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A Study of its Stance and Role in Mediating African Border Disputes

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Dedication

This dissertation is dedicated to my beloved parents, whose unwavering support and endless encouragements have been my guiding light throughout this journey. Their sacrifices and wisdom have laid the foundation for my achievement, and their belief in me has been a constant source of inspiration.

To my dear husband, whose patience, understanding, and love have been my anchor during the many challenging moments of this endeavor.

To my precious daughters, who have been my inspiration and joy, your smiles and hugs have been my strength, reminding me of the importance of perseverance and dedication. This work is a testament to my love for you and my hope for a future where you can pursue your dreams with the same passion and determination.

With all my love and gratitude.

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With sincere gratitude,

Abstract

The significant role of border disputes in destabilizing international relations among many African countries cannot be overlooked. These countries have inherited a colonial legacy in this regard. Algeria, by virtue of its geographical location and diplomatic weight after its historic revolution, has played an important role in settling many of the continent's border disputes. This research attempts to monitor and evaluate the efforts of Algerian diplomacy. It delves into the most significant border disputes known to the countries of the continent. It also discusses the most important diplomatic means adopted by Algerian diplomacy and the extent of its success in achieving security in the African continent.

Keywords: Algerian diplomacy - International disputes - Border settlement - Africa

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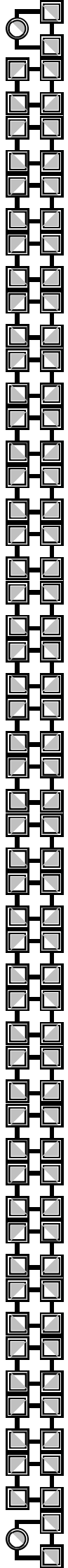
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General introduction



General Introduction:

Within the multifaceted realm of global diplomacy and international relations, the role of Algerian foreign policy emerges as a pivotal force in the African geopolitical landscape. This thesis embarks on a scholarly journey to dissect and understand Algeria's diplomatic endeavors in mediating border disputes across the African continent. With a rich historical backdrop marked by its revolutionary fervor and strategic geographical positioning, Anchored at the crossroads of North Africa and the Mediterranean, Algeria's prime location has been instrumental in its influential role as a mediator in African border disputes. Algeria has skillfully utilized its diplomatic expertise to cultivate a stable and secure environment within the region.

The investigation examines the complex mosaic of global diplomacy of inter-national relations that characterize border disputes, while also assessing the success of Algerian diplomatic actions in this realm. By examining case studies and employing theoretical frameworks, this study aims to illuminate the successes and challenges faced by Algeria in its quest to pacify territorial tensions and contribute to the continent's collective peace and progress.

The aim of this study is to critically examine the evolution and efficacy of Algerian foreign policy in mediating African border disputes, with a focus on its historical stance, strategic approaches, and diplomatic engagements. This re-search will delve into Algeria's role as a key player in conflict resolution and its influence on the geopolitical dynamics within the continent. By analyzing case studies such as the Western Sahara dispute, the study will assess the consistency of Algeria's foreign policy principles, such as support for self-determination and non-interference, against its actions on the ground. Furthermore, the thesis will explore the domestic and international factors that shape Algeria's mediation strategies, aiming to provide a nuanced understanding of its contributions to peace and stability in Africa, furthermore, the study aims to contribute to the broader discourse on conflict

resolution and regional stability in Africa by examining the intricacies of Algerian foreign policy.

Aim of the study

The aim of this study is to critically examine the evolution and efficacy of Algerian foreign policy in mediating African border disputes, with a focus on its historical stance, strategic approaches, and diplomatic engagements. This research will delve into Algeria's role as a key player in conflict resolution and its influence on the geopolitical dynamics within the continent. By analyzing case studies such as the Western Sahara dispute, Mali conflict,, Libyan civil war , the Ethiopia-Eritrea border conflict the study will assess the consistency of Algeria's foreign policy principles, such as support for self-determination and non-interference, against its actions on the ground. Furthermore, the thesis will explore the domestic and international factors that shape Algeria's mediation strategies, aiming to provide a nuanced understanding of its contributions to peace and stability in Africa, furthermore, the study aims to contribute to the broader discourse on conflict resolution and regional stability in Africa by examining the intricacies of Algerian foreign policy.

The primary objectives of this research are as follows:

1. Understanding Algerian Diplomatic Strategies:

Investigate the historical context and evolution of Algeria's foreign policy, particularly its approach to resolving African border disputes. Analyze the underlying principles, motivations, and decision-making processes that guide Algeria's diplomatic actions.

2. Assessing Mediation Efforts:

Evaluate the effectiveness of Algeria's mediation efforts in resolving border conflicts between African nations.

Identify successful case studies where Algerian diplomacy played a pivotal role in conflict resolution.

3. Identifying Challenges and Opportunities:

Explore the challenges faced by Algeria in its mediation endeavors, including regional dynamics, historical tensions, and power imbalances.

Highlight potential areas for improvement and innovative approaches to enhance Algeria's role as a mediator.

4. Setting Boundaries:

The study focuses specifically on Algeria's involvement in African border disputes, excluding other aspects of its foreign policy.

Geographically, the scope encompasses North Africa and the Sahel region.

Statement of the problem

Algeria, as a key player in North Africa, has been actively involved in diplomatic efforts related to border disputes on the African continent. Its historical context, geopolitical position, and strategic interests shape its foreign policy decisions. Despite Algeria's prominence in regional affairs, there is a lack of comprehensive studies that systematically analyze its mediation efforts in African border conflicts. Existing research tends to focus on specific cases or broader regional dynamics, leaving room for a more nuanced examination.

Research question

This study aims to address the following research questions:

1-How effective are Algeria's diplomatic interventions in resolving African border disputes, and what factors contribute to their success or failure?

2- How has Algerian foreign policy historically approached the mediation of African border disputes?

3-What are the key principles and strategies underlying Algeria's diplomatic efforts in resolving conflicts in Africa?

4-To what extent has Algeria's mediation been effective in achieving long-term regional stability and peace?

Methodology

In this study, we adopt a mixed-methods approach to analyze Algerian foreign policy within the context of African border disputes. This methodology comprises three interconnected components:

1. **Theoretical Framework:** We draw from constructivist and realist perspectives to understand Algeria's mediation efforts. Constructivism sheds light on historical narratives, identity, and norm diffusion, while realism informs our analysis of national interests and power dynamics.
2. **Empirical Analysis:** Through in-depth case studies, we explore specific border disputes where Algeria has played a mediating role. We analyze official documents, diplomatic correspondence, and expert interviews. Additionally, we quantitatively compare Algeria's strategies with those of other regional actors.
3. **Cultural Context Integration:** Acknowledging Algeria's rich cultural heritage, we consider historical ties and linguistic diversity. Cultural diplomacy plays a role in shaping Algeria's interactions with neighboring countries.

By combining theory, empirical evidence, and cultural insights, my methodology provides a comprehensive understanding of Algeria's contributions to conflict resolution in Africa.

Structure of dissertation

To discuss the problem of this study, the dissertation is structured into two chapters as following:

Introduction:

Chapter 1: Historical Context and diplomatic principles

Algeria's Foreign Policy Evolution: Explore Algeria's historical foreign policy context. And trace the evolution of Algeria's foreign policy from post-independence to the present.

Diplomatic Principles: Discuss Algeria's stance on regional and international issues and the foundational principles guiding Algeria's diplomatic efforts.

Regional and International Stance: Highlight key diplomatic principles and priorities. Analyze Algeria's stance on key regional and international issues, emphasizing its role in African unity and cooperation.

Chapter 2: Algeria's Mediation in African Border Disputes

Theoretical Framework: Analyze Algeria's role as a mediator in African conflicts. Introduce a theoretical framework for understanding mediation and conflict resolution.

Case Studies: Provide detailed case studies of Algeria's mediation efforts, including the context, process, and outcomes, examine specific border disputes where Algeria played a significant role.

Effectiveness and Challenges: Evaluate the effectiveness of Algeria's mediation strategies and discuss the challenges encountered.

Conclusion



CHAPTER I

Historical context and
diplomatic principles

Introduction

Algeria's foreign policy has been shaped by its rich history, marked by a staunch commitment to sovereignty and a legacy of resistance against colonialism. This chapter delves into the historical underpinnings that have forged Algeria's diplomatic principles, emphasizing its unwavering stance on self-determination and non-interference. As a pivotal player in African politics, Algeria has leveraged its historical experiences to mediate border disputes across the continent, advocating for peaceful resolution and regional stability. By examining the evolution of Algeria's foreign policy from the post-independence era to its current role in African diplomacy, this chapter sets the stage for understanding Algeria's unique approach to conflict resolution and its influence in shaping the geopolitical landscape of Africa.

I.1 Explore Algeria's Historical Foreign Policy Context

Algeria's foreign policy has been a testament to its resilience and strategic diplomacy, evolving significantly since the immediate aftermath of independence. Under the leadership of Presidents Ahmed Ben Bella and Houari Boumediene, Algeria pursued a militant anti-imperialist policy, advocating for Third World solidarity and playing a pivotal role in the Group of 77, the Non-aligned Movement, and the push for a New International Economic Order. The principles set forth in the 1976 National Charter underscored this foreign policy direction, emphasizing Algeria's commitment to these global movements.

1. As the country transitioned into the 1980s, President Chadli Benjedid shifted the focus of Algerian diplomacy from Third World leadership to a regional policy centered on the Maghreb, culminating in the establishment of the Union du Maghreb Arab. This shift reflected a broader evolution towards balancing national sovereignty with collective security efforts, a balance that has characterized Algeria's foreign policy. The nation's historical stance on supporting self-determination and opposing

colonialism has not only shaped its domestic policies but also positioned it as a credible mediator in African border disputes..

"The Foreign Policy of Algeria" by Yahia H. Zoubir

The severe internal crisis of the 1990s necessitated a further retrenchment of Algerian foreign policy. However, the country's diplomatic approach remained steadfast, rooted in its struggle for independence and consistent advocacy for liberation movements. This steadfast approach has been a cornerstone in its international relations, particularly within the African Union and the Arab League. Algeria's commitment to peaceful conflict resolution and a deep understanding of the complexities involved in regional dynamics have been reflected in its role as a mediator.

President Abdelaziz Bouteflika, despite his revolutionary background, continued the pragmatic evolution of the state's foreign policy, focusing on national interest. The evolution of diplomatic relations with France, a key aspect of Algeria's international stance.

On June 14, 2000, President Bouteflika addressed the French National Assembly during a state visit to France. His speech aimed to rehabilitate bilateral relations between Algeria and France, which had been strained since Algeria's in-dependence. He emphasized reconciliation and the importance of acknowledging the shared history between the two nations. Despite some opposition and boycotts from French deputies, the speech marked a significant step in healing the wounds of the past and moving towards a cooperative future.

The speech has a significant dimension on how Algeria's approach to foreign policy is deeply rooted in its historical experiences and diplomatic strategies.

Today, Algeria's diplomatic history is marked by a commitment to peaceful conflict resolution and strategic diplomacy. This chapter explores the mile-stones and challenges that

have defined Algeria's foreign policy, providing a nuanced perspective on its role in African diplomacy and its resilient approach to mediating border disputes.

I.1.1 Post-Independence Foreign Policy (1962-1978)

The period from 1962 to 1978 was a formative era in Algeria's post-independence foreign policy, marked by the establishment of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria and the consolidation of power by the National Liberation Front (FLN). During these years, Algeria emerged as a vocal advocate for anti-colonialism and non-alignment, aligning itself with movements that resonated with its own struggle for independence. The leadership under figures like Ahmed Ben Bella and Houari Boumédiène focused on nationalizing key industries and implementing land reforms, while also navigating complex regional politics. Algeria's foreign policy was characterized by its support for liberation movements across Africa and the Middle East, and its commitment to the principles of non-interference and peaceful coexistence. This period laid the groundwork for Algeria's later role as a mediator in African border disputes, drawing on its own experiences of colonialism and its aspirations for pan-African unity and cooperation.

I.1.2 Shift During the Cold War (1979-1991)

During the Cold War period of 1979-1991, Algeria's foreign policy was characterized by a strategic balance of 'subjective neutrality,' aligning with the communist bloc while maintaining its non-aligned status. Post-Cold War, Algeria pivoted towards the West to exploit economic opportunities, leveraging its revolutionary legacy and military strength. Relations with the US evolved, influenced by détente and mutual energy interests, while 'Maghreb détente' facilitated rapprochement with Morocco over shared energy reserves. Algeria's international stance was marked by opposition to U.S. policies and active mediation in conflicts, notably resolving the 1980 Iranian hostage crisis, reflecting its complex interplay of ideology, pragmatism, and regional influence.

I.2.3 Post-Cold War Era and Regional Influence (1991-Present)

During the 1990s, Algeria faced a period of intense civil strife and political instability, severe crisis of the 1990s: commonly referred to as the Black Decade. This tumultuous era began in 1992, following a military coup that halted the electoral victory of the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS), leading to a protracted and bloody civil war¹. The conflict pitted the Algerian government against various Islamist insurgent groups, with the Armed Islamic Group (GIA) being one of the most notorious. The violence escalated to such a degree that by 1994, it seemed the state's ability to govern was under serious threat. Despite the government's initial success in suppressing the Islamist movement, armed groups emerged, declaring jihad and engaging in guerrilla warfare, which resulted in widespread atrocities and loss of life.

The Black Decade profoundly affected Algeria's foreign policy. The government's focus shifted inward as it grappled with maintaining internal security and stability. The international community's response to the crisis was mixed, with some countries offering support to the Algerian government, while others expressed concern over human rights violations. The civil war's impact on Algeria's regional influence was significant, as the country's ability to engage in external affairs was constrained by the need to address its internal challenges. However, the end of the Black Decade saw Algeria gradually return to the international stage, seeking to restore its diplomatic presence and mediate in regional conflicts, including African border disputes².

This period saw Algeria grappling with domestic challenges that inevitably influenced its foreign policy and regional interactions. The government's efforts to navigate through the crisis, the impact on its international relations, and the eventual shift towards reconciliation and peace in the early 2000s are all pivotal points that underscore Algeria's role and stance in the region during the post-Cold War era. Since the end of the Cold War in 1991, Algeria has strategically adapted its foreign policy to the post-Soviet world order,

focusing on economic growth and security within a fluctuating Mediterranean context. It has faced challenges such as regional crises and terrorism, while maintaining a delicate balance in its relations with global powers like the US, China, and Russia. Domestically, Algeria has leveraged education and political strategies to foster national welfare. President Tebboune's reaffirmation of non-alignment in 2022 underscores Algeria's ongoing commitment to an independent foreign policy amidst contemporary geopolitical shifts.

I.2 Discuss Algeria's Stance on Regional and International Issues

Algeria's stance on regional and international issues has evolved to become more assertive, particularly in the wake of the Ukraine war, where it has seized opportunities in the global energy market. Historically non-aligned and often described as anti-Western and insular, Algeria has recently increased its engagement in the African Union and Arab League, deepened ties with Beijing, and maintained a robust military relationship with Russia. While traditionally a marginal player in regional conflicts, Algeria is now expected to play a more central role in resolving issues in Libya and Western Sahara, reflecting a shift from its historical non-interventionist policy to a more active foreign policy stance.

I.2.1 Principles of Non-Interference and Sovereignty

The principles of Non-Interference and Sovereignty are foundational to international relations, emphasizing the inviolability of state autonomy and territorial integrity. Non-Interference dictates that states shall refrain from intervening in the internal affairs of other states, respecting their sovereign rights and political independence¹. This principle is enshrined in the United Nations Charter and is a cornerstone of legal frameworks governing state interactions. Sovereignty, on the other hand, asserts a state's authority over its territory and its freedom from external control, ensuring its capacity to govern without foreign imposi-

tion. Together, these principles safeguard the independence of states and facilitate peaceful coexistence by upholding mutual respect and legal equality among nations.

I.2.2 Multilateral Diplomacy and Mediation

Algeria's foreign policy has long been characterized by its commitment to multilateral diplomacy and mediation, particularly within the African continent. This thesis begins by exploring the theoretical underpinnings of multilateral diplomacy and its significance in the international arena. It delves into the principles of collective action and consensus-building that are the hallmarks of multilateral engagements.

In its pursuit of multilateral diplomacy and mediation, Algeria has played a pivotal role in resolving key African conflicts. In the Mali conflict, Algeria facilitated the peace process, leading to the signing of the Algiers Accord, which aimed to bring stability and reconciliation to the region. Similarly, in the Western Sahara dispute, Algeria has been a strong supporter of UN resolutions and has hosted numerous negotiations between the conflicting parties, advocating for a peaceful and just resolution. Additionally, Algeria has actively participated in international mediation efforts to resolve the Libyan civil war by hosting peace talks and supporting UN-led initiatives, contributing to several ceasefire agreements and ongoing negotiations. In the Ethiopia-Eritrea border conflict, Algeria's mediation efforts culminated in the Algiers Agreement, which ended violent hostilities and established peaceful mechanisms for resolving the border dispute. These efforts underscore Algeria's commitment to regional stability and its proactive role in mediating complex disputes through multilateral channels.

I.2.3 Economic Diplomacy and Regional Stability

Economic diplomacy plays a crucial role in Algeria's efforts to promote regional stability. By leveraging (exploiting) its economic resources and strategic investments, Algeria fosters cooperation and development within Africa. Initiatives such as trade

agreements, infrastructure projects, and energy partnerships are designed to enhance economic integration and reduce poverty, thereby addressing some of the root causes of conflict. Through economic diplomacy, Algeria not only strengthens its bilateral relations but also contributes to the broader goal of peace and stability across the region.

I.3 Highlight Key Diplomatic Principles and Priorities

Algeria's diplomatic principles and priorities are deeply rooted in its history and geopolitical context. Central to its foreign policy is the principle of non-interference in the internal affairs of other states, alongside a strong commitment to supporting self-determination and anti-colonial movements. Algeria prioritizes regional stability and cooperation, advocating for peaceful conflict resolution through dialogue and multilateralism. Additionally, it places significant emphasis on fostering African unity and integration, reflecting its broader aim of promoting sustainable development and security across the continent.

I.3.1 Algeria's Stance on Palestinian Statehood

In line with its historical commitment to anti-colonialism and self-determination, Algeria has consistently upheld a resolute stance in support of Palestinian statehood. Algeria advocates for the establishment of an independent Palestinian state with East Jerusalem as its capital, mirroring its own values of justice and sovereignty. In international forums, Algeria actively champions Palestinian rights and firmly opposes unilateral actions that threaten the peace process. This unwavering support for Palestinian statehood is integral to Algeria's broader foreign policy, underscoring its solidarity with oppressed peoples worldwide.

I.3.2 Influence on Arab League and African Union Policies

Algeria has exerted significant influence on the policies of both the Arab League and the African Union. Within the Arab League, Algeria has been a vocal advocate for Palestinian statehood and regional stability, often pushing for unified stances on critical

issues. In the African Union, Algeria has played a key role in promoting conflict resolution, peacekeeping initiatives, and regional integration. Its leadership in mediating disputes and fostering economic cooperation has reinforced its position as a pivotal actor in shaping the policy directions of these organizations, aligning with its broader goals of peace and development across the Arab and African regions.

Conclusion

In conclusion, understanding the historical context and diplomatic principles of Algerian foreign policy provides essential insights into its current stance and actions on the global stage. Algeria's legacy of anti-colonial struggle and commitment to sovereignty, self-determination, and non-interference have profoundly shaped its diplomatic approach. These principles underpin its proactive role in regional stability and conflict resolution.

As this chapter closes, it is clear that Algeria's historical experiences and diplomatic principles continue to shape its approach to foreign policy and its role as a mediator in African border disputes. This sets the stage for a deeper exploration of Algeria's involvement in specific case studies, which will be the focus of subsequent chapters in this thesis.



CHAPTER II

Mediation efforts in African Border Disputes

Introduction

Within the complex mosaic of African geopolitics, border disputes have emerged as a persistent thread, weaving a complex pattern of tension and conflict across the continent. This chapter delves into the pivotal role of Algerian diplomacy in the intricate dance of mediation, a role carved out through a historical commitment to non-alignment and African unity. Algeria's foreign policy, steeped in the principles of self-determination and pan-African solidarity, has positioned it uniquely as a mediator in regional disputes. We will explore the theoretical underpinnings of mediation, the practical applications of Algerian diplomatic efforts, and the nuanced challenges faced in striving for equitable resolutions. Through a careful examination of case studies, this chapter aims to illuminate the subtleties of Algeria's stance and its consequential impact on the stability and harmony of African borders.

II.1 Algeria's Mediation Role: A Historical Perspective

Algeria has played a significant role in mediating African border disputes, drawing on its historical experience and diplomatic principles. Since its independence, Algeria has been committed to supporting African unity and resolving conflicts through peaceful means. A notable example is the Sand War of 1963, where Algeria and Morocco engaged in a military confrontation over border disputes. The Sand War of 1963, known in Arabic as "Ḥarb ar-Rimāl," was a significant border conflict between Algeria and Morocco. It lasted from September 25, 1963, to October 30, 1963, although a formal peace treaty was not signed until February 20, 1964. The conflict was primarily triggered by the Moroccan government's claims to portions of Algeria's Tindouf and Béchar provinces.

The war began when Moroccan forces occupied the border towns of Hassi Beida and Tindjoub, leading to battles with Algerian forces for control over these areas. Algeria responded by opening a front near Ich, while Morocco launched an offensive towards Tindouf in the south¹. The conflict saw the involvement of external parties, with Cuban troops arriving in Algeria to support its defense.

The confrontation led to heightened tensions between the two countries for several decades. The ceasefire on October 30, 1963, marked the first multinational peacekeeping mission conducted by the Organisation of African Unity (OAU). The subsequent peace treaty left the borders unchanged, but the Sand War remains a poignant reminder of the complexities surrounding post-colonial border disputes in Africa.

wing this, Algeria has often positioned itself as a mediator in regional conflicts, emphasizing the need for African solutions to African problems. This stance is reflected in Algeria's involvement in the African Union's efforts to address border disputes, where it has contributed to the development of the African Union Border Programme (AUBP)². Algeria's mediation efforts are guided by its foreign policy, which prioritizes non-interference, respect for sovereignty, and the peaceful settlement of disputes, showcasing its role as a stabilizing force in the region.

II.1.1 The Evolution of Algeria's Diplomatic Approach

Over the decades, Algeria's diplomatic approach has evolved in response to shifting regional and over the decades, Algeria's diplomatic approach has evolved in response to shifting regional and global dynamics. From its early years following independence, marked by a commitment to anti-colonialism and solidarity with liberation movements, Algeria has transitioned into a proactive mediator and advocate for peace and stability in Africa and beyond. Its diplomatic efforts have become more nuanced and multifaceted, incorporating elements of economic diplomacy, multilateral engagement, and conflict resolution. Algeria's foreign policy priorities have expanded to include issues such as counterterrorism, migration, and sustainable development, reflecting its broader commitment to addressing contemporary challenges facing the international community. This evolution underscores Algeria's adaptive and pragmatic approach to diplomacy, grounded in its enduring principles of sovereignty, self-determination, and non-interference, while remaining responsive to the ever-changing global landscape.

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pragmatic approach to diplomacy, grounded in its enduring principles of sovereignty, self-determination, and non-interference, while re-maining responsive to the ever-changing global landscape.

II.1.2 Principles Guiding Algeria's Mediation Tactics

Algeria's mediation tactics are guided by a set of core principles rooted in its diplomatic tradition and strategic objectives. Central to its approach is the principle of impartiality, emphasizing Algeria's commitment to facilitating dialogue and negotiation without favoring any particular party. Moreover, Algeria prioritizes sovereignty and non-interference, ensuring that its mediation efforts respect the autonomy and self-determination of the parties involved. Transparency and inclusivity are also fundamental principles, as Algeria seeks to foster trust and legitimacy in the mediation process by engaging all relevant stakeholders and ensuring transparency in its actions. Additionally, Algeria's mediation tactics emphasize the importance of pragmatism and flexibility, allowing for adaptability to the unique dynamics of each conflict situation. Overall, these principles guide Algeria's mediation tactics, enabling it to effectively navigate complex diplomatic challenges and contribute to the peaceful resolution of conflicts in Africa and beyond.

II.2 Case Studies of Algerian Mediation

In the exploration of Algerian mediation efforts, this section will delve into specific case studies that highlight Algeria's role as a mediator in African border disputes. Through detailed analysis of these cases, we aim to uncover the strategies, challenges, and outcomes of Algeria's mediation efforts, providing valuable insights into its diplomatic approach and its impact on regional stability and conflict resolution.

II.2.1 The Western Sahara Dispute

In examining Algerian mediation efforts, a prominent case study is the Western Sahara dispute. Algeria has played a significant role in facilitating negotiations between conflicting parties and advocating for the self-determination of the Sahrawi people. As a neighboring

country and staunch supporter of the Polisario Front, Algeria has provided diplomatic and logistical support for the Sahrawi independence movement. Moreover, Algeria has actively engaged in international forums, such as the United Nations, to promote peaceful resolutions and ensure the implementation of relevant resolutions. Through an in-depth analysis of Algeria's involvement in the Western Sahara dispute, this case study offers valuable insights into its mediation strategies and its broader impact on regional dynamics.

II.2.2 The Mali- Niger Border conflict

Within the realm of Algerian mediation efforts, a pivotal case study is The Mali- Niger Border conflict. The Mali-Niger border conflict is deeply rooted in the broader security challenges of the Sahel region, where violent extremism and inter-communal tensions have escalated. The porous border areas have become flashpoints for clashes, often exacerbated by the activities of militant groups linked to al-Qaeda and the Islamic State. In one notable incident, an attack by militants in eastern Mali resulted in the loss of 24 Malian soldiers during a joint operation with Nigerien troops in the Gao border region¹. These conflicts are symptomatic of the larger issues facing the Sahel, including weak governance, economic instability, and the effects of climate change, which collectively fuel the cycle of violence and hinder efforts towards lasting peace. The Mali-Niger border conflict, rooted in colonial demarcations, has escalated due to extremist activities. Algeria, leveraging (exploiting) its historical experience in the region, has actively mediated in these disputes, notably through the Algiers Peace Agreement, and continues to support peace and stability in the Sahel through diplomatic efforts and conflict resolution initiatives.

II.2.2.1 Historical Context

The Mali-Niger border, stretching 828 km from the tripoint with Burkina Faso to the tripoint with Algeria, was first delineated during the European colonial Scramble for Africa¹. Post-independence, the border became an international one between two sovereign states in 1960¹.

II.2.2.2 Contemporary Conflict

The region has been plagued by violent extremism, with organizations such as Jama'at Nusrat al-Islam walMuslimeen (JNIM), Islamic State in the Greater Sahara (ISGS), and others exploiting the area to launch attacks². March 2022 was notably the deadliest month recorded since 1997, coinciding with renewed activity by ISGS along the Mali-Niger border².

II.2.2.3 Algeria's Mediation Role

Algeria has been recognized for its key role in reconciliation efforts in Mali and for promoting sustainable peace in the Sahel. It has led international mediation and chaired the monitoring committee for the Algiers Peace Agreement, which aims to consolidate stability in Mali³. Algeria's mediation has been crucial in attempts to resolve the low-intensity conflicts rooted over decades in the region.

II.2.3 Algeria's Mediation Role: A Historical Perspective

Algeria has played a significant role in mediating African border disputes, drawing on its historical experience and diplomatic principles. Since its independence, Algeria has been committed to supporting African unity and resolving conflicts through peaceful means. A notable example is the **Sand War** of 1963, where Algeria and Morocco engaged in a military confrontation over border disputes¹. Following this, Algeria has often positioned itself as a mediator in regional conflicts, emphasizing the need for African solutions to African problems. This stance is reflected in Algeria's involvement in the African Union's efforts to address border disputes, where it has contributed to the development of the African Union Border Programme (AUBP)². Algeria's mediation efforts are guided by its foreign policy, which prioritizes non-interference, respect for sovereignty, and the peaceful settlement of disputes, showcasing its role as a stabilizing force in the region.

Algeria's involvement in the Libyan crisis has been primarily diplomatic, focusing on mediation between conflicting parties to prevent the spread of ISIS and secure the Sahel region. Despite the security vacuum in Libya and threats along its borders, Algeria has maintained a neutral stance, leveraging its long-standing diplomatic ties for conflict resolution and stability in North Africa.

II.3 Assessing Algeria's Mediation Impact

In evaluating the effectiveness of Algeria's mediation efforts, this section seeks to assess the impact of its diplomatic interventions on resolving African border disputes. Through a comprehensive analysis of Algeria's role as a mediator, including its strategies, challenges, and outcomes, we aim to provide a nuanced understanding of its contributions to regional stability and conflict resolution. By examining key indicators such as ceasefire agreements, peace accords, and long-term peacebuilding initiatives, we will evaluate the tangible outcomes of Algeria's mediation endeavors. Additionally, we will explore the perceptions of stakeholders and the broader international community regarding Algeria's mediation impact, shedding light on its reputation and influence in African diplomacy. Through this assessment, we endeavor to uncover the strengths and limitations of Algeria's mediation approach and offer recommendations for enhancing its effectiveness in future conflict resolution efforts.

To assess Algeria's mediation impact in African border disputes, one can consider the following points:

- 1) **Historical Context:** Algeria has a history of involvement in regional disputes, often taking a stance rooted in its own foreign policy principles. For instance, Algeria's support for the Polisario Front in the Western Sahara dispute with Morocco reflects its long-standing policy of supporting self-determination movements.
- 2) **Theoretical Frameworks:** The effectiveness of Algeria's mediation can be analyzed through various theoretical lenses such as realism, liberalism, and constructivism. Realism might focus on Algeria's strategic interests, liberalism on the role of international institutions and cooperation, and constructivism on the influence of Algeria's identity and norms on its mediation role.
- 3) **Case Studies:** Examining specific instances where Algeria has acted as a mediator can provide insights into its impact. For example, Algeria's role in the Mali conflict and its

efforts to mediate in the Nile dam dispute between Egypt, Sudan, and Ethiopia² can be analyzed for their outcomes and the strategies employed.

- 4) Practical Analysis: The practical impact of Algeria's mediation can be assessed by looking at the resolution of conflicts, the durability of peace agreements, and the extent to which Algeria's mediation has been accepted by the conflict-ing parties.

II.3.1 Successes in Diplomatic Interventions

As Algeria navigates the complex geopolitical landscape of Africa, its diplomatic interventions have emerged as a cornerstone of its foreign policy. This section delves into the multifaceted successes of Algeria's diplomatic endeavors, highlighting its strategic role on the United Nations Security Council, its principled mediation in regional conflicts, and its revitalized global presence. Through a series of proactive measures and a steadfast commitment to its anti-colonial roots, Algeria has not only championed the cause of self-determination but has also reasserted itself as a pivotal mediator and stabilizing force in African geopolitics.”

Algeria's diplomatic landscape is marked by a series of strategic triumphs and principled actions that have significantly shaped its role as a mediator and peacebuilder in Africa; this section will explore these pivotal interventions that underscore the nation's commitment to fostering stability and self-determination on the continent.

- 1) United Nations Security Council Membership: Algeria's election as a non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council in 2023 is a testament to its diplomatic successes and the strong return of Algerian diplomacy on the global stage.
- 2) Mediation Efforts: Algeria's foreign policy has been characterized by its active mediation efforts, particularly in the African continent. Its role in the Mali conflict and support for national liberation movements like the Polisario Front and the Palestinian cause are examples of its commitment to conflict resolution and self-determination²³.

- 3) Diplomatic Relations: The assertive foreign policy approach of Algeria, including high-level meetings and visits by officials such as Army Chief of Staff Said Chengriha and Foreign Minister Ramtane Lamamra, has been instrumental in rehabilitating Algeria's image and influence after years of absence².
- 4) Regional Stability: Algeria's diplomatic actions, especially in its immediate neighborhood like Libya and the Sahel, reflect its dedication to regional stability and security. Despite challenges, Algeria has strived to maintain its influence and mediate in crises, showcasing its diplomatic prowess³.
- 5) Anti-Colonial Stance: Algeria's historical anti-colonial stance and support for self-determination have been central to its foreign policy. This principled position has allowed Algeria to expand its geostrategic influence and serve as a voice for oppressed peoples².
- 6) Foreign Policy Revamp: The post-Hirak leadership under President Abdelmadjid Tebboune has launched an all-out effort to make Algeria's diplomacy more dynamic and proactive, aiming to regain its influence both regionally and globally.

II.3.2 Challenges and Limitations of Mediation Efforts

Algeria's role as a mediator in African border disputes is fraught with challenges, including the perceived legitimacy of its position, which is essential for the acceptance and effectiveness of mediation efforts. The country's economic and military capacities are limited, potentially affecting its influence and ability to enforce agreements. Regional and international dynamics often complicate the mediation landscape, with external interests sometimes undermining neutrality. A critical challenge lies in addressing the root causes of conflicts, which, if overlooked, can lead to the failure of peace agreements. The involvement of non-state actors and the practice of deadline diplomacy can both support and hinder the process, requiring careful management. Lastly, foreign involvement, particularly from powers

with vested interests, can intensify tensions, making peaceful resolutions more elusive, as exemplified by the strained relations between Morocco and Algeria. These challenges underscore the need for strategic approaches and robust frameworks to enhance the efficacy of Algeria's mediation efforts in African border disputes.

II.3.3 The Future of Algerian Diplomacy in Africa

The future of Algerian diplomacy in Africa is poised to navigate a complex landscape marked by both opportunities and challenges. Recent years have seen Algeria reassert itself on the international stage, capitalizing on geopolitical shifts such as the war in Ukraine to fill energy voids and assert its influence within the African Union and Arab League¹. However, this newfound assertiveness must be balanced against historical non-interventionist policies and skepticism towards Western powers, particularly its former colonizer, France, and the United States

Algeria's diplomatic future will likely involve managing its relationships with key global players, including the United States, China, and Russia, which are its partners in counterterrorism, main trading partners, and primary arms suppliers, respectively. The country's approach to foreign policy has traditionally been characterized by restraint and nonalignment, emphasizing that nonalignment does not equate to neutrality.

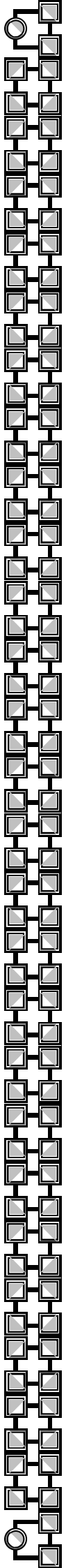
However, there are calls for a more restrained foreign policy to avoid unnecessary regional and international pressures. Algeria's international voice has faced challenges, with some suggesting that its diplomacy is in decline, leading to regional and global isolation. The breakdown of diplomatic relations with Morocco over ideological differences and territorial claims further complicates the regional integration essential for the Maghreb's stability.

In summary, the future of Algerian diplomacy in Africa will likely be defined by its ability to leverage strategic opportunities while maintaining a careful balance of power among global influences, addressing regional tensions, and fostering integration within the Maghreb and the broader African continent.

Conclusion

As Algeria navigates the evolving geopolitical landscape of Africa, its diplomacy is poised to play a pivotal role. The future of Algerian diplomacy in Africa is likely to be characterized by a more assertive stance, as it seeks to capitalize on opportunities to expand its influence and leadership, particularly in the context of regional stability and economic integration. Despite challenges, such as the recent diplomatic break with Morocco, Algeria's commitment to African unity and its historical role as a mediator suggest that it will continue to strive for a cooperative and peaceful continent. The nation's diplomatic efforts will be crucial in addressing the complex issues facing Africa, from border disputes to political transitions, underscoring Algeria's potential to shape a more secure and prosperous future for the region.

General Conclusion



General conclusion

In conclusion, this thesis has provided a comprehensive analysis of Algeria's foreign policy and its role in mediating African border disputes. By delving into the historical context, diplomatic principles, and mediation tactics of Algeria.

Algeria's foreign policy, deeply rooted in its struggle for independence, has been characterized by a steadfast commitment to sovereignty and non-interference, principles that have guided its mediation efforts in African border disputes. Post-independence, Algeria faced immediate territorial challenges, notably the Sand War with Morocco in 1963, which set the stage for its long-standing support for the Polisario Front in the Western Sahara conflict. This support is emblematic of Algeria's broader approach to African diplomacy, where it has often positioned itself as a mediator in regional disputes, leveraging its historical experience and diplomatic principles to foster stability and peace. Despite internal social, economic, and political transformations, Algeria has maintained a consistent foreign policy, shaped by both domestic imperatives and geostrategic considerations, particularly in light of the political upheavals in neighboring countries like Mali, Tunisia, and Libya¹². Algerian diplomacy continues to navigate these complex dynamics, balancing its historical stances with the evolving realities of regional security and cooperation.

Future Research Directions

Building on the thesis findings, future research on Algerian diplomacy could take several paths to deepen our understanding of its role in Africa. A comparative analysis of Algeria's mediation strategies against those of other key African states would illuminate diverse diplomatic practices within the continent. Delving into Algeria's economic diplomacy, especially its engagement with the African Continental Free Trade Area and energy sector partnerships, could reveal the interconnections between economic policies and diplomatic relations. Assessing Algeria's participation and influence in regional organiza-

General Conclusion

tions, such as the African Union and the Arab Maghreb Union, would provide insight into how these entities shape its foreign policy. In-depth case studies on Algeria's involvement in lesser-known conflicts would offer granular perspectives on its mediation approaches. Furthermore, exploring the nexus between domestic political dynamics and foreign policy could uncover how internal shifts impact Algeria's stance on continental issues. Lastly, applying international relations theories to Algeria's foreign policy actions could yield theoretical frameworks that explain its diplomatic behavior. These avenues promise a comprehensive exploration of the intricacies of Algerian diplomacy and its implications for the future of Africa.



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