



Algerian Foreign Policy and International Reality Requirements

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Abstract:

Algeria's diplomatic work on what is happening in the world has undergone significant development. This does not indicate a complete shift in old foreign policy, but its persistence and its adherence to its position in favour of just issues such as issues of emancipation: most notably the Saharan question, the Palestinian question, as well as some challenges such as combating crimes of all kinds, in an effort to maintain international peace and security.

Keywords: *Foreign policy, international reality, African dimension, diplomatic action, international security.*

I. INTRODUCTION

Adopting any policy, particularly in the realm of foreign affairs, necessitates the presence of specific motivations and foundational data. The pursuit of interests does not imply a singular approach; rather, the methodologies can vary significantly depending on the objectives in question. Algeria demonstrates a clear commitment to establishing robust regional relationships, as evidenced by the strategic framework articulated in its constitutional documents and exemplified by its actions and engagements on the international stage.

Positioned at the juncture of diverse geographical realms, and acting as a hub for various regional initiatives, Algeria is poised to shape the evolution of its policy aims, notably in achieving security at both national and regional levels. Effective implementation of this strategic vision requires collaboration across multiple nations.

As a prominent player on the global stage, Algeria occupies a crucial diplomatic role, not solely by virtue of its strategic location bridging Europe, Africa, and the Arab world, but also as an exemplar for nations in the Global South engaging in national liberation efforts. The objectives that guided Algerian diplomacy in the previous century remain pertinent today, rooted in its longstanding civilizational ties.

Despite the modern push towards globalization, which promotes a vision of a borderless society, Algeria maintains its distinct identity, cultural nuances, and historical prominence, thereby playing a unique role in international relations, especially in aspects related to security and humanitarian efforts.

Given this backdrop, the following question arises: **What are the directions of Algerian foreign policy in response to global realities, particularly in the pursuit of international peace and security ?**

This inquiry is addressed by dividing the study into two main sections: the first explores the concept of foreign policy, discussing its definition and relationship with analogous concepts, as well as delineating its objectives. The second section delves into the nuances of Algerian diplomacy concerning the global stage, elucidating its African, Arab, and international dimensions.

1. First Headline : The Concept of Foreign Policy

Despite numerous endeavors by scholars to define foreign policy both comprehensively and uniformly, success has remained elusive due to the myriad perspectives and interpretations among intellectuals. Each scholar endeavors to propose a definition that reflects their particular viewpoint and aligns with their understanding of foreign political behavior. Consequently, foreign policy has been characterized by a series of components and elements that exert a direct influence on it.

1.1. First Subsection: Definition of Foreign Policy

The complexity and variety of manifestations of foreign policy from one international unit to another, as well as the variety of issues and fields it faces, make it difficult to define the phenomenon of foreign policy. Among the definitions given for this phenomenon, this study can consider the following:

Some define foreign policy as "a deliberate determination of selected national interests" (Ahmed Chalabi, 1999, p.18). However, this definition is ambiguous as it limits itself to the variable of national interest, which cannot alone encapsulate foreign policy.

Foreign policy is also defined as: "those official behaviors distinguished by decision-makers, officials in the government or their representatives, which are intended to influence the behavior of other international units" (Abdennasser Jandali, 2008, p.25).

Patrick Morgan defined it as: "specific official actions taken by authoritative decision-makers in the national government, or their representatives, to influence the behavior of other international actors" (Mohamed El-Sayed Salem, 1989, p.9).

These definitions focus on the behaviors and actions of decision-makers in the external environment, thus "limiting to the behaviors performed by states without addressing the various goals, declared strategies, and various dimensions.

Meanwhile, Mohamed El-Sayed Salem defines foreign policy based on it being: "a public action program chosen by the official representatives of the international unit from among a set of available programmatic alternatives to achieve specific goals in the external environment" (Hussein Bouguerra, 2012, p.17).

James Rosenau defines it as: "the authoritative actions taken by the official representatives of the national community consciously to establish or change a particular status or attitude in the international environment in a manner consistent with precisely defined national goals" (Hussein Bouguerra, 2012, p.18). What distinguishes these two definitions is that they focus on the planning and programming in foreign policy and overlook other aspects.

Some link foreign policy to goals, similar to the definition provided by Seabury: "a set of goals and commitments through which the state attempts to deal with foreign countries and problems of the international environment using influence and power, and sometimes violence" (Mohamed El-Sayed Salem, 1989, p.8).

Thus, through the above, it is apparent from the previous definitions that they do not define all the dimensions that foreign policy contains; they are limited to defining foreign policy by one part of its aspects, whether in terms of behavior, as defined by Herman and Patrick Morgan, or goals, as defined by Seabury.

The variety of definitions reflects the complexity of the phenomenon of foreign policy and the difficulty of reaching the set of dimensions that fall within its framework, and the relationship between them, and regardless of how these definitions differ and vary, it is possible to reach a procedural definition of this phenomenon, defined as: "behaviors and orientations of a specific state aimed at achieving its goals in national interest through the means and mechanisms adopted by the state" (Abdennasser Jandali, 2008, p.27).

1.2. Second Subsection: The Relationship of Foreign Policy with Similar Concepts

1.2.1. First: The Relationship between the Concept of Foreign Policy and the Concept of International Politics

Scholars in the field of international relations unanimously agree that international politics refers to the political aspects of relations between states, practiced through levels of cooperation, competition, conflict, and integration. Thus, it can be defined as "the interaction of the foreign policies of a group of political units towards international and regional organizations or the entire international community" (Abdennasser Jandali, 2008, p.29).

From this definition, it becomes clear to researchers that international politics is broader and more comprehensive than foreign policy. International politics is concerned with the interactions that occur among various components of the international community, which may take various forms—international, cooperative, integrative, or conflictive, whereas foreign policy is concerned with the actions and reactions that result from it.

1.2.2. Second: The Relationship between the Concept of Foreign Policy and the Concept of International Relations

The concepts of international relations differ according to the vision of each researcher and political thinker. For example, Quincy Wright defines it as: "a science concerned with

observation, analysis, and organization for the purpose of explanation and prediction," and he describes it as "comprehensive relations that include various groups of international relations, whether formal or informal" (Abdennasser Jandali, 2008, p.30).

The existing relationship between the concept of foreign policy and the concept of international relations can be said to place foreign policy in the realm of art. It represents the process of choosing between different goals and means to select the most effective ones, whereas the science of international relations is an interpretive science aimed at uncovering the facts and phenomena of international politics and scientifically interpreting these phenomena to reveal their common general characteristics (Hichem Mahmoud Al-Akdahi, 2012, pp.13-14).

However, some do not see a problem in blurring the line between the science with its objective facts and the art with its effective rules, believing that international relations is a practical science that aims to reveal the truth of international phenomena for the benefit of foreign policy.

Another perspective distinguishes between foreign policy and international relations based on the difference in the subject of interest between the two phenomena. The latter is concerned with studying the international political phenomenon that arises from interactions between different political units within the international system, while foreign policy focuses on the external behavior of these states or the situations they face in the international environment (Hichem Mahmoud Al-Akdahi, 2012, p.14).

In conclusion, it can be said that international relations are broader and more comprehensive than foreign policy, meaning that foreign policy is a tool for managing international relations.

If foreign policy falls within the domain of the state, international relations occur outside the domain to achieve general objectives. Thus, the science of international relations concerns what exists according to a realistic perspective, while foreign policy concerns what should be according to an idealistic perspective.

1.2.3.Third: The Relationship between the Concept of Foreign Policy and the Concept of Diplomacy

Diplomacy is one of the main tools in the foreign policy of states, especially in times of peace. Its goal is to reconcile the differences between states and open channels of communication between them to achieve this goal (Ismail Sabri Mokalled, 1985, pp.130-131).

Based on this definition, it can be said that diplomacy is subject to foreign policy and diplomatic leaders are merely agents of foreign policy in pursuit of national interest. It represents the art of persuasion and is a means to a single end: to subject others to the will of foreign policy.

Thus, there is a complementary relationship between them; if diplomacy succeeds, it positively reflects on the foreign policy process, and if it fails, it leads to the inadequacy of foreign policy and its dependence.

1.2.4.Fourth: The Relationship between the Concept of Foreign Policy and Domestic Policy

Domestic policy in any country refers to a set of internal variables and forces that influence the behavior of foreign policy, such as the political system, the nature of governance, the role of political parties, and lobbying groups (Zayed Obeidallah Mesbah, 1999, p.11).

Therefore, foreign policy is a reflection of domestic policy; the more stable the internal state, the more harmony and stability there is in foreign policy.

Moreover, it can be said that there is a mutual influence between these two policies. Just as

domestic policy can have the potential to spread beyond its territory, like the phenomenon of terrorism, the international system can also mark the domestic policy of a state, such as economic crises and their impact on the internal society and the information revolution.

Thus, the relationship between domestic policy and foreign policy is one of complementarity and extension.

1.3.Third Subsection: Objectives of Foreign Policy

When foreign policymakers deliberate on potential courses of action, they inherently analyze a spectrum of objectives that must be substantiated by requisite capabilities to materialize into tangible political, economic, and social outcomes.

An objective is defined as: "a specific condition that the state aims to achieve in the external realm" (Abdennasser Jandali, 2008, p.31). This is done by allocating the necessary amount of effort and resources -or the state's power factors- required to transition from the stage of theoretical conceptions to the stage of implementation.

The prioritization of a state's national objectives is governed by a variety of factors. These include the state's geographical and natural conditions, societal dynamics, the intrinsic nature of the political system, and the personality traits of the decision-makers.

Scholars of foreign policy often hold divergent views on the prioritization and content of these objectives. A particular goal might be predominant in a state's agenda during one era, only to recede in importance in another context, thereby ceding precedence to alternate objectives (Hichem Mahmoud Al-Akdahi, 2012, p.15).

Furthermore, the methodology to classify these goals varies significantly. One such classification distinguishes goals based on their temporal framework: short-term pivotal goals, medium-term objectives, and long-term vital goals, the latter being the most enduring (Hussein Bouguerra, 2012, pp.97-98).

Another classification delineates between real goals, which a state actively pursues to achieve tangible results, and declared goals, which are publicly announced but may not always align with actual intentions.

A third methodological approach to classification is based on the specificity with which these goals are formulated. Specific goals are defined with precision and clarity, leaving little room for ambiguity, whereas general goals are characterized by their broad and often vague nature, which allows for a wide spectrum of interpretations and judgments regarding their intended implications (Hichem Mahmoud Al-Akdahi, 2012, p.16).

In broad terms, the most salient objectives pursued by states on the international stage encompass the following:

- **Protecting Sovereignty and Maintaining National Security:** The paramount objective of any political entity is to safeguard its sovereignty, security, and existence, and to preserve its political system at any cost. States commit extensive resources to achieve these goals, sometimes extending to engagement in armed conflicts (Badr Abdel Aati, 2003, pp.8-9).
- **Developing the State's Power Capabilities:** Each state endeavors to bolster its power capabilities to maintain a minimal threshold necessary for independence. This ongoing effort is often fueled by apprehensions of external threats and the competitive dynamics prevalent among international entities.
- **Increasing Economic Wealth:** Economic prosperity is foundational for any state seeking to secure geographic regions for its populace and to access diverse economic resources that ensure a respectable standard of living. A state's quest for economic wealth is frequently viewed as a measure of its influence within the international community and serves as a conduit for bolstering military strength and influencing international

economic relations to further its strategic objectives.

- **Defending the State's Ideology:** States vigorously defend their ideological positions and safeguard them from external ideological influences. They also endeavor to disseminate and promote their ideological tenets internationally, underpinning the belief that wider acceptance and adherence to their ideological framework enhances their strategic interests. This objective is intrinsically linked to both security and strategic considerations. The strategies employed to advance state ideologies may include targeted propaganda aimed at specific nations or the support of ideological movements abroad (Badr Abdel Aati, 2003, p.10).

These objectives highlight the profound role that ideology has historically played in shaping international relations and foreign policy, particularly since the aftermath of World War II, as capitalist and socialist states have vied to attract other nations to their respective ideological camps.

2. Second Headline: : The Dimensions of Algerian Diplomacy Towards the International Reality

Given that Algeria adopts a security and humanitarian dimension in its foreign policy, it is the duty of diplomacy to recall this dimension and focus on entrenching it in its diplomatic work. Algeria enters the system of contemporary values, interacting with its developments, while retaining its identity and national peculiarities, by presenting Algerian diplomacy in this image and working to consolidate it.

The significance of Algerian foreign policy lies in its central position in the general policy of the international unit, in addition to the nature of foreign policy decisions related to security and state sovereignty, and its efforts to preserve independence and maintain national territory, and achieve internal stability and peace.

The doctrine of Algerian security crystallized during the early years following independence up to the 1970s, influenced by border issues. Several factors contributed to its formation, the most important being the historical factor, as the liberation revolution previously played a fundamental role in shaping this doctrine.

This doctrine has evolved with its international demands for the democratization of the global economic system and was further strengthened during the "black decade" of the 1990s in the context of combating terrorism. Finally, the Algerian security doctrine was modernized to address the challenges facing the world today, including environmental issues and the fight against terrorism, among others.

Algeria has made supporting liberation movements in the Third World (Southern countries) a principle at the core of its political essence, which has led it to support the Polisario Front.

Securing the homeland is of utmost importance to us at all levels -military, economic, humanitarian, and intellectual- both domestically and internationally. For instance, members of the Algerian community may face widespread attacks in the West, especially given the hostile climate in some European countries.

Algerian security concerns extend beyond the purely military aspect to include economic, demographic, and humanitarian dimensions. Thus, Algerian security is inherently multidimensional and not confined to military aspects alone.

It encompasses various dimensions and roles due to its regional, Arab, and Islamic roles, reaching an international scope. This is due to the strength of Algeria's foreign policy and its serious diplomatic efforts supporting every just cause to achieve international peace and security.

2.1. First Subsection: The African Sphere

Algeria has a deep geographic, historical, civilizational, and revolutionary connection with Africa. Algeria is part of Africa by virtue of shared heritage and its foundational role in supporting African liberation movements (Ahmed Taleb Ibrahim, 1987, pp. 32-35), not as a commercial record or a means of influence and intervention. Algeria is Africa's gateway from the north, and Africa is Algeria's strategic depth from the south.

In this context, occurrences close to Algeria in Niger, Mali, and Western Sahara are of great importance, as repeatedly affirmed by its foreign policy stance on the Sahrawi issue.

This requires considerable wisdom and foresight. Algeria, being the largest country with a Saharan extension into Africa, plays a crucial role in fostering peace, stability, and concord among conflicting factions in the concerned countries.

This stance in foreign policy transcends national security dimensions to include a geostrategic interest that benefits the regional operation, especially the two aforementioned countries, which are among the poorest and most unstable in Africa (Amhend Berkouk, 2013, p. 27).

Thus, the African sphere holds a very important place in Algerian considerations, often surpassing the Arab sphere, and in some cases, even the immediate Maghreb neighborhood.

2.2. Second Subsection: The Arab and Islamic Dimension

Algeria, the heart of the Maghreb, shares civilizational commonalities and characteristics with the Arab world. The regional Arab environment has shaped a common security perception governed by considerations towards the Palestinian issue.

For spiritual, cultural, historical reasons, and for the moral and political benefits Algeria gains from belonging to the Islamic world, the largest human grouping currently, Algeria's membership in the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, which includes fifty-nine (59) Asian and African countries (Abdel Hadi Boutaleb, 2004, p. 86), is significant. This organization brings together other countries, popular bodies, NGOs, some of which attend the conference meetings as observers.

Algeria also converges with other Muslim countries on important shared security issues that may touch on spiritual or religious aspects, such as the Jerusalem issue, where the settlement of the Palestinian problem has been hampered by the Jerusalem issue.

In recent years, provocative trends against Islam, such as the Danish caricature incident that insulted the Prophet Muhammad in 2008, the campaign against minarets in Switzerland in 2009, issues affecting Muslim communities in Western countries, and the ban on the niqab in Europe (2012), and the ethnic cleansing policy against Muslims in Burma in 2012-2013, have arisen.

The Islamic countries can open up avenues for cooperation, especially in the economic aspect, where Algeria can strengthen its diplomacy with countries of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, particularly by activating trade links, given the vast potential of the Islamic market (Abdel Hadi Boutaleb, 2004, pp. 87-88).

Algerian diplomacy does not overly focus on the Islamic orientation, as it is primarily concerned with strengthening its economic interactions with Europe and Mediterranean countries. However, the Islamic sphere may overlap with both the Arab and African spheres, as Africa is a continent of Islam, adding another dimension that Algeria has been a leader of the Global South since the 1970s, where most Southern countries are within the Islamic sphere.

2.3. Third Subsection: The International Sphere

This subsection delves into Algeria's strategic orientation within the international community, particularly its engagement with the United Nations and its bilateral international relations. From the perspective of case studies, Algeria's commitment to the principles of the

United Nations is consistently evident.

The country aligns its diplomatic stances with core UN principles on critical issues including development, peaceful dispute resolution, peacemaking, war prevention, and the respect for state sovereignty.

Algeria's engagement in international and regional organizations extends beyond mere participation. The nation views itself as a responsible actor, committed to contributing towards the formulation of solutions to global challenges, thereby demonstrating its capability and leadership in these forums.

A significant milestone in Algeria's diplomatic achievements within these organizations was the adoption of a UN resolution in 2009, which originated from an Algerian proposal to criminalize ransom payments. This resolution underscores counter-terrorism as a pivotal tool in Algeria's international diplomatic efforts. Furthermore, Algeria holds a permanent membership on the Counter-Terrorism Committee of the Security Council, highlighting its ongoing commitment to global security initiatives.

A noteworthy instance of Algeria's proactive role in the UN Security Council occurred on January 23, 2024, in New York. During this session, Algeria advocated for the Security Council to embrace a new approach to reinvigorate the peace process and seek a fair and comprehensive resolution to the Palestinian issue.

In this regard, Algeria, through its foreign ministry, reiterated the longstanding call for an international peace conference under the auspices of the United Nations. This conference aims to conclusively resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict by adhering to decisions of international legitimacy and by advocating for the two-state solution, under stringent international oversight and guarantees (Boucherba, 2024, p. 64).

In the realm of bilateral relations, Algeria's foreign policy encompasses its interactions with individual states across the globe, viewing these relationships from a bilateral standpoint rather than as expressions of a collective policy of an organization or a bloc. This bilateral approach allows for a nuanced analysis of Algeria's foreign policy lexicon as it engages with various countries, including its new economic partner China, and strategic allies like Russia, Germany, and Brazil in South America.

Through this lens, the cooperative domains between Algeria and these nations can be analyzed based on geographic considerations or the specific nature of each partnership. The geopolitical positioning of Algeria, coupled with its historical and contemporary experiences, facilitates a thorough understanding of its role and influence in the ongoing transformations within the international, regional, and neighboring contexts. This comprehensive approach helps elucidate the strategic objectives and implications of Algeria's foreign policy maneuvers in the global arena.

II. Conclusion:

We observe the substantial diplomatic achievements of Algeria beyond its national borders, where its presence is profoundly felt at regional, Arab, and international levels since its early years of independence, characterized by "consistent openness and engagement at the international level."

Its pioneering role in Arab, African, and Islamic forums is evidenced by its steadfast participation on the global stage, marked by its adherence to major international treaties and active involvement within the United Nations. Economic and trade openness has been a strategic choice for Algeria, leading to numerous trade exchange agreements over the past two decades.

The Arab and African dimensions are crucial gains for Algeria today. Therefore, sustaining these gains in ways that align with national interests and promote the country's development is an ongoing effort, extending beyond official diplomatic actions. Parallel diplomacies carried out

by civil society, intellectuals, scientists, and businessmen further enrich Algeria's diplomatic landscape, fostering openness, action, and international influence, and heralding a new dynamic.

Detailing all of Algeria's diplomatic successes is challenging, yet the country has consistently demonstrated the effectiveness of its strategic visions and logical approaches in various arenas, as it relentlessly pursues international peace and security.

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