

Agricultural property and methods of exploitation in the beylik of the east late Ottoman era

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Abstract

This study falls within the topics of the economic field of Algeria during the Ottoman era, and through it we can identify the most important aspects of economic activity, and aspects of the daily life of the Algerian individual during this historical era, as this is a crucial period in the modern history of Algeria, the economic aspect had a direct and effective impact on various walks of life, and through this study we can reveal the most important pillars of economic activity, namely agricultural property.

Despite the diversity and multiplicity of aspects of land ownership during the study period, despite the fertility of lands and the good location of many of them, we noticed that fertile and good lands were in the hands of the ruling power and had a good yield most of the time, part of them was directed for export, the rest of the lands were less fertile, less profitable, and most of the crop was directed towards domestic consumption

Keywords: property ; Agricultural ; beylik ; exploitation ; methods

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Introduction :

The economic aspect of the history of Algeria in the Ottoman era had decisive effects and direct repercussions on political events, administrative systems, and the social situation, so that all these aspects can be exposed only after identifying the economic conditions, we note, for example, that the economic motive was directed by foreign relations through the activity of maritime jihad and the system of royalties and mandatory gifts, since the economic situation also remained controlled by conflict and internal competition (Naser Eddin saidouni, 2009).

The researcher followed the historical and descriptive analytical approach, after monitoring the sources and references of the study in order to explain and analyze it, and trying to answer the problem of the study, which is: to what extent was the ruling authority able to achieve self-sufficiency despite the abundance and diversity of agricultural properties, and the diversity of agricultural crops Has it succeeded in achieving a balance between it and the parish under this Agricultural Organization.

The researcher used many important historical sources and references that dealt with the economic situation of the country during this era of the history of Algeria in the modern era, perhaps the most important of which are: the author of Mohamed Saleh al-entri: the history of Constantine, the mirror of Hamdan bin Osman Khoja, Ahmed Sharif al-Zahar, not to mention specialized references, including: the works of Nasser al-Din saidouni historical papers, studies in property and endowments, Algeria in the history of Algeria in the modern era.

1-A brief overview of the geography of beylik East

The Constantinian East includes the vast geographical area that used to represent the beylik of the East, the beylik of Constantine, which extends from the Sea north beyond the province of Nougat and Burj Hamza (al-buwayrah), and the foothills of the mountains of jarjara to the West, and this area contains the mountains of Beban, the basin of Wadi Al-Samam, the mountains of Babur, Constantine, Annaba, Souk ahras, and the upper plains of Constantine, ZAB and zayban, and the foothills of the mountains of jarjara to the West, this area contains the AL-Samam, the Babur mountains, Constantine, Annaba, Suq ahras, on the upper plains of Constantine, al-Zab and Al-zayban, and the Souf oases area in the Wadi rij basin, the northeastern desert oases, in particular My boss is in Sakra, Touggourt and Ouargla, and even the oases of mzab, and Dar Al-Shabaka (Mohamed Al-Saleh al-Antari, 2009, p.17).

The east of Constantine is generally considered mostly mountainous, in terms of the appearance of the terrain, the two Atlas mountain ranges meet in the middle: the northern hills, the southern desert at the Oras mountain range, there are no basins and plains except the basin of the somam Valley, the upper Constantine Plains, which represent the eastern part of the Algerian upper plateaus along with the Tebessa Plains, the Souf Valley Basin, the reg Valley, the Annaba and Skikda Plains. It gets a good percentage of humidity in winter due to its altitude and proximity to the northern Mediterranean Sea, in the northern section, while the southern desert is the most important drought and depends on groundwater the most (Mohamed Al-Saleh al-Antari, 2009, p .17).

The beylik Constantine region was a geographical unit divided into four major divisions that take their importance from their location relative to the capital of the Constantine region, and these divisions had a :political and administrative character.

.East: includes all the territories stretching from Constantine to the Tunisian border.

.West: it is followed by all the territories stretching from Constantine to the Beban mountain range.

.South: the desert is the most important part of it

North: it includes the mountains adjacent to the Mediterranean coast from Buna to Bejaia, and this section is called the coast (Ahmed sissaoui, 2014, p 14).

The beylik Constantine had its administrative boundaries as follow
From the north, the sea began from tabarqa, east of the Citadel, to the borders of the city of Bejaia, which he and the West Coast Valley Basin did not enter. To the East is the Tunisian border, which starts from Tabarka

on the sea and extends to the south through tibsra to the oases of the Souf Valley. From the West are the bayban mountains and the villages: Bani Mansour, the eastern and southern foothills of the jarjara mountains, to Burj Hamza, and the villages: Sidi hegras and Sidi Issa, separated by the atyri beylik in the Southwest, and from the South by the uninhabited Sahara desert south of the oases of oued souf, touggourt, ouargla and mazab (Mohamed Al-Saleh al-antri, 2009, p.18).

According to Shaw's definition of the region, it is bordered to the north by the Mediterranean Sea, to the East by Tunisia, to the South by the Zab region, and to the West by the Algiers governorate, the distance from East to West is 95 leagues, that is, about 380 km, and from North to South 58 leagues, that is, about 232 km. (Thomas Shaw 1838.P269).

The nature of land ownership and the method of exploitation :
There were no radical changes or profound transformations in the status of the lands in Algeria during the Ottoman era. the rulers of Algeria have always maintained the status of the lands as it was in the sixteenth century. despite the Ottoman influences in the field of administration and governance, they maintained the existing conditions, often remaining landowners and approving the clans dealing with them on the lands they acquired, in order to obtain the support of tribal sheikhs and the support of the heads of Sufi roads for them (Mohamed Daddah, 2013, p. 149).

Agricultural land is distributed in terms of the nature of ownership in the Ottoman era as follows:

-First: Private ownership:

Most of them were located in densely populated mountainous areas, or near cities where there is a high demand for real estate by city residents and state employees, such as properties located near the cities of Algiers, Constantine and Oran, which became the property of some Turks, the most famous of which are the properties of Bayat Al-Gharb in misragin and Casablanca located near Oran, and Saleh Bey's properties near

Private the abundant waters of Sidi Mohamed El Gharbi.
property spread over an area of five stages of the city of Constantine and included 110,250 hectares, of which 9,000 hectares were used for growing cereals and 4,000 hectares for the production of fruits and vegetables. The state used to take 20,762 grains from it in the form of tithes and zakat taxes (Nasser al-Din saidoni, 1984, P. 51).

-Bailey properties:

The ownership of these lands is directly subordinated to the BAI and he has the right to dispose of them as a trustee imposed by the regime by force to realize the power of production and everything related to production (Abdullatif Ben achinho, 1979, p.27).

These lands were the backbone of the economy in the Ottoman era, most of these lands were scattered on fertile plains, and it was the share of the Turks, military and notables who owned the individual sectors obtained from the groups of subjects (Ahmed Sharif al-Zahar, 1980, p.189)..

This species is known in the eastern parts as solitary, and it spreads over a vast area around the city of Constantine estimated at 60,000 hectares, of which 48 thousand are used for growing cereals and 12 thousand for the production of various vegetables and fruits, and is divided into 8,000 farms, each of which is used to cultivate 7.5 hectares and leave 1.5 hectares to live on animals that the peasant takes care of raising, namely five cows, twenty heads of sheep, four goats and one horse. The French got their hands on it after the occupation, and its area was estimated in 1841, according to the warni census: 112,351, and when the Senate was passed in 1867, it was estimated at at least 146,693 hectares and fell under the administration of the sovereign (Naser al-Din saiduni, 1984; p52) .

The number of isolations in the east of Algeria was estimated at 114 isolations, and the isolation area in the East was under the supervision of the leader of the house, and the isolation that was at the disposal of al-Jabri is estimated at 104 isolations, during the reign of Saleh Bey, who founded this institution, and in this regard, Professor Naser Eddine saidouni says: "he entrusted the support of some families with moral influence, such as the family known as the Sons of Sidi Ben Bouzid, whose members were famous for this policy, he managed to Makran, the Ben Ashour family and namamsha are free and Qasim's sons in the east of Beylik . Salih Bey confiscated three quarters of the lands of the eastern Amer tribe, estimated at about 600 hectares, and distributed them to statesmen and dignitaries loyal to his authority until they became called the lands of

Salih Bey, and the same thing happened to many of the Skikda tribes, who confiscated areas of their land and were given to the Bani tribe, and therefore they were bred to the makhzani tribe " (Abdel Rezzak qeshwan, 2018, P.62).

It is the same policy that Haj Ahmed Bey followed in the southern Beylik region, and in this regard, says Naser Eddin saidouni: " this policy that the Belek followed with feudal families, we can trace Ahmed Bey's success in ruling large areas of the eastern Belek at a time when chaos reigned and the authority of the central government disappeared with the fall of Algeria to the French in 1830, and this same policy received new lights on the motives that made Ahmed Bey prefer to resort to the Oras and ziban regions to continue resistance after the fall of Constantine " (Abdelrezak qeshwan, 2018, P.63).

In addition, the rulers may resort to leasing the lands of the beylik to the inhabitants of the neighboring Dwars, this is known as hokor, which sometimes amounts to 12 sa of wheat and 12 sa of barley in one fell swoop, accounting for about 50% of the land production (Naser al-Din saiduni, 1984, p.52).

The properties of beylik have been known by different names according to the quality of their disposal and the method of production , there are isolated areas, which differ according to the production methods to which they were subjected and branch out into them:

- Isolation of the quintet:

This refers to the land owned by the state and served by the parish peasants for (1/5) of the production, which includes the finest and most fertile lands supervised by elders and leaders. Versus.

- jebri isolation:

It includes the largest part of the lands of the beylik, and it has expanded its area, such as Saleh Bey and Ahmed Bey, and is exploited by peasants in exchange for an annual rent known as jebri, estimated at 10 riyals, one pound of wheat and another of barley per pound to about 20 riyals, which is equivalent to about 50% of the value of the crop (fella, Al-qashai Moussawi, 1990, pp. 98-99).

- Isolation (Azab):

The lands that were cut off to some tribes for the purpose of raising cattle herds (Azab) for the benefit of bailiffs, which Ahmad Bey estimated to be at least 3,000 cows, 3,000 mules and several thousand cattle, and authorized to exploit in exchange for attention to this task with the payment of the legal tax (tithe and zakat) and an additional fee in the form of 10 riyals.

- Isolation of mountain heirlooms:

These are the properties that were confiscated from the mountain tribes after their rebellion or disobedience to the state , he could not keep them, so he entrusted their exploitation to some influential families of the Almoravids and clerics who offered their services to the state, such as the family of Sheikh Al-faqun, who entrusted him with the most important religious functions, such as Sheikh Islam, and gave land to powerful Sons, which were transferred to isolate mountain inheritances and were not exploited in the name of the state (fella, Al-qushai al-Mousawi, 1990, p. 99-100).

- Non-cultivable territory:

These are lands that were left unused or unfit for agricultural activity, and although it was possible to own and use them provided that they were revived, the rural population was not ready to invest them, especially in the late Ottoman era, who preferred this type of land after many residents switched from practicing agriculture to practicing pastoralism (Nasser al-Din al-saiduni, 1984, P.53).

- The land of cooperating tribes:

These are the lands that were granted to the tribes cooperating with the authority, known as the Makhzen tribes. These tribes formed Artificial population groups, varying in their origins, and different in their ethnicities, some of which were approved by the ruler of the lands on which they were found, to be their support, some were given land to settle on, and some were recruited as adventurers, or volunteers from various sides to form a paramilitary group linking its interests to the service of the Ottoman authority in terms of its participation in maintaining security and punishing the rebels to power, while expanding its authority, engaging in military campaigns to extract taxes from the population.

In exchange for these services, the Makhzen tribes were granted certain privileges and rights without the rest of the rural population, and in addition to their protection, they were exempted from Makhzen's

demands, additional taxes, and made only some hidden contributions in kind, while the parish tribes directly subject to Ottoman Authority paid additional taxes besides paying legitimate taxes such as tithes and zakat (Mohmed daddah, 2013, p.151)

-Waqf lands:

These are the lands that were restricted for spending on charitable works and religious institutions and entrusted to the secretary of Awqaf and the assistants of the agents in the late Ottoman era, the awqafs were spread and concentrated near major cities, some reports even covered three quarters of arable land in areas directly controlled by the state, and because of the legal provisions related to them and the legal transactions subject to them, they were not subject to any taxes or fees and were not subject to any confiscation or confiscation by the rulers (Nasser al-Din al-saiduni, 1984, P.53).

Constantine's endowments were not tightly organized and effectively supervised until the late Ottoman era, i.e., the early 18th century, and the most important document shows us this in the city of Constantine, which is exposed to its deteriorating conditions, as a result of which Saleh Bey's initiative came to control, arrange and organize endowments in the eastern beylik, and therefore approved the formation of a committee consisting of the principal of the House of money, the sheikh of the country, the Hanafi judge and the Maliki judge. The purpose of this is to accurately count and tightly control the endowments of the Algerian East and established four registers, each member of the committee undertakes to record what has to do with active mosques and endowments of mosques that have disappeared (Abdelreazak qeshwan, 2018, P.70).

The lands entrusted to the family and charitable works were entrusted to the charge d'affaires of the endowments and the assistants of the agents and assistants, and influential families such as the fakoun family took over the supervision of the endowments of Constantine, and the area of this type of land was estimated at 949 hectares of farms and orchards, most of which are supervised by the valley of sand and its tributaries (Abdelrazak qeshwan, 2018, P.71).

The lands of the Waqf continued to form an important part after its spread thanks to the initiative of the Bayat and the people, who were buying land and stopping it for the public good only in the form of an atomic or civil Waqf, the benefit of which belongs to his trustees or their descendants and does not turn into the public interest only with the cessation of punishment or in the form of a charitable Waqf, the benefit of which goes directly to the institution where he was imprisoned (fella, Al-qashai Ould al-Mousawi, 1990, p.108).

One of the characteristics of Endowment Lands is instability, since they are subject to Division of inheritance in the event of the death of their owner, and their small area is subject to sale and purchase, and in many cases is subject to confiscation by the rulers. These lands include areas located near waterways and close to cities such as Constantine, Annaba, Skikda, Kabylie region and Oras, most of them are located in the hilly region, and due to their small area, their production is subsistence, diverse and low-yielding (Abdelrezak qeshwan, 2018, P.71).

It is mentioned in the historical sources of the Ottoman presence in Algeria that there is hardly a ruler for a long period of his reign without building a mosque, a corner, a Waqf on what he built or on others. For example, Khayr al-Din berberus built a mosque on which he placed several endowments of shops, a market, lands and entrusted to him the board of Directors of the Makkah and Madinah Estates, allocated decent salaries to the Khatib, Imam, Maliki teacher, speaker, listener, administration of Endowments, muezzins, partisans, cleaners, bought what the mosque needed and decided to make surplus in the property of Makkah and Madinah.

Among the rulers we mention Bek Hassan (known as buhnak) in the city of Constantine, who founded the green mosque in 1743, discontinued several endowments and was buried in the same mosque after his death in 1753, and Bek Saleh Ben Mustafa in the city of Constantine, who reorganized the endowments and made them in the service of Science and established a specialized higher school to graduate the Guild of scholars next to Sidi El-Akhdar mosque in Constantine in 1789, and made the internal order. This, as well as other social groups of military and civilians, made the endowments multiply until the late Ottoman era and reached three quarters of arable land.

The Waqf has a special importance in preserving property and wealth from arbitrary injustice and the rulings of rulers, as the Waqf provided an effective means of preserving wealth, property and outstanding land, and set limits for agricultural ownership based on legitimate contracts so that they could be indicated in

the Sharia court, so the notarial origins of Algerians during the Ottoman period were very accurate and precise (Hanifi hilayli, 2008, p.209).

- Common lands or lands of the throne:

These are traditional properties that fit with the tribal lifestyle and the prevailing social ties in the countryside, which depended on the solidarity of the tribe and not on the privacy of families and individuals, which made the right to exploit the land collectively, by all members of the tribe, or the group residing in the round, the bush or the throne, as each family was (fella, Al-qushai Moussawi, 1990, pp. 104-105).

As for the financial demands imposed on the common lands, the rulers used to extract from the exploiters of these lands an annual tax that changed its name according to the authorities, known as the fine, aid and obligation, and this annual tax was paid in cash, mostly and sometimes, it was extracted from agricultural crops. This is in addition to the rulers' demand for the exploiters of the common lands some quarterly taxes, which the peasants called by different names, they are known as the dinush guest, the guest of the Bey and the horses of the parish, the right of the barnus and the Pasha's dowry, Persians, joy and others. These quarterly revenues and annual taxes amounted to large sums in the late Ottoman era, and paid the population of The countryside to the revolution against the Ottomans (Mohamed Daddah, 2013, p.149).

From what can be concluded that the nature of ownership and how the land was exploited resulted in a disturbance in the distribution of the population and an imbalance in the proportion of population density, on the other hand, the fertile plains areas where the Makhzen tribes and Turkish garrisons settle are characterized by their small population, while mountainous areas, poor plateaus and remote oases are famous for their large population, therefore the areas of human expulsion "Turkish mountains, plateaus and plateaus" are densely populated areas, the desert became "densely populated and human attractions became" fertile plains (Naser al-Din saiduni, 1984, p 54).

Through our discussion of the different types of agricultural land, it becomes clear that the country's territory was an important agricultural sector, which had a significant impact on the economic life of the Algerian countryside. Their exploitation varied depending on the production methods used to exploit them directly or indirectly, but in all cases these lands belonged to the state, which, in turn, ordered them to be distributed to the tribes cooperating with it (Mohamed Daddah, 2013, p.152).

Second: methods of land exploitation:

1- peasant activity:

The economic situation affected the political, administrative and social aspects of the eastern beylik in the late Ottoman era due to the importance of this region. Economic activity in this period was characterized by the predominance of a dual agricultural, peasant and pastoral character, dominated by local consumption, and production flourished significantly thanks to the reforms of Saleh Bey, who completed the most important project for the exploitation of the fertile plains near Ain Melilla, built a military tower to monitor agricultural business, and also introduced new amendments (Riad belhabel, 2010, p.29).

Agriculture is the predominant occupation in the Algerian rural society at the end of the Ottoman era , and the country had a variety of agricultural crops , including:

The regions of the Atlas hills and the interior plateaus produced a good type of it known as bilyuni or durum wheat, from which good bread is made, and it surpasses the famous Sardinian wheat since then, and foreign traders accept its export and supply to European markets from it, as for the coastal areas and some low plains, they produced less quality wheat due to soil poverty, high humidity and rains, Hamdan Khoja described the wheat of mtaija as poor.

Due to the importance of grain as the main material for domestic consumption and foreign export, the state worked hard to control the areas allocated for grain cultivation, which spread throughout the city of Constantine and in the areas of Jeris, Bani Rashid Castle, mustaganem, Tlemcen, El-tetiri and the upper plateaus of Constantine. The area of grain lands owned by the beyliks in the eastern sector of the country in the late Ottoman era was estimated at 4,800 jabs (Naser al-Din saiduni, 1984, p.58).

In this regard, Hamdan bin Osman Khoja reminds us: "the lands are so fertile that the height of ears of wheat and barley sometimes exceeds the height of a man. During the harvest, short ears are neglected, a lot of hay and grain are left in the fields, which later graze cattle, so the animals are fat and the milk is good and abundant " (Hamdan bin Osman Khoja, 2005, p.33).

In addition to the cultivation of cereals, there are other agricultural products known in the most different mountainous areas, such as: fruit trees such as olives, oranges, grapes, peaches, apricots, etc., in addition to legumes and vegetables of various kinds, in addition to products of a commercial nature such as cotton, flax, rice and tobacco, the latter has been cultivated in several regions, including Annaba, mtaitija and oued souf, which was distinguished by its good flavor and demand for smokers (Naser Eddin sidouni, 1984, P. 59).

1-pastoral activity:

As for the cattle on the other side of the agricultural field, we cannot count them because the authorities at that time were not interested in statistics, but we can take a picture of them from Ibn al-aintari's manuscript when he says: "the cow was sold for two pounds, and wheat was sold for one and a half pounds". It is obvious that the insignificant difference between the two prices is conclusive evidence that the number of cows was a lot, as can be noted by the statistics carried out by the French administration in 1863, that is, 30 years after the devastating wars, and these statistics state that the number of cows is not less than one million and the number of sheep is more than eight million, which are huge figures, especially since the population in the same statistical period did not exceed two and a half million people (Mohamed Arab Al-Zubairi, P.60).

These animals provided large quantities of wool and lint, which were used to make tents and weave clothes, or exported abroad, by European and Jewish merchants. These animals were the main source of livelihood in Steppe areas such as the namamsha region, which was mainly based on sheep and camel breeding and moved with them through a pastoral area of two million hectares, sufficient to raise the number of animals, namely 32,000 head of sheep, 1,000 goats, 1,000 cows, 2,000 mules and 700 horses. (Naser al-Din saiduni, 1984, pp. 60-61).

Conclusion

Thus, it becomes clear to us from the above that the last period of the Ottoman era became characterized by the division of agricultural property into two categories: a Category characterized by its fertility, abundance of production and spread in the plains, coastal mountains and areas near cities, the bellies of mountain valleys, the sharing of private property, State Lands, endowments and some common property .

Another part is characterized by its low productivity and unsuitability for agriculture in mountain slopes, dry inland Plains and plateaus open to the desert, where communal ownership, collective pastures, some state and private property are widespread, nomadic life prevails after the majority of the population has switched from a life of settlement and serving the land to a nomadic life and raising herds of cattle (Nasser al-Din saidoni, 2001, p.45). What can also be concluded is that, despite the diversity of the regions and the fertility of many of them, especially in the northern regions, this did not lead to an improvement in the living conditions of the population, the achievement of sufficiency, the Prevention of internal unrest and rebellion against the ruling power. Also, the failure to keep up with the development that Europe was experiencing at that time and the state restriction of traditional and outdated mechanization with low yields contributed to the decline in agricultural production, and therefore negatively affected the parish.

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