



Development stages of Djelfa city – Algeria -

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Abstract	Article info
<p><i>In this article, the topic highlights the stages of the development of the city of Djelfa and its geo-economic and political importance .As well as the factors that helped to establish and reach its rank.</i></p>	Received 06/12/2023
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1. Historical overview :

With the arrival of the French, and for considerations of defense strategy, was born the first nucleus of the city of Djelfa between 1850 and 1852. The French were pushed to build a fort in Djelfa, to serve as a refueling station. their army took control of the entire territory of the surrounding steppe.

They are not mistaken, because the place chosen for the creation of the fort is eminently strategic in the sense that it meets many criteria:

It is located on a nerve crossing point between North and South, East and West, so it allows easy control of travel.

It was placed in plain, with a largely unobstructed view to ensuring the defense. And finally, it is the rallying point of the populations of all the surrounding tribes.

After having built the first fort, the colonial authorities were aware of the need to create a nearby center of life to facilitate the establishment of a garrison including to that the accommodate military families and also some Arab homes who are useful to provide the labor force and allow the establishment of trade with the natives.

The military genius was thus charged to create from scratch an urban nucleus and this explains the simple geometrical form that the ancient city of Djelfa took up. It is a North-

South oriented rectangle along the road leading to Laghouat, cut into sixteen islets by three transverse streets.

Until 1854 the first native inhabitants settled; a part of them coming from elsewhere, attracted by the possibilities of trade with the garrison (in particular Mozabites). The village had at this time a population of 300 Europeans and 400 Algerians.

The village strengthens against the attacks due to the uprisings of the Ouled Neil tribes, the French military built two forts, one in the North and one in the South East, and a rampart that will be completed in 1878 .

In 13-02-1861, Djelfa is erected in the commune and occupies a territory of 1776 hectares. The agglomeration of Djelfa begins to take more importance with the realization of several administrative and religious facilities: a town hall, a provincial administration office (at the time called (Arabic office), a church that became a mosque.

In the post-1882 period, Djelfa experienced some local immigration, strengthening its population, as well as the creation of other facilities such as school, cattle market, and a market for the timber trade. salt (main resources of the region).

After 1918, the famine that followed the Great War resulted in a rural exodus to the city that had its first anarchic developments outside the wall. It was at this time that the Bordj district was created, sheltering poor rural people in precarious and unhealthy constructions. Shortly before, the beginning of the century saw the arrival of the railway and the construction of a railway station to the North.

In fact, it was during the period 1920 to 1950 that Djelfa gradually changed from a village into a small town of more than 20,000 population, following the constant influx of rural people, mostly young people by the chance to find a job in the young city boom driven by the trade of sheep and alfa which are now exported to France through the rail.

In order to respond to this growth, the city has expanded with the creation of several peripheral districts which gives an extension in two main directions:

1. In the East: the neighborhoods Bel Umbrage, Saâadat, the Nursery, the post office (1936), sheltering mainly the European population;
2. In the West: Guenani, Bab Charef and Benjderma neighborhoods made by the indigenous population.

The rapid extension of the building environment has passed since the former urban perimeter delimited by the rampart; however, it will finally be demolished in 1960 to allow homogenization of the city.

During the war of national liberation, the growth of the city did not slow down, on the contrary. A massive exodus of rural people fleeing repression caused by the war has increased

the urban population, which has almost doubled a few years before independence. (USA, 1994).2.

1. The geographical and administrative situation









2. 1. Geographical situation

The city of Djelfa is the chief town of the Wilaya, located 300km south of the capital Algiers. It is located in the transition zone of two large structures: the highlands and the

Saharan atlas. It is located in a central position by contribution to the whole of the Wilaya and the country.

2. 2. Administrative situation

The city of Djelfa borders with the following municipalities:

-  *The commune of Ain mabadabad in North and North West.*
-  *The commune of Dar-chioukh in the North-East.*
-  *The commune of Moudjbara to the East.*
-   *The commune of Charef to the West.*
-  *The municipality of Zaccar in the Southeast.*
-   *The municipality of Ain el Bel in the South.*

It covers an area of 542,17km² for a population of 311931, a density of 575,15hab / h (DPAT, 2008).

It is considered as a very important crossroads North-South and East-West, connected by an important road network ensuring the traffic between Wilayas of national and regional importance:

- ✓ *National road 1 (RN1): connecting Algiers to the south of Djelfa country.*
- ✓ *The national road 46: connecting Djelfa to Boussaâda then Biskra to the South-East and Sétif to the North-East.*
- ✓ *C.W 189: connecting Djelfa to Moudjbara in the Southeast.*
- ✓ *C.W164: connecting Djelfa to Cherf in the West. (DTP 2009).*

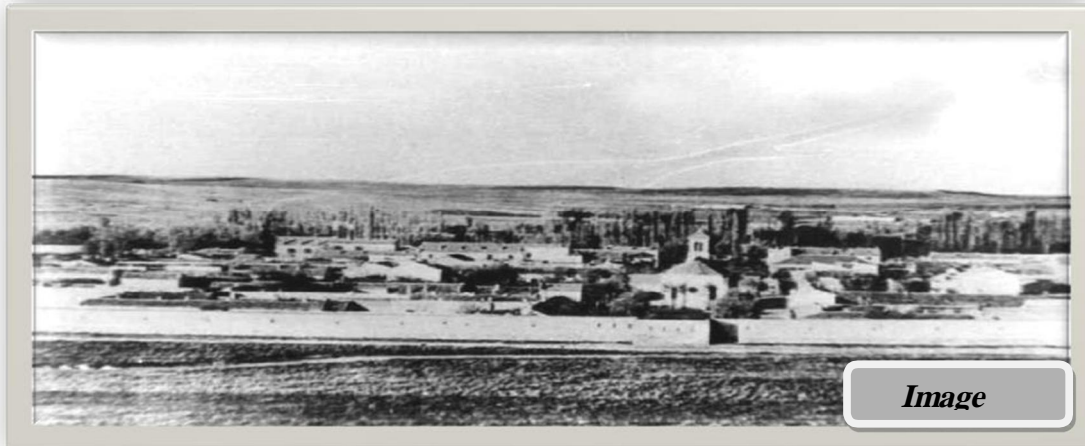
The stages of the urban evolution of the city of Djelfa

3. 1. The original kernel

The Ouled Nail were scattered between the wilaya of Laghouat and Media. The place where the city of Djelfa is currently located was the transit point of the caravans that took the Boukhari-Laghouat road. The French build a barracks later became a fortified military region. This barracks of North-South rectangular shape and a city with three streets traced on the width and another dividing said city in 16 lots.

3. 2. *The colonial period*

3. 2. 1. *The period between 1830 and 1954*



Djelfa before 1990

After 1900, the city experienced an extension exceeding the fence in all directions. Thus the city el Bordj, the line of railways were created, likewise a railway station to the north of the city.

Djelfa after 1990

3. 2. 2. *The period between 1954 and 1962*

In this period, the city has experienced significant population growth mainly due to the rural exodus in order to find work after the creation of a center for one treatment of alfa and

one for wood . The extension is directed towards the East and the South as evidenced by the birth of the city 100 houses to the East and the city Gunnani to the south.





Djelfa between 1954/1962



Djelfa 1968

3. 3. The post-colonial period

3. 3. 1. The period between 1962 and 1974

After the departure of the French, the city experienced an important wave of rural exodus. It developed then in all directions.

It became the chief town of wilaya following the administrative division of 1974. This earned the city a normal momentum in the realization of major projects of equipment and basic infrastructure

3. 3. 2. The period between 1974 and 1990

In this period, the industrial zone was realized. These were also the case of the urban housing zone with its first core of the city of July 5 and ZHUN West. Then, the city center was redeveloped.

3. 3. 3. The period from 1990 to 2011

This is the stage of the great demographic growth during which the city has developed in all:

3. 3. 3.1. AREA EAST

On the national road No. 46 linking Djelfa to Boussaâda, cities were built. It is the city Boutreifisse and the project of 1600 housing realized between the city Boutreifisse and the city of July 5 that was baptized city Al Wiame. Ben Khaldoune High School and multi-high school were built to strengthen the heritage of education and teaching.

3. 3. 3. 2. SOUTH-EAST ZONE

Cities were built there: city Hachi Maamar, city Massoudi Attia, New headquarters of the wilaya as well as the city gardens along the departmental road No. 189 connecting the city of Djelfa to that of Messaad. There is also the sports complex, the four university campus (boys and girls) and some institutes of higher education as well as a garden and an Islamic center



Image

City of gardens

3.3. 3. 3. ZONE WEST

We find the cities Zerria, Block 40, city Fosha and the bus station. In this area, 536 housing has been built to stop illegal construction and slums.

4. Socio-economic changes in the city of Djelfa :

Before approaching any planning or development study, demographic analysis is essential because the population is considered as an important component.

The demographic study makes it possible to highlight the structure of the population (by age, sex and sector of economic activity), its distribution, its movements (natural and migratory) which are parameters that help to sow the perspectives and serve socio-economic planning.

"The advantage of a demographic study is to provide classification elements and to reveal data that are of interest to analyze equipment and service needs."¹

4. 1. Evolution of the population

According to the 04 censuses (1977, 1987, 1998, 2009) the city of Djelfa has experienced a very important demographic growth. Because the population went from 25628 inhabitants in 1966 to 311931 inhabitants in 2009.

Evolution of the population of the city of Djelfa (1966-2008)

Years	Number of population	Growth	Rate of growth(%)	Rate of national growth (%)
1966	25628	/	/	/
1977	47435	21807	6,35	3,21
1987	83162	35727	5,77	3,08
1998	158644	75482	6,67	2,15
2008	311931	153287	7	1,41

Source : RGPH(2008) ONS

$$T = ((P_n/p_0)^{1/n} - 1) \times 100$$

T: rate of increase in the population of the period (n, n0).

P n: number of the population during period n.

p0: number of the population during the initial period.

¹ Pierre George : « Précis de géographie urbaine ».Edition : PUF. Paris 1974.

4. 1. 1. The period between (1966-1977)

The city of Djelfa, experienced during this period, a sensitive demographic growth.

Indeed, according to the census of the year 1966, this city counted 25628 people. This number had reached 47435 people in 1977, an increase of 68.06%. The average annual growth rate was 6.35%, which is higher than the national growth rate of 3.21%.

This increase in population is due to the following factors: 🚦

Increase in births and a decrease in mortality.

🚦 Improved health and living conditions. 🚦

Rural exodus to the city.

🚦 Promotion of the city of Djelfa to the rank of the chief town of wilaya, a site with the administrative division of 1974.

🚦 The administrative division resulted in a mutation of job offers.

This period is characterized by a strong demographic growth which is doubled from 25628 persons in 1966 to 47435 persons in 1977 with a rate of increase of 6.35% which is high by contribution to the national growth rate (3,21%).

4. 1. 2. The period between (1977-1987)

This period was characterized by high population growth. The population increased from 47435 persons in 1977 to 83162 persons in 1987 with a growth rate of 5.77% which is higher than the national growth rate (3.08%).

The rise in the growth rate is due in this period to the boom of the industrial zone and to the various equipment that accompanied the evolution of the city. ZHUN of July 5th (New Urban Housing Zone) and the zone west have an important role in the attractiveness of the population by the city and still the birth rate growth.

4. 1. 3. The period between (1987-1998)

This period is characterized by a slow evolution of the rate of increase of the municipality. From 1987 to 1998, the number of the population increased from 83162 inhabitants to 158644 inhabitants and a rate of increase of 6.67%. This last period shows a decline in population movements.

Apart from the two factors mentioned above, which are at the basis of the rapid increase of population of the city, we can see others; It is first of all about the security situation. From 1992 to 2001, the prevailing insecurity pushed rural people and residents of neighboring communes to immigrate to the city of Djelfa. Then there is drought. The latter has led to rural exodus.

So, it can be said that the municipality of Djelfa is characterized by a considerable increase in

population. This is due to several factors, among them:

- ✚ The arrival of the rural people and their installation in the commune.
 - ✚ Housing projects in the city (ZH U N of July 5th, west zone).
 - ✚ The policy of self-construction adapted by the State
 - ✚ . The existence of the industrial zone that caused the attraction of labor
 - ✚ The strategic location of the municipality which played a big role in the attractiveness of the arrivals
- 4. 1. 4. The period between (1998-2008)**

This period has shown that the population has increased very rapidly from 158644 inhabitants in 1998 to 311931 inhabitants in 2008 with a rate of increase of 6.6% which is too high compared to the national level, this increase is due to the improvement in social conditions reflected by the growth of the birth rate and a drop in the mortality rate.

4. 4. Distribution of the employed population by a branch of economic activity :

"Economic activities are the source of the vitality and dynamism that characterize the urban landscape of cities, the spatial arrangement of different elements of the urban organism of cities, and to a large extent dependent on the disposition of the activities of production and production those of the services. It is by the economic activities that the systems of centralities are established on the space and that the models of urbanization generate. ".²

We note that despite the region is stepping vocation agriculture represents only 9% of the active population.

4. 5. Spatial distribution

The distribution of the population over a specific area. Density is a fundamental measurement in the study of the relationship between population and space. And to facilitate the study, the density has been distributed in four categories according to the following table:

Distribution by P A (estimate 2008)

Branche of activity	Occupied population	%
Agriculture	4930	9%
Industry	1670	3%
BTP	15785	29%
Services	31675	59%
Total	54060	100%

Source : DPAT(2008)

² Hadjièadj Ali : « Le Grand Alger », page 86.

4. 5. 1. Very high density (over 1000hab / ha)

Groups districts (89, 161, 174,171) that have a type of collective housing (buildings) asquoted July 5 where are the various services and activities as the city center.

4. 5. 2. High density (500-1000hab / ha)

Groups districts (19, 55, 47, 103, 104, 38, 35, 34, 33, 36, 37, 77, 78). These districts represent the old neighborhoods like El Bordj city, Gunnani, 100house, city Daia and city Benaziase. There are traditional habitat and overload in space.

4. 5. 3. Average density (100-500hab / ha)

Contains the districts surrounding the city center (62,64,17,6,15,36,61,90, ...) and also those surrounding the 5 July (155,144, 145,153,152,151,142,148,147,149) and the eastern part of the city (51,117,118,132,128,125,111, 99 ..). This state is explained by the type of individual housing and the poverty of these neighborhoods in services and equipment and their attachments in the city center.

4. 5. 4. Low density (less than 100hab / ha)

Groups the suburbs as Ain S'rar (123, 112,127,105,44,) and part of Ain Chih (81,83,92,93,) and Berbih (73,72, 63,173,61,60,). The low density is explained by the width of these cities and the super equipment like District 141 which contains the university and the sports complex.

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