

People's Democratic Republic of Algeria



SUMMARY

Algeria has gone through many changes in its demographic profile. Marriages and preferences for smaller families are attributed to increases in women's education and labor market participation, higher unemployment, and a housing shortage, forcing multiple generations to live together. Sub-Saharan African migrants came to Algeria after its civil war to work in agriculture and mining. In the 2000s, a wave of educated Algerians went abroad seeking jobs, increasing their presence in North America and Spain. Foreign workers from China and Egypt worked in Algeria. Since 1975, Algeria has been the main recipient of Sahrawi refugees from the ongoing Western Sahara (today part of Morocco) conflict. More than 100,000 Sahrawis are estimated to be living in five refugee camps in southwestern Algeria.

Chief of State: President Abdelmadjid Tebboune (December 12, 2019)

Head of Government: Prime Minister Sifi Grieb (September 2025)

Capital: Algiers

Other notable cities: Bethioua, Timimoun, Tindouf, In Guezzam, Constantine, Skikda

Gov Type: Presidential Republic

Population: 47,022,473

History: Indigenous Amzigh ruled Algeria for millennia. The Phoenicians colonized the coastal cities, which were later incorporated into the Roman Empire. Around the 2nd millennium CE, the Arabs conquered North Africa. In 1830, the French conquered the Ottoman-ruled Algeria. In 1954, Algeria fought a long and violent war against the French and gained independence in 1962.

GEOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

Algeria is located in Northern Africa, bordering the Mediterranean Sea, and is between Morocco and Tunisia. It is 2,381,740 sq km in total area of land and borders Libya, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Niger, and Tunisia. Algeria is arid, with mild, wet winters and hot, dry summers along the coast. The high plateau has drier, cold winters and hot summers. It consists mostly of a high plateau and desert, with the Atlas Mountains in the far north and Hoggar Mountains in the south. It is a narrow, discontinuous coastal plain. It is also the largest country in Africa. Its natural resources include petroleum, natural gas, iron ore, phosphates, uranium, lead, and zinc, and 17.4% of its land is used for agriculture. Forest land consists of 0.8%, and 81.8% consists of 'other'. Much of its population is found in the extreme northern part of the country along the Mediterranean Coast. The land is subject to severe earthquakes, mudslides, floods, and droughts.

Economy and Politics

MAL FACT SHEET

DEMOGRAPHICS

Noun: Algerian(s)

Adjective: Algerian

Ethnic Groups: Arab-Amazigh (99%), European (less than 1%)

Languages: Arabic (official), French (lingua franca), Tamazight (official - dialects include Kabyle, Shawiya, Mzab, and Tuareg)

Religions: Muslim (99%, official - predominantly Sunni), other (<1% - includes Christian, Jewish, Ahmadi Muslim, Shia Muslim, Ibadi Muslim)

After independence from France, Algeria's fertility rate fell from 7 children per woman to 2.4 in 2000. This was mostly due to women's rising age at first marriage, with most children being born in wedlock and the use of contraceptives.

ECONOMY AND GDP

Algeria has a struggling oil and gas economy, with limited market diversification. Political instability has chilled domestic consumption, along with poor credit access and declines in business confidence. There are currently delayed promises to improve socio-economic conditions.

Real GDP: \$824.9.837 billion (2024)

Real GDP Growth Rate: 3.8% (2026 IMF forecast)

Real GDP Per Capita: \$17,620 (2024)

GDP (Official Exchange Rate): \$269 billion (2024)

GDP Composition: Agriculture 13.3% (2017), Industry 39.3% (2017), and Services 47.4% (2017).

Inflation Rate: 4% (2024)

Industries: Petroleum, natural gas, light industries, mining, electrical, petrochemical, and food processing.

Labor Force: 13.556 million (2024)

Unemployment Rate: 12.49%, youth unemployment rate stands at 31.9% (2022).

Population Below Poverty Line: 5.5% (2019)

Public Debt: 27.5% of GDP (2017)

Exports: \$69.058 billion (partners include Italy, Spain, France, United States, and South Korea) 2022 est.

Imports: \$46.617 billion (partners include China, France, Italy, Turkey, and Brazil) 2022 est.

MAIN POLITICAL CONTENTIONS

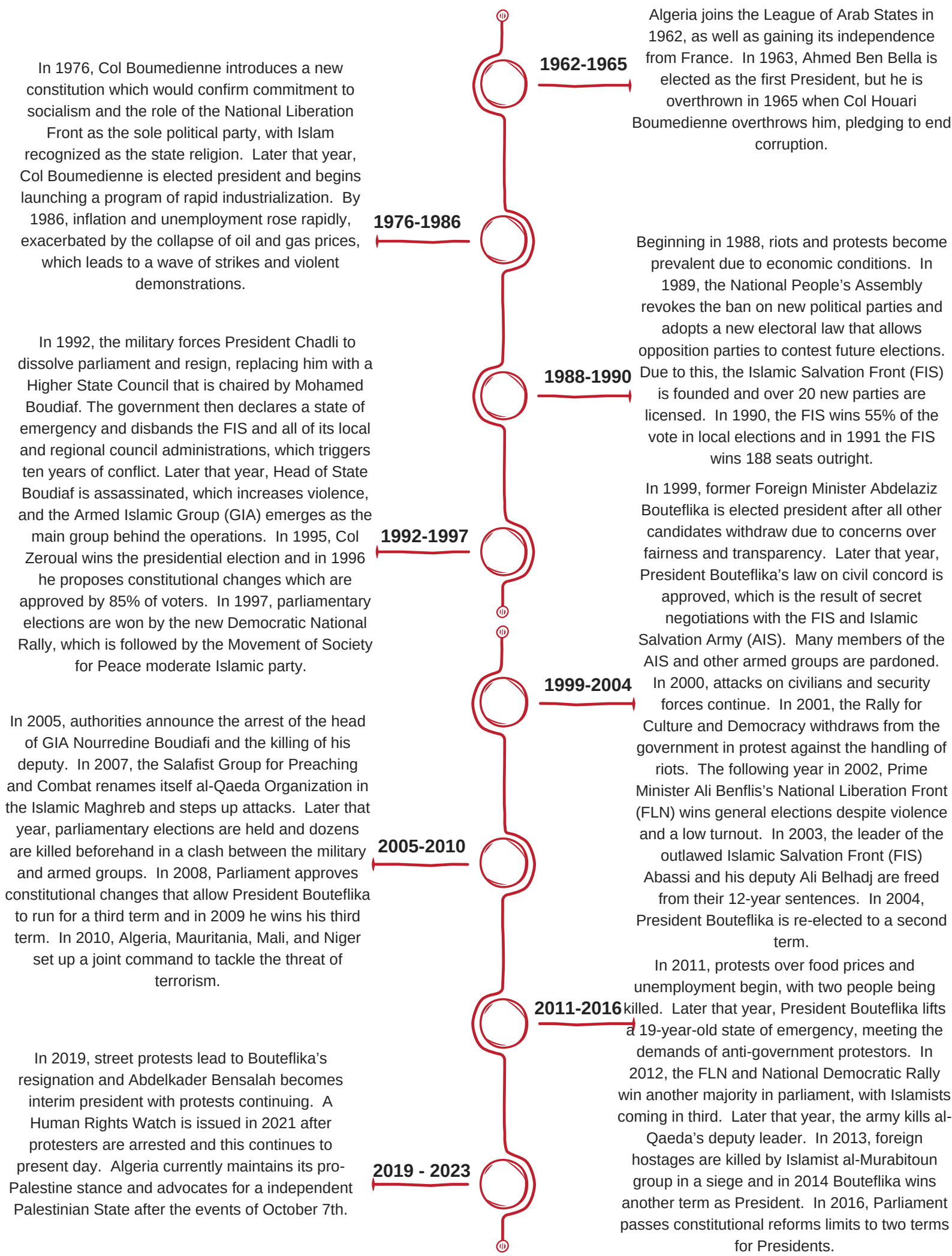
Algeria based its foreign policy approach on long-standing principles following its independence in 1962. Inspired by its own anti-colonial struggle, Algiers adopted self-determination and anti-colonial causes as a diplomatic tool to expand its influence, particularly on the African continent. Algerian authorities continue to express solidarity with African liberation movements, the Palestinian people, and the Polisario Front.

Algeria and Morocco are currently in a dispute over Western Sahara. Algeria seeks to prevent Morocco from reclaiming a territory that would increase its strategic depth and make it the undisputed regional leader of the Maghreb. It is also invested in preventing a Moroccan-Israeli alliance by improving relations with Egypt, the GCC, and the rest of the Arab world.

Algeria is also in the midst of attempting to mediate the conflict in Libya and the Sahel. These efforts have been thwarted by foreign interference in Libya, and implementing the Algiers Accords has been extremely difficult in the Sahel.

After the events of October 7th in Gaza, Algeria has declared full solidarity with Palestine and continues to stand for an independent Palestinian State.

ALGERIA: A TIMELINE





2021-2024

In 2021, Algeria recalled its ambassador to Rabat in response to a Moroccan diplomat calling for the self-determination of the indigenous Kabyle people in Northern Algeria. Algeria further cut Morocco's access to the Magreb-Europe pipeline. Relations between France, Morocco, and Algeria worsened in 2024 when the French government officially supported Morocco's claim to Western Sahara.