

The Russian Ukrainian crisis and its impact on Algeria



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Abstract;

This study aims to shed light on the Russian-Ukrainian crisis, by reviewing the historical development of the emergence and development of the Russian-Ukrainian crisis since Ukraine's independence from the former Soviet Union following its collapse, through highlighting the Orange Revolution in Ukraine and demanding an end to Russian interference in the country, as well as clarifying the 2010 Ukrainian presidential elections. In addition to the Revolution of Dignity in 2013, leading to the annexation of the island of Crimea by Russia in 2014, with a detailed discussion of the current crisis that Ukraine witnessed as a result of the Russian military intervention there on February 22, 2022. It will also review the various internal reasons that fueled this crisis. And another external one, in order to highlight the various repercussions of the crisis on Algeria, including the rise in food prices, especially wheat and corn, as well as the rise in energy prices.

key words: Russia, Ukraine, Algeria, food, energy, wheat, NATO.

ملخص: تهدف هذه الدراسة لتسليط الضوء على الأزمة الروسية الأوكرانية، من خلال استعراض التطور التاريخي لنشأة وتطور الأزمة الروسية الأوكرانية منذ استقلال أوكرانيا عن الاتحاد السوفياتي السابق عقب انهياره مروراً بإبراز الثورة البرتغالية في أوكرانيا والمطالبة بوقف التدخل الروسي في البلاد، وكذا توضيح الانتخابات الرئاسية الأوكرانية لسنة 2010، بالإضافة إلى ثورة الكرامة سنة 2013، وصولاً إلى ضم جزيرة القرم من قبل روسيا سنة 2014، مع التطرق باستفاضة للأزمة الحالية التي شهدتها أوكرانيا جراء التدخل العسكري الروسي فيها بتاريخ 22 فبراير 2022، كما ستقوم باستعراض مختلف الأسباب التي كانت وراء تأجيج هذه الأزمة من أسباب داخلية وأخرى خارجية، وصولاً لإبراز مختلف انعكاسات الأزمة على الجزائر من إرتفاع أسعار المواد الغذائية خاصة القمح والذرة، وأيضاً ارتفاع أسعار الطاقة.

الكلمات المفتاحية: روسيا، أوكرانيا، الجزائر، الغذاء، الطاقة، القمح، حلف الناتو.

.Introduction:

The Russian-Ukrainian crisis erupted in light of transformations in the international arena during the last decade, the most important of which was Russia's desire to restore its position and growing fears of expanding the reach of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) towards its eastern borders with Europe, which threatens its national security and eliminates its geopolitical ambitions towards its vital areas. In addition, Putin's aggression towards Ukraine increased by annexing the Ukrainian Crimea in 2014, in response to the Ukrainian protests that toppled the Ukrainian president, Russia's ally, against the background of its refusal to sign an association agreement with the European Union in favor of strengthening relations with Russia.

Russia and Ukraine are among the largest producers of primary commodities. Supply chain disruptions have led to a sharp rise in global prices, especially oil and natural gas prices, while food costs have jumped in light of the historical level reached by the price of wheat, with Ukraine and Russia contributing a percentage 30% of global wheat exports, and this in turn is reflected in the countries of the world.

In Return; War is a curse, but it may carry many benefits for other parties, and the state of explosive war appears to be an opportunity to reap many gains, especially with regard to the rise in gas prices, in addition to the need for the West and America to provide alternative sources of Russian gas, and in this regard Algeria is considered one of the beneficiary countries to the large increase in energy prices, which is the biggest candidate to compensate for Russia's position in Europe, while Algeria will face higher food prices, especially wheat, despite its benefit from high energy prices.

The problem of the study: the following problem is formulated:

What is the impact of the Russian-Ukrainian crisis on Algeria?

This problem includes a group of the following sub-questions:

- What are the historical roots of the Russian-Ukrainian crisis?
- What are the reasons and motives behind the Russian-Ukrainian crisis?
- What are the repercussions of the Russian-Ukrainian crisis on Algeria?

Study Plan: The study was divided according to the following points:
1/The emergence and development of the Russian-Ukrainian crisis:
2/The causes of the Russian-Ukrainian crisis:
3/The repercussions of the Russian-Ukrainian crisis on Algeria:
Conclusion

First, the emergence and development of the Russian-Ukrainian crisis:

On the morning of February 24, 2022, Russian forces launched a military attack against Ukraine, the largest attack launched by one country against another in Europe since World War II. Russian air and missile strikes targeted Ukrainian military bases, airports, military depots, and major cities throughout Ukraine, including Kyiv, Lviv, Kharkiv and Odessa, two days after President Vladimir Putin recognized the independence of Donetsk and Luhansk. The Russian President justified the attacks as defending them against Ukrainian aggression and disarming Kyiv, which Putin described as a threat to Russia.

This intervention came after the Russian Federation Council unanimously authorized Putin to use military force outside Russia's borders on February 21, 2022. Two days later, Russia launched a large-scale invasion of Ukraine while Russia began deploying large numbers of troops near Ukraine's borders in late 2021. However, it repeatedly denied that it would attack, and Putin then canceled the 2015 peace deal for the east and recognized areas under rebel control as independent. (Samuel Agbelusi, 2023)

It must be noted; On September 14, 2020, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy approved the new national security strategy for Ukraine, which stipulates the development of a distinguished partnership with NATO with the aim of obtaining membership within the alliance (Hanna, 2023). On March 24, 2021, Zelensky signed Decree No. 117/2021 approving the strategy. Ending the occupation and reintegrating (recovering) the occupied territories of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol.

Next; In July 2021, Putin published an article entitled "On the Historical Unity between Russians and Ukrainians" in Russian, in which he reaffirmed his view that Russians and Ukrainians are one

people. Russia said that Ukraine's potential accession to NATO and the expansion of the alliance in general threaten its national security. In turn, it accused Ukraine and other European countries. Russia President Putin is trying to restore the Russian Empire and pursuing aggressive military policies.

Historical roots of the Russian-Ukrainian crisis:

We can trace the roots of the current Ukrainian crisis - February 2022 - to its declaration of independence in 1991, when it suffered from a series of crises because of its geostrategic importance in the first place, as it entered into three geopolitical and geostrategic crises that were characterized by being closely interrelated, as a result of the struggle for influence between The United States of America and the West on the one hand, and Russia on the other, the first of these crises was in 2004 in what was called the "peaceful orange revolution", then in 2010 during the division of the two poles of the orange revolution, Viktor Yushchenko and Yulia Tymoshenko, then in 2013 against the backdrop of a comment The Ukrainian government signed the partnership agreement with the European Union, and the subsequent American and Russian interventions in the Ukrainian internal affairs, to influence the future of the Ukrainian political map, towards the interests of each of them in the Eurasia region.

1- The independence of Ukraine 1991: The current Ukrainian state is relatively recent, as it gained its independence after the collapse of the Soviet Union after it was one of the fifteen 15 self-governing republics, and it extended its sovereignty over the Crimean peninsula, which it had legally annexed in 1954, as well as its control over The Black Sea Fleet, after the independence stage, The Ukrainian presidential elections were on December 1, 1991, and Leonid Kravchuk was elected to be the first elected president of Ukraine after obtaining the Independence Act with the support of 90% of the people and a new constitution was adopted To Ukraine, which it considered a republican state, Ukraine and Russia continued to maintain close relations. In 1994, Ukraine agreed to give up its nuclear arsenal and signed the Budapest Memorandum of Security Assurances, provided that Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States issue a guarantee against the use of force that threatens the territorial integrity or political independence of the Ukrainian state.

Moreover; Presidential elections were held in 1996 and were won by Leonid Kochema, Five years after signing the Budapest Memorandum, Russia was one of the signatories to the European Security Charter at the 1999 Istanbul Summit, where it reaffirmed the natural right of every state to be free to choose or change its security arrangements to This includes alliance treaties, but in 2014 both parties violated the treaty.

2- The Orange Revolution 2004: It is a popular revolution that broke out on November 22, 2004 in Ukraine to demand an end to Russian interference in the country's affairs, the fight against financial, administrative and political corruption, and the establishment of democratic institutions capable of realizing the hopes of the Ukrainian people for dignity and development. It arose when the West (represented by... European countries and the United States of America) the return of Russia with Putin as an economic and political power and Moscow's growing desire to regain its influence in this Commonwealth of Independent States on the one hand, and on the other hand presidential candidate Viktor Yanukovich made European integration the basis of his electoral program, and expressed the interests of Western Ukraine that tend to Traditionally towards the West, this contradicted the program of the pro-Russian candidate Viktor Yanukovich, who was receiving significant support from eastern Ukraine.

Within the framework of the "color revolutions" label, Ukraine witnessed, from late November 2004 until January 2005, a series of protests that followed the runoff round in the presidential elections against the backdrop of rumors of fraud, corruption, voter intimidation, and poor economic conditions, as the elections were held in Ukraine on the 21st. November 2004, resulted in the victory of Viktor Yanukovich, but this result was rejected and stubbornly illegal and was challenged by the opposition before the court, which upheld the process of rigging the elections, which increased popular anger, which led to them taking to the streets carrying orange banners, and Then the announcement of the Orange Revolution in 2004, but Europe and America expressed their rejection of these results, and Russia, which supported Yanukovich, called for the necessity of reconsidering the elections. Indeed, under pressure from the street, the elections were repeated and went to the second round after the court's

decision, and the loyalist “Viktor Yanukovych” won. To the West in early 2005, which Russia considered a conspiracy. Russia also blamed the West for its interference in the internal affairs of Ukraine.

The political crisis actually broke out in Ukraine on March 23, 2007, with eleven deputies from the two opposition parliamentary blocs announcing their move from being loyal to President Yushchenko to the side of the parliamentary majority led by Viktor Yanukovych. There is an opinion that the political crisis is... The results of the conflict of interests of the businessmen who supported Yulia Timoshkun with the privatization process initiated by the government and the other party, while after Yushchenko’s failure to achieve justice between the authorities and the lack of development of the Ukrainian economy and as a result of political pressure, elections were announced in 2007 and approval was made to make constitutional amendments, including transferring the powers of the president. The legislative authority, especially in terms of dissolving the government, thus Ukraine became a parliamentary state.

With the division of blocs within the Ukrainian parliament between pro-Russian and pro-Western blocs, and the pro-Western bloc won, the crisis exacerbated at the beginning of 2009 when Russia raised natural gas prices and stopped its supplies to Ukraine, which coincided with the effects of the global financial crisis that enhanced the actual awareness of the impact that could be practiced by the Russian Federation, the Yanukovych government, which has been in power since 2010, did not provide a solution to the problem of living standards, as these protests were supported by the West, following the decision of the pro-Russian Ukrainian President to freeze the agreement to establish a free trade area with the European Union, which It was previously signed at the Prague Union Summit in 2009 within the framework of the European-Eastern Partnership. He also expressed Ukraine's intention to join the Customs Union, which includes the Commonwealth of Independent States and Russia.

3- Presidential elections 2010: Five years later, the Ukrainians overthrew the regime of the leader of the Orange Revolution, Viktor Yanukovych, and after him his partner, Loulia Tymochenko, who failed to fulfill his promises to the Ukrainian people and the orange government was unable to confront corruption. In 2010, Ukraine entered a new phase of transformation. During the presidential

elections that took place on January 17, in which Viktor Yanukovych, the leader of the Portuguese Revolution, did not obtain 5.4% of the votes in the first round, while Yulia Tymoshenko was defeated by the leader of the opposition, Viktor Yanukovych, by a margin of more than 11% of the votes and then lost to him in the final round, and then the pro-Russian candidate, Viktor Yanukovych, took over the reins of power in Ukraine after his victory in the presidential elections on February 7, 2010, when most people in eastern Ukraine had voted for Yanukovych and continued to support his political party. However, with this victory, Russian-Ukrainian relations returned to the previous rapprochement and the Russian language returned as the official language in Ukraine.

4- Dignity Revolution 2013: The conflict arose between Ukraine and the Russian Federation due to the political crisis that took place in Ukraine on November 21, 2013, as the decision of the pro-Russian Ukrainian President at that time Viktor Yanukovych led to the suspension of works that would lead to the signing of a free trade agreement and partnership with The European Union, this suspension was followed by large-scale demonstrations and protests, and clashes between separatist organizations and Ukrainian government forces, in the Ukrainian capital, which led to the outbreak of the "Dignity Revolution", and the situation worsened further in the eastern and southern regions bordering Russia, and what distinguishes these regions is that the majority of their population speaks Russian language and supportive of President Yanukovych.

The pace of events accelerated and intensified greatly after the decision of Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovych to suspend Ukraine's accession to the European Union, and it is in a simplified manner and according to its chronological sequence as follows:

At the beginning of 2014, the Ukrainian President decided to suspend joining the European Union, then on February 20 of the same year, clashes flared up between the demonstrators and the security forces, and the pro-Russian Ukrainian President Viktor Yankovic and the leaders of the Ukrainian parliamentary opposition signed on February 21, 2014 a settlement agreement that called for elections. Early, and with the intensification of protests by opponents of the president's decision, and its transformation into a major revolution that led to the dismissal of the president on February 22, 2014 by

Parliament and his flight from Kyiv, the Speaker of the Verkhovna Rada Alexander Turchinov was appointed instead (Kofman, Lessons from Russia's Operations in Crimea and Eastern Ukraine, 2017).

5- Annexation of Crimea 2014: On February 22, Russian forces moved into the Crimean Peninsula, and at the end of February 2014, Russian forces surrounded the Ukrainian forces, which caused the commander of the naval force, Denis Perevsky, to defect and join Russia, along with many commanders of the Ukrainian forces, after which the military forces took control. Russian control of all Ukrainian military bases in Crimea.

In addition to that; The language law for minorities (which includes Russian) was abolished, and the Ukrainian language was declared the country's sole official language on February 23. This change dissatisfied the residents of many regions in the south and east of the country, and this decision came to add fuel to the fire in those regions that were already dissatisfied with the changes taking place. In their capital, demonstrations were carried out by protesters, most of whom belonged to Russian nationalism, protesting the current events in Kyiv and demanding more integration with Russia, in addition to expanded autonomy or independence for Crimea from Ukraine. On the other hand, other ethnic groups demonstrated in support of joining the union, and on 27 In February, armed men wearing Russian military uniform occupied the National Parliament, two airports, and other important facilities in Crimea, including Simferopol, and the independently administered city of Sevastopol, which is home to a Russian naval base under the Kharkiv Pact in 2010. Then, on March 1, the Russian Federation Council unanimously approved a request President Putin's use of Russian forces in Ukraine expanded the protests by loyalists to Russia in March of the same year, as the protesters took control of the administrations in the Kharkiv, Donisk, and Luhansk regions and demanded their annexation in a referendum to Russia, recognition of the Russian language as the second language of the state, and the establishment of a customs union with Russia.

Russia exploited the worsening situation in Ukraine to its advantage, taking advantage of Kyiv's preoccupation with filling the political, security and military vacuums in ministries and other institutions after the ouster of Yanukovich, and acknowledged the necessity of protecting its citizens in the Crimean peninsula, which contains more

than 60% of Russian origins. This is what caused the West's anger and condemnation. Russia sent a military force to the Crimean Peninsula, where armed confrontations took place between the separatists supported by Russia and the Ukrainian forces. Then the local government in the Crimean Peninsula announced the holding of a popular referendum, and the referendum was held on March 16, 2014. It results in an overwhelming majority of 96.8% of the population of Crimea in favor of annexing Crimea to Russia and Ukraine, thus becoming a new republic in United Russia.

However, the annexation of Crimea was not recognized by the international community, as the United States requested that the UN Security Council be convened to issue a resolution declaring the illegality of the aforementioned referendum, but Russia thwarted the American request by activating its veto power, and therefore Russia took control of the Crimean Peninsula in 2014 in one of the largest territorial annexations. A war broke out in Donetsk Oblast, Donetsk Oblast, and Luhansk Oblast between pro-Russian separatists and the Ukrainian government. Then the war broke out in Donbass, in April 2014, at a time when Russia was working to support or even create quasi-states within Ukrainian territory. In the Donetsk and Luhansk People's Republics, on January 13, 2015, Russia launched a military attack, forcing Ukraine to signing of the Minsk Agreement on February 12, 2015, establishing a ceasefire and granting the separatist regions a special status (Kofman, Lessons from Russia's Operations in Crimea and Eastern Ukraine, 2017, p. 53).

Second, the causes of the Russian-Ukrainian crisis:

1- Internal causes:

-The geopolitical importance of Ukraine: Ukraine occupies an important geographical and strategic location, as Ukraine is located in the southwest of the European continent, bordered to the north by Belarus, to the east by Russia, to the south by the Black Sea and the Sea of Azov, while its eastern borders are shared by Hungary, Slovakia, and Poland, and to the southwest by Romania and Moldova. The area of Ukraine is 603,700 km², making it the second largest European country after Germany in terms of area, and ranked 44th in the world, with a coastline of 2,782 km².

Ukraine is characterized by the fertility of its agricultural lands and its mineral resources, especially iron, which facilitated the emergence of industries on its lands during the Soviet era. There are fertile plains and plateaus and the presence of rivers, the most famous of which are the Dnebrn, Sipvirsky, Denbish, Dnieper and Yug rivers. These rivers connect to the Black Sea and the Sea of Ozov and share a delta with Romania. The Danube, to the southwest of Romania, has the highest mountain peak, the Hula Hoverla Mountains, which reach 2,061 metres, in addition to the mountains in the Kadam Peninsula in the far south along the coast, which consist mainly of limestone rocks.. (Golani, 2011, p. 39)

-The geoeconomic importance of Ukraine: Ukraine represents an economic power because it has an industrial base comparable to the great industrial countries of advanced heavy industries and an agricultural country in the first place that is famous for cultivating grains and various agricultural crops. countries economically.

Ukraine is also considered an industrial country, one of the largest producers of steel and one of the top ten countries exporting weapons. The iron and steel industries are considered one of the main sectors of the Ukrainian economy, as well as the main sources of engineering materials and export commodities, in addition to that; At the level of energy security, Ukraine is Russia's major passage for 80% of energy to Europe, and that importance has doubled with the decline in energy stocks in the Middle East and the Western economy to more energy supplies in the future, and thus the increasing importance of Ukraine.

Oil and gas exports represent half of Russian exports, and their revenues contribute 60% of the hard currency. If Russia is one of the largest producers of energy sources of oil and natural gas, it is also one of the largest consuming countries for various energy sources, according to the latest statistics for the year 2020 issued by the International Gas Union Russia still tops the list of the largest natural gas reserves in the world with 38 trillion cubic meters. (Petroleum, Statistical Review of World Energy 2020, June 2020)

3- The demographic reasons: It is not possible to understand and explain the Ukrainian crisis and the international conflict in its midst, without delving into the social (racial and ethnic) aspects that make up Ukrainian society, as the latter is multi-ethnic as Ukraine is divided into two parts, part of Russian origin and its elements speak the

Russian language and they are convinced that Russia is their mother country, this part is concentrated in the east and south of the country and has direct borders with Russia and the Black Sea in addition to the majority of the population of the Crimean peninsula, while the other part speaks the Ukrainian language, considers it an integral part of the European continent and calls for joining the European Union.

in addition to; That there are many Russian-speaking Ukrainians, so the pro-Russian feelings are strong in Ukraine, and this is an additional source for Russia to want to reunite with Ukraine and re-establish the Slavic union, so the ethno-religious card was used to serve Russian interests to put pressure on the Ukrainian government.

-Ukraine's military capabilities: As for the military aspect, Ukraine is considered one of the founding countries of the Soviet Union, along with Russia and Belarus. It had a large share of the military power left by the Soviet Union, and there is still dependence between Ukraine and Russia in the field of national security. In the city of Kharkov, the Ukrainian lands host the malycher factory, where parts of the Russian 180 combat tanks are manufactured, in addition to the 27R air-to-air missiles, as well as parts of the ICBM and SLBM missiles, which he contributes to in the manufacture of the Ukrainian Studies Office OKBY ANGEL in his factory NPO YOUJMACH.

Ukraine contains the largest Russian military base in Crimea, which it considers the naval base that represents a strategic and logistical center for submarines and the Russian naval fleet, and the striking force for the Black Sea region and an extension of the Mediterranean Sea. Agreement to extend the lease contract for the Black Sea Fleet until 2042.

-Putin's fear of losing his popularity: On the other hand, some experts argue that the biggest factor behind Putin's quest to intervene in Ukraine is not NATO's quest to expand its influence and include other countries. Russia's intervention was Putin's fear of losing his popularity at home, especially after the outbreak of historic anti-government protests in Russia in late 2011. Putin claimed that America is fueling these unrest, and he took advantage of this matter to mobilize internal political support for him, so he chose to intervene in Ukraine in pursuit of an external victory. He is gaining popularity at home, and this is what became clear afterwards, as Putin's popularity increased by more than 80% after the annexation of Crimea.

2- External causes:

-Ukraine's accession to NATO: The entire crisis is due to the Russian side's refusal to join Ukraine in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, which is known by the abbreviation NATO (defensive NATO), and its emphasis on confronting any attempt to deploy the alliance's missiles on Ukrainian territory, while the Western side believes in the words of The Secretary-General of NATO, while the American administration revealed that it will not comply with Russian demands to prevent Ukraine's membership in NATO, indicating that it adheres to the "open door policy" followed by NATO, which allows membership to any country qualified to join the alliance, while refusing to enjoy Any outside party has the right to veto an application for such membership.

It must be noted; That Ukrainian forces participated in large-scale exercises with NATO members, Operation Rapid Trident in September 2021 involved 6,000 soldiers from 15 countries along with 4,000 Ukrainian soldiers, which had the opportunity to absorb important lessons just months before the outbreak of the massive Russian invasion, for information. If; Rapid Trident is an annual multinational exercise organized by Ukraine and the United States with the participation of thousands of service members from NATO allied and partner countries each time, including other bilateral and multilateral military exercises. (Koioulas, June 2022, p. 59)

-Ukraine's accession to the European Union: Western Ukraine belongs culturally and civilizationally to Eastern Europe, which has become a member of the European Union. It belongs to the Catholic Church, sticking to the Ukrainian language, while the eastern part belongs to Russia as well as the Orthodox Church and maintains special loyalty to Russia. For Europe, it acts as a separation wall between it and Russia, and it plays the role of link between East and West and an important role in achieving the great European Union, which includes all the countries of Eastern Europe and the Balkan countries. Economic cooperation. (Joannis, June 2022, p. 39)

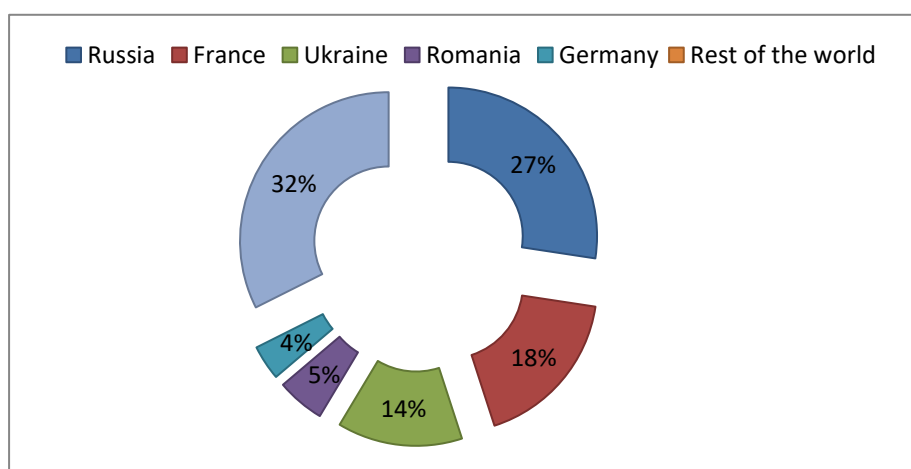
Third, the repercussions of the Russian-Ukrainian crisis on Algeria

1- High food prices:

Considering that Russia and Ukraine are two major sources of food production, basic grains (especially wheat, barley, and corn) and vegetable oils - edible oils - and they can be described as the world's food basket, as Russia sits on the seat of the largest exporter of wheat in the world, and the fourth largest exporter of corn, while Ukraine represents the largest exporter A source of wheat and corn in the world for the year 2020.

rooted in mention; Russia and Ukraine together provide approximately 30% of global wheat, 20% of corn and 70% of sunflower supplies in 2020, as Ukraine alone exported 17% of the amount of corn and barley available for world trade in the same year, while Russia ranks second The first in the list of countries exporting wheat to the continent of Africa is estimated at 27.4%, then 17.6% from France, while Ukraine ranks third with 13.6%, Romania 5.2%, Germany 3.8% and the rest of the world with a percentage 32.4%, (Khanyi Mlaba, 2023) (relative circle No. (01).

Relative circle No. (01): Ranking of wheat exporting countries in Africa



Source: Prepared by the researcher

Moreover; The Russian-Ukrainian invasion caused a decline in exports of food commodities in international markets, which led to a skyrocketing in the prices of these materials, especially grains, which amounted to about \$384 per ton. Algeria then faces difficulty in importing Russian wheat, as Algerian transactions for purchasing wheat The Russian system was carried out via the “Swift” system - Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication, which is an abbreviation for a non-profit “Swift” cooperative

organization, established in 1973, with its headquarters in Belgium, beginning its activity in 1977 - International Transfers However, Western countries' isolation of Moscow from the regime due to the Ukraine crisis will make Algeria look for other international partnerships such as Argentina, Mexico and Canada, as Algeria is considered the second consumer of wheat in Africa and the fifth importer of grains in the world, as it imports between 12 and 13 million tons of grains. Annually, mainly from France, Germany, Canada, Poland and Lithuania (see attached table No. 01), in addition to another product that is in strong demand in the national market, which is corn, which is used to feed poultry and livestock in Algeria, where its prices have risen to more than \$200.

It must be noted; Food price increases resulting from reduced food availability combined with poor product quality are expected due to a potential shift in consumption patterns towards cheaper but often lower quality food products, and some countries may replace stalled Russian and Ukrainian wheat imports with higher-priced wheat. Other exporters may choose to replace higher-priced wheat with less expensive commodities such as rice. (Christopher, June 2022, p. 12)

Table No. (01): Percentage of Algerian grain imports annually (2022)

Country	Supplier (\$Million)	The ratio (%)
Algeria	-France-(889)	54,2-
	-Germany-(202)	12,3-
	-Canada-(129)	7,34-
	-Poland-(92,2)	5,62-
	-Lithuania-(92,1)	5,61 -

Source: Prepared by the researcher based on the following reference: Economic Complexity Observatory, from the link: <https://oec.world/en>

2- High oil prices:

It is noted that Algeria has benefited from the Russian-Ukrainian invasion, which caused oil and gas prices to rise to record levels, which guarantees Algeria obtaining more financial gains that its national economy needs, which suffers from internal economic problems that have been exacerbated during the recent period due to the Corona pandemic. Given Algeria's reliance on its exports of energy and natural gas as one of the country's national income sources, the rise in global oil prices to \$130 a barrel due to the

repercussions of the Ukrainian crisis will, of course, provide additional revenues for Algeria that can be used to meet its needs for wheat, which it imported from Russia, which exported Algeria has about 363.5 thousand tons of wheat in January 2022, according to what was agreed upon between the two countries.

Europe consumes about 550 billion cubic meters of natural gas annually, meeting about 10% of its demand for natural gas locally, and the rest is imported, as it imports about 160 billion cubic meters from Russia (41%), making it the largest importer of natural gas in the world, according to the Directorate General. energy in the European Union, followed by Norway with about 110 billion cubic meters (24%) and Algeria with 33 billion cubic meters (11%), and then Algeria is the third largest exporter of natural gas to Europe after Russia and Norway, most of which is exported to Spain and Italy, where it occupies Ranked 10th for gas in the world, and 16th for oil. (Dirk, 2022, p. 23)

The European Union countries began searching for gas sources to compensate for Russian gas after the price hike in light of the invasion of Ukraine. Complicating the situation by taking advantage of its presence in eastern Libya and the country's oil fields to disrupt energy flows to Europe.

in exchange for that; There are several factors that distinguish Algerian gas, especially the close distance between the production areas in Algeria and the European consumer markets, in addition to exporting gas either by diluting it or through pipelines across the Mediterranean Sea from Algeria to Italy as well as to Spain, which means lower shipping costs, as it is much cheaper than gas. The cost of Qatari or even American gas, and the most important thing is the direct connection between the two regions without choking points or straits that can be threatened or closed,

In this regard; Algeria is considered a reliable energy partner, as the two parties are linked by long-term gas transportation contracts through pipelines to Italy and Spain with a capacity of 36 billion cubic meters in 2018, and it did not witness any interruption or any threat to that, and even several agreements between the two parties were renewed. Export contracts with Spain for a period of 10 years, starting from 2019, with a capacity of 8 billion cubic meters annually, and with Italy and with several companies, including Eni, with 10 billion

cubic meters annually for a period of 8 years, as well as Edison with a billion cubic meters, as well as Portugal renewed its contract for a period of 8 years with a capacity of 8 billion cubic meters annually, and also the French company ENGIE with a four-year contract of 1.7 billion cubic meters annually, and then Algeria is considered at the forefront of countries that can rely on its gas production to compensate for this shortfall.

It must be noted; In 2020, Algeria exported \$7 billion of petroleum gas, as the main destination for exports: Italy (\$2.83 billion), Spain (\$1.8 billion), France (\$1.02 billion), Turkey (\$377 million) and Morocco (\$330). million dollars), in the same year Algeria exported \$6.26 billion of crude oil to France (\$1.15 billion), Greece (\$522 million), India (\$502 million), the Netherlands (\$473 million) and the United Kingdom (\$467 million). The attached table No. (02) summarizes this.

Table No. (02): Ranking of Algeria's energy exports to the countries of the world (gas and oil)

Algeria's gas export (countries/dollar)		Algeria's oil export (countries/dollar)	
Italy	2.83 Billion	France	1.15 Billion
Spain	1.8Billion	Greece	522 million
France	1.02 Billion	India	502 million
Türkiye	377million	Holland	473 million
Morocco	330 million	England	467 million

Source: Prepared by the researcher based on the following reference:: <https://oec.world/en>

Algeria will benefit economically and diplomatically, especially as a result of the rise in oil prices to more than \$114 per barrel, by signing new agreements with a number of European countries, including:

For example; On February 16, 2022, Algeria signed an agreement with Spain and Niger to develop a Trans-Saharan natural gas pipeline to Europe, estimated to cost \$13 billion, and sought to expand its capacity to ship gas to Spain via the Medgaz pipeline.

Moreover; Italy seeks to maintain strong relations with Algeria at this time, especially with regard to obtaining Algerian natural gas, as Italy obtains approximately 40% of its needs from Algerian natural gas, while its imports of Russian gas represent about 30%. Oil and gas “Sonatrach” is the second supplier of gas to Italy after the Russian “Gazprom”, and Algerian gas exports to Italy increased in 2021 by

9.2% from the level of 2020. On April 11, 2022, Algeria and Rome signed an agreement providing for the supply of nine billion meters Additional cubic meters of gas, and the agreement will make Italy's largest supplier of gas to Algeria, replacing Russia's control of this position for many years.

3-Restoring Algeria's diplomatic power:

After Algeria's internal conditions stabilized, the country began to make progress in foreign policy. A large number of diplomats sought to meet President Tebboune, including Spanish Foreign Minister José Manuel Alvarez in January and Italian Foreign Minister Luigi Di Maio in February. Two of the most prominent visitors are : US Deputy Secretary of State Wendy Sherman and Portuguese Foreign Minister Augusto Santos Silva.

Furthermore it; Secretary of State Antony Blinken (March 30), Italian Prime Minister Mario Draghi (April 11) and French Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian (April 13) took turns traveling to Algiers. While they failed to bring about any major change in the Algerian position, they were reassured about supplies. gas for Europe. It must be noted; The main motivation behind these visits is Algeria's role as an energy supplier to the European Union, and Washington and European capitals also want assurances that even if the Tebboune government proves its unwillingness to increase these exports, it will reliably deliver the quantities it originally committed to, especially if Russian supplies are cut off. (Jeff Porter, 2023) .

4- The return of Algerian students:

On the other hand, there is an Algerian community in Ukraine that has shrunk over time, given that this country was part of the Soviet Union. They generally consist of students studying in this country, which puts the relatives and families of this community under pressure and fear, which requires an embassy. Algeria in Kyiv, approaching the nationals there to advise them, or provide the necessary assistance if necessary.

African students including Algerians, studying in Ukraine have found themselves trapped and desperate to escape. There have been numerous reports detailing the mistreatment of African students and residents, largely due to racist eviction procedures. Media reports and videos on social media have highlighted discriminatory practices. With allegations of Ukrainian security personnel refusing to allow

them to board transports heading towards the Ukrainian-Polish border due to the lack of African embassies in Kyiv, diplomatic interventions have been made from African embassies in Warsaw.

Conclusion:

In the end, We conclude the following points:

First; The strategic geographical location of Ukraine is considered a double-edged sword, given that it is the link between two great powers, the eastern power, Russia, and the western powers.

Second; Ukrainian society is multi-ethnic, and even multi-lingual. It is divided between eastern people of Russian origin who speak Russian and belong to the Orthodox Church. They see Russia as their mother country, while the West speaks the Ukrainian language and owes it to the Catholic Church. It sees it as an integral part of the European continent and calls for joining the European Union and NATO. This societal division led to the emergence of a political division between the eastern part.

Third; Ukraine is considered the main crossing point for passing Russian gas to Europe, and one of the sources of the Russian economy, as through this crossing distances and high transportation costs are shortened.

Fourth; The consequences of the Russian invasion of Ukraine are not limited to Ukraine and Europe. Many developing countries depend on Ukraine and Russia to import vital foodstuffs, as Algeria was affected by the rise in food prices, especially wheat, and in return, it benefited from the rise in energy prices.

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