

Implications of Sino-Algerian relations for development in Algeria and their Prospects

Belaa Djaouida ¹

¹ Setif 1 University, (Algeria), djaouida.belaa@univ-setif.dz

ARTICLE INFO

Article history:

Received:17/10/2022

Accepted:02/03/2023

Online:07/03/2023

Keywords:

Economic Growth

Sustainable

Development

China

Algeria

Sino-Algerian relations.

JEL Code: F0, F5, O3,

O4

ABSTRACT

The Chinese economy ranked second globally after the U.S. economy. Despite this success, China seeks to strengthen its economic relations with many countries of the world's continents and to link the economies of these countries by linking the world's continents to a network of transport lines and routes (land, maritime, and digital) to strengthen international trade and economic cooperation. In 2013, an economic initiative was launched: "Belt and Road Initiative." Algeria was a supporter of such initiative and had had relations with China since ancient times.

This paper aims to analyze the relationship between China and Algeria and the desired benefits at various levels. Therefore, the descriptive and analytical approach was adopted to present these relations and analyze their effects and implications. It concluded that the Sino-Algerian relations are considered strong relations that transcended the economic and political aspects to include all aspects, particularly the social and cultural aspects.

Keywords: Economic Growth, Sustainable Development, China, Algeria, Sino-Algerian relations.

Introduction

China is one of the countries seeking to impose its importance in the new international order, as it has been able, with all its determinants, to achieve its foreign policy objectives. Despite its economy success to be ranked second globally after the U.S. economy, China seeks to strengthen its economic relations with many countries of the world's continents and to link the economies of these countries by linking the world's continents to a network of transport lines and routes (land, maritime, and digital) to strengthen international trade and economic cooperation. In 2013, an economic initiative was launched: "Belt and Road Initiative." Algeria was a supporter of such initiative and had had relations with China since ancient times. China's international relations have seen significant developments, particularly with the Arab countries, covering political and economic fields. Algeria is one of the countries with which China has strengthened ties, despite the difficulties it faces due to the collision with rival European powers, particularly France. The main problem can therefore be presented and formulated as follows: **What are the prospects of Sino-Algerian relations and their implications for development in Algeria?**

The following sub-questions fall under this main question:

- What are the determinants and pillars of China-Algeria relations?
- What is the nature of Sino-Algerian relations?

Research objectives and importance

This research aims to highlight the role and importance of Sino-Algerian relations. It is concerned with reviewing the main implications of this relationship for development in Algeria.

Method and tools

The research adopted the descriptive approach as the appropriate method for presenting all matters relating to Sino-Algerian relations, as well as the analytical approach to analyze the effects and implications of this relationship.

To learn about the topic, the research was divided into four main axes:

- I- Pillars of China-Algeria relations;
- II- Reality of Sino-Algerian relations;
- III- Implications of Sino-Algerian relations for development in Algeria;
- IV- Obstacles and prospects of Sino-Algerian relations.

I- Pillars of China-Algeria relations

Some of the pillars that have contributed to Sino-Algerian relations will be presented.

1- Geographical location of Algeria

Algeria occupies an important regional, continental, and global position. It is the gateway to Africa and a link between it and Europe as it mediates the Arab Maghreb. (Ferial 2021, 137) It links the north and south bank of the Mediterranean Sea and extends geographically deep into the African continent.

2- Economic pillars

China's growing economic position and power have resulted in an increase in its relations with many countries, including Algeria, to take advantage of all the economic possibilities and opportunities it possesses. In turn, Algeria welcomed these relations, particularly in the economic sphere, in order to take advantage of the benefits that China offers in the area of technology and expertise, thus creating different fields of cooperation between the two countries, such as investment, construction, employment, and trade. (Tayeb, 2018, p. 20)

3- Political pillars

There are many common political positions linking China and Algeria. China has a peaceful policy that supports just causes and democratic practices and works to offer ways to achieve a new global economic order that will achieve the required development. It, therefore, supports all of Algeria's roles at the international level. China advocates the need for an international political order based on the principles of legitimacy and equality, combating terrorism of all kinds, urging dialogue, and avoiding clashes. (SARRA, 2022, p. 633)

II- The reality of Sino-Algerian relations

The diplomatic and political relationship, trade and investment between China and Africa has a long history. (Marafa 2009, 6) As Sino-Algerian relations are one of China's strongest relations with African and Arab states owing to historical ties and similar political positions. These relations cover a variety of areas, including:

1- History of Sino-Algerian relations

Sino-Algerian relations began since China's recognition of the Interim Government of Algeria in 1958 (Jacobs 2020, 3), followed by its decision to recognize the Algerian Republic after independence in 1962 (as it was the first non-Arab country to recognize it) (Eid-Oakden 2017, 8), and then the beginning of the phase of socialist culture and ideology. This phase has known consensus in the Sino-Algerian positions, which support liberation movements, self-determination of peoples, the rejection of imperialism and colonialism of all kinds (Yao 2007, 2), and support for the Palestinian cause. Relations between the two countries were consolidated through the Non-Aligned Movement, which reflected the desire of countries to achieve democracy, oppose Western domination, and increase the national economy. Sino-Algerian relations slowed from the end of the 1980s to the end of the 1990s, where historical ties between the two countries were restored, as China entered the stage of development, moving towards modern China and opening relations with all countries of the world.

In 2000, the President of Algeria visited China (Mohammed 10 et 11 mai 2015, 11), where he stressed the need for international coordination to combat terrorism and encourage economic partnership between Beijing and Algeria since the economic determinant is a fundamental pillar of Chinese foreign policy, through which China aimed to invest in the

Arab region, particularly Algeria. Official visits continued in the following years, with the Chinese President visiting Algeria in 2004 and stressing his desire for strategic cooperation with Algeria. In 2006, the Algerian President attended the Beijing Summit of the African Forum, where he signed with the Chinese President the Agreement on Economic Cooperation, which is a new stage for the intensive cooperation between the two states, particularly in the economic sphere. In 2008, the President of Algeria attended the opening ceremony of the Olympic Games in Beijing, confirming the strengthening of the relationship between the two states.

The two states have worked to promote cooperation and research on international issues of interest to both parties. This reflects strategic convergence in reality, as well as the consideration of certain international issues and the similarity of certain foreign policy principles of the two states, such as non-interference in the internal affairs of states, respect for national unity and territorial integrity, and the rejection of war as a means of resolving international conflicts. In September 2018, Algeria officially joined the Belt and Road Initiative to make better use of this initiative, which President Xi sums up: “China will actively promote international co-operation through the Belt and Road Initiative. In doing so, we hope to achieve policy, infrastructure, trade, financial, and people-to-people connectivity and thus build a new platform for international co-operation to create new drivers of shared development” (OECD BUSINESS AND FINANCE OUTLOOK 2018, 4). (a distinctive path of win-win cooperation) (Oxford Business Group 2018, 19)

2- Commercial exchange between Algeria and China

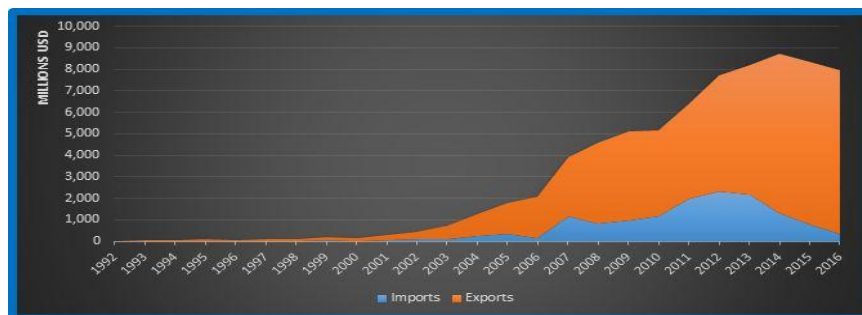
Algeria is an important trading partner for China, which has become a competitive advantage in producing many goods, helping to increase the volume of bilateral trade between the two countries. Algeria is China’s first trading partner in the region and the largest export market in the Maghreb (LAFARGUE 2018, 4), that more than half of Chinese trade with these five Maghreb States is carried out with Algeria; with trade exchange between the two countries accounting for more than 40% of China’s transactions in the Maghreb basin, which is close to 21 billion dollars. Intraregional trade increased in the following years until China topped Algeria’s list of suppliers by supplying various goods, bringing the value of Chinese exports to Algeria by 40 points between 2003 and 2012 from 0.6 million dollars to 8.6 million dollars.

Hence, China has outstripped the Algerian market with its products over the traditional partners of this country, particularly France, where Algerian economists confirm the difficulty of France’s return to the Algerian market as a business partner under Chinese dominance since 2013. Furthermore, Algeria, in particular, imports agricultural equipment, automobiles, foodstuffs, clothing, and semi-manufactured products, while it exports raw materials to China. However, this country does not top the list of customers for Algeria. Italy was considered one of Algeria’s top customers in 2017 followed by France, the United States of America, and Brazil.

In 2019, China maintained its first rank of 7.65 billion dollars, or 18.25% of total Algerian imports, down by - 2.60%. China has become Algeria’s main trading partner albeit with a stark imbalance as Beijing is flooding the country with its commodities while the share of Algerian exports to China is negligible and confined to the oil sector (Calabrese 2017).

The following figure is an illustration of the Sino-Algerian commercial exchange between 1992 and 2016.

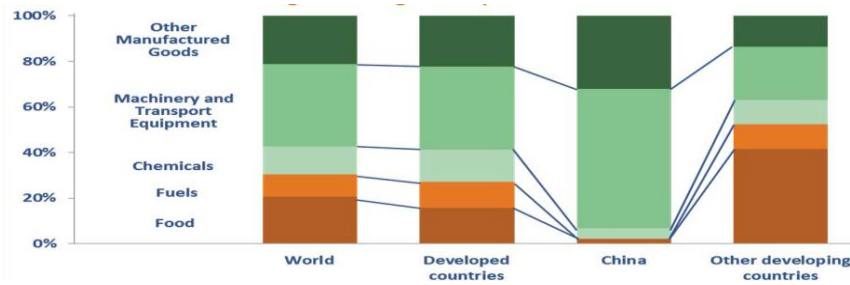
Figure (01): Chinese-Algerian commercial exchange from 1992 to 2016



Source: (U.N. Comtrade Database s.d.)

The following shows Algeria's imports from different countries, which provides a comparison between China and other countries (Figure 2).

Figure (02): Algeria's imports in 2012



Source: (Pairault 2015, 5)

3- Chinese investments in Algeria

Algeria is one of the most important Maghreb countries to receive Chinese investment, which is estimated at 60% of all Chinese investment in Africa. Among the countries that have benefited from these investments, Algeria is fourth behind Nigeria, South Africa, and Zambia, with total stock of US\$20.78 billion between 2005 and 2017 (Zaamout 2019, 44). Furthermore, Chinese investments in Algeria have affected many sectors, such as the fuel sector, the public works sector, and the industrial sector, but their impact on employment has been limited. Despite the rules requiring the employment of Algerian workers, the majority of workers in these companies are Chinese. The number of Chinese workers in Algeria peaked in 2009 at over 50,000 workers (Savino 2018, 14).

a. Hydrocarbon sector

Chinese investments and projects in Algeria, such as the Adrar oil refinery in partnership with Sonatrach, have been reflected (worth more than 200 million dollars). Cooperation in the area of fuels and mines has been intensified through several projects, such as integrating the beginning and end of the oil field in Adrar, increasing the recovery rate of oil stocks in the Zarzaitine mine, and exploring and exploiting many petroleum fields, gas fields, and mineral fields. These investments were extended to the mining field through the contribution of a Chinese company to the capital of Al-Abed mine for zinc and lead, and the establishment of a mining school in the same region.

Algeria has also signed several agreements and projects with Chinese energy partners. SINOPECOP (a Chinese company) signed a one million dollars contract for the development of Zarzaitine fields near Hassi Messaoud, with co-financing of 75% from China and 25% from Sonatrach. Moreover, the Chinese Petroleum Company (CNPC) has also built a petroleum refinery in the Adrar region near the Sabba basin, knowing that Algeria intends to invest in energy, industry, agriculture, and tourism in the coming years to strengthen its economy and development. The five-year plan of Algeria (2015-2019) aimed to achieve an overall growth rate of 7% and raise Algerian GDP per capita to 7.200 dollars. China has gained massive funding from the Algerian government under this five-year development plan, which exceeded 2.8 billion dollars.

Several agreements have also been concluded, the most important of which are: The China Petroleum Group Agreement with Algeria (petro-china) for the construction of the first consolidated project of Algerian offshore petroleum cooperation in June 2003, and another two agreements on oil exploration in the a-112 zone at the Sharif Basin and another area in December 2003. There was another agreement between Sonatrach and China Petroleum Corporation in 2004, covering, inter alia, exploration, production, processing of oil and natural gas, cross-channel transport, and projects for the construction of petroleum sites.

In 2004, CNPC and SINOPEC (Chinese companies) were able to acquire research and exploitation rights in the Wadmia Basin, where the first was active in the Al-Mazid Basin. CNPC was able to renew the contract for the refinery in Skikda in March 2005. NAFTAL, in collaboration with SORALCHINE, formed a mixed company in January 2006 under the name NAFTALCHINE, which specializes in the distribution of refined petroleum materials. In 2010, a contract was signed between China and the Ministry of Energy and Mines for oil exploration in the south of Algeria.

In October 2016, the Chinese oil and chemical company SINOPEC completed a 3D seismic survey project in the states of Ouargla and Illizi. Furthermore, China continues to encourage Chinese companies to invest in Algeria in the fields of energy, minerals, and others. Algeria also welcomes Chinese companies to effectively participate in Algeria's economic construction, establish partnership and cooperation on the basis of mutual benefit and mutual gain, and promote cooperation in the fields of energy, minerals, petrochemicals, infrastructure, renewable energy, and others,

helping Algeria to increase its capacity for industrial production and self-development (Messaoud ZEMOURI 2017, 509).

b. Public works sector (construction)

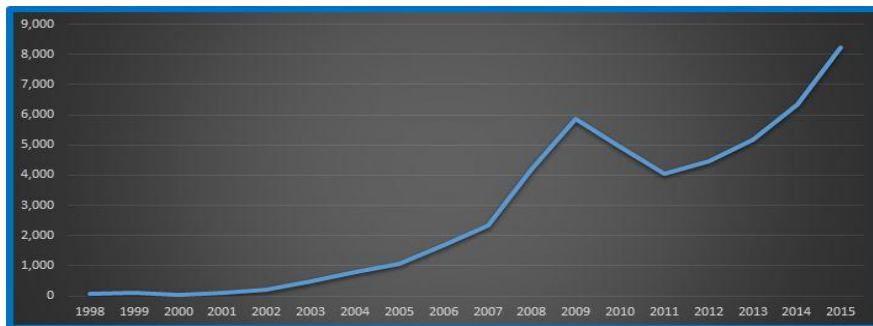
In the field of public works, Algeria has engaged foreign companies, including Chinese companies that take over large-scale projects and have obtained large contracts for the construction of social housing, roads, and railways. The investment of Chinese companies active in the construction sector in Algeria amounted to 14 billion dollars from 2005 to 2013, making Algeria the second market for Chinese contractors in Africa after Nigeria and one of its 15 most important partners across the world.

China has completed major infrastructure projects in Algeria, such as the east-west road project in 2006, the expansion of Algiers airport or the construction of the university hospital of Oran (Souiah 2017, 139) and the railway construction project in 2009. It has also acquired major projects such as the great mosque of Algiers project, the project of building and financing part of the central port of El Hamdania in Cherchell, and the phosphate complex in Tebessa. The latter was decided to be operational in 2022 in order to secure foreign exchange income of up to 1.9 billion dollars annually. However, how this project will be managed and funded has not been very clear and precise by the Algerian authorities. In addition, the El Hamdania port project aims to break the isolation of African countries that do not have seaports, and the phosphate and natural gas complex project is expected to mobilize significant investments of 6 billion dollars.

In January 2019, Algeria also joined the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIBI), a financial institution backed by predominantly Chinese capital. It was established in 2016 to invest primarily in the sustainable infrastructure of member states, as well as in the production sectors.

The following figure shows the number of construction contracts that China benefited from in Algeria during the period 1998-2015

Figure (03): The number of construction contracts that China benefited from in Algeria during the period 1998-2015



Source: (China-Africa Research Initiative (CARI) s.d.)

c- Industrial sector

Several projects were signed by Chinese companies in Algeria, including an agreement to establish the FAW car assembly factory in 2013, and an agreement by the Chinese company Sherry to open an automobile assembly factory in 2018, Setif, which helps to transfer technologies related to the manufacture and assembly of cars, buses, and trucks.

In 2017, the “Strengthening of Productive Capacities” Agreement was signed to promote partnership in the areas of manufacturing, resource and energy exploitation, mechanical industry, railroad, iron and steel, infrastructure, petrochemical industry, renewable energies, energy efficiency, mine conversion, construction, and electromagnetic systems, as well as technical cooperation.

The Agreement on the Exchange of Experience in the Field of Training and the Strengthening of Governance Capacity was signed in December 2019 between the two countries due to the fact that the Chinese Academy of Governance, established 86 years ago, has a long experience in the field. Algeria also signed an agreement on economic and technical cooperation with the China International Development Cooperation Agency in October 2020.

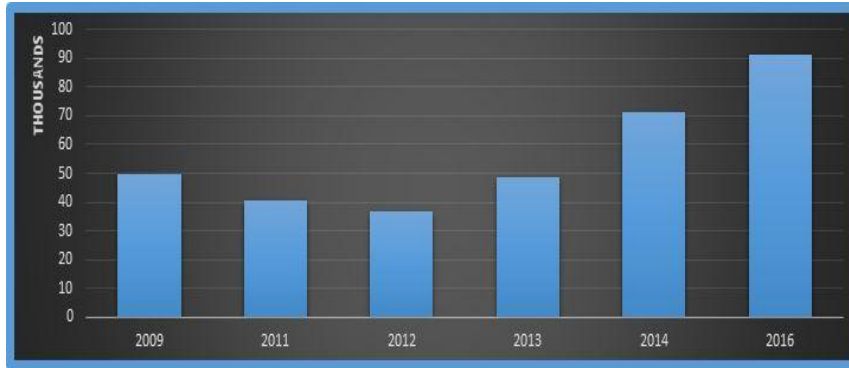
The development of economic relations between the two states has increased the number of Chinese immigrants in Algeria, becoming the country hosting the largest number of Chinese workers in Africa. Statistics show that Chinese

workers are concentrated in a few African countries, with Algeria and Angola being among the top five in 2015, followed by Ethiopia, Equatorial Guinea, and the Republic of the Congo, 51% of whom are based in Algeria and Angola alone. (China and Africa should try to reduce and avoid misunderstanding and prejudice between each other through more intensive people-to-people exchanges) (Zhan 2018, 8).

This large presence of Chinese has caused confusion and clashes between them and some Algerians, who regard this influx as an invasion and obstacle to their opportunities of employment (AfDB, Economic Brief 2012, 14). However, the Algerian government has not used the benefit of the Chinese expertise to train young people in Algeria, instead employing Chinese workers (BTI 2020, 40).

The following figure shows the development of Chinese labor in Algeria during the period 2009-2016.

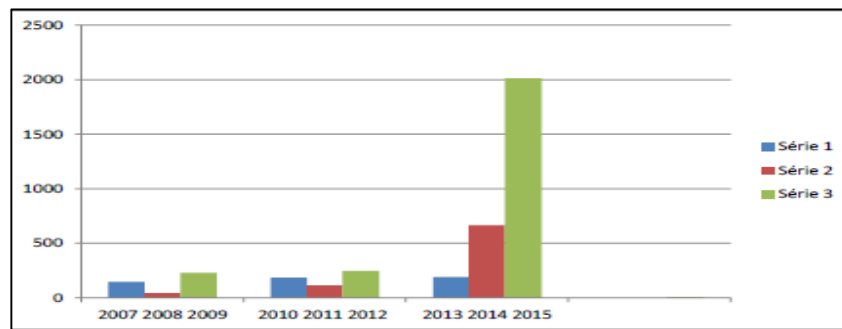
Figure (04): The development of Chinese labor in Algeria during the period 2009-2016



Source: (China Africa Research Initiative (CARI) s.d.)

The development of Chinese investments in Algeria during the period 2007-2015 can be represented in the following figure.

Figure (05): Chinese investments in Algeria during the period 2007-2015 (by one million dollars)



Source: (Annual FDI flows from China to Algeria 2007-2017 s.d.)

China has become Algeria's main trading partner, albeit with a large imbalance, as Beijing floods the country with its goods, while the share of Algerian exports to China is negligible and is limited to the oil sector. Chinese companies have secured major construction contracts in the country and included them in its broader vision of a global infrastructure review, known as the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). (leopardi 2021, 3)

4- Sino-Algerian social relations

There are close relations between the two States in the social sphere, including health and culture.

a. Health field

Algerian-Chinese relations in this field began in 1963 when Chinese doctors were the first to work in Algeria after independence. The spread of epidemics in newly independent Algeria and the lack of medicines and medical personnel have drawn the attention of the international community to the country. China was, therefore, proactive and sent a medical team to Algeria and provided medical and therapeutic technology, medical services, funds, and materials.

Since then, Chinese medical teams have been arriving in Algeria. In 2002, the “Protocol for the Dispatch of Medical Teams” to Algeria was signed. Furthermore, more than 1,700 doctors worked in Algeria until 2003, and the first rescue team sent by China outside its borders was to Algeria when the earthquake occurred in 2003, reaching 2,200 doctors in 2004.

Agreements between the two countries in the area of health continued when, in 2011, an Algerian-Chinese Mixed Commission was set up to carry out a technical study to complete a drug production factory in Algeria. The process began in 2013 in order to cover 70% of the domestic market, thereby reducing dependence on the outside and reducing the monopoly, especially since at the beginning of 2011, Algeria experienced difficulties in obtaining rare drugs in intermittent periods.

65 gynecologists, obstetricians, ophthalmologists, and surgeons came to Algeria in 2010 in the framework of China’s Algerian cooperation, which were distributed to seven states. Algeria and China continued to conclude partnership and cooperation agreements in the area of health to strengthen cooperation in the pharmaceutical and vaccine industries at home. These agreements called on Chinese pharmaceutical institutions to strengthen their investments, particularly in essential medicines, and contribute to technology promotion in Algeria. The latter has sent Algerian medical missions to China to acquire more skills in several disciplines, including gynecology and radiology.

More than 22 medical missions, totaling 2500 doctors, arrived in Algeria in 2011 to carry out surgical operations for the injured every day in order to deliver all the expertise and techniques used in this field to Algerian doctors. Moreover, in 2014, an agreement was signed to send to Algeria a multidisciplinary Chinese medical team of 60 specialists in orthopedics and gynecology. In 2015, it was agreed that Algerian-Chinese cooperation would continue in several areas, including the strengthening of specialized doctors, the development of vaccines, and the promotion of traditional medicine (a project to complete a Chinese center for traditional medicine in Algeria). Coordination and solidarity between the two states have also taken place in the context of combating the new coronavirus pandemic (COVID-19). Algeria’s aid to China was represented in: 500,000 three-layer masks, 20,000 goggles, 300,000 gloves; While the Chinese aid for Algeria were: medical supplies, medical team composed of 13 doctors and 8 virologists (Zoubir 2020, 3).

b. Cultural field

There are cultural and social relations between China and Algeria based on historical friendly relations between the two states. The two states signed several agreements, beginning with the Agreement on Cultural Cooperation on September 14, 1963, and another agreement signed on September 17, 1980. Some 20 agreements on cooperation and exchange in the areas of culture, education, sports, and media were signed in August 2002, as well as the “Executive Program of the Cultural Agreement” was signed.

More than 20 Algerian students were studying in China in 2004, while in 2015 there were 20 Chinese studying at Algerian universities and 100 Algerian students in China. Furthermore, there is an interest between the two states in scientific research and technological development to develop joint research projects in several scientific fields, such as twinning universities, scientific production, mutual participation in various scientific events in both states, and receiving doctoral students at the level of laboratories and other university institutions in both states. Work is being done to promote the exchange of students, particularly language trips, which are among the means of promoting Chinese language education in Algeria. Five Algerian universities are teaching Chinese and Algeria is planning to open a section on Chinese culture and civilization at its universities as well as a Chinese cultural center.

China has had many exhibitions in Algeria, such as the “China World Heritage Photographic Exhibition” in December 2001, the “China Photographic Exhibition” in November 2002, and the “Beautiful China Photographic Art Exhibition” in September 2003. China has also implemented several cultural projects in Algeria along the lines of the Algeria Opera House project.

In the field of art, China participated in the sixth edition of the International Symphony Music Festival, as well as the participation of a small Chinese band “Mr & Miss” in the Constantine Jazz Festival, and the participation of the Chinese Folklore Dance and Singing Band in November 2014.

5- Sino-Algerian military relations

Military cooperation began between 1958 and 1962, when Beijing decided to engage in Africa (Looy 2006, 3), making Algeria a bridge to support national liberation movements there. The North African states were the primary destination for Chinese arms, accounting for 49% of China’s exports to the continent as a whole, and Algeria was the first buyer among African countries. This cooperation also began with the training of Algerian military officers in China and the creation of a defense attaché at the Algerian Embassy in Beijing in 1971.

With the development of Chinese defense industries in recent years, Algeria has continued its military cooperation in recent years with Beijing, which has sold various weapons to the Algerian defense system. Algeria is now the third-largest buyer of Chinese weapons in the world, being the first African country to import Chinese anti-ship missile systems (C-802/CSS-N-8), as well as multiple rocket launchers (S-R5) with a guided rocket launch capability, and 155 mm self-propelled howitzers (delivered in 2014). In its most recent military cooperation, Beijing provided Algeria with advanced third-generation HJ-12 anti-tank missile systems as the first African country to acquire them.

In May 2017, the Algerian army displayed images of the Chinese “self-propelled howitzer” model 45155 K LZ. Algeria also contracted with China to supply it with anti-ship missiles (50802CC), as well as surface-to-air FM 90 missiles. In addition, the Algerian Navy received a C28A naval weapon in 2017, which has been contracted since March 2012. Sino-Algerian relations were not limited to the military aspect but extended to space. This was demonstrated by Algeria’s launch of the first satellite called “Alcomsat,” which was launched from a space base in China and is intended for telecommunications, radio and television broadcasting, and Internet development.

III- Impact of Sino-Algerian relations on development in Algeria

Thanks to China’s good policy of launching a process of reform and openness for the development of the economy, it has been able to create a unique pattern of development that is highly valued in the world, especially in developing countries. China has expertise and experience in achieving development in a manner appropriate to its national specificity, depending on its capabilities. Friendly countries, including Algeria, are therefore trying to benefit from these experiences by establishing relations with China.

Algeria’s relations with China in the area of development were aimed at strengthening cooperation between the productive forces of the two states, exchanging views, and examining partnership opportunities, as the latter is the most effective solution for development and economic recovery. With its expertise, potential, quality of work, speed of delivery, and knowledge of the Algerian market, China can reflect the projects programmed under the five-year development plan 2015-2019; in addition to the important role of the China-Africa Cooperation Forum in achieving development. (RABEHI, 2022)

China is working with the Algerian side to realize the benefits of mutual trust, achieve the development strategy of the two states, intensify cultural and humanitarian communication, strengthen coordination and cooperation in important international and regional affairs, thereby continuing to add new features to the comprehensive partnership relations between China and Algeria.

China has a rich production power in industrial equipment and agricultural capabilities that have excellent quality and low prices and are rapidly built and meet Algeria’s development requirements. Since Algerian-Chinese relations are based on balanced economic and trade cooperation, particularly investment based on gaining experience and technology and supporting strategic economic infrastructure projects for sustainable development, China has shown Algeria to be at the same level as this strategic objective in most areas and programmed economic projects. China has high project delivery standards and efficiency.

Relations between the two states have also made a qualitative leap in the transition from traditional fields such as construction, infrastructure, and communications to broader fields that take into account the sectors given priority by Algeria in its five-year development plan, including agriculture, industry, and tourism.

Relations between the two countries have reached the point where China is ready to provide financial assistance for the financing of development projects. It has allocated 60 billion dollars over three years to support development in the black continent. Moreover, China has placed Algeria on its list of priorities in the area of financial cooperation, including the financing of joint projects such as the Port of Cherchell project, which will be financed by two Chinese banks after the establishment of the Algerian-Chinese Mixed Enterprise, which will be responsible for the project and receive loans worth 5.3 billion dollars, to be paid in stages.

It can be noted that China contributed to the Economic Support and Recovery Plan in Algeria during 2001-2004, which aimed to restore basic infrastructure. In 2010-2014 (Jacobs, 2020, p. 4), Chinese companies were also involved in the Government's development plan to complete all infrastructure projects that were under implementation. Notable contracts included the construction of “Sheraton Hotels” in Oran and Algiers, a new building at Houari Boumediene airport in the Algerian capital, low-cost housing projects where about 250,000 housing units have been constructed since 2000, the East-West Road project, the new headquarters of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and others, which gives a forward look to the future of Algerian-Chinese development cooperation.

The continuation and future development of Sino-Algerian cooperation must necessarily take into account the crucial problems facing the Algerian economy, and avoid making the benefits of Sino-Algerian cooperation one-way, but shared between partners in order to moving towards "win-win" cooperation. In view of the objectives imposed by each of the partners (China and Algeria) and the possibilities offered, there is a great coincidence and a real convergence of interests to establish a partnership as varied as possible to exploit all the opportunities offered by the Model of Sino-Algerian cooperation. (Zemouri Messaoud 2018, 134)

IV- Obstacles and prospects of Sino-Algerian relations

The main obstacles and prospects for Sino-Algerian relations will be addressed.

1- Obstacles of Sino-Algerian relations

Some points may impede the development of Sino-Algerian relations:

- American and French competition, where competition between major countries, especially economic countries, has increased, particularly China, which has entered the Algerian market strongly and has become a threat to the French and American economic base in Algeria, especially in light of the growing economic relations between China and Algeria, which is strategically a French and American sphere of influence;
- The economic crisis in Algeria and its impact on development due to the decline in oil prices and Algeria's austerity policy;
- Chinese labor puts pressure on the Algerian labor base, which suffers from major unemployment problems. The Chinese accept lower wages than Algerians, leading to an increase in unemployment, a form of complaining among Algerians, and clashes between Algerians and Chinese. This may affect the development of Sino-Algerian bilateral relations.

2- Prospects of Sino-Algerian relations:

Sino-Algerian relations are characterized by a promising future, given the specificity of relations between the two states in the past and the present, and the existence of common interests between the two parties aimed at cooperation and joint development. Bilateral investment between the two sides is expected to increase in the coming years, especially under Algerian policy towards European clients. In addition, China provides low-rate loans to Algeria to help achieve Algeria's development goals, especially as oil prices declined.

The possible rise in investment is also due to the fact that the Algerian economy is dominated by state institutions and politicians, and hence the extent of economic cooperation is driven by strategic geo-interests. There is also a potential for positive results in the case of benefiting from bilateral Sino-Algerian relations and exploiting regional multilateral forums such as the Sino-African Forum and the Forum for Cooperation between China and the Arab states.

Algeria and China also agreed in Beijing to prepare an outcome on the achievements realized under the 2014-2018 five-year plan and to develop a new enthusiastic plan for 2019-2023, which will increase the common interests of the two parties in the political, economic, and cultural fields, especially given the convergence of views between the two sides on many issues of common concern. China seeks to expand further into Algeria's promising market and make Algeria the gateway to transit to other African countries, as well as develop cultural exchange and provide scholarships from both sides in various disciplines.

Algeria should focus on benefiting from China's experience in development and technology by expanding scientific and technological cooperation with China.

Conclusion

Sino-Algerian relations are characterized by strong historical references that have given a strong impetus to the growth of political and economic relations. China's early recognition of Algeria's geopolitical and geo-economic importance has strengthened these relations in the political, economic, scientific, and military spheres.

Results:

Through this research, the following results were obtained:

- It is the ideological factor that has established Sino-Algerian relations more than the economic factor;
- The two countries' support for each other in political transformations and internal economic reforms has contributed to the growth of economic, political, and social relations;

- Chinese-Algerian relations face many opportunities for deepening cooperation and increasing openness and reform to promote the economy and development;
- Chinese-Algerian relations face many challenges and constraints, notably fierce competition from the United States of America and France, unstable international conditions, and economic constraints;
- Sino-Algerian relations are considered to be strong relations that have gone beyond the economic and political aspects to include all aspects, particularly the social and cultural aspects.

In the light of previous findings, the following recommendations can be provided:

Recommendations:

- Algeria must follow China's development experience because it has been able to achieve the difficult equation between economic growth and the utilization of available natural and human resources;
- Algeria should take advantage of its membership in the African-Chinese Forum and the Arab-Chinese Forum, as well as strengthen its relations with Arab and African states;
- Algeria must expand scientific and technological cooperation with China, which has become a pioneer in these fields;
- Algeria should benefit from joining the Chinese Belt and Road Initiative, obtain more Chinese investments, support sustainable development, and create many jobs;
- Algeria must promote and prioritize trade with China;
- Algeria must eliminate obstacles facing its relations with China.

References:

- 1- (CARI), C.-A. R. (s.d.). http://www.sais-cari.org/s/Uploaded_ContractData-nnc5.xlsx. .
- 2- AfDB, Economic Brief. (2012). *Chinese Investments and Employment Creation in Algeria and Egypt*. African Development Bank.
- 3- Annual FDI flows from China to Algeria 2007-2017. (s.d.). <https://www.statista.com/statistics/720491/china-outward-fdi-flows-to-algeria/>.
- 4- BTI. (2020). *Country Report, Algeria*.
- 5- Calabrese, J. (2017, October 31). *Sino-Algerian Relations: On a Path to Realizing Their Full Potential?*, . Consulté le March 20, 2022, sur <https://www.mei.edu/publications/sino-algerian-relations-path-realizing-their-full-potential>.
- 6- China Africa Research Initiative (CARI). (s.d.). http://www.sais-cari.org/s/Upload_LaborData-cxbm.xlsx.
- 7- China-Africa Research Initiative (CARI). (s.d.). http://www.sais-cari.org/s/Uploaded_ContractData-nnc5.xlsx. .
- 8- Eid-Oakden, F. (2017). China's growing North Africa footprint. *ACT Middle East Treasurer*, 8.
- 9- Ferial, F. (2021, May). The Future of Sino-Algerian Relationship on "O.B.O.R" (One. Belt. One. road). (D. A. Center, Éd.) *Journal Of Afro-Asian Studies*(9), 137.
- 10- Jacobs, A. A. (2020, July). China In The Mediterranean: Implications Of Expanding Sino-North Africa Relations. (G. CHINA, Éd.) *Regional Influence and Strategy*, p. 3.
- 11- LAFARGUE, F. (2018). The economic presence of China in the Maghreb: Ambitions and limits. *FONDATION pour la RECHERCHE STRATÉGIQUE*, p. 4.
- 12- leopardi, F. s. (2021). *the pandemic ,debt and sino-algerian relations*. centre for global europe-asia connections. ca'foscarri university of venice.
- 13- Looy, J. v. (2006). *Africa and China: A Strategic Partnership?* African Studies Centre Leiden. The Netherlands.
- 14- Marafa, L. M. (2009). Africa's Business and Development Relationship with China, Seeking Moral and Capital Values of the Last Economic Frontier. (D. AB, Éd.) *Nordiska Afrikainstitutet*, p. 6.
- 15- Messaoud ZEMOURI, B. S. (2017, December). Sino-algerian partnership and its impact on the emergence of Algerian economy. *Journal of Industrial Economics*, 13, 509.

- 16- Mohammed, D. (10 et 11 mai 2015). La particularité algérienne dans le phénomène chinafrique : Pourquoi ? & Pour l'intérêt de qui ? Dans A. &. Colloque international Organisé par FSECG université Constantine2 (Éd.), *La Chine en Algérie entre économie mondialisée et développement local*, (p. 11). Constantine.
- 17- OECD BUSINESS AND FINANCE OUTLOOK. (2018). *China's Belt and Road Initiative in the Global Trade*. Investment and Finance Landscape.
- 18- OUTLOOK, O. B. (2018). *China's Belt and Road Initiative in the Global Trade*. Investment and Finance Landscape.
- 19- Oxford Business Group. (2018). *THE REPORT Algeria*.
- 20- Pairault, T. (2015). China's economic presence in Algeria. (H. Id, Éd.) 5.
- 21- RABEHI, H. (2022, 07 05). *Old friends, strategic partners : Algeria and China have a long-established friendship that continues to flourish China Daily Global* . Consulté le 12 19, 2022, sur <https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202207/05/WS62c38296a310fd2b29e6a558.html>.
- 22- SARRA, D. (2022). The Sino- Algerian relations, A study on the Belt and Road initiative. *AABHATH Review*, 7(1), 633.
- 23- Savino, S. M. (2018). , Friend or Foe: Perceptions of China in Africa. (T. C. 603, Éd.) *Student Publications*, p. 14.
- 24- Souiah, F. (2017). L'Algérie made by China. (H. Id, Éd.) *Note de recherche,méditerranée*(116), 139.
- 25- Tayeb, D. (2018, June). Sino-Maghreb Relations after the Cold War: Sino-Algerian Relations. (N. S. Science, Éd.) *Algerian Journal of Political Studies*, 5(1), 20.
- 26- U.N. Comtrade Database. (s.d.). *U.N. Comtrade Database*. Récupéré sur <https://comtrade.un.org/data>.
- 27- Yao, K. (2007). Development of Sino-Arab Relations and the Evolution of China's Middle East Policy in the New Era. *Journal of Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies (in Asia)*, 1(1), 2.
- 28- Zaamout, G. H. (2019, January). A New Great Power Engages with the Middle East: China's Middle East Balancing Approach, China Institute. (U. o. Alberta, Éd.) *China Institute*, p. 44.
- 29- Zemouri Messaoud, H. T. (2018, May). Sino-Algerian Partnership and its Impact on the Emergence of the Algerian Economy. (M. E. Association, Éd.) *Topics in Middle Eastern and African Economies*, 20(1), 134.
- 30- Zhan, Z. A. (2018, September/October). Origin, Achievements, and Prospects of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation. *China International Studies*, p. 8.
- 31- Zoubir, Y. H. (2020, July). China's 'Health Silk Road' Diplomacy in the MENA. *KAS Regional Program Political Dialogue South Mediterranean, med dialogue series* (27), p. 3.