

The Spanish Crusades on the City of Algiers during the Ottoman Era: A Critical Analytical Study

الحملات الصليبية الإسبانية على مدينة الجزائر خلال العهد العثماني: دراسة نقدية تحليلية

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Abstract:

The fall of Granada, the last stronghold of Muslims in Andalusia in 1492, had a profound effect on the souls of the inhabitants of Central Morocco towards the end of the Zayani rule. This coincided with the issuance of expulsion decrees from the Inquisition courts supported by the Catholic Monarchs Ferdinand and Isabella, who waged a crusade against Muslims with the blessing of the Catholic Church. Muslims there were compelled to seek assistance from the Barbarossa brothers, who responded to the call and began their relocation to the coasts of the countries on the southern shore of the Mediterranean. Among these countries was Algeria, which opened its coastal cities to the religious brothers coming from Andalusia. However, this did not end here; it was followed by Spanish armies raiding the Algerian coasts, exploiting the weakness of Zayani authority in the west and Hafsid authority in the east. In this research paper, we will attempt to address this crusading tendency directed towards the city of Algiers, which began with the late Zayani rule and continued even after its accession to the Ottoman Caliphate

Keywords: Crusading tendency, city of Algiers, Ottoman presence in Algeria, Spain, Mediterranean Sea.

الملخص:

أثر سقوط غرناطة، آخر معاقل المسلمين في الأندلس سنة 1492م، تأثيراً عميقاً في نفوس سكان المغرب الأوسط أواخر عهد الزيانيين، إذ تزامن ذلك مع صدور مراسيم الطرد عن محاكم التفتيش المدعومة من الملكين الكاثوليكين فرديناند وإيزابيلا، اللذين شنّا حملة صليبية ضد المسلمين بمباركة من الكنيسة الكاثوليكية. وقد اضطر المسلمون هناك إلى طلب العون من الأخوين بربروس، اللذين لبّوا النداء وشرعوا في الانتقال إلى سواحل البلدان الواقعة على الضفة الجنوبية من البحر الأبيض المتوسط، ومن بينها الجزائر التي فتحت مدنها الساحلية أمام الإخوة الدينيين القادمين من الأندلس. غير أنّ الأمر لم يتوقف عند هذا الحد، إذ تبعت ذلك حملات إسبانية صليبية على السواحل الجزائرية، استغلّت ضعف السلطة الزيانية في الغرب والحفصية في الشرق. ويحاول هذا البحث تناول النزعة الصليبية التي وُجّهت نحو مدينة الجزائر، والتي بدأت في أواخر العهد الزياني واستمرت حتى بعد انضمامها إلى الخلافة العثمانية.

الكلمات المفتاحية: النزعة الصليبية، مدينة الجزائر، الوجود العثماني في الجزائر، إسبانيا، البحر الأبيض المتوسط.

• Introduction

The Mediterranean Basin witnessed a Christian-Islamic conflict during the 8th century AH/15th century AD and the 9th century AH/16th century AD. This conflict emerged as an inevitable result of the rise of two regional powers in the area: the Ottoman Empire, which was the protector of Islam and the conqueror of the remnants of Byzantine territories on one side, and Spain, the official representative of the Catholic Church, which sought to cleanse its lands of Muslims on the other side. This conflict indeed began with the enactment of expulsion decrees established by the Inquisition courts supported by the Catholic Church in 1391 AD.

After the fall of Granada in 1492 AD, the grip of the Catholic monarch Ferdinand and his wife Isabel on the Muslims tightened, launching a fierce conversion campaign with the Church's blessing. This drove the Muslims to seek assistance from the Barbarossa brothers, Arog and Hayreddin, and Ishaq, after losing hope in appealing to the rulers of the Islamic Maghreb, who were engrossed in their conflicts. The brothers responded to their call and began relocating them to the African coasts, later establishing themselves in several coastal cities such as Algiers, Oran, Tlemcen, and others.

A. Study Problem: Our research paper aims to explore the extent of the impact of the migration of the Andalusians to Algeria and its effect on the political relations between Algeria and Spain.

To what extent were the geopolitical relations between Spain and Algeria affected by the latter's support for the Morisco cause?

B. Hypotheses: The Ottoman Empire adopted the Morisco cause and quickly moved to evacuate and relocate Muslims to the coasts of the Islamic Maghreb. Immediately after that, once the relocated Andalusians settled in the coastal cities, they did not hesitate to establish urban and rural residential communities, using them as military outposts to conduct maritime jihad, once again hastening to harass the Spanish coasts. Here, we pause at several hypotheses:

- The extension of the Spanish Crusade and its repeated attacks on the Algerian coasts was not a justification for asserting its sovereignty over Spain and defending it, as the Spaniards claimed, but rather a colonial tendency aimed at occupying the countries of the Islamic Maghreb.
- Without the intervention of the Barbarossa brothers and other Muslim sailors and pirates at the right time, along with their official support from the Ottoman authority, and their refusal to abandon the Moors, the Spanish push for control over the western Mediterranean would have continued unabated.
- There is no doubt that Spain's colonial tendency is not merely the result of political circumstances, but also involves religious biases and hostilities against Islam and Muslims.

C. Study Objectives: Our study aims to uncover the hidden face of the Crusades led by Spain with the blessing of the Church against Islamic states, and to highlight the intensity of the Spanish-Algerian conflict in the Mediterranean basin.

Our study also aims to shed light on the importance of the Andalusian presence in Algeria and its effective role in disturbing the balance of power between the two states, both militarily and economically.

D. Methodology of the study: We relied on the historical methodology in this study to investigate various historical information and data and place it within its proper frameworks for useful purposes, in addition to relying on the analytical method in our attempt to explore and deduce facts through manuscripts and archival documents presented in the form of reports and treaties.

1. The Andalusian raids on the Spanish coasts to limit the Crusader attacks

After the arrival of the expelled Andalusians from their homes and their settlement in the coastal cities of the Islamic Maghreb, and with the continued Spanish campaigns infused with Crusader religious thought, it became necessary to transfer the danger from the southern shore of the Mediterranean to its northern counterpart.

1.1. The Islamic Andalusian raids on the Spanish coasts and the Christian reactions

After the Andalusians settled in the coastal cities of the Islamic Maghreb countries, they began preparing their ships to raid the Spanish islands and coasts as a means of revenge, an action that stirred the ire of the Catholic King Ferdinand¹, He was fully aware that the arrival of the Moriscos to the southern shore of the Mediterranean was nothing more than a temporary calm before the Muslims would reunite and consider retaking the lands of Andalusia and returning to their homes there.

In response to this, he seized the coastal cities starting with those close to the Spanish coast to break the strength of the Andalusians who threatened Christian navigation. He succeeded in this after occupying Oran in 1509, and Béjaïa under the command of Pedro Navarro in 1510. Then Dellys, Cherchell, and Mostaganem fell in 1511, and the city of Algiers was in danger that caused fear among the inhabitants².

2.1. Seeking Protection from the Ottoman Empire to Limit Crusader Power

¹ Al-Wazan ibn Mohammed al-Hassan. (1983). Description of Africa, Translated by Mohammed Hajji and Mohammed al-Akhdar, Beirut : Dar al-Gharb al-Islami, Second Edition, p 38.

² Halimi Abdul Qadir. (1972). The Origin and Development of the City of Algiers Before 1830, Algeria : Islamic Thought House, p163.

After submission to the Catholic King, and amidst internal conflicts, a desire for change and rebellion was awakened in the hearts of the locals. They found in the death of King Ferdinand their opportunity and declared rebellion against Spanish authority³.

Perhaps the closest solution available at that time was to call for help from the Barbarossa brothers, Oruç and Hayreddin. Oruç responded to the call and set sail from Jijel to Algeria, both by land and sea. On his way, he stopped by the port of Cherchell, captured it, and his brother Hayreddin joined him coming from Tunisia⁴.

When Oruç arrived in Algiers, he began to raise fortifications and dig trenches. He then started bombarding the Fortress of Benioun in August 1516, tightening the siege and cutting off water supplies, forcing the fortress leader to bring water and provisions from the island of Mallorca. Oruç was close to achieving his goal were it not for the intrigues of Salem al-Toumi and his followers⁵.

After Oruç learned of Salem al-Toumi's collaboration with the Spaniards, he killed him and appointed himself ruler of Algiers. He began to expand his rule to the Mitidja plains before conquering Medea and Milyana⁶.

These conquests resonated among the people of Tlemcen, who revolted against their tyrannical prince Abu Hamou. They sought the help of Oruç, who came to their aid in 1517, leading Abu Hamou to flee to Oran, under Spanish authority, seeking assistance from his allies.

After his arrival in Tlemcen, the first thing that Arouj did was to release Abu Ziyan from prison and appoint him to govern the region. While he was busy organizing the affairs of the city, Spanish armies surrounded it and besieged him for twenty-six days before he managed to escape with a group of his soldiers heading towards Algeria. However, unfortunately for him, the army of the governor of Oran caught up with him in Wadi al-Malih near Sha'ba al-Lahm in Ain Temouchent, where he was killed in 1518. With his death, Abu Hamu returned to his throne after paying the Spanish a sum of money in exchange for their assistance and their agreement that he would pay them a tribute every year.

³ Al-Jilali Abdul Rahman. (1994). The General History of Algeria, Algeria : The National Publishing Office, p39.

⁴ Unknown Author. (n.d.). News about the Arrival of Aruj Rais to Algeria and the Arrival of His Brother Hayreddin, Manuscript at the National Library of El-Hamma under Number 1622, p-p 11-12.

⁵ Halimi, op. cit, p. 164

⁶ Nour Al-Din Abdul Qadir. (2006). Pages in the History of the City of Algiers from Its Earliest Times to the End of the Turkish Era, Algeria : Dar Al-Hadara, p-p 53-56.

When the news of Arouj's death reached his brother Hayreddin, he resolved to leave Algeria; however, the people clung to him and prevented him from leaving, proposing that he govern them. He accepted their request after they insisted, and they decided to officially join the Ottoman rule, amid fears of the Spanish Crusader campaigns against them, especially with the bond of religion and caliphate between the Algerians and the Ottomans.

Then, Khair al-Din sent for help and assistance from the Ottoman Sultan in exchange for recognizing his authority and paying a tax or guaranteeing an increase in the influence of the state in the Islamic Maghreb. Therefore, he sent Hajj Hussein to Istanbul with four ships loaded with precious gifts to carry the proposal for his protection and to declare Barbarossa's allegiance to him⁷.

After a full year had passed since the delegation was sent to Istanbul, a response arrived delayed until May 19, 1519, whereby Khair al-Din was granted the title of "Beylerbeyi" and Algiers took refuge under the protection of the Ottoman state⁸.

Thus, Algiers closed the curtain on a phase of complacency and humiliation following the subjugation of its rulers to the Crusader Spain to satisfy their desire for power, neglecting the people of their kingdom. After the arrival of the Andalusians and their spreading of good news about the brothers Oruç, hope was instilled in the souls of the locals, who wished to engage in jihad to elevate the word of God, exploiting the Andalusian capabilities and the Ottoman protection.

This homogeneity according to the duality of "Andalusians/Ottomans" was feared by Catholic Spain, as this alliance would pose an obstacle to achieving its ambitions in a Crusader expansion on the western Mediterranean, believing itself to be more entitled to it than others. This created tension in the Mediterranean basin, manifesting in coordinated campaigns against Algiers.

2. The Crusades on the City of Algiers

It seems that Spain underestimated the ability of the locals and the Andalusians to withstand and resist its aggressive campaigns, believing that after the death of Uruj, their ranks would scatter and their resolve would falter. Therefore, it did not hesitate

⁷ Jilali, op. cit, p46

⁸ Corinne Chau vallier. (2007). The First Thirty Years of the Establishment of the City-State of Algiers (1510-1541), Translated by Jamal Hamadna, Algeria : The National Publishing Office, p48.

to launch a campaign against Algiers for revenge in 1519, followed by several campaigns, each one more intense than the last.

1.2. The Campaign of Hugo de Moncada 1519

The King of Spain recruited a massive army consisting of one thousand five hundred men, with the artillery division led by commander "Gonzalo Fernández de Rivera," while the infantry division was entrusted to commander "Hugo de Moncada"⁹.

The fleet sailed from the island of Sicily in late July, reaching the coasts of the city of Algiers on August 17, 1519¹⁰, before docking at the Harrach area and then positioning the Spanish army in the highlands near Kedia al-Saboun. Thus, the city was besieged both on land and sea, and the city was bombarded with cannons. However, Hayreddin succeeded in driving them from their trenches by attacking their ships lined up on the shore. Intense fighting ensued between the two sides for eight days, during which the city's residents emerged victorious, exploiting the rift between the two commanders, as "de Rivera" decided to attack while "de Moncada" waited for support from the Zayani army, leading to a disagreement that lasted for six days¹¹.

Thanks to the expertise of Khair ad-Din Barbarossa, victory was achieved on August 24, capturing over three thousand men as prisoners and seizing twenty-four ships. The turmoil of the sea caused the drowning of approximately 14,000 men as they attempted to flee¹².

2.2. Charles' Campaign on Algiers 1541

Emperor Charles V resolved to retake the city of Algiers, preparing a massive army of 34,000 men and 40,000 cavalry, placing the fleet under his command, which consisted of 450 transport ships and 25 large warships carrying 13,000 sailors under the command of Andrea Doria.

The Spanish fleet set sail from the port of Mahón on October 20, 1541, and positioned itself at both ends of the bay opposite the city of Algiers at Cape

⁹ Ben Ashanho Abdul Hamid. (1972). The Entry of the Ottoman Turks into Algeria, Algeria : The People's Printing House of the Army, p118.

¹⁰ Al-Madani Ahmed Tawfiq. (2009). Three Hundred Years of War Between Algeria and Spain (1492-1792), Algeria : Dar Al-Basair, p207.

¹¹ Corinne Chau vallier, op. cit, p37

¹² Tawfiq al-Madani, op. cit, p208

Tamendfoust before moving to the Wadi Harash. There, the soldiers disembarked on land on October 22 and settled between the banks of Harash and the Hamma.

The locals, led by Muhammad Hasan, insisted on confronting the Spaniards, preparing an army consisting of 700 Turks and 5,000 Andalusians. Given the disparity in power balances, they resorted to maneuvering¹³

On October 24, fighting officially began, with Charles V's army advancing, but the locals bravely repelled them, forcing him to halt at the Kadiyat al-Saboun near the Mosque of Sidi Yaqub. He occupied the hill and surrounded the city from the southern side with armed sailing ships and war vessels prepared for action¹⁴.

After that, on the night of October 25, the sky poured down heavy rain and a fierce wind blew, causing the waves to rise. The army could not control their weapons and artillery, and with no tents to seek shelter in, they spent the night in the rain and mud, filled with panic, while the locals grew more confident and continued their attack to achieve victory thanks to the skill of their Andalusian archers and their firearms, which were unaffected by the rain. As a result, the enemy suffered heavy losses, with 150 naval ships and 16 warships destroyed¹⁵, and thus "Charles Lakan" fled, dragging with him the tails of disappointment and shame that pursued him. The author of the manuscript "The Account of the Arrival of Arouj Rais to Algiers and the Arrival of His Brother Khair al-Din" described the condition of this Spanish leader, saying: "... When the tyrant saw the great disaster that befell him, where God turned his hopes upside down... he truly became the besieged one. At that point, he abandoned all the burdens and war machines, cannons, projectiles, swords, and spears he had with him, and headed with the defeated soldiers towards Tamanfoust, seeking to save himself... and the wretched man traveled to his homeland in great disappointment."¹⁶.

3.2. The Aureli Campaign 1775

This campaign is considered one of the fiercest Crusader campaigns against the city of Algiers after the campaign of Charles Lakan, given its size and equipment. The desire to occupy the city of Algiers and eliminate the Algerian naval activities threatening Spanish navigation are among its main motives. During this period, Algerian naval raids on the Spanish coasts intensified, resulting in no less than ten

¹³Ibid, p-p 281-282.

¹⁴ Corinne Chau vallier, op. cit, p95.

¹⁵ Tawfiq Al-Madani, op. cit, p-p- 283-284

¹⁶ Unknown Author, op. cit, p59.

thousand captives, encouraged by the Dey Muhammad Osman Pasha¹⁷ which prompted the Spanish King "Carlos III" to prepare a massive military campaign consisting of six large ships, fourteen frigates, and three hundred and forty-four transport ships carrying twenty-two thousand fighters¹⁸ led on land by "Count Aureli" and at sea by "Don Pedro Castiho." The campaign launched from the port of Carthage on June 23, 1775, after preparations had been made since the beginning of June, and it arrived at the port of Algiers on the first of July¹⁹. As soon as the Spanish fleet landed at Wadi El Harrach, soldiers began unloading military supplies and constructing fortifications to take shelter in. The fighting lasted for three consecutive days, and on a single front, as the Khens battery from the west was waiting for them, according to the statement of the noble captain "Sharif Al-Zahar"²⁰. (See Appendix No. 01)

"Day Muhammad Osman Pasha" established a number of military fortifications, the most notable of which was the distribution of troops into divisions in the artillery positions, with a commander at the head of each division. Among them was Finance Minister "Hassan Al-Khazenaji," who occupied the western side between Wadi Nakhis and Ain Al-Rabt. Close to him, Arab Agha "Ali Agha" was stationed in Wadi Khneis, while "Salah Bey" and his forces were east on the coast of Harash. Meanwhile, Bey of Titteri "Mustafa Bey" was located near Tamunfust, supported by some tribes and horsemen from the homeland of Sebaou. On the other hand, the forces of Khwaja Al-Khayl "Mustafa Khwaja" were settled near Bab El-Wadi, ready in case the enemy changed their tactical plan²¹.

This battle lasted for 11 days, during which the Spanish forces suffered heavy losses estimated at 466 wounded and over 2000 dead. Some report the number of casualties exceeded 10,000 due to the explosion of bombs (see Appendix No. 01). After these scandalous losses, the Spanish forces withdrew, leaving behind 100 cannons²², including 16 bronze cannons, along with other military equipment, including mortars

¹⁷ Al-Zahar Ahmed Sharif. (1974). Memoirs of Ahmed Sharif Al-Zahar, Captain of the Nobility of Algeria, Edited by Ahmed Tawfiq al-Madani, Algiers : National Distribution Company, p26.

¹⁸ De grammont. (1887). Histoire d'Alger sous la domination turque (1515_ 1830), Paris : Ernest le toux rue Bonaparte, éditeur 28, p-p 324-325/

¹⁹ Berbrugger Adrien. (1864). Expedition of Count d'Orilly Against Algiers in 1775, In : R.A 1864, Vol 08, p173.

²⁰ Al-Zahar, op. cit, p 26. And : Group 3190, Box 16, File 02, Document 13, National Library of El-Hamma, p and p 2 and 13

²¹ Al-Asli Bassam. (1986). Algeria and the Crusader Campaigns (1547-1791), Lebanon : Dar Al-Nafae, Third Edition, p144.

²² Al-Zahar, op. cit, p 27.

(see Appendix No. 01). In shock from the defeat, these forces hurried to raise a black flag over their ships as a sign of their mourning.²³

4.2. The First Campaign of Don Antonio Barceló in 1783

It seems that Spain did not learn from the campaign of Aurelle, as the dream of seizing the city still haunts them. After eight years of silence, they rose to declare war once again on Algiers after the paths of reconciliation with it had been severed, taking advantage of the Algerian fleet's preoccupation with warfare against most European countries.

Thus, they rushed to devise a well-planned strategy to attack Algiers from the sea using a massive amphibious assault ship, which would first aim to destroy the Algerian ships moored in the harbor, then proceed to demolish the city's forts and bastions, thereby bringing the city under their control²⁴.

To achieve their goals, they made sure to assemble a huge fleet consisting of seventy vessels of various types, including: four large ships, six medium ships, ten smaller vessels, along with frigates and forty large boats (feluccas), some of which were equipped with cannons and others with bomb launchers²⁵.

On July 29, the Spanish fleet reached the shores of the city of Algiers, coming from the port of Cartagena. Its ships anchored facing the city, and thus the city's fortifications raised their flags in preparation for war. The Spanish ships promptly opened fire²⁶.

The next day, the Algerian ships emerged to confront them, and despite the collision and exchange of gunfire between them, the Algerian ships sustained no damage, as the shells fell far away from them²⁷.

Despite the ferocity and aggression displayed by the Spanish forces, they did not achieve their goals and caused significant human and material losses, during which 300 individuals were martyred, and 300 houses were destroyed, along with the Mosque of Lady which was devastated by the shells aimed at the Emirate's residence.

²³ Ibid, p27.

²⁴ Tawfik Al-Madani, op. cit, p-p. 509-510

²⁵ Abdullah Sami. (1259 H/1845). A History of the Arrival of the Spaniards for the Second and Third Time to Algeria, Manuscript at the Austrian National Library in Vienna as part of the Collection of Summary Considerations, p02.

²⁶ Tawfik Al-Madani, op. cit, p512.

²⁷ Charles Féraud. (1783). The Three Attacks of the Spaniards Against Algiers in the XVIII Century, In : R.A 1783, Vol 20, p305.

It is worth noting that more than seven thousand five hundred bombs and shells were dropped on the city.

5.2. The Second Campaign of Don Antonio Barceló 1784

In retaliation for previous defeats, Spain launched a fierce crusade blessed by the Pope, mobilizing a massive fleet consisting of one hundred thirty large and small ships, including eleven ships from Naples, eight from Malta, twenty-six ships, thirty bomb vessels, twenty-four war boats, and twenty-one galleots.

The Spanish fleet set sail from Cartagena on June 28, 1784, and arrived at Algiers on July 9. It anchored its ships off the coast and remained for three days without battle due to strong wind gusts.

On the fourth day, coinciding with Monday, the battle broke out, as the Algerian lanzhor ships emerged to obstruct their advance toward the city and began firing upon them, leading to an intensification of the fighting.

The battle lasted for 11 days in the form of intermittent maneuvers, and in the ebb and flow of the conflict, the Algerian fleet was able to hinder the advance of the Spanish fleet and forced it to retreat whenever it approached the city's walls, thus the Spaniards returned disappointed after exhausting all tricks and means against the cunning of "Dey Muhammad Osman Pasha."

Where the latter enforced a military plan to prevent the city from being bombed to avoid material and human losses, despite the city being struck by more than fifteen thousand and fifty bombs and shells²⁸. The losses were somewhat modest, with the number of injured reaching no less than one hundred and thirty-four, and thirty civilian fatalities along with one hundred military personnel due to cannon explosions²⁹.

This was the situation from the Algerian side; however, the European references, particularly the Spanish ones, refrained from mentioning it. Only the author of the manuscript "The History of the Spaniards' Second and Third Arrival in Algeria" noted fifty-two Spanish fatalities³⁰.

²⁸ Al-Asali, op. cit, p-p 153-154.

²⁹ Ibid, p154.

³⁰ Abdullah, op. cit, p 03

Spain hastened to negotiate with Algeria after exhausting its material resources due to suffering material and human losses in its crusades, consequently shaking its image in front of Europe and losing its prestige. After previously being the crusading hand that violently oppressed Muslims and excelled in tightening the noose around them, it became weakened and realized that all avenues were exhausted, and the only option left was to seek a peaceful solution to salvage what could be saved. Thus, a peace treaty was concluded on 7 Sha'ban 1785 between the two parties. The treaty stipulated the necessity of providing Algeria with money and handing over Spanish military equipment, which included ten thousand gold coins for Algeria, twenty-five bronze cannons, the same number in iron, four lances, six hundred bombs, four hundred quintals of gunpowder, four hundred small shells, ten large ones, five hundred barrels, one hundred masts, two thousand pine boards, the same amount of roller boards, fifty oil barrels, one hundred tar barrels, five hundred ropes, and others³¹. (See Annex No. 02).

It is mentioned in the manuscript "The Laughable Wonders on the Heads of the Oppressed Doomed Spaniards" by its author "Mustafa bin Hassan Khodja" that Spain paid the Algerian eyalet five hundred thousand gold coins, fifty cannons, one thousand quintals of wood designated for shipbuilding, ten thousand cannonballs, and twelve thousand quintals of gunpowder³².

It is worth noting that the peace treaty was only welcomed by Algeria after the intervention of both the Sublime Porte and Sultan of Fez "Mohamed bin Abdullah". Furthermore, it was never truly a peace treaty but rather considered a temporary truce given the Spanish control over the Great Port and Oran and their continued presence there.

In this regard, the Governor of Algiers "Mohamed Othman Pasha" signed this treaty while lamenting, stating: "...Do not grieve, O Algeria, for what has happened, for God has favored you over all other countries by being a home of jihad, and those days will return when the cannons roar once again, for our peace with Spain is a great betrayal, and our jihad against them is like the Feast of Sacrifice..."³³

³¹ Group 3190, File 02, Document 432, National Library of El-Hamma, p432.

³² Ben Hafri Shakib. (2002). Spanish-Algerian Relations in the Eighteenth Century Through an Ottoman Manuscript, In : Journal of Literature and Sciences, No. 01, p121.

³³ Ibid, p-p 132-133.

3. The Role of the Andalusians During the Crusades

In no circumstances can we diminish the effective role played by the Andalusians in the victory of Algeria over Spain, alongside the military acumen of the Ottomans, as manifested in the meticulous plans employed by "Khayr al-Din," "Hassan Agha," and "Muhammad Osman Pasha."

It appears that the knowledge of the Muslims of Andalusia regarding the Spanish warfare style contributed to breaching its ranks and defeating its forces. Undoubtedly, their acquisition of this military knowledge is attributed to their revolts against them in Andalusia and their raids on its coasts.

Moreover, the displaced Andalusians played a prominent role in coordination and intelligence, which benefited the Algerian navy³⁴. According to the spy Marmol Carvajal, the success of the Algerian fleet's raids on Gibraltar and the raid of Qara Mami on the coasts of Mallorca was thanks to the valuable information and sound advice provided by the Andalusians³⁵.

On another note, alongside their maritime prowess, they excelled in manufacturing military arsenals of various types of ships. Several cities excelled in this field, such as Algeria, Cherchell, and Jijel, which became military bases³⁶.

Muhammad Osman Pasha exploited this skill and requested them to manufacture langoures modeled after the Spanish langoures that he captured during the first campaign of Don Antonio Barceló in 1783³⁷. He succeeded in this and used them in the second campaign of Don Antonio Barceló in 1784, characterized by speed and lightness, and they were equipped with small cannons.

They are also credited with the victory in Charles' campaign, as their weapons held up against the rain, resulting from their expertise in arms manufacturing and gunpowder preparation, along with their creativity in making a special type of rifles³⁸.

³⁴ Diégo Dé Haédo. (1992). Topography and History of Algiers, Translated by Dr. Monnereau and A. Berbrugger, Presented by Jocelyne Dakhli, Bouchene Edition, p93.

³⁵ Marmol Carvajal. (1984). Africa, Volume One, Translated by Mohammed Hajji and Others, Rabat : Al-Ma'arif Publishing and Distribution, p-p 502-505.

³⁶ Halaily Hanifi. (2010). Research and Studies in Moorish History, Algeria : Dar Al-Huda for Printing and Publishing, p55.

³⁷ Saiod Ibrahim. (2007). A Glimpse into the Algerian-Italian Conflict During the Ottoman Era, In : Journal of Historical Studies, No 07, p209.

³⁸ Saidouni Naser Al-Din. (2003). Manifestations of Iberian Influence and Andalusian Presence in Algeria, Beirut : House of Islamic West, p-p 54-55.

When Kheir al-Din established the gunpowder factory, he appointed the Andalusians, the craftsmen, at its head³⁹.

In addition to their knowledge of sailing and shipbuilding, as well as military equipment, they distinguished themselves by their combat professionalism and great valor. This is reflected in the poem by Muhammad al-Tawati, in which he praised the Andalusians and called his people to jihad against the Spaniards, relying on the cunning and resilience of the island's inhabitants, referring to the Andalusians due to their ability to strike against the occupying Spanish enemy.

Conclusion

During the 8th century AH / 15th century AD and the 9th century AH / 16th century AD, the world witnessed the emergence of two rival powers: Spain and the Ottoman Empire, each striving to expand at the expense of the other driven by religious fervor. The Andalusians were considered the spark that ignited the flames of war, as the Ottomans were viewed as supporters of the Murcian cause and Algeria, the host state, in contrast to the hostile Spain. This resulted in a conflict that took the form of fierce crusading campaigns directed toward Algeria, the protected land of Muslim jihad.

This situation propelled Algeria into a long-term struggle with Spain, a conflict that burdened both states, particularly Spain. Despite its meticulously planned campaigns and necessary preparations, it suffered tremendous losses, forcing it to retreat in shame.

If we delve into the motives and goals behind the Spanish crusading frenzy, we find that it was merely a colonial urge for purely economic reasons, cloaked in religious guise to gain legitimacy and Christian sympathy.

It is worth noting that the departure of the Andalusians from Spain indeed disrupted its economic balance, and to compensate for that loss and economic paralysis, Spain sought to dominate the Mediterranean basin to engage in trade and maritime piracy. It made every effort to crush the Algerian naval fleet, which hindered its commercial interests, yet its dreams were dashed against its strength and resilience.

Due to the catastrophic losses inflicted on Spain, it withdrew from the political arena, but this did not prevent the lingering desire for revenge and the contemplation

³⁹ Unknown Author. (1934). The Expeditions of Aruj and Hayreddin, Translated by Abdelkader Nour al-Din, Algiers : Al-Thalabiyya Press, p28.

of reclaiming its colonies in western Algeria. As soon as Algeria's naval fleet weakened and France attacked it, Spain hurried to support France.

Appendices:

Appendix 1: Report on the Spanish campaign against Algiers known as the Oran Campaign in the year 1775 AD, this report was written in Sha'ban of the year 1119 AH.

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