

From Geopolitical Rupture to Development Opportunity: Brexit and Sustainable Cooperation between Algeria and the UK

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Abstract:

This study investigates the economic and socio-cultural dimensions of the relationship between Algeria and the United Kingdom (UK) in the aftermath of Brexit, the UK's withdrawal from the European Union. A qualitative content analysis was employed to examine this evolving bilateral relationship. The analysis draws on a wide range of sources, including scholarly articles, news reports, previous academic studies, and official publications from both the Algerian and British governments. The findings indicate that prior to Brexit, relations between the two countries were relatively limited and focused primarily on trade in hydrocarbons, mechanical equipment, and related goods. Following Brexit, however, both countries sought to strengthen their partnership by expanding cooperation into new strategic sectors, particularly renewable energy and technological innovation. As with any bilateral partnership, several political, economic, and institutional challenges may hinder the development of closer ties. To address these challenges, Algeria and the UK have broadened their cooperation beyond trade by promoting collaboration in the military, educational, and socio-cultural fields, thereby reinforcing their economic partnership. This historical analysis provides valuable insights into the emerging dynamics of post-Brexit Algerian–British relations and highlights the potential implications of Brexit for future bilateral cooperation.

Keywords: Brexit; Algeria–United Kingdom Relations; Bilateral Cooperation; Renewable Energy.

Résumé :

Cette étude examine les dimensions économiques et socioculturelles des relations entre l'Algérie et le Royaume-Uni (RU) à la suite du Brexit, c'est-à-dire le retrait du Royaume-Uni de l'Union européenne. Une analyse qualitative de contenu a été adoptée afin d'étudier l'évolution de cette relation bilatérale. L'analyse s'appuie sur un large éventail de sources, notamment des articles scientifiques, des articles de presse, des études antérieures ainsi que des publications officielles des gouvernements algérien et britannique. Les résultats montrent qu'avant le Brexit, les relations entre les deux pays étaient relativement limitées et portaient principalement sur les échanges d'hydrocarbures, d'équipements mécaniques et d'autres biens connexes. Après le Brexit, les deux États ont cherché à renforcer leur partenariat en élargissant leur coopération à de nouveaux secteurs stratégiques, en particulier les énergies renouvelables et l'innovation technologique. Comme toute relation bilatérale, ce partenariat peut être confronté à des défis politiques, économiques et institutionnels susceptibles d'entraver son développement. Afin d'y faire face, l'Algérie et le Royaume-Uni ont étendu leur coopération au-delà des échanges commerciaux en favorisant des collaborations dans les domaines militaire, éducatif et socioculturel, consolidant ainsi leur partenariat économique. Cette analyse historique met en lumière les nouvelles dynamiques des relations algéro-britanniques après le Brexit et souligne les implications potentielles de celui-ci pour le développement futur de la coopération bilatérale.

Mots-clés : Brexit ; relations Algérie–Royaume-Uni ; coopération bilatérale ; énergies renouvelables.

1. Introduction

The first and the second decades of the 21st century witnessed dramatical changing in the policies of different countries driving them to swinging in new pulses. In Europe, the Brexit occurred shocking the EU and shaking its solidarity while the war in Ukraine started threatening the economic stability of many countries in Europe (Riley & Ghilès, 2016). In the Middle East, large chaos and protest under the Arabian spring occurred caused instability and sometimes civil war. The contrary happened in Algeria; the country didn't fall victim to Arabian Spring. Instead, Hirak overthrew the ancient regime peacefully and created the New Era in the Algerian history (Farrand, 2022). On the top of that, the COVID-19 influenced the economy and the stability of many countries (POLYCHRONIOU, 2022).

On the one hand, the United Kingdom (UK) assumed that the treaty of Lisbon would harm the trade, economy and development of its sovereignty

(Abdallah NEGADI, 2017). Under this treaty, Romania and Bulgaria becomes the 26th and 27th members of the EU. These countries represented the weak link in the EU since they are the poorest countries in comparison with the others. UK didn't welcome this annexation since the UK contributed with large amount of money to the EU in order to prosper and enhance its economy. But in such circumstances other countries may benefit more (Pavy, 2023). Furthermore, Brussels and Paris terrorist attacks during David Cameron's term (2010-2016) plus the large waves of immigrants and asylum seekers from the Middle East zones of conflicts Syria and Iraq as well as from African Continent, opened a debate about the Britain's membership in EU.

The country chose after referendum of 2016 to exit from the European Union (EU). This act will have absolutely some positive and negative effects for both UK and EU. For instance, the compensation that Britain must pay to the EU for its withdrawal, which will have a severe impact in terms of many expectations, such as a financial crisis or the partition of Northern Ireland and Scotland that voted against the Brexit (MOULAI HACENE, 2020). Additionally, the UK relation to their past allies in the EU is now limited (Zuleeg & Wachowiak, 2021). The UK may prepare itself to its Brexit's consequences. However, it did not include the COVID -19 pandemic in its strategy plan (Belhatem & Bouguelli, 2021). Therefore, the UK government tries to fill that political and economic gaps by new overseas relations far from the EU and from US, its traditional ally. (Patterson, 2022)(Riley & Ghilès, 2016; Zuleeg & Wachowiak, 2021).

On the other hand, Algeria, the largest country in Africa, take new round after its 60th independence anniversary. Its New Era witnessed the shrinking of its relationship with France by limiting their influence on its policies and decisions. This was largely noticed after the French media harassment and trouble especially from France 24 channel about the fire incident in the north (Moslem, 2023). The French media did nothing except attacking Algeria saying that this fire was terrorist attack from inside the county, as usual, and with no regard for the victims' lives, as if the flames had only impacted Algeria, despite the fact that numerous countries in the Mediterranean basin are burning owing to record temperatures above 50 degrees Celsius. Instead of disciplining the French channels and apologizing, the French president Macron made its big mistake when offended the Algerian regime an accused them of instrumentalizing the colonial past, being "a politico-military system" that encouraged "a hatred of France" and was "cashing in on the colonial past."

In response, Algeria recalled its ambassador for three months and led to the cancellation of President Abdelmadjid Tebboune's visit to France who changed the direction towards traditional allies, Russia and China, and new

allies such as Turkey, Qatar and Italy (Moslem, 2023)(CAULCUTT, 2022). Moreover, in the next July of the same year, Algerian President Abdelmadjid Tebboune announced that English would be taught in primary schools next year in what has been presented as a gradual phasing out of French. He, President Abdelmadjid Tebboune, said: "French is a spoil of war, but English is an international language" (CAULCUTT, 2022). By this decision, France will slowly lose the third-largest French-speaking country in the world. Besides Algeria's public shift to English, the signing of a multibillion-euro gas contract with Italy in July, and Algeria's decision to perform joint military drills with Russia in November were all indicators picked up in Paris and perceived as a danger to the country's declining clout in the area by some (CAULCUTT, 2022).

After that, in October 2022, Macron visited Algeria in an attempt to restore what his government ruined. During this visit, Macron was confused reading the sign on his lectern at the Algerian presidential palace: "Presidency of the Republic" instead of "Présidence de la République". In the world of diplomacy, few details carry as much import as language (CAULCUTT, 2022). This act in Macron's visit shows that the diplomatic and cultural heft that French has long boasted in Algeria is starting to vanish by overwhelming the hegemony imposed by their language.

On top of that, the president of Algeria paid all the debts of 14 North African countries stating that this act will open doors for all African countries to make new policies with more democracy (MEM, 2021). This step overthrew the French soft power imposed using these debts and "Africa francophone" will slowly vanish. Therefore, Algeria, with its new strong position that gained from its geographical position, its natural resources such as gas, petrol, vast sunny land, Mines rich in minerals and groundwater spend its interest toward countries far from France.

As consequence, UK and Algeria, collaborate to build new relations. The two countries will have benefits and advantages from this diplomatic relation that holds political, economic and social/cultural relationships. The goal of this research is to answer the question of the significant impacts of the Brexit on political, economic, and social-cultural relationship between Algeria and UK, and what are its ramifications. Hence, a wide discussion can be had on the light of the interlinked nature of the various impacted parameters. The main research question is: What were the Brexit impacts on the bilateral Anglo-Algerian relationship?. This study put light on a new chapter of the Algerian-British history. It will be a good source to understand the shift of both countries toward building new political position in the world.

2- Methodology:

For that, this study is conducted through a qualitative content analysis i.e. a systematic literature review. It will focus on the main existing previous studies that explain the various impact of Brexit on the UK, E.U, and the world. To analyse the DATA, two main theoretical perspectives, Realism and Constructivism, were chosen. Realism will be employed largely as evidence for the actors' most visible connection acts, such as political and economic development and the association with sovereignty, as described by realism. On the other hand, the less tangible effects were explained using constructivism, with a focus on education, cultural and social influences and its link to Soft Power.

The materials used for the review will be sourced from articles, news articles, previous academic texts, research studies and official websites of both Algerian and British governments. Additionally, the qualitative analysis allows us to conduct a quality-based assessment of literature in order to understand the topic. Finally, this study, will put light on a new chapter of the Algerian-British history. It will be a good source to understand the shift of both countries toward building new political position in the world.

3- The New Algeria and the UK exit from EU:

3 -1 UK exit from EU :

The European Union is described as an international organization of autonomous states that brings together 27 countries that share sovereignty in order to become stronger and have a bigger worldwide impact. The European Grouping was founded on April 18, 1951, when six European countries, namely Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Luxembourg, and the Netherlands, agreed to form the European Coal and Steel Group, which would serve as the nucleus of the European Economic Community (EEC) and, later, the European Union (EU). The Maastricht Treaty (1992) established it formally (Abdallah NEGADI, 2017).

At the same time, following the devastation caused by World War II. Britain proposed a request to join the EU. However, the request had been refused twice from the French president General De Gaulle who deeply believed that Britain was not suitable country to join the union. He well understood that the British strategy which was prohibiting the unifying Europe, and condemned Britain “deep antagonism” for the European community (Belhatem & Bouguelli, 2021)(Abdallah NEGADI, 2017). After the death of General De Gaulle, George Pompidou met British Prime Minister Edward Heath in 1971. Pompidou granted Britain EU membership after a lengthy discussion. Therefore, in 1973, Britain, Ireland, and Denmark joined (EU) but they decided to choose not to participate in the Euro currency

(Maastricht Treaty) and the Schengen Agreement (Abdallah NEGADI, 2017).

Due to the disparity of interests, the relationship between Britain and European countries was marked by tautness. Additionally, despite Britain is regarded a faithful friend of the United States, it belongs to the European continent in order to escape marginalization and to realize the goals it sets (Patterson, 2022)(Watt, 2013). The Prime Minister David Cameron discussed the future of the European Union at Bloomberg in 23 January 2013 when he stated:

"I know that the United Kingdom is sometimes seen as an argumentative and rather strong-minded member of the family of European nations. And it's true that our geography has shaped our psychology. We have the character of an island nation - independent, forthright, passionate in defence of our sovereignty. We can no more change this British sensibility than we can drain the English Channel."(Prime Minister David Cameron, 2013)

It seems that geography had an important part in defining the UK's withdrawal from the EU. The British community always characterized by xenophobia and the British hostility to immigrants (Wadsworth et al., 2016). The British individual believes that quitting the European Union will allow their nation to implement a new system that bans immigration from outside the European Union. Also, the economy was the most crucial factor in leadership decisions, and Brexit provides an opportunity for certain leaders to solidify their power. As Lord Palmerston said: "Nations have no permanent friends or allies, only permanent interests," (Great Thought Treasury) (Abdallah NEGADI, 2017).

Moreover, the prime minister gave three main causes that led to Brexit. First, the Eurozone and the problem of the fixed currency and its implications (Although Britain is not in the single currency), Second, the fact that the EU was facing a competitiveness issue as other countries outperform it. For example, the complex restrictions that limited the labor markets were not a natural occurrence. There was excessive regulation that inhibited the UK businesses. Third, the growing gap between the EU and its citizens, which was characterized by a lack of democratic accountability and consent. In UK, there was a people a growing frustration that the EU was seen as something that was done to people rather than acting on their behalf (Prime Minister David Cameron, 2013).

The UK prime minister aimed to improve the UK-EU relationship after winning the 2015 elections. Also, he promised to renegotiate membership conditions and hold an "in or out" vote by 2017. In 2016, the UK voted "yes" to leave the European Union, surprising European countries and the Union, which was struggling. Around 17.4 million people voted to leave, while 46.1% chose to stay (Uberoi, 2016) (Dennison et al., 2020).

After that, the European Parliament approved, on Wednesday January 29th 2020, the Brussels and London agreement on UK's withdrawal from the European Union. President of the European parliament, David Sassoli, announced the result of the vote, with 621 in favor to 38 against with 13 abstentions, MEPs stood almost as one to approve the agreement for UK's withdrawal from the EU (Uberoi, 2016) (Echorouk, 2020). The legislation provides for Britain to leave the European Union on January 31st 2020, to begin a transitional period during which the two parties will conduct trade negotiations (Uberoi, 2016). The United Kingdom became the first country to leave the European Union; the Brexit processes took four years to be official since Britain followed to its duties, promises, and signed agreements, but it was not allowed to participate in decision-making. Whereas the UK used Article 50 of the Treaty on European Union (TEU) 2009 (Pavy, 2023), which was seen to be the sole legal route to leave the Union.

3-2 The general response to Brexit from the EU and the UK :

The Brexit was a reality to UK but a rising tension and an immense shock to the EU. UK became the first country to leave the EU and it was not any random country, UK is a developed country with wide economic and political impact on other countries especially the commonwealth countries. In the Brussels and London agreement on UK's withdrawal from the European Union (January 29th 2020), 38 MEPs stood against UK Brexit. The rising fear of the domino effect that would unravel the EU project. Now there is a potential withdrawal of Grexit, "Greek exit," from the Euro-zone (Wodak & Angouri, 2014). The EU's self-image, global standing, and sense of durability are significantly impacted by a Member State's vote to leave (Riley & Ghilès, 2016). The EU's fragility, particularly due to the euro crisis, can be rolled back, and the Brexit vote will further weaken its credibility, legitimacy, and political capacity to act.

On the other hand, the results of the referendum of 2016, 51.9% votes for leave EU and 48.1% votes for remain in EU, showed that the UK is a much-divided country at all levels (Uberoi, 2016). The British society is already divided, for example, London and Scotland that mostly committed to be part of the European Union. While in the other parts of the country there

was a strong ambivalence. This will call the **reverse domino effect** (Zuleeg & Wachowiak, 2021). From the continent, Brexit appears to be a self-harming act with terrible economic and political consequences, including the real likelihood that it could lead to the dissolution of the United Kingdom especially with the period of COVID -19.

3-3 The Algerian Instant Political response to Brexit:

In Algeria's first official response to the UK's withdrawal from the European Union (Brexit), Foreign Ministry spokesman Abdelaziz Ben Ali Charif declared on Sunday, June 26th 2016:

“Algeria embarked on the construction of multiple bilateral and fruitful partnerships with the United Kingdom. It will continue to work on expanding and deepening the bilateral relationships for the benefit of the two countries, as it will work, especially during the assessment and updating the current partnership agreement with the European Union, to give satisfactory results for both sides. Algeria hopes to see the actual withdrawal of the United Kingdom in the best of circumstances, in order to avoid or minimize, in a holistic and interconnected world, the severity of the expected tensions, as a result of this development which affects structurally the European edifice. Algeria will continue to follow the developments in this matter.” (Echorouk, 2016).

From that moment Algeria clearly set its goal with UK and showed that it would expand and deepen its partnership with the UK, and gave a new impetus to the agreement of strategic partnership that links the European Union. Later on, from 2016 till the official exit of UK from the EU, Algeria started to expand its partnership with the United Kingdom and review its agreements with the European Union (Bahati, 2019). According to the country's Foreign Affairs Minister Ramtane Lamamra, Britain's choice was likely to have a significant influence on international relations as well as collaboration between Europe and the rest of the globe. Mr. Lamamra also stated that Algeria will continue to monitor the situation and wished Britain an effective exit from the EU under the best possible terms (Bahati, 2019).

3-4 The new Algeria:

The Algerian society has been shaped by the varied history of Algeria. This history trembled by the colonial period where more than million and half persons had been murdered by the French army from rise of revolution in November 1st 1954 to the independence 1962 (McDougall, 2017). Then, in 1987 the economic crise caused by the decrease of oil prices lead to the dark period that lasted for nearly 10 years (McDougall, 2017; Naceur, 2023; PERI, 2005; Zeraoulia, 2020). After these periods the Algerian society learnt lesson that any external threat such as foreign invasion must be treated the way it

comes i.e., what is taken with force must return with force. While the internal threat inside the country should be solved peacefully in a democratic way without the intervention of any other foreign hands (Maraf & Vanci Osam, 2023; McDougall, 2017).

3-5 Hirak protest:

Hirak rose in Algeria in 2019, many countries thought that it will be the spring of Algeria and the civil war will start just like other Arabian countries, but they were wrong. Yet although the Hirak created momentum for radical change in Algeria but no civil war initiated. The counter- civil war revolutionary dynamic of the past decade has undermined this pressure and allowed for the return of the elite, and purged the country from its internal enemies. This was only done by the wise civilian people in a peaceful democratic Hirak. The country was led after by President Abdelmajid Tebboune and Army Chief Saïd Chengriha, both of them guaranteed the stability and the democracy of Algeria (Zeraoulia, 2020).

3-6 The Glorious history, New Era:

The President Abdelmajid Tebboune came at the head of the Algerian democratic government with the idea and the project of “New Algeria” or what is known as “*Aladjazair Aldjadida*”. The President vowed to “lay the foundations of a new Algeria” under his emblem “Glorious history, New Era”. The New Algeria changed the country from inside and the country’s foreign policy, it shaped its interests into an open dimension toward the whole world.

Nowadays, Algeria has begun on a massively ambitious initiative to construct five big new towns from the ground up. Already, 800,000 housing units and two major sports venues have benefited 3 million people. Also, Algeria is launching massive housing and infrastructural projects, with entire towns sprouting from the ground and dramatically changing the urban landscape. For example, Algeria built the Great Mosque of Algiers, whose minaret, is the highest in the world at 265 meters (Cadey, 2022).

The president optimised the 49/51 rule, that required majority Algerian ownership of all new businesses, to facilitate the investment and to attract foreign investors (Loi N° 15-18 Du 18 Rabie El Aouel 1437 Correspondant Au 30 Décembre 2015 Portant Loi de Finances Pour 2016., 2016). In addition, the country started massive investment in solar energy and renewable energy (wind, hydro, and biomass) in order to reduce pollution and aims to produce 27 percent of its electricity from renewable resources by 2035 (Echorouk Forum, 2013).

In the past the country has been described by the American diplomats as “anti-Western,” “anti-capitalist,” and “insular.” Nowadays, privately,

American diplomats describe the government as one of the region's most challenging to penetrate and understand. With the war in Ukraine and the rising tension in Nigeria, Algeria capitalizing its opportunities created by changes to global energy markets. Also, it has increasingly asserted itself in the African (Hill, 2023). For example, Algerian natural gas export increased in 2021 and its shipments to Italy increased by 20% in 2022 (Hill, 2023). Not alone is Italy looking across the Mediterranean; Algeria currently produces 11% of all-natural gas consumed in Europe and is Africa's largest natural gas exporter (CEIC, 2023).

Moreover, the Algerian constitution was amended to allow the deployment of the armed forces outside the country. Also, it allows participation in peacekeeping operations under the Arab League, the United Nations and the African Union (AU). In Niger, Algeria brought significant strengths to a mediating role. it has announced that the military junta in Niger has accepted Algiers' offer to mediate in a transition to civilian, constitutional rule (Hill, 2023).

For the first time, from 9 years, Algeria recorded its budget surplus in 2022, increasing international reserves to \$53.5 billion. A budget surplus is expected again in 2023 due to oil and gas prices. This financial flexibility has enabled Algeria to send money to allies to help them during their financial collapse, particularly Tunisian President Kais Saïed, who received a \$300 million loan in 2021 and an additional \$300 million (\$200 million loan plus \$100 grant) in 2022 (Hill, 2023).

Finally, the New Algeria opens its doors to more investment projects in all sectors such as education, economy and security. New cooperation has been built with countries from all over the world. Further, Algeria biggest plan is to join the BRICS group.

4- Post Brexit Anglo-Algerian relationship:

4-1 Military cooperation:

Algeria and the UK cooperated on counterterrorism efforts and security matters, particularly in light of shared concerns about regional stability. The latest cooperation between the two countries was on January 16th, 2023. Air Marshal Martin Elliott Sampson, Senior Advisor of the United Kingdom Defence for the MENA Region, Ministry of National Defence, was received by Major General Mohamed Salah BEN BICHA, the Secretary-General of the Ministry of National Defence. Air Marshal Martin Elliott Sampson was leading a high-level team on an official visit to Algeria. In the presence of Major General, Director of External Relations and Cooperation of the Ministry of National Defence, and members of the British delegation, the two sides officially started discussions regarding bilateral issues. These conversations centred on topics of mutual interest (MND, 2023).

Furthermore, Mr. Amar Belani, Secretary General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and National Community Abroad, received Air Marshal Martin Elliot Sampson as part of the high-level British military official's working visit to Algeria. The two sides held constructive discussions on how to develop and extend collaboration in the fields of the economy, investment, and scientific and technological cooperation. The two parts addressed a number of regional and international problems concerning the situation in Libya, Mali, the Sahel, and Western Sahara.

Moreover, Mr. Sampson emphasized that Algeria has a prominent international position and promising capabilities at the political, economic, and military levels, as well as its significant contributions and leadership in continental and international fora to ensure stability and security in North Africa and the Sahel region (MFA, 2023). Finally, on Tuesday, January 17th, 2023, at the headquarters of the People's National Army, Mr. Lieutenant General Saïd Chengriha, Chief of Staff of the People's National Army, received Mr. Air Marshal Martin Elliot Sampson. Lieutenant General Changriha welcomed the visiting military delegation, emphasizing that the embodiment of this visit would allow the diversification and strengthening of bilateral military cooperation between the two parties (ALGERIA PRESS SERVICE, 2023; MFA, 2023).

He, Lieutenant General Changriha, expressed the Algerian readiness to activate the necessary practical measures in order to achieve the desired dynamic. He also stated that:

"Algeria, which is jealous of its sovereign decision, deals with many friendly countries with which it has economic and military relations, Algeria belongs to the non-aligned countries and is jealous of its glories and championships history, as well as its independence and political decision. This country deals with many friendly countries with which it has economic and military relations."

The Algerian political and military position was and still clear. Algeria always respects the freedom of countries which are still under conquest such as Palestine and Western Sahara. The deep history of Algeria especially its sufferings from the French conquest made it a country that rejects without any negotiation the conquest of any free country or the suppression of freedoms, especially self-determination. A friendly country to Algeria is a country who respects the Algerian history and its foreign policy. Lieutenant General CHENGRIHA said that the embodiment of the British visit today, reflected their interest in searching for ways and means to achieve the desired dynamic (ALGERIA PRESS SERVICE, 2023; MFA, 2023).

4-2 Economic and technological sectors:

After the Brexit the mutual co-operation and interest between Algeria and UK flow more toward the energy and flourishing the economy through investment in renewable energy and exchange of technology. In the Hansard of Algeria: 60th Anniversary of Diplomatic Relations, the conservative Alexander Stafford said:

“Energy is currently by far and away the greatest area of British-Algerian co-operation. Several British companies are investing in Algeria in the energy field, and are considered among the most important foreign investors, including BP. Oil and gas are a critical part of Britain’s transition to net zero, and fossil fuel companies have a huge role to play in research and innovation for renewables. In the wake of Putin’s illegal war in Ukraine, it is more important than ever that we have a reliable supplier of energy and, with my renewables background, I see a mutual opportunity for Britain and Algeria in the green energy space.”(Hansard, 2022)

In these latest years, the whole world knows that oil and gas are sources of energy that will end, and they stated looking for more savvy sources to ensure the future and prosperity for their countries. Nowadays, UK hoped to build new relation with Algeria based on cooperation in the field of energy. On September 7th 2022, Eni announced that it has agreed to purchase BP's Algerian business, comprising the two gas-producing concessions "In Amenas" and "In Salah" (45.89% and 33.15% working interest, respectively) (BP, 2022; Eni, 2023). The acquisition is consistent with Eni's specific approach to solve the difficulties of the present energy market in order to provide consumers with safe and sustainable energy while speeding the route to net-zero energy (BP, 2022; Eni, 2023). Since 1981, Eni has had a presence in Algeria. Following these purchases and the ongoing development initiatives in the Berkine basin (Hassi Messaoud, Algeria), Eni's Algerian output will exceed 120,000 barrels of oil equivalent per day by 2023, cementing Eni as the country's primary international energy business (Eni, 2023).

The sale of BP business to Eni put an end to British petroleum investments in Algeria. BP's boss Bernard Looney admits that his country may be at peak oil demand, but the world climate can't handle more burning of oil or gas. Therefore, BP choose to cares about the planet's future - or even its own future – and the sell money is going to be invested in a transition to renewable energy (BBC, 2023; BP, 2022).

Although UK decided to reduce investments in Algerian oil and gas, it opens a new door to new horizon in renewable energy investments in Algeria. Algeria with its land diversity contains vast Sahara Desert where solar panels and wind turbines can be placed. The green energy is an important pivot for

modern strong country. Thus, in March 2020 the British Minister of State for the Middle East and North Africa, Mr James Cleverly visited Algiers and signed a declaration of intent of co-operation in the field of environmental protection, sustainable development and renewable energies (*Algerian Embassy in London*, 2021).

The UK try through its partnership with Algeria to make a blank between its import and export from Algeria. Economic growth is mainly related to products that are exported to other countries. The main exported products were Medicinal & pharmaceutical products with 19.2% of all UK goods exported to Algeria. On the other hands, Algeria exported 61.5% and 30.6% of crude oil and gas to UK respectively (Oliver Cockram & Anthony Myers, 2023). It can be seen that UK imported more from Algeria than exported mainly in the energy domain.

For that, UK's new investment projects in Algeria are based on establishing partnership in the technological domain and green energy. UK by focusing on green energy in Algeria could export technology while Algeria exported energy to UK with similar benefits. Algeria, on the other side, can reduce pollution and environmental crises on its territories through using renewable energy.

Another main issue that made the UK look toward renewable energy was the war in Ukraine. This war has a significant impact on the UK economy. In 2019, Russia supplied around 8% of the UK's oil and 7% of the UK's gas. Both the invasion of Ukraine and the sanctions imposed on Russian energy exports have raised oil and gas prices, with oil prices above \$100 per barrel for the first time since 2014. This has increased the likelihood of stagflation in UK (Patel, 2022). Thus, the UK now is aware about the importance of having new reliable supplier of energy especially friendly countries in which they can both share profits of cooperation. Knowing that Algeria has already taken a serious step toward enhancing solar energy and renewable energy sectors.

Moreover, in 2021, United Kingdom ranked 11 in the Economic Complexity Index (ECI 1.43), and 13 in total exports (\$420B). That same year, Algeria ranked 103 in the Economic Complexity Index (ECI -0.88), and 63 in total exports (\$35.4B) (OEC, 2023). The ECI is a holistic measure of the productive capabilities of large economic systems, usually cities, regions, or countries. Algeria compared to UK exported less to the world since the economy of the county based more on oil and gas resources neglecting the other resources that Algeria can provide and develop. Nowadays, Algeria

adopted new strategies to flourish the economy through keeping pace with the world development.

The Algerian government expanded the Ministry of Environment in 2017 to include a renewable energy portfolio, which will be spun off as the new Ministry of Energy Transition and Renewable Energy (MTEER) in 2020. Within the prime minister's office, the government established the Commission on Renewable Energies and Energy Efficiency (CEREFE) in 2019 (Farrand, 2022)(Achab, 2021). Algeria created a renewable energy college at the University of Batna in 2020 to enhance national skills. Last year, it established the National Renewable Energy Company (known by the Arabic abbreviation SHAEMS, which means'sun') with joint ownership by Sonatrach and Sonelgaz but nominal management by the MTEER (Achab, 2021) (Farrand, 2022). The firm is in charge of renewable energy procurement, which was formerly handled by the Ministry of Energy.

On the other hand, on March 23rd, 2021, the Algerian Embassy in London, Developing Markets Associates (DMA), and the British Embassy in Algiers collaborated to host a webinar entitled: “UK-Algeria Energy Transition and Countdown to COP26” ([link: https://youtu.be/2JgiJOj0zVs](https://youtu.be/2JgiJOj0zVs)). This event also drew more than 200 representatives from the Algerian and the British business, diplomatic communities and Officials from the Algerian Ministry of Energy Transition and Renewable Energy. Among the participants were: Lord Richard Risby, the Prime Minister’s Trade Envoy to Algeria, Ms Janet Rogan, and COP26 Regional Ambassador for Middle East and North Africa, Eastern Europe and Central Asia (*Algerian Embassy in London*, 2021)(Hansard, 2022).

The Ambassador of Algeria in London, Mr. Abderrahmane Benguerah, point out the new policy pursued by the Algerian government in order to achieve the country energy’s transition, especially through the development of green energy (*Algerian Embassy in London*, 2021).

Similarly, Ms Janet Rogan claimed that Algeria has a greater than average potential to become a regional leader in solar energy. The UK Ambassador, Lord Risby, and Ms Sharon Wardle, praised Algeria's efforts to promote renewable energy sources and emphasized the UK's desire to offer its knowledge and expertise in this sector with Algeria (*Algerian Embassy in London*, 2021)(Hansard, 2022).

Further, on September 8th, 2022, the Minister of Energy and Mines, Mohamed Arkab and the Ambassador of the United Kingdom, Great Britain and Northern Ireland to Algeria, Ms. Sharon Anne Wardle have met in Algiers to discuss means to further energy cooperation and partnership relations between the two countries (Saada, 2022).

The negotiations between the two sides focused on ways to strengthen bilateral collaboration and partnership in the domains of energy, hydrocarbons, electricity, renewable energies, and energy efficiency (Saada, 2022). Moreover, Mr. Arkab emphasized the sharing of know-how and visits between the two nations' enterprises, as well as the local production of equipment for this industry. The Minister also urged British firms to invest in green hydrogen development. Ms. Wardle, for her part, reaffirmed the British authorities' desire to develop partnership relations with Algeria, and strengthen economic consultations and exchanges of experience (Saada, 2022).

Algeria's energy transition strategy has now three structural components: a new government ministry, regulatory reform, and the establishment of a new national renewable energy firm. Also, the country now testing the new energy mix model. This model seeks to generate a minimum of 30% of its electricity from renewables by 2030 and 25 gigatons of power from green and blue hydrogen by 2050 (Achab, 2021)

4-3 Trade cooperation:

The United Kingdom's decision to leave the European Union (Brexit) altered its trade agreements with a number of nations, including Algeria. Following Brexit, the UK and Algeria will very certainly negotiate new trade accords and arrangements. Tariffs, quotas, regulatory standards, and other trade-related issues may be discussed. Both countries would make an effort to create a framework that supports their own economies while ensuring the free movement of goods and services.

First, during the Covid-19 period and after 8 months from the Brexit, the cooperation between Algeria and UK continued in terms of video conferences. Among this: The conference event "Algeria and the UK: Current and Post-COVID Trade and Investment". This conference was organized in partnership with Developing Markets Associates and the Algerian-British Business Council on September 30, 2020. This event drew 137 businessmen and representatives from Algerian and British firms (*Algerian Embassy in London*, 2021).

On this occasion, Ambassador Abderrahmane Benguerrah presented the Algerian Government's proposed political and economic changes to strengthen the rule of law and good administration, as well as to enhance the country's business climate. He emphasized the steps put in place to enhance the hydrocarbons, mining, banking, and digitalization sectors in particular. Participants, on the other hand, commended the significant developments taking place in the Algerian economy, believing that they present substantial

economic prospects for British enterprises (*Algerian Embassy in London*, 2021).

Second, the total UK total market share in Algeria was 1.0% in 2022 for goods and services. This is a decrease of 0.1 percentage points from 2021 because of the end of BP contract in Algeria. The contrary was noticed about the UK market share for services only in Algeria which marked by an increase of 0.6 percentage points from 2021 (**Oliver Cockram & Anthony Myers, 2023**).

Further, the UK trade with EU, non-EU countries and with Algeria in 4 quarters to the end of June 2023 have changes dramatically (ONS, 2023). Results indicates that after the Brexit the imports from the non-EU were 1.01 higher than imports from the EU. 12.7% from the total imports to UK were from USA and 9.2% from Germany which were considered as the first and the second countries imported to UK. Similarly, exports to the non-EU were 1.45 higher than exports from the EU. UK exported mainly to USA (21% of total exports) and Germany (6.8% of total exports).

Based on the Office of National Statistics (ONS), in the four quarters to the end of Q1 (Q1= First quarters) 2023, The UK imports from Algeria reached £ 2 billion (ONS, 2023).

Third, the value of UK goods exports and imports between each UK region and Algeria in 2022 show that both London and Wales have the highest percentage of total goods imports from Algeria with values 49.4% and 30.3% respectively. While, South East marked 22.1% of total goods exports to Algeria. The Northern Ireland exported 3.9% of total goods but imported nothing from Algeria (**Oliver Cockram & Anthony Myers, 2023; ONS, 2023**).

On the other hand, the UK exports of goods to Algeria increased by 7.9% the 12 months to July 2023, compared to the same period the previous year. The major goods exported from the UK to Algeria were medicinal & pharmaceutical products (19.2%) followed by Cereals (8.7%). While the UK imports of goods from Algeria decreased by 21.6% over the same period (**OECD, 2023; Oliver Cockram & Anthony Myers, 2023; ONS, 2023**).

Finally, both countries, Algeria and UK, tried to facilitate the trade by solving problems of bureaucracy, bribery, corruption and copyright protection. For examples, the Algerian government tendering follows strict guidelines to reduce the risk of corruption in the awarding of contracts. Numerous British businesses report successful business operations in Algeria free of corrupt practices. Similarly, UK adopted the British bribery legislation laws which applies to UK registered companies and UK nationals committing acts of bribery wholly outside the UK (GOV.UK, 2018).

4-5 Education:

4-5-1 UK investment in Algerian educational sector:

In these latest years the UK took an important step in reinforcing its cooperation with Algeria in the sectors of technologies and education. For instance, Algeria Britain Business Council ABBC held a webinar under the title: “Algeria Education- The Drive to English Universities” (***Algerian Embassy in London, 2021***). It was organised on 16th March 2021 by the Algerian-British Business Council, the Algerian Embassy in London and the British Embassy in Algiers (*link to webinar video: https://youtu.be/tT_Fzx1fwZM*).

More than 250 participants attended the webinar which includes 12 speakers. Among the different speakers was Professor John Brewer, CEO of the Northern Group of Universities in the United Kingdom, whose duty is to integrate Algerian students into British universities, Bernardo Bruzzone, the manager of Oxford Business Group Africa, Lord Risby, Prime Minister Boris Johnson's Trade Envoy, as well as the British Ambassador to Algeria. Both High Commissioner (H.E) Sharon Wardle, and the Algerian Ambassador to London, H.E. Abderrahman Benguerah, attended the webinar. The Algerian Ministry of Higher Education, the British Studies Centre, and the British Council were also present (***Algerian Embassy in London, 2021***). Lady Olga Maitland, ABBC Chairman, said that such number of participants in the webinar was an indication about how modern Algeria is and emphasized that the new generation has forced the change. This new generation is hungry for English since they knew its value and importance in communication, gaining new knowledge and optimizing the chances to gain jobs. The attendees discussed bilateral cooperation in the sphere of education and training, as well as the prospects for strengthening English teaching in Algeria. They also praised the Algerian government's efforts to promote English usage, particularly in higher education (***Algerian Embassy in London, 2021***).

Lord Risby of Haverhill, on his part indicated that his government was ready to attract more Algerian students and they planned to increase their number from 480 000 to 600 000. He stated that the UK will facilitate the visa obtaining procedures. Moreover, Lord Risby of Haverhill mentioned that 84% of students indicated that the UK was now the easiest place to get a visa to study. The prime minister of UK has authorized a special team to insure and facilitate the expansion of British educational offers (***Algerian Embassy in London, 2021***).

Moreover, starting from October 2021 the two parts signed agreement, Memorandum of Understanding, for the creation of a joint commission in the field of higher education and scientific research. Then, on 16 June 2022, the Algerian-British Forum on Education was held in Algiers. Both parts discussed the Algerian British cooperation in the scientific and academic

field. Mrs. LAFDJAH Mama, deputy head of the ministry's inter-university cooperation and exchange department in Algeria, stated that Algerian-British cooperation in scientific, academic, and technological fields aspires to be "concrete and fruitful" for both nations (ALGÉRIE PRESSE SERVICE, 2022a; Radio Algérienne, 2022).

Also, Ms. Sharon WARDLE, Ambassador of the United Kingdom to Algeria, welcomed cooperation between her country and Algeria in higher education, scientific research, and national education, emphasizing that Algerian students "bring a plus to cultural diversification in Great Britain." (ALGÉRIE PRESSE SERVICE, 2022a).

Furthermore, GHAZI Lotfi, the creator of "Education-Tech", stated that his organization (specialist in the application of new technologies in the service of education and teaching) offers the Algerian students the opportunity to obtain a British university degree in Algeria (ALGÉRIE PRESSE SERVICE, 2022b; Education Tech, 2022). This Association, "Education Tech", was founded on October 1, 2022, to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the beginning school year in independent Algeria (October 1, 1962). It has experts from various wilayas in the country, as well as English language inspectors from 30 wilayas, who are eager to contribute their educational and administrative experiences to the strengthening of the English language in all cycles of education, up to university education, and in various scientific and technological fields.

Additionally, the very important Hansard debated by the House of Common on Wednesday 16 November 2022 under the title Algeria: 60th Anniversary of Diplomatic Relations, discussed the progress of the educational bilateral relationship (Hansard, 2022). Through their debate they acknowledge their effort and support to promote British language in Algeria. They celebrate the success of the agreement of opening the first British school in Algeria and they celebrate the promotion of English language. They also hoped that more skilled and talented Algerian students will choose British universities for their under graduation and post-graduation studies.

Moreover, David Rutley, The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs said:

"Education is a growing part of our relationship and helps us to build links, particularly between young people. We were delighted when President Tebboune announced in July that English would be taught from primary school onwards. We are proud that the UK is a popular destination for young Algerians to pursue higher education overseas. It is clear that sharing a language will bring our countries closer and enhance our cultural and business links." (Hansard, 2022).

Through David Rutley quotes one can clearly see that promoting English and make it language that taught starting from primary school will facilitate the cultural exchange. Creating new perspective for young children toward the British culture. Language is not just a tool of communication it became tool that one can use it to understand other's thoughts and believes in order to develop common interests. Now when it promoted it becomes language that facilitate the economic and cultural exchanges and development. The new generation of both Algerian and British youth will definitely meet in accordance in many issues in the future. Many works about Algeria, such as "The Praetorians" and "The Centurions" by Jean Lartéguy, have been extremely successful in translation in the Anglophone world.

In 2022 the Algerian government took another step toward the higher education system when they chose English as language, instead of French, for studying in its universities. And in 25-27 April 2023, PHD student from different disciplines passed the English placement test. After this test each one of them will get into English course based on his degree in the English placement test (Ministère de l'enseignement supérieur et de la recherche scientifique, 2023).

Aside from, (Jacob, 2020) suggested that many countries choses English as foreign language in spite of the existence of another colonial language because of globalization, human capital, social and spatial mobility, self-help. In Algeria the common responses reproduce these frames, but discourses of English as opposition against French are frequently the first stated, especially in group settings.

Thus, English becomes a symbol of symbolize "moving on" and tool to create new categories of belonging, new opportunities for socioeconomic mobility through for migration. Nowadays, the number of people taking lesson in English is increasing most of them do that because they will immigrate to study in foreign countries or to work in the Gulf where English is language of science and economy.

Conclusion:

The results suggested that the bilateral relationship between Algeria and the UK in post Brexit period was still in the process of evolution. While the full impact of Brexit on their relationship was not yet clear, several key points can be concluded. First, the Brexit and the emergence of New Algeria strengthen the economic and trade cooperation. New cooperation in the field of technology and renewable energy established. Second, the parts established agreements in various sectors including military, education and socio-cultural exchanges. This new cooperation added significant value to bilateral relationships. Furthermore, many challenges threatened this bilateral relation. Differences in socioeconomic development levels between Algeria

and the United Kingdom may make it difficult to form mutually beneficial collaborations. Plus, the geopolitical factors such as regional wars or multinational alliances may have an impact on the bilateral relationship. Also, different cultural norms and languages created gaps in communication and comprehension between the two nations.

To minimize these challenges, both sides, Algeria and UK, must work on optimizing these differences to ensure that their trade and economic interests were served effectively. Moreover, Algeria should adapt their policy toward the new realities of the UK's relationship with the EU and seeking ways to navigate and capitalize on these changes. Similarly, UK need to adapt to the realities that Algeria is now open to more cooperation with other allies in Asia, Africa and Europe and attempt to join into the BRICS group. Therefore, the bilateral relationship between Algeria and UK is more complex in the broader context of international politics. Finally, since the Brexit is not recent (starting from 2016) and the Algerian new policies toward Brexit are still not clear it is not sufficient to conclude the effect of such a shift. Therefore, many years are acquired to make such judgements.

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