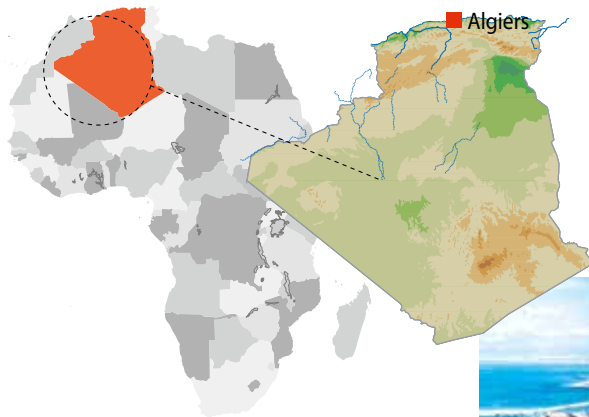


ALGERIA



surface: 2,38 mln sq km (Africa's largest country)

population: 39,21 mln

main tourist attractions: Atlas mountains, Sahara desert, Algiers (one of the Maghreb's most urbane and charismatic cities, with a mix of colonial and modernist architecture), Notre Dame d'Afrique (a Catholic basilica in Algiers)

independence: 5 July 1962 (from France)



“Algeria is unique; at every moment it reveals its contrasts, its contradictions and its conflicts. Nothing is unambiguous and nothing fits into a formula.”

Ryszard Kapuściński, *Algeria Hides its Face* (in “The Soccer War”)



ECONOMY (2013)

GDP: 210,2 bln USD

GDP in PPP: 284,7 bln USD

GDP per capita: 7,500 USD

economic growth: 3%

GDP composition: agriculture 9,4%, industry 62,6%, services 28%

exports value: 68,25 bln USD

imports value: 55,02 bln

export goods: petroleum, natural gas

(the 4th largest natural gas exporter in the world) and petrochemical products (up to 97% of exports)

import goods: semi products, rough

material, food industry, commodities

main exports partners: Italy 16%, US 15%,

Spain 10,9%, France 8,5%, Netherlands

7,3%, Canada 7,1%, UK 5,1%, Brazil 4,7%

main imports partners: France 12,8%,

China 11,8%, Italy 10,3%,

Spain 8,6%, Germany 5,2%

main natural resources: petroleum

(3% of world extraction), natural gas,

phosphorite, zinc, lead, copper, hard

coal, rock salt, gypsum, mercury

(major world producer), uranium, iron ore

doing business 2015 rank: 154

POLITICAL FRAMEWORK

president: elected for a five-year term, with no term limits

last elections: 17 April 2014

current President: Abdelaziz Bouteflika (since 1999)

government: appointed by the President (the current one in power since 5 May 2014)

prime Minister: Abdelmalek Sellal (National Liberation Front)

main parties:

- National Liberation Front, an Arabic left wing party created in 1954 after the breakout of the uprising against France, in power since 2009
- Islamic Salvation Front, a fundamentalist party, created in 1989, deriving from the Muslim Brotherhood
- Workers' Party, radical left, established in 1990, connected with the French Workers' Party

SOCIETY

urbanisation: 73%

main cities: Algiers (2,3 mln), Oran

(where a famous writer Albert Camus was born), Constantine, Annaba

official language: Arabic

other languages used: French, Berber dialects

ethnic groups: Arabs (83%), Berbers (Kabyls, Tuaregs: 16%), French (0,1%)

cuisine: harira soupe, ouarka (cake with different stuffing)

POLISH CONNECTIONS

Poland is Algeria's main trade partner in CEE:

total trade balance (2013): 246,7 mln EUR

exports from Poland (2012): 215,7 mln EUR, mainly food products (48,56% of the total exports)

imports from Algeria (2012): 53,0 mln EUR, mainly phosphates (99,43%), sodium bicarbonate, sugar

Diplomatic relations: since 1962, Poland has its embassy in Algiers. In 2010 Polish Minister of Economy W. Pawlak visited Algeria, in 2011 Algerian Minister of Foreign Affairs M. Medelci came to Poland.

HISTORY: This Berber territory was first annexed by the Carthaginians. In 24 AD it became a part of the Roman Empire and then christianised. It subsequently fell under Islamic influence in the 8th century. The new religion and language brought radical changes in the social and economic relations of the region, establishing links with the rich Arabic culture. In 1525 the territory became a part of the Ottoman Empire. In 1830 France took control over Algeria and from 1848 it was administered as an integral part of France. French rule lasted over 130 years and ended in 1962 after an 8-year civil war. The winning of independence by force of arms with France was an exception to the rule in Africa during the period of decolonisation.