

Algeria's Strategic Shift: Leveraging Strengthened Ties with Turkey to Break Free from French Influence

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Abstract

This study explores the evolving political, economic, and strategic relationship between Turkey and Algeria from 2003 to 2022. Rooted in a shared Ottoman legacy, both countries have developed a deep mutual trust that has laid the foundation for their expanding cooperation. The primary focus of this study is on the key sectors of collaboration, including energy, defence, and trade, and how these align with their broader regional and global aspirations. The paper examines the strategic partnership between Turkey and Algeria, particularly in their opposition to foreign military intervention in Libya, resistance to French influence in Africa, and growing economic interdependence.

The study highlights the significant role of the energy sector, with Algeria as a key supplier of natural gas to Turkey, and the growing involvement of Turkish companies in Algeria's infrastructure, construction, and manufacturing sectors. The defence cooperation between the two countries, especially in addressing regional security challenges, is also a critical aspect of their bilateral ties. The research demonstrates how both nations have strategically aligned their foreign policies, particularly in the context of North Africa and the Middle East, to counterbalance Western influence and promote regional stability.

By analysing historical, political, and economic data, this study provides a comprehensive overview of Turkey-Algeria relations, emphasising the mutual benefits of their partnership. The findings suggest that the deepening ties between the two countries represent a model of strategic cooperation, with far-reaching implications for the geopolitical dynamics of North Africa and the Mediterranean. This study contributes to a deeper understanding of how emerging regional powers, such as Turkey and Algeria, are reshaping the global order and the balance of influence in Africa and beyond.

Keywords: Turkey-Algeria Relations, Energy Cooperation, Defence Partnership, Geopolitical Strategy, French Influence in Africa.

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Cezayir'in Stratejik Dönüşümü: Fransa Etkisinden Kurtulmak İçin Türkiye ile İlişkilerin Güçlendirilmesi

ÖZET

Bu çalışma, 2003-2022 yılları arasında Türkiye ile Cezayir arasındaki gelişen siyasi, ekonomik ve stratejik ilişkiyi incelemektedir. Ortak Osmanlı mirasına dayanan her iki ülke, derin bir karşılıklı güven geliştirmiş ve bu, artan işbirliklerinin temelini atmıştır. Bu çalışmanın temel odağı, enerji, savunma ve ticaret gibi işbirliği alanlarını ve bu alanların geniş bölgesel ve küresel hedefleriyle nasıl uyum sağladığını incelemektir. Çalışma, özellikle Libya'daki dış askeri müdahaleye karşı duruşları, Afrika'daki Fransız etkisine karşı koyma ve artan ekonomik bağımlılıkları konularında Türkiye ile Cezayir arasındaki stratejik ortaklığı ele almaktadır.

Çalışma, enerji sektörünün önemli rolünü vurgulamaktadır. Cezayir, Türkiye için önemli bir doğalgaz tedarikçisi konumundadır ve Türk şirketlerinin Cezayir'in altyapı, inşaat ve üretim sektörlerindeki artan katılımı gözlemlenmektedir. Ayrıca, iki ülke arasındaki savunma işbirliği, özellikle bölgesel güvenlik tehditlerine karşı yapılan ortak çalışmalar, ikili ilişkilerinin kritik bir yönüdür. Araştırma, her iki ülkenin dış politikalarını stratejik olarak nasıl uyumlu hale getirdiğini, özellikle Kuzey Afrika ve Orta Doğu bağlamında Batı'nın etkisini dengeleme ve bölgesel istikrarı teşvik etme amacıyla nasıl bir işbirliği sağladıklarını göstermektedir.

Tarihi, siyasi ve ekonomik verileri analiz ederek, bu çalışma Türkiye-Cezayir ilişkilerinin kapsamlı bir genel görünümünü sunmakta ve ortaklıklarının karşılıklı faydalarını vurgulamaktadır. Bulgular, iki ülke arasındaki derinleşen ilişkilerin, Kuzey Afrika ve Akdeniz'in jeopolitik dinamikleri üzerinde geniş kapsamlı etkileri olan bir stratejik işbirliği modelini temsil ettiğini ortaya koymaktadır. Bu çalışma, Türkiye ve Cezayir gibi yükselen bölgesel güçlerin, küresel düzeni ve Afrika'daki etki dengesini nasıl şekillendirdiğini daha derinlemesine anlamamıza katkı sağlamaktadır.

Anahtar Kelimeler

Türkiye-Cezayir İlişkileri, Enerji İşbirliği, Savunma Ortaklığı, Jeopolitik Strateji, Afrika'daki Fransız Etkisi.

Introduction

The Algerian-Turkish relationship is based on three main points: The economy, the politics, and the common history. Though economic co-operation leads, the priorities of political perception — at least where Algeria shares a border — are just as much a factor as the basis for closer contact. Historical Closeness is also a very important dimension to take into consideration here, due to the fact Algeria is the spearhead of the global fight between Türkiye and West, mainly France at least.

In the recent years, relations between the two countries have seen quick development, both being politically agreeable on many key regional issues and having very much expanded their economic bonds. Both countries have been working to find joint economic opportunities in other African countries. Ever since he took office, Algerian President Abdelmadjid Tebboune has adopted policy positions that have been remarkably consistent with those of Turkey on various issues, from the conflicts in Libya (both the military and political aspects) and Tunisia to the Palestinian case. They have also shared to oppose Israel's increasing footprint in Africa through co-operation with the African Union.

A second point of commonality is hostility to France. Türkiye and Algeria have both rejected French use of military intervention and force along the African coast and the African continent at large. The desire of each to increase its presence in Africa's politics and economy, frequently against France, has been a major pillar of their strategic partnership. Türkiye is still Algeria's partner of choice in this struggle and it will always be because being duty bound, the former has an avowed commitment to stand in the way of France to control Africa when the native governments in the region are no longer conducive to its hegemonic tendencies.

Economically, Türkiye is Algeria's leading foreign investor, with investments worth nearly \$5 billion, and the volume of bilateral trade has reached almost \$4 billion. There is also a cooperation in energy as Türkiye wants to reduce its dependence on Algerian natural gas. More joint energy projects are to be established on Turkish territory. Recent accords involve cooperation in maritime shipping and port-building.

There is great strategic opportunity in Algeria in northern Africa. Geopolitically, as a bridge between the Mediterranean and the Sahel, it is Africa's third-richest country in oil, after Libya and Nigeria, and has the continent's second-largest natural gas holdings, after

Nigeria. Algeria's land area is over three times larger than that of Türkiye and the country, with a population of 42 million, equals almost half in number of inhabitants that of Türkiye.

So to be fair, present Turkish-Algerian relations are by definition a win-win. For Türkiye, Algeria is a bridge to further cooperation with the broader continent. For Algeria, Türkiye is seen as a trustworthy ally that can back its dreams of regional leadership and economic transition.

Purpose and Importance of the Study:

The purpose of this study is to examine the political, economic, and historical relationship between Turkey and Algeria, with a particular focus on the developments that have occurred between 2003 and 2022. This study aims to understand how the growing cooperation between these two countries has shaped their bilateral ties and their shared strategies, especially in areas such as energy, defense, and trade.

The importance of this study lies in exploring the common interests that unite Turkey and Algeria, including their joint objectives to counteract French influence in Africa, the economic cooperation in key sectors like energy and construction, and the alignment of their geopolitical strategies in the region. The study highlights the broader implications of this partnership, not only for Turkey and Algeria but also for the Mediterranean and African regions.

Major Questions:

1. How have the historical ties between Turkey and Algeria influenced their current political, economic, and strategic cooperation?
2. What are the key sectors of cooperation between Turkey and Algeria, and how do these align with their regional and global aspirations?
3. How have Turkey and Algeria's foreign policy positions converged, particularly in the context of regional conflicts like the Libyan crisis, and their shared opposition to French influence in Africa?
4. What role does the energy sector play in the economic relationship between Turkey and Algeria, and what are the mutual benefits?

5. How has Turkey's growing influence in North Africa affected Algeria's foreign policy and its relations with regional and global powers?

Hypotheses:

1. **Historical Influence Hypothesis:** The historical relationship between Turkey and Algeria, particularly their shared Ottoman legacy, has significantly shaped their current political and economic cooperation, creating a foundation for mutual trust and strategic alignment.
2. **Economic Cooperation Hypothesis:** The primary driver of the growing Turkey-Algeria relationship is economic cooperation, particularly in the energy sector, infrastructure projects, and joint investments, which provide mutual benefits for both countries in strengthening their global position.
3. **Political Alignment Hypothesis:** Turkey and Algeria share similar political interests and positions on key regional issues, especially in North Africa and the Middle East, such as their opposition to foreign intervention in Libya and their efforts to counter French influence on the African continent.
4. **Geostrategic Competition Hypothesis:** Turkey's growing presence in North Africa, particularly in Algeria, is partially motivated by competition with France, with Turkey positioning itself as a key partner for Algeria to counterbalance French influence and expand its influence in the region.
5. **Security Cooperation Hypothesis:** Algeria and Turkey's military cooperation, particularly in the context of regional security challenges such as the Libyan conflict, terrorism, and border security, plays a crucial role in strengthening their bilateral ties and aligning their foreign policy strategies.

Method and Assumptions of the Study:

The study uses a qualitative approach, relying on historical analysis, case studies, and comparative analysis of Turkey and Algeria's political and economic activities from 2003 to 2022. It employs a review of official documents, bilateral agreements, and public statements by government officials, along with interviews from experts in the fields of political science, economics, and international relations.

Assumptions underlying the study include:

1. The growing political and economic ties between Turkey and Algeria are based on their shared interests, including opposition to foreign intervention in the region, economic growth through cooperation, and resistance to Western (especially French) influence.
2. Economic collaboration is central to the bilateral relationship, with significant sectors like energy, infrastructure, and manufacturing playing an increasingly important role in their strategic partnership.
3. The foreign policy alignment between Turkey and Algeria is influenced by mutual goals in regional stability, countering terrorism, and securing economic and political influence in Africa.
4. Algeria's historical experiences with French colonialism and Turkey's position as a regional power have led to a shared interest in decreasing Western (particularly French) influence in Africa and promoting a more independent African geopolitical landscape.

Data Collection Sources:

The data for this study is gathered from various sources:

1. **Official documents:** Diplomatic agreements, bilateral trade and military cooperation deals, and government statements from both Algeria and Turkey.
2. **Economic data:** Statistics on trade volumes, foreign direct investments, joint ventures, and collaborative projects in energy, construction, and manufacturing sectors.
3. **Academic publications:** Peer-reviewed articles and books that provide analysis on Turkey-Algeria relations and their foreign policy strategies.
4. **Expert interviews:** Interviews with political analysts, economists, and international relations experts specializing in North African and Mediterranean geopolitics.
5. **News sources:** Reputable news outlets that track Turkey-Algeria relations, regional conflicts, and developments in the Mediterranean and North Africa.

This comprehensive data collection allows the study to provide a detailed analysis of Turkish-Algerian relations, focusing on the key political, economic, and strategic factors shaping their bilateral ties. The hypotheses are tested by examining these factors and their impact on regional stability and the global geopolitical order.

The Turkish-Algerian Approach to Regional Affairs

Historically, the differences between Algeria and Turkey in their foreign policy approaches have been minimal. In recent years, Algeria's stance on regional affairs has increasingly aligned with that of Turkey. This convergence is largely rooted in shared foreign policy principles, such as respect for territorial integrity and a commitment to non-interference in the domestic affairs of other states. Moreover, the deep cultural and historical bonds between the two nations have helped to soften or even neutralize potential divergences in their international strategies.

To ensure that Algeria and Turkey can pursue a mutually constructive and coordinated foreign policy, greater integration of their regional agendas is essential. This alignment should be grounded in their shared principles, aligned perspectives, and overlapping political interests, creating a more cohesive and strategic partnership.

1. A Political Economic Point Of The Two Countries Algeria And Türkiye In The Libyan Crisis

From the onset of the crisis, Algeria opposed foreign military intervention in Libya, supported political dialogue among the belligerent parties and strongly opposed any external interference. By promoting multi-lateral diplomatic efforts, such as through UN and AU institutions, Algeria was similarly seeking to carve out a role as a major player in regionally-led conflict-resolution attempts. With the deterioration of the situation, as the situation in Libya worsened and terrorists took over due to the lack of a government that controlled anything, they threatened not only the stability and the trust internally, but they also represented a significant threat to regional stability, and Algeria is, of course, in the region (Tawfik Boustani 2024).

With regional actors like Egypt and Morocco as well as external ones, like the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Türkiye, and Russia, actively involved, Algeria's formerly wait-and-see approach to the Libyan conflict was put under strain (Abderrazak Boulkemmh & Sümeyye

Özer, 2020). In response to these changes, on November 1 2020 Algeria adopted an important new constitutional reform through a referendum. Under this revision, the Algerian military may deploy on United Nations (UN), African Union (AU), and Arab League peacekeeping missionslawmakers authorized such foreign deployments in a two thirds majority vote. This legal shift underpinned a strategic reorientation of Algeria's foreign and security policy, motivated by the increasing sway of armed groups in Libya and the Sahel and the growing perils that emanated from irregular migration (Abdenmour Toumi, 2020).

Algeria's longstanding policy of neutrality in regional disputes has increasingly evolved into a more confrontational stance, largely due to the growing security situation in the country. Arguably the most pivotal juncture was a terrorist attack on the Tigantourine gas facility in In Amenas in January 2013, when 40 of the 150 Algerian staff at the plant were killed by jihadists who took 150 people hostage. Mokhtar Belmokhtar, who had deep connections to al-Qaida in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM), was behind the attack, which broadened Algeria's sense of insecurity in the extremist-plagued regions south and west of the country. In retaliation, the government raised its military spending substantially and improved the border security, by investing over of \$500 million on blocking illegal migration and terrorism along the Libyan border (Ferhat Polat, 2020).

In January 2020, Algerian warnings turned overt when, after meeting with the leader of Libya's UN-recognized Government of National Accord (GNA) Fayeze al-Sarraj in order to receive instructions on how to assist in preventing the Tabouk backed uprising's victory, Abdelmadjid Tebboune, Algeria's president, announced that the invasion of Tripoli would be a "red line" for Algeria — in clear reference to Khalifa Haftar, who had been trying to take the Libyan capital. Algeria's past: The Algerian concern for internal stability and order is deeply ingrained in the trauma of the country's 1990s civil war, fought with Islamist extremists, and the ways the war traumatized and traumatizes the country politically and socially. Concerns over a conceivable resurgence of fundamentalism, akin to the one that the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) had represented back then, were renewed with the prospect of pro-jihadi fighters returning from Libya (Salim 2019).

What has been striking, though, is that Algeria's changing its security stance also became in sync with Türkiye's Libyan approaches. Both countries were initially neutral in their approach to post-Gaddafi Libya and were proponents of political dialogue and an inclusive government. But Türkiye eventually threw its support clearly behind the GNA, which, in

light of the counterterrorism and larger geopolitical dimensions it saw, had accepted the 2015 Skhirat Agreement and, in November, signed a maritime and defense cooperation pact with Libya's internationally recognized government. This was in part in response to tensions over maritime boundaries in the Eastern Mediterranean involving Greece and the Greek Administration of South Cyprus. Since that time, Türkiye has sent arms and dispatched logistical support to the GNA in Tripoli to help it maintain its legitimacy and protect strategic of interests (Şerife Çetin, 2020).

Algeria, meanwhile, continued to be suspicious of the motives of Khalifa Haftar, whom it considered a force for destabilization in the region. Even prior to the 23 October 2020 ceasefire agreement, Algerian officials considered Haftar's onslaughts a threat to national unity and regional security. Those fears were exacerbated by the backing Haftar obtained from foreign actors, including the UAE, Russia and France, which made Algeria see the Libyan struggle as an extension of a wider geopolitical game. Haftar's connections to Madkhali-Salafist groups, which adhere to strict interpretations of the Quran and have been fighting ISIS on the ground, also gave pause. Algerian decisionmakers worried about the potential for the ideas of these groups to gain traction at home, fuel domestic radicalization and allow indirect influence from Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, both of which support Madkhali ideology.

The Turkish-French conflict over Algeria

The dynamics of Turkish-Algerian relations cannot be fully understood without acknowledging Algeria as a key arena in the broader competition between Türkiye and France. France's colonial legacy in Algeria, which lasted for nearly 130 years, followed centuries of Ottoman influence in the region. Both Türkiye and France possess complex and, at times, contentious historical legacies in Algeria—histories marked by conflict, resistance, and overlapping ambitions. Today, Paris and Ankara often seek to reinterpret or challenge each other's historical narratives as part of their strategic rivalry (Ayen Abdeen, 2022).

Ankara appears to view Algeria as a strategic gateway to Africa—a continent long regarded by France as part of its traditional sphere of influence. This positioning comes at a time when France's presence in the region is in noticeable decline. Türkiye's growing role in North and West Africa is one of the underlying factors fueling tensions between Ankara and Paris. In fact, Türkiye has arguably gained an edge over France in building closer ties

with Algeria, a country that has experienced repeated diplomatic clashes with Paris. One notable episode involved Algeria's decision to deny French military aircraft access to its airspace en route to operations in sub-Saharan Africa, signaling a period of cooling ties before diplomatic relations with France began to improve again (Ayen Abdeen, 2022).

Given these developments, the continued deepening of Algerian-Turkish relations is likely to revolve around their shared economic, political, and historical interests—as well as their ongoing friction with France. The convergence of these factors will shape the trajectory of cooperation between Ankara and Algiers in the coming years.

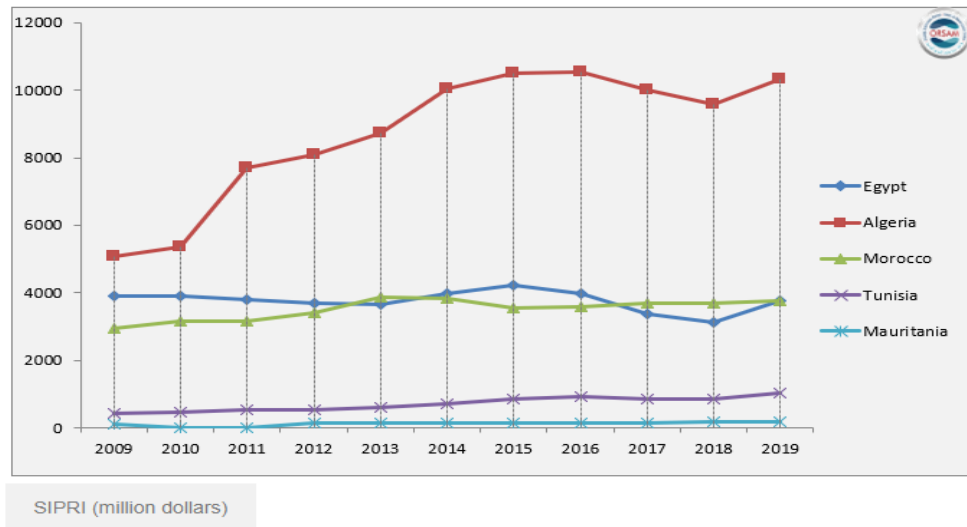
2. Türkiye- Algerian cooperation prospects for the unborn

Türkiye pays special concentration to the frugality for Algeria as portion of its Africa procedure and it continues to be one of the rising dominions in North Africa thanks to its natural coffers and demographics. authority. Türkiye and Algeria can play a commanding part in indigenous evolution thanks to their dynamism coffers, new shipping rows and profitable hookups with other indigenous players. likewise, strengthening the two nations' martial authority through cooperation in martial training and protection assiduity has the implicit to revise the indigenous balance in the Middle East and North Africa.

3.1 Military cooperative

The most important area of cooperation to fashion Türkiye and Algeria's participated unreality of the future and toughen their indigenous influence is the service and protection cooperation. Algeria has one of the most important militarizes in North Africa after Egypt and the most showy screen base in the region with its institutional structure, outfit, munitions data and trained dogfaces. Regional insecurity, competition with Morocco, and the country's civil war experience have acclimated the Algerian service's path to prioritizing screen. Against this background, Algeria has had the loftiest position of martial spending among North African nations over the once decade.

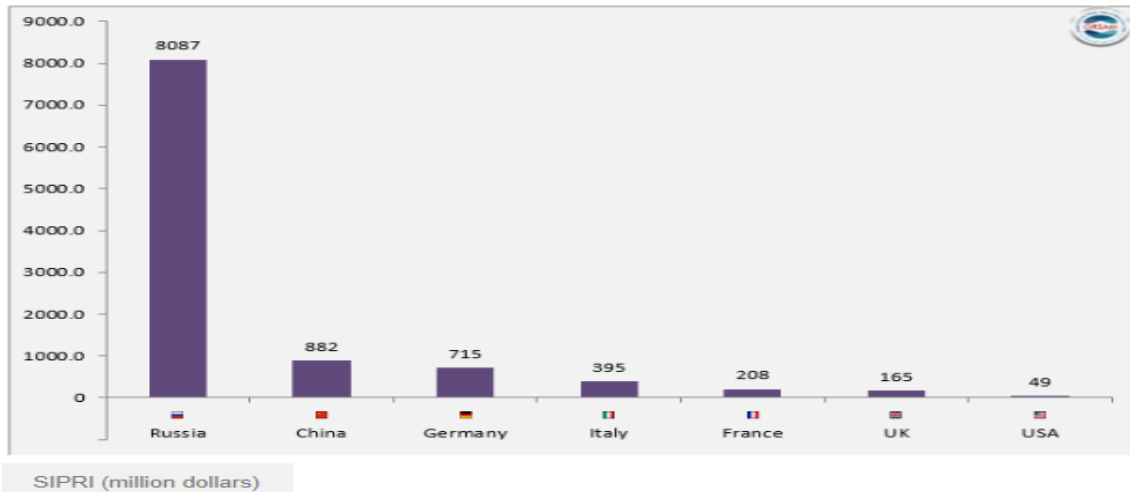
Military expenditures of North African countries (2009-2019)



Sources: (SIPRI, 2020)

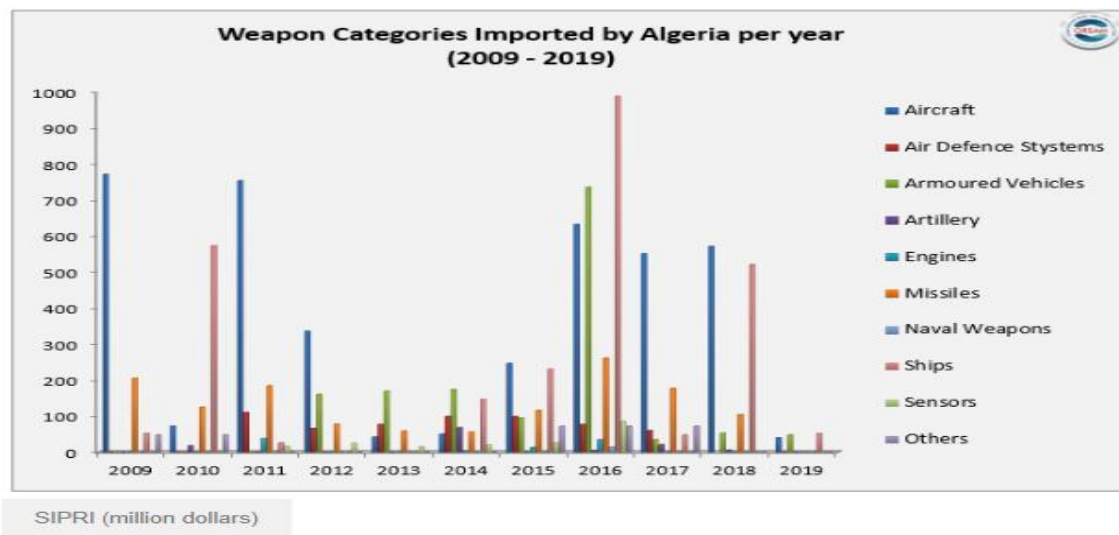
At the same time, factories decline and war against peaceful maintenance cheap this sanctuary with) Algeria underscore the vision of presenting soldierly ease and in addition peen for new suppliers in continuation of the players and supplier like Russia, China and Germany, over whom they expect the largest share unfolded. its ordnance. An average quarterly soldierly budget of \$10 billion Algeria feels that 67 of its munitions from Russia. For Algeria, which recently reached the deal to buy the SU- 35 and SU- 57 fighter jets from Russia, air force kit purposefulness constituted the biggest proportion of arm senses over the past decade. In addition to the aforementioned agreements to be signed with China on unmanned land equipment standing for(UAVs), frigates and corvettes, Algeria also deals with it in weapons in the same sectors as the special military equipment. and Other armoured land vehicles (SIPRI, 2020) Although not explicitly delineated in the manner of munitions in Algeria's arms import data, aircraft, warships, land soldierly assets and dumdums register high volume. Confronted with the arms sweats of Morocco, Algeria imports yet further munitions not for public display, and pays more personal attention to the preparation of its army with these ultra-modern weapons.

Arms Exporters to Algeria (2009-2019)



Sources: (SIPRI, 2020)

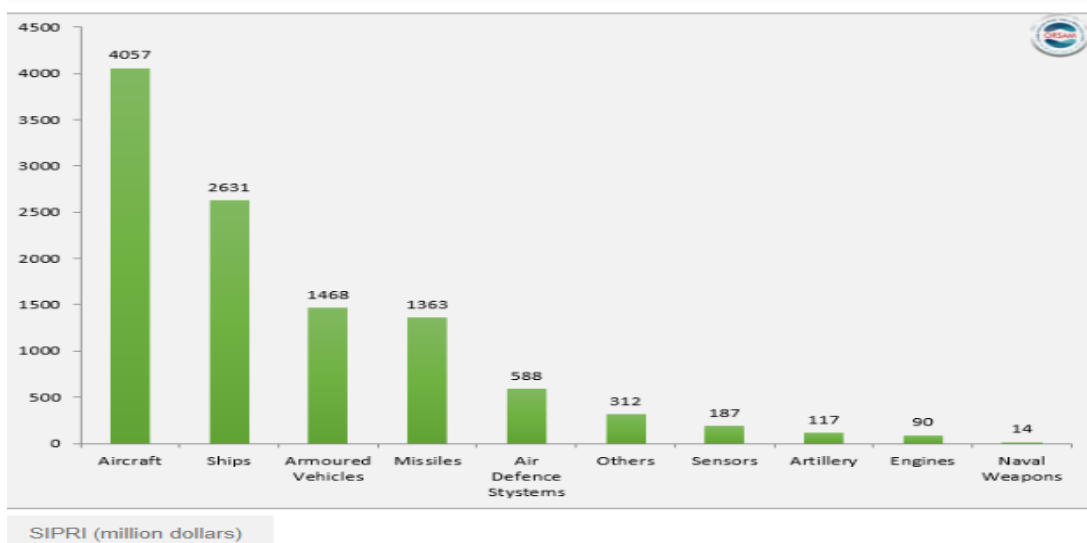
Weapon Categories Imported by Algeria per year (2009-2019)



Sources: (SIPRI, 2020)

At this point, it's essential for Algeria to expand its storage, especially in tenures of drones, which are a game changer on modern battlefields and will be of great significance. for the public movie of Algeria. Türkiye has made significant process in this area of technology in recent moments and could be one of Algeria's implicit suppliers. As in the case of similar Turkish trade with other friendly countries, Ankara is said to be pleased to transfer technology to Algeria so that the barrel in the future develop its own air security systems.

Weapon Categories Imported by Algeria per year (2009-2019)



Sources: (SIPRI, 2020)

Algeria maintains a strong defense capability supported by a dynamic workforce and a well-organized military. As part of its modernization efforts, the Algerian army restructured its specialized units in 2015 and has since participated in military training and joint exercises with several countries, including Russia, Germany, and Türkiye, within the framework of bilateral defense cooperation agreements. The military training and cooperation agreement between Türkiye and Algeria—initiated in 2003 and officially signed in 2009—covers a wide range of areas such as officer training programs, joint drills, and intelligence exchange (Abdullah Gül, 2009).

Furthermore, the joint declarations by Turkish and Algerian authorities on coordinating efforts to stabilize Libya—particularly by combating armed militias and warlords—alongside their mutual interest in expanding defense industry cooperation, underscore the strategic and indispensable nature of military collaboration between the two nations (TRT Haber, 2020). In North Africa, where France’s influence has significantly waned and instability is widespread, Turkish-Algerian military cooperation has the potential to reshape the regional balance through the deployment of trained personnel and the advancement of defense industries.

The proven capabilities of Turkish armed forces and defense industry in recent operations across Syria, Iraq, Libya, and Nagorno-Karabakh could pave the way for Algeria to revitalize and expand its military relations with Türkiye. Moreover, the shared strategic

concerns of both countries regarding the actions of regional actors and proxy forces add a deeper dimension to their defense partnership, positioning military cooperation not only as pragmatic but as a core element of bilateral strategic alignment.

3. 2 Economic Cooperative

Algeria, which has the potential to be a leading economy in North Africa, due to its immense territory between the Mediterranean and the Sahara Desert, its significant oil and natural gas reserves, and a young, 44 million-strong population. But Algeria's economy is heavily reliant on the energy sector. With hydrocarbons making over 97 percent of the country's exports, and about 45 percent of its gross national product (GNP), and nearly 60 percent of total revenue for the government (Layachi, 2018). That over-dependence has exposed the economy to world oil price changes. Algeria is also exporting goods (such as natural gas, petroleum products, chemicals, and minerals) as relatively low production of food and goods has created a growing need for imports to match demand.

France and other EU countries have historically been the main trading partners of Algeria; however, because of the global value chain, and the global economy, the trade and investments among TÜRKİYE2 and China, are increasing year by year with a remarkable growth. As per the latest data, Türkiye's bilateral trade with the country is approximately \$2.5 to \$3 billion. Türkiye already controls 5% of the import market in Algeria and 2% of the export mix. This partnership has led to the establishment of nearly 1750 enterprises in Algeria by 2018, with some in the construction and infrastructure sectors. In 2018 Algeria was Türkiye's second largest trade partner in Africa, but the overall volume of Türkiye's share in the Algerian trade was still far below desired levels. Both governments want to increase bilateral trade to \$5 billion and have agreed that economic engagement should now become intense (Ticaret, 2020).

Speaking at an Algerian business forum during his visit to the Algerian capital, Algiers, the Turkish leader said: "We are very ready to build a joint vision based on two united economies to produce, progress, and make trade and investment together."

The establishment of maritime limits between the two countries is proof to this heightened cooperation, the last of which in fact is the ratification by the Algerian authorities of the agreement relating to this matter, signed on 25 May 1998. While Türkiye had already

ratified it, Algeria did not accede it until 2021 when President Tebboune signed a decree, allowing it to be published in the Official Gazette on 5 May 2021. The deal enables passenger and cargo transportation and introduces Provisions for Turkish investments in Algerian ports—a sector Turkey has a proven track record (Beya & Kaplan 2020). This is likely to raise bilateral trade to the intended level of \$ 5 billion.

Economic relations between the two countries are focused mainly on hydrocarbon and trade. Türkiye imports from Algeria crude oil, liquefied natural gas (LNG) and exports automobiles, machinery, construction products, steel products, petrochemical products, textiles and food.

The energy industry, in particular, has emerged as a key part of the relationship. LNG Türkiye wanted its source of LNG to be diversified, with Algeria as an important cooperation partner. Only in the period of January -June 2020, Türkiye received almost 3 billion cubic metres of LNG from Algeria alone (Kaya, 2020). Furthermore, in 2018, Algeria's state energy company SONATRACH signed an agreement with Turkish companies Rönesans and Bayegan to launch a \$1 billion petrochemical investment in Adana's Yumurtalık Free Zone. The project is to be designed to produce 450,000 tons pa of polypropylene from imported raw materials from Algeria (Bouacha, 2018).

The steel industry as another major domain of cooperation. Turkish industrial giant TOSYALI Holding has made an investment of more than \$2.35 billion in stages to construct steel manufacturing plants in Algeria since 2013. Those investments serve the construction needs of both countries. Other companies such as the Turkish-Algerian company ÖZMERT has had presence since 2017 in Ain Temouchent for industrial steel production.

Türkiye has managed to get a significant position in Algeria's textile sector. Turkey has also made a great progress in Algeria's textile sector. The premier example is the Tayal Joint Venture, a \$1.5 billion textiles plant in Sidi Khettab (Relizane Province) created in partnership with the government of Algeria. This factory—advertised as the biggest of its type in the whole Europe and Mediterranean—intends to hire 10,000 personnel at the outset, reaching 25,000 in 10 years (Bouacha, 2018).

The construction industry represents another path to catalytic collaboration. With its leading contractors competing on the world stage, Türkiye is deeply engaged in infrastructure and housing construction in all parts of Algeria. Some 30 Turkish

construction companies are currently active in the country, working on large-scale public works and housing projects. As Algeria is a country with a dynamic economy and young population, housing demand is still increasing, Turkish know-how is highly appreciated (Anadolu Agency, 2018).

Besides, Algeria is an important partner along with Tunisia for the Türkiye-Italy-Tunisia Trade corridor. This corridor serves as the escape route for Algerian exports to alternative markets, as well as provides an easy access for Turkish and Italian goods to Sub-Saharan Africa. A trade route of this kind, with an accompanying strategic geopolitical and geoeconomic potential, is expected to further open up commerce in the Mediterranean, and knit together local economies more closely.

In summary, Türkiye and Algeria are located in the center of the Eurasian, African and Mediterranean commercial corridors. Their growing economic relationship—centred around hydrocarbons, infrastructure, manufacturing, and logistics—promises to reconfigure regional trade norms and deepen strategic binds.

Conclusion

"They want to be the Soros foundation for the southern Mediterranean", he said, referring to the influential philanthropic organisation of the Hungarian-born liberal US financier, George Soros, that has been deeply involved in supporting civil society aimed at promoting democratic values and active citizenship in post-communist eastern Europe. While life has become increasingly difficult for independent media and civil society actors in many illiberal eastern European states, the situation has in some regards been getting worse on the southern shores of the Mediterranean because they are spilling over into the unrest and migration that have resulted; and many of the civil society activists in those areas are not covered by the protective blanket of the European Union (EU), as the Hungarian and Polish democrats were. Situated geographically – and geopolitically – the largest African country and inter-regionally between the Mediterranean and Sub-Saharan Africa on the one hand, and geopolitically, with its natural assets, young population, one of the region's strongest armies and its mere size, Algeria is at the crossroads of the greater regional architecture.

Algeria's increasing regional profile however, has over the past decade seen the balance of power in North Africa change away from that of its former colonial ruler, a change that

coincides with Türkiye's new regional role as end of colonial French influence in Africa and in the wider geographical world. In this fast-moving geo-political equation Türkiye and Algeria seem to have parallel interests and common foreign policy concerns. Türkiye's involvement in the Libyan civil war as it directly relates to energy security requirements in the Eastern Mediterranean and its backing of the UN-recognized Government of National Accord (GNA) under its "Blue Homeland" doctrine, remains in the same line as for Algiers for whom the instability in Libya is a direct threat to its national security. This common threat perception has led the two countries to increasingly act in concert in the regional security environment.

In the future, the Turkish-Algerian relations are expected to have significant influence in the region as the two countries share similar views on security matters and there exist major opportunities for collaboration in the domain of defense and in the field of economy. By institutionalizing structured cooperation for mutual interest, not only will it abide by the economic environment's logic of regionality and cooperation but it will also be the basis of long-term policy and strategic coordination.

Second, such an increased co-ordination and "customisation" of their regional strategies will further consolidate the position and leverage of both Türkiye and Algeria in the context of increased uncertainty in the wider Levant–Maghreb and Mediterranean–Maghreb zones. Conspicuously, the warming of Turkish-Algerian ties --marked by presidential reciprocal visits and the signing of a batch of bilateral agreements in various fields-- has been matched with a cold Algerian-French presence. Türkiye, that has always seen France as a country which had previously underestimated Algeria, saw this as a strategic advantage. While both Turkey and Algeria have long historical, political and economic ties, they now seem to be determined to diminish French presence in the region, especially in Algeria itself and to set up a new model of relations based on mutual respect and interests.

Major Questions:

- 1. How have the historical ties between Turkey and Algeria influenced their current political, economic, and strategic cooperation?**

Answer: The shared Ottoman history between Turkey and Algeria has played a significant role in shaping their current political and economic relationship. This historical connection has created a foundation of trust and mutual understanding, which has been reinforced by shared cultural and strategic interests. The Ottoman influence is reflected in both countries'

commitment to sovereignty and resistance to external interference, especially in the context of their shared opposition to French influence in Africa.

2. What are the key sectors of cooperation between Turkey and Algeria, and how do these align with their regional and global aspirations?

Answer: The key sectors of cooperation between Turkey and Algeria include energy, infrastructure, defense, and trade. Turkey and Algeria have worked closely in the energy sector, particularly in liquefied natural gas (LNG) and oil, as well as in joint industrial projects like steel production and textiles. These sectors align with both countries' regional and global aspirations to diversify their economies, strengthen their geopolitical influence, and reduce dependency on traditional powers like France. Additionally, Turkey's military cooperation with Algeria is geared towards regional security and stability, particularly in the context of the Libyan crisis and counterterrorism efforts.

3. How have Turkey and Algeria's foreign policy positions converged, particularly in the context of regional conflicts like the Libyan crisis, and their shared opposition to French influence in Africa?

Answer: Turkey and Algeria have largely aligned their foreign policy positions in recent years, especially concerning regional issues like the Libyan conflict. Both countries have opposed foreign military interventions in Libya, advocating for political dialogue and regional-led solutions. Algeria and Turkey's shared opposition to French influence in Africa, particularly in terms of military interventions and economic control, has also strengthened their political cooperation. Algeria's recent constitutional reforms, which allow for foreign military deployments, reflect its increasing involvement in regional security, aligning it further with Turkey's stance on Libya and countering French actions in the region.

4. What role does the energy sector play in the economic relationship between Turkey and Algeria, and what are the mutual benefits?

Answer: The energy sector is a cornerstone of the economic relationship between Turkey and Algeria. Algeria is one of Turkey's main sources of LNG and crude oil, which helps diversify Turkey's energy supply and reduce its reliance on other countries. For Algeria, the partnership with Turkey brings investments in its energy infrastructure, including joint petrochemical projects. The mutual benefits include energy security for Turkey and increased revenue and technology transfer for Algeria. Additionally, Algeria's vast natural

resources offer Turkey opportunities to expand its energy portfolio and strengthen its position in the Mediterranean and North African markets.

5. How has Turkey's growing influence in North Africa affected Algeria's foreign policy and its relations with regional and global powers?

Answer: Turkey's increasing influence in North Africa has had a significant impact on Algeria's foreign policy. Turkey's role in the region has provided Algeria with a counterbalance to France's declining influence, allowing Algeria to align itself more closely with Turkey in regional matters. This has enhanced Algeria's standing as a regional power in Africa, particularly in matters related to security and economic development. Algeria's relationship with Turkey has also allowed it to expand its diplomatic reach and pursue more independent foreign policies in relation to global powers, including the European Union and the United States.

Hypotheses and Their Verification:

1. Historical Influence Hypothesis:

- **Hypothesis:** The historical relationship between Turkey and Algeria, particularly their shared Ottoman legacy, has significantly shaped their current political and economic cooperation, creating a foundation for mutual trust and strategic alignment.
- **Verification:** The historical ties between Turkey and Algeria have undeniably influenced their current relationship. The shared Ottoman heritage serves as a basis for cultural and political understanding. This historical connection has facilitated the development of trust and cooperation, especially in the context of their shared opposition to colonial influence, particularly from France.

2. Economic Cooperation Hypothesis:

- **Hypothesis:** The primary driver of the growing Turkey-Algeria relationship is economic cooperation, particularly in the energy sector, infrastructure projects, and joint investments, which provide mutual benefits for both countries in strengthening their global position.
- **Verification:** Economic cooperation, especially in the energy and industrial sectors, has been a major driver of the Turkey-Algeria relationship. Algeria's energy resources have provided Turkey with crucial supplies, while Turkish investments in Algeria, particularly in infrastructure and

manufacturing, have contributed to both countries' economic growth and diversification. The mutual benefits are evident in the expanding trade and joint projects between the two nations.

3. **Political Alignment Hypothesis:**

- **Hypothesis:** Turkey and Algeria share similar political interests and positions on key regional issues, especially in North Africa and the Middle East, such as their opposition to foreign intervention in Libya and their efforts to counter French influence on the African continent.
- **Verification:** The political alignment between Turkey and Algeria has become more pronounced, especially in the context of regional conflicts like Libya. Both countries have supported political dialogue and opposed foreign military interventions. Their shared opposition to French influence in Africa, as seen in their stance on Libya and broader African affairs, has strengthened their political partnership.

4. **Geostrategic Competition Hypothesis:**

- **Hypothesis:** Turkey's growing presence in North Africa, particularly in Algeria, is partially motivated by competition with France, with Turkey positioning itself as a key partner for Algeria to counterbalance French influence and expand its influence in the region.
- **Verification:** Turkey's increasing involvement in North Africa, particularly in Algeria, can be seen as a strategic move to counterbalance France's declining influence in the region. Algeria's repeated diplomatic clashes with France, combined with Turkey's growing role in regional economic and security affairs, have led to a closer alignment between the two countries. Turkey's presence in Algeria provides an alternative to French influence in the region.

5. **Security Cooperation Hypothesis:**

- **Hypothesis:** Algeria and Turkey's military cooperation, particularly in the context of regional security challenges such as the Libyan conflict, terrorism, and border security, plays a crucial role in strengthening their bilateral ties and aligning their foreign policy strategies.
- **Verification:** Military cooperation between Turkey and Algeria has been crucial in addressing regional security challenges, particularly in Libya.

Both countries have worked together on defense-related issues, including counterterrorism and border security. Their shared strategic concerns, particularly in relation to armed groups in the Sahel and Libya, have reinforced their defense cooperation, making it a central aspect of their bilateral relationship.

In conclusion, the Turkey-Algeria relationship is deeply rooted in shared historical ties, economic cooperation, and political alignment on key regional issues. The growing military and economic collaboration, especially in energy and defense, has allowed both countries to strengthen their strategic partnership and increase their influence in North Africa and beyond. The mutual benefits and alignment of interests suggest a promising future for Turkey-Algeria relations in the coming years.

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