



Model Arab League

Annotated Bibliography for Algeria

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This annotated bibliography was created to serve as a research resource for students taking part in the National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations' Model Arab League Program. With the understanding that research can be intimidating and time consuming, an effort was made to find a set of scholarly articles that give a detailed background and thorough account of the current situation for this League of Arab States member. Included are annotations designed to give a description of the source with the intention of students completing the research on their own. There has been an attempt to focus on more contemporary scholarship, specifically post-9/11 and post-2011 (so-called "Arab Spring") where possible, as these are two phenomena that fundamentally changed politics in the Arab world. These sources should provide students with a solid basis for understanding the country they are representing in both regionally and globally significant issues as well as the interests of other countries within the League of Arab States.

1. Eltigani E. Eltigani, "Childbearing in Five Arab Countries," *Studies in Family Planning*, Volume 32, Number 1, March, 2001, pp. 17-24. •• This article compares the rates and frequency of childbearing among women of five Arab countries: Algeria, Egypt, Morocco, Sudan, and Yemen. In doing so, the reader is given insight into these countries' population demographics, industries, rights for women, and levels of economic and social development. Algeria is a specifically interesting case because of its unique birthrates and frequencies relative to the other Arab states.
2. Alf Andrew Heggoy, "Education in French Algeria: An Essay on Cultural Conflict," *Comparative Education Review*, Volume 17, Number 2, June 1973, pp. 180-197. •• A Journal article that gives a historical account of the progression of Algerian education in the context of French colonialism. While it begins well behind the creation of the League of Arab States and Algeria becoming party to it, the article presents a possible explanation for Algeria's acceptance *and* denial of French and/or European educational values. In terms of denial, the rejection of so-called Western education systems and culture may have influenced Algerian pan-Arab and pan-Islamist tendencies in future generations.
3. Pradeep K. Chhibber, "State Policy, Rent Seeking, and the Electoral Success of a Religious Party in Algeria," *The Journal of Politics*, Volume 58, Number 1, February 1996, pp. 126-148. •• This article attempts to show that political transition in Algeria was historically linked to its economic well-being. Algeria went through a series of economic and political fluctuations which resulted in a brief experiment with fiscal liberalism. Rampant corruption played a large hand in the failing of this experiment, and gives a contextual background to Algeria's contemporary economic policies. The article also shows that like many of its counterparts, Algeria is heavily dependent on a single export, oil, and the stability of its economy is heavily linked to the demand and price of the

commodity.

4. Youcef Bouandel, “Algeria’s presidential election of April 2004: a Backward Step in the Democratisation Process or a Forward Step Towards Stability?” *Third World Quarterly*, Volume 25, Number 8, 2004, pp. 1525–1540. •• Bouandel presents a detailed account of Algeria’s elections held in 2004 and the events that led up to them. In a balanced form, he gives both the approving and critical perspectives of the elections credit. In terms of criticism, many accused the military and the former president (who both had historically played a heavy hand in influencing the outcomes of previous elections) of fixing the result and/or voter fraud. On the other hand, elections at all were a rare experience in the Arab world and worthy of praise. Bouandel remained skeptical of how Bouteflika would handle his reelection in the sense that he predicted the president would follow Tunisian Ben Ali’s model of stability at the expense of civil liberties.
5. Yahia H. Zoubir & Ahmed Aghrout, “Algeria’s Path to reform: Authentic change?” *Middle East Policy*, Volume XIX, Number 2, Summer 2012, pp. 66-83. •• Given its proximity to both Tunisia and Libya on top of its similarly despotic governments/leaders, one might expect Algeria to have gone through a revolution of its own. This article attempts to explain how Algeria has remained a surprising exception to the Arab Spring. Algeria’s contemporary history has been punctuated by traumatic clashes between the people and the government. It appears that both Algerians and their government are afraid of their past. To avoid backsliding, the regime has acquiesced to small demands of its people like ending the state of emergency that had been in place since 1992, allowing political parties, as well as using its \$182 billion in reserves to buy social peace through subsidies and investment. The author argues that this stability is only a façade however, and that Algeria’s exceptionalism will be short lived.
6. Soraya Benchicou, Mohamed Aichouni, and Driss Nehari, “E-learning in engineering education: a theoretical and empirical study of the Algerian higher education institution,” *European Journal of Engineering Education*, Volume 35, Number 3, June 2010, 325–343. •• A technical article highlighting the possibilities and difficulties associated with Algeria making a shift toward E-Learning and/or online education. Most notable among the difficulties is a lack of the infrastructure for E-Learning platforms. Unfortunately, in the case of Algeria and countries like it, “capacity for implementation appears to be inversely proportional to the perceived need and strong desire for access” to such platforms.
7. Abdelaziz Testas, “The Initiating and Magnifying Factors in Algeria’s Civil Conflict,” *Civil Wars*, Volume 4, Number 1 (Spring 2001), pp.125-141. •• Following the Algerian Civil War in the 90’s, many believed the conflict was caused by religious and ethnic

divisions in Algerian society. This author argues that the social problems were only secondary to the economic problems facing the country, namely its dependence on oil which as an industry is subject to dramatic price fluctuations and does not create many actual jobs. On top of this, Algeria was experiencing increasing wealth disparity which undoubtedly contributed to unrest and gave Islamists a void to fill in terms of provisions for the growing poor population.

8. Alexis Arieff, "Algeria: Current Issues," *Congressional Research Service*, January 18, 2013. •• A very recent report on Algeria and its geopolitical and strategic interests throughout the world. The details include historical background, politics and key players, levels of human rights, economy, foreign relations, terrorism and counterterrorism, as well as reaction to and/or involvement in the Arab Spring. Arieff reiterates the point that Algeria's relatively violent past (distinguished by colonialism) may explain its current national sentiment that is uniquely averse to violent protests, and therefore the country did not witness uprisings like its neighbors Tunisia and Libya.
9. Jeffrey James Byrne, "The Middle Eastern Cold War: Unique Dynamics in a Questionable Regional Framework," *International Journal of Middle East Studies*, Volume 43, Number 2, April 2011, pp. 320-322. •• In this very brief article, Byrne gives a perspective on the Middle East and the effect the Cold War has had on the region until now. Algeria is interesting among Arab countries in that its citizens "defied the regional categories imposed on them" and embraced other geopolitical groupings that they felt would give them a strategic advantage on the world stage.
10. David Furceri, "Unemployment and Labor Market Issues in Algeria," *International Monetary Fund*, Middle East and Central Asia Department, April 2012. •• This International Monetary Fund (IMF) Working Paper gives a detailed and technical analysis of Algeria's current and future labor market situation, both of which have some considerable problems. Like many Arab countries that are dependent on hydrocarbon exports as their main source of revenue, Algeria is relying on a high tech industry that does not create many jobs. When considering the population demographics of Algeria and its considerable youth bulge (also like many Arab countries), the country faces significant problems when it comes to creating jobs for its many university graduates.
11. William Zartman, "Foreign Relations of North Africa," *Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science*, Volume 489, International Affairs in Africa, January 1987, pp. 13-27. •• Because of the region's geography, North Africa can be thought of as a geopolitical island. With the Atlantic to its west, the Mediterranean to its north, and the Sahara to its south, it is only connected to the Arab Middle East by Egypt. This island-like nature has created an interesting testing ground for North African foreign policies,

with each North African state playing different roles based on their resources, borders, and interests. William Zartman gives a detailed history of the region including the many events that led up to various alliances, treaty signings, and disputes between the North African countries. Later, Zartman covers the relationships the North African states have with European and Western countries, both positive and negative. This article is a valuable read for those representing any of the North African countries (Morocco, Mauritania, Algeria, Tunisia, and Libya).