not only through renewables but also in areas like gas and hydrogen.

Agriculture also holds significant promise for Algeria. During French colonization, Algeria was a major food supplier to Europe, particularly known for wheat. Today, agriculture remains a key sector. In 2020, agricultural production exceeded \$25 billion, up from \$23 billion in 2019. The agricultural sector contributes about 12.4% to the Algerian GDP and provides over 2.5 million direct jobs (Ratiba Ferrah, Justina Torry, 2021). The Algerian agriculture market was valued at USD 4.64 billion in 2023 and is expected to grow to USD 5.82 billion by 2028, with a CAGR of 4.65% during the forecast period (2023-2028).

Furthermore, in 2020, Algeria removed the "51/49" restriction, which mandated majority Algerian ownership of new businesses, to encourage foreign investment. The removal of this rule by the Supplemental Finance Law for 2020

(LFC 2020) has opened new opportunities for foreign investors. However, certain strategic sectors, such as the pharmaceutical industry, energy, mining, transportation, and the defense sector, continue to be subject to the 51/49% rule, as per Executive Decree No. 21-145 of April 17, 2021.

III.3. Opportunities

The significance of Africa in the BRICS strategy, both as a market and for its natural resources, is substantial. Africa's vast population of 1,464,211,788 and its considerable reserves of energy and natural resources make it a crucial region for BRICS. The United Nations Development Program reports that Africa holds 30% of the world's total mineral reserves, 8% of its natural gas reserves, and 12% of its oil reserves. The continent also contains 90% of the world's platinum reserves, along with significant reserves of diamonds, uranium, and 65% of the world's agricultural land.

As the largest country in Africa by area, Algeria is rich in a diverse range of mineral resources that are pivotal for bolstering its national economy. Algeria is endowed with over 30 minerals, including iron, lead, zinc, phosphate, gold, and precious metals such as diamonds, precious stones, and rare earth elements. These resources offer Algeria a strategic advantage in economic diversification and value creation. This potential is further realized through increased foreign investments, particularly in rare earths.

Algeria's accession to BRICS, along with the inclusion of other African nations, will enhance the group's global position. This is particularly relevant given BRICS' recent invitation to six additional countries—Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Argentina, Egypt, Iran, and Ethiopia—which collectively account for a fifth of global trade, according to the International Monetary Fund for 2022. China's dominance in this context is evident, as illustrated in Table (6).

Table (6): Volume Index and the Share of Global Trade of New BRICS

BRICS	Trade volume in 2022 (billion dollars)	Share of global trade
China	5,744	11,6
India	1,096	2,2
Russia	837,5	1,7
Brazil	645, 8	1,3
UAE	645, 7	1,3
Saudi Arabia	551,3	1.1

South Africa	297	0,6
Argentina	167,5	0,3
Egypt	154,9	0,3
Iran	54, 5	0,1
Ethiopia	13,5	0,03

Source: IMF 2022 data.

III.3.1. *Favorable International Conditions for Emerging Economies:*

According to the International Monetary Fund's July 2023 report, as shown in Table (6), economic growth expectations for emerging and developing market economies—including the BRICS countries—are notably high for 2023, estimated at 4%. In contrast, growth expectations for advanced economies are projected to be just 1.5%. Globally, the anticipated growth rate is 3%, highlighting that emerging and developing economies are increasingly attractive for investment and capital flow.

Table (6): Growth Forecast (Real GDP growth, %)

	Emerging Market and Developing Economies	Developed Economies	International Economy
2022	4,0	2,7	3,5
2023	4,0	1,5	3,0
2024	4,1	1,4	3,0

Source: The researcher's work based on, available at: <https://www.imf.org/en/Home> ,(last visited 20/08/2023)

Algeria aims to join the ranks of emerging economies. According to a World Bank report, the rise in global oil and gas prices has significantly improved Algeria's macroeconomic balance. The trade balance shifted from a deficit of 9.4% of GDP in 2017 to a surplus of 0.7% in 2021, with oil and gas export revenues increasing by 70%. This boost led to a substantial rise in current account surpluses and fiscal revenues, reducing the overall budget deficit from 12% to 7.2% of GDP, driven by increased hydrocarbon export revenues and a modest rise in non-hydrocarbon revenues (The world bank, 2022). Joining BRICS presents an opportunity for Algeria to become an emerging economy by enhancing investment flows, both net inflows and outflows, which are currently modest compared to those of BRICS countries, as shown in Tables 08 and 09.

The Table (7) Shows net inflows foreign direct investment (% of GDP).

Table (7): Foreign direct investment, net inflows (% of GDP)

Year	Foreign direct investment, net inflows (% of GDP)					
	South Africa	India	Brazil	Algeria	Russia	China
2009	2,31217475	2,65159033	1,8884824	2,00197553	2,99212555	2,56889433
2010	0,88490461	1,63503411	3,73001227	1,42696332	2,83082873	4,00354459
2011	0,90338144	2,00206346	3,91517954	1,28553432	2,69236121	3,7088067
2012	1,06492249	1,31293454	3,75496211	0,71769303	2,29079873	2,82710526
2013	2,05358095	1,51627648	3,04150923	0,80660136	3,01940208	3,03985503
2014	1,51932744	1,6956596	3,57135261	0,70258936	1,06987641	2,55924765
2015	0,43873579	2,09211523	3,59214973	- 0,32401219	0,50260796	2,19217762
2016	0,68461255	1,93736412	4,13737854	1,02369608	2,5485	1,55563696
2017	0,53967396	1,50731583	3,33826028	0,72325998	1,81409298	1,34912371
2018	1,37803784	1,55821484	4,07748708	0,83820742	0,53006079	1,69389433
2019	1,31677922	1,78482635	3,6926733	0,80414399	1,88851733	1,31071593
2020	0,93405503	2,40913595	2,55986042	0,78488331	0,63485119	1,72317562
2021	9,85551259	1,41977528	2,81513245	0,53168122	2,20208855	1,93078624
2022	2,16884907	1,47456962	4,76549738	0,03918289	-1,9252396	1,0029793

Source: the world bank, **Foreign direct investment, net inflows (% of GDP)**, available at: <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/BX.KLT.DINV.WD.GD.ZS> , (last visited 20/08/2023)

And the Table (8) shows net outflows Foreign direct investment (% of GDP)

Table (8): Foreign direct investment, net outflows (% of GDP)

Year	Foreign direct investment, net outflows (% of GDP)					
	South Africa	India	Brazil	Algeria	Russia	China
2009	0,3976599	1,19947295	-0,2730584	0,15627257	3,5399064	0,86030269
2010	- 0,03864572	0,95296918	1,21163296	0,1359945	3,45043569	0,95205806
2011	-0,0334785	0,69158728	0,61414966	0,26694135	3,26751295	0,64120175
2012	0,66732643	0,46799419	0,08450595	-0,0198238	2,21086642	0,76139209
2013	1,62636588	0,09505727	0,63261813	-0,1295552	3,77350744	0,76245864



2014	2,01786456	0,57311212	0,83902633	-0,0086853	2,77200016	1,17539103
2015	1,59064699	0,35721227	0,17389614	0,06092467	1,61975494	1,57654502
2016	1,38772535	0,21994507	0,81826235	0,02908183	1,74769491	1,92663056
2017	1,9528763	0,41826355	1,03418275	-0,0050362	2,33496665	1,12337327
2018	0,9963808	0,42242274	0,105615	0,48379579	1,89322002	1,0293453
2019	0,80841326	0,46341773	1,21815773	0,01813483	1,29484058	0,95875562
2020	- 0,57338568	0,41633054	-0,2348917	0,01002127	0,39160769	1,0465924
2021	- 0,00153552	0,54720811	0,98442677	-0,0316757	3,58664294	1,00332846
2022	0,59598564	0,42720183	1,59857006	0,03677022	- 0,62690409	0,83332909

Source: The world bank, **Foreign direct investment, net outflows (% of GDP)**, available at: <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/BX.KLT.DINV.WD.GD.ZS> , (last visited 21/08/2023)

Algeria is also seeking, through its accession to the BRICS, to develop technology by increasing its exports of high-tech commodities, which are weak, compared to the BRICS countries, according to Table (9).

Table (9): High-technology exports (current US\$)

Year	High-technology exports (current US\$)					
	South Africa	India	Brazil	Algeria	Russia	China
2009	148281827 6	1,1215E+10	846082330 3	4615916	475627128 3	3,5924E+11
2010	250473310 1	1,0659E+10	882136614 3	5377821	526318085 0	4,7435E+11
2011	274337667 2	1,4504E+10	914434121 4	3565016	573165146 4	5,4017E+11
2012	286065304 2	1,3874E+10	947090828 5	2215525	770972064 4	5,9386E+11
2013	261356664 3	1,7938E+10	906622685 6	3256008	920085943 0	6,559E+11
2014	280686373 2	1,8326E+10	879461013 9	4033112	1,04E+10	6,5385E+11
2015	281822637 7	1,4584E+10	943300838 2	2549728	1,145E+10	6,5221E+11
2016	239747704 0	1,4261E+10	1,0375E+10	4844795	1,1206E+10	5,9452E+11



2017	219794570 1	1,5102E+10	1,0715E+10	9027398	1,0359E+10	6,5416E+11
2018	209140186 0	2,0182E+10	1,1063E+10	ND	1,0075E+10	7,3132E+11
2019	183283075 8	2,3471E+10	939187858 9	ND	1,0757E+10	7,153E+11
2020	183504112 6	2,1583E+10	594492730 4	ND	652488301 2	7,5746E+11
2021	ND	2,7447E+10	635011482 9	ND	1,0553E+10	9,4231E+11

Source: the world bank, **High-technology exports (current US\$)**, available at: <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/TX.VAL.TECH.CD>, (last visited 22/08/2023)

III.4. Threats

The unipolar international system, dominated by the United States, has led to a significant disparity in GDP per capita between Western countries and the BRICS nations. According to the International Monetary Fund's April 2023 estimates, GDP per capita stands at \$80,030 in the United States, \$66,130 in Germany, \$60,180 in Canada, \$58,830 in France, \$56,470 in the United Kingdom, and \$51,810 in Italy. In contrast, BRICS countries have lower GDP per capita: \$34,840 in Russia, \$23,380 in China, \$18,690 in Brazil, \$16,090 in South Africa, and \$9,070 in India. The expanded BRICS group, while representing 30% of global GDP and encompassing 3.7 billion people (46% of the world's population), remains smaller in both economic and demographic terms compared to the G7, which represents 44% of global GDP with a population of just 780 million. This results in an average per capita GDP of over \$56,000 for the G7, versus around \$840 for the BRICS countries.

The European Union is a crucial partner for Algeria, as evidenced by the Euro-Algerian Partnership Agreement signed in 2005, which aimed to invest and transfer technology to Algeria. However, the EU has focused mainly on energy cooperation, security, and immigration issues, leaving Algeria feeling disadvantaged. The Algerian authorities have called for a review of the agreement due to the EU's dominant position and Algeria's loss, illustrated by a 45% decline in EU exports to Algeria in recent years. The EU seeks to restore relations with Algeria, leveraging its economic and political influence amidst new competitors like China and Russia and the impact of the Russian-Ukrainian war on the energy market. Algeria is exploring its position within this evolving economic landscape, as depicted in the following Table (11).

Table (11): The foundations of the strategy of the dominant international institutions towards Algeria

Institutions	Goals	Tools	Obstacles
The European Union, with the pivotal role played by France for historical reasons	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Maintaining the first position as a partner. - Achieving a wide Euro-Mediterranean space that is politically stable and economically prosperous. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Support from major financial institutions such as the Paris Club and the London Club. - The involvement of the Algerian elites in that have French leanings. - Preference for the establishment of European institutions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -American political hegemony in international relations. - Priorities of European expansion towards the Eastern Bloc, as Germany desires. - The emergence of other blocs such as BRICS.
United States of America	<p>Embodying the strategies of the United States of America politically, economically and militarily.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> By Encouraging the petroleum companies and controlling the fuel sector. - The weight of its political decisions in international financial organisations. - Focusing on its companies located inside and outside the United States of America, especially the fuel sector. - By involving and assisting of the Algerian community residing in the United States of America. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Linguistic and cultural barrier. -Algerian consumption model belonging to the Euro-Mediterranean. -Weak exchanges outside of hydrocarbons. - The emergence of other blocs such as BRICS
BRICS	Embodying the	- Presenting	The Western



	<p>strategies of the BRICS politically, economically and militarily.</p>	<p>BRICS as a peaceful alternative to Western hegemony led by the United States of America. - Algeria's desire to diversify its partners. - Algeria represents a market, especially in the energy field. By involving and assisting of the Algerian community residing in the BRICS countries.</p>	<p>hegemony led by the United States of America. The interests and relations of some Algerians with Western countries.</p>
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Source: The researcher's work based on: Abd al-Rahman Mabtoul and others, **bets and strategies of internal and external actors with the need for a new regulation of privatization in Algeria**, studies and research by the Supreme Council for Privatization, Algeria, 1998.

III.5. First phase of BRICS expansion (2024)

Algeria formally requested to join the BRICS group and expressed its interest in becoming a contributing member by investing \$1.5 billion in the BRICS bank. However, Algeria's request, along with those of other countries such as Indonesia, was declined. This rejection is not surprising, as joining BRICS requires ongoing efforts in investment, economic, and human development, as well as raising the gross domestic product (GDP) to over \$200 billion. Despite Algeria achieving \$56.5 billion in exports by the end of 2022—comprising \$49.5 billion from oil and gas and about \$7 billion from non-fuel exports—these figures fall short of South Africa's exports, which totaled over \$121 billion in 2021. Algeria's GDP, which stood at \$163 billion in 2021, is considerably lower than South Africa's \$419 billion, indicating a significant economic disparity.

To address this, Algeria is focusing on several strategies:



III.5.1. Expanding Natural Gas Production: Algeria aims to double its natural gas production, which is in high demand in Europe, potentially increasing its GDP by more than \$37 billion within a year. The country is investing around \$40 billion in the hydrocarbons sector and has made significant discoveries in 2022. It has formed partnerships with multinational companies, such as Italy's Eni, France's Total, and America's Occidental, to enhance gas field exploitation and production. Additionally, Algeria is accelerating its renewable energy initiatives, including solar energy, green hydrogen, and green ammonia, in collaboration with Germany and Italy. The country also plans to export electricity to Europe, capitalizing on its surplus production capacity.

III.5.2. Diversifying Revenues: Algeria is working to boost its revenue from services, especially tourism and remittances from abroad, by simplifying visa procedures for foreigners and establishing bank branches in countries with significant Algerian communities. The country is also advancing infrastructure projects, such as paving roads to Mauritania, speeding up the Trans-Saharan Highway to Nigeria, and opening exhibitions and bank branches across Africa. Furthermore, Algeria is investing in its mining sector, focusing on phosphate, iron, gold, and rare earths.

The BRICS group's decision to admit six new members—Saudi Arabia, Iran, Ethiopia, the United Arab Emirates, Egypt, and Argentina—starting January 1, 2024, while rejecting Algeria's application, has raised several questions. Some experts believe that the rejection may be due to Algeria's relatively recent nomination compared to countries like Egypt and the UAE, which had already shown interest in joining BRICS and are members of the New Development Bank (NDB). The inclusion of Ethiopia, with a GDP of just over \$100 billion, might be motivated by a desire for greater African representation or other strategic interests. Some suggest that BRICS members may have vetoed Algeria's accession in favor of countries with significant economic or geopolitical value, such as Egypt, Ethiopia, or Saudi Arabia.

Critics argue that the criteria for BRICS membership were not clearly defined and that decisions were influenced by selective vetoes rather than objective measures. They question why countries with substantial populations and GDPs, such as Indonesia or Nigeria, were excluded. Algeria's investment in the NDB is seen as a strategic move rather than a charitable contribution, reflecting its economic importance and strategic partnerships. Despite the setback, Algeria can use this opportunity to undertake comprehensive economic reforms, enhance trade and investment openness, and improve its global economic integration.



IV. Conclusion:

A SWOT analysis of Algeria's bid to join BRICS reveals that while the country has notable internal advantages, it struggles with economic effectiveness. The request to join BRICS is driven by Algeria's aim to enhance its economic standing and visibility. Externally, Algeria faces promising opportunities for integration, including shared economic goals with BRICS members and the potential for mutually beneficial relationships. However, Algeria must carefully balance its interactions with all key global economic players. To secure membership in BRICS or any other major group, Algeria needs to achieve significant economic advancement. Therefore, the main hypothesis on which the study is based is correct, which confirms that Algeria has an internal and external environment that could support it join BRICS if it can address its weaknesses and threats, especially after its recent accession to the BRICS Bank.

It is unlikely that a future veto against Algeria will be favorable, given the country's principled stance. The argument that Ethiopia, with a smaller economy and population, is preferable to Algeria or other countries is not convincing. BRICS must reconsider its operational methods to avoid political manipulation and ensure fairness. Political considerations often influence BRICS membership decisions beyond economic factors, which Algeria must navigate.

Looking ahead, Algeria might be reconsidered for BRICS membership. To improve its chances, Algeria should enhance its economic readiness both at macro and micro levels and strengthen ties with countries like India. BRICS should also revise its operational rules to ensure fairness, transparency, and mutual benefit, particularly since it positions itself as an alternative to Western dominance. Algeria is striving to integrate positively into the global economy, leveraging economic blocs and global markets to advance its development.

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