# The Algerian Coup in Light of British Documents

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Received: 8/4/2026
Accepted: 9/6/2026
Published: 30/9/2026

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**DOI:**https://doi.org/10.59759/art.v5i3.2077

## Abstract

This paper examines the Algerian 19/61965 coup based on the British archives analyzing both its political-military and its external-internal triggers within the umbrella of addressing the military sector's impact in determining the form of political power post-independence.

By adopting a descriptive-historical methodologically analytically following the screening of official British records focusing on intelligence and diplomatic records as well as Arabic and foreign documentation, the study applies historical framework to evaluate coup documentation reliability placing them within the context of their background and politics as production.

In principle, this paper contributes to expanding the historiographical examination of the 1965 coup via the document perceptions of British archives, which pinpoints non-domestic understanding of political evaluation of post-colonial Algerian shifts. Additionally

The paper's direction adopts a qualitative comparison approach between domestic narratives and the British ones in tracking the history of the military coup to present an objective conception of Algerian political events and its various dynamics.

**Keywords:** The Algerian Coup1965, The British Archives, The Military Institution, The Algerian Political History.

# انقلاب الجزائر في ضوء الوثائق البريطانية

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## ملخص

هدفت هذه الدراسة إلى تحليل انقلاب 19 يونيو 1965 في الجزائر في ضوء الوثائق البريطانية، والكشف عن أبعاده السياسية والعسكرية، ودوافعه الداخلية والخارجية، وطبيعة الدور الذي لعبته المؤسسة العسكرية في إعادة تشكيل السلطة السياسية بعد الاستقلال.

اعتمدت الدراسة المنهج التاريخي التحليلي، من خلال تحليل الوثائق البريطانية الرسمية، ولا سيما التقارير الدبلوماسية والاستخباراتية، إلى جانب الاستفادة من المصادر العربية والأجنبية ذات الصلة، وتم توظيف أسلوب النقد التاريخي الداخلي والخارجي للوثائق، بهدف التحقق من مصداقيتها وفهم سياق إنتاجها السياسي والزمني.

تسهم هذه الورقة البحثية في تقديم فهما أكثر موضوعية لتاريخ الانقلاب الجزائري سنة 1965 بواسطة تتبي مصادر أجنبية حساسة كالأرشيف البريطاني، مما يضيف فهما واقعيا غير محليا للتغيرات السياسية الجزائرية التي تبعت مرحلة الاستعمار.

وتتبنى الدراسة مقارنة نوعية بين السرديات المحلية والبريطانية في تتبع أثر تاريخ الانقلاب العسكري لتقديم شفافية غير حيادية للتحولات الجزائرية وديناميكيته المختلفة.

**الكلمات المفتاحية:** انقلاب الجزائر 1965، الوثائق البريطانية، المؤسسة العسكرية، التاريخ السياسي الجزائري.

## 1. Introduction

### 1.1 Background

The Arab World since the mid-twentieth century has witnessed a series of dynamic political changes, particularly triggered by rising military powers and arms coups that dramatically transitioned governance from traditional systems toward centralized authorities instead of monarchical or civilian regimes. These transformations covered prominent events such as in Egypt (1952), Sudan (1958

and 1965), Algeria (1965), and Libya (1969). These shifts have involved extreme changes politically, socially, and economically upon the military seizure of political power. As a result, state sovereignty was not the only role of the military amidst these shifts, as they extended to hold control of governance pillars and political decision-making.

The timespan between 1952 and 1969 carries massive significance in analyzing the political phenomenon of military coups in the Arab World incorporating dynamic regional-international conditions including Arab nationalist outbreaks, anti-colonial political movements, the Arab-Israeli conflict, and the escalation of the Cold War between the US and USSR. Therefore, the Middle East turned as a political theatre for global rivalry between superpowers, while coups filled reshaping positions of power in the MENA region. This paper particularly the 1965 Algerian coup where the post-colonial ruling by Ahmed Ben Bella was removed by military nationalist coup by Houari Boumediène, characterizing a critical phase in which military appeared as the main political instrument in the removal of removal of traditional regimes and re-constructing what was later called as 'revolutionary legitimacy'.

Conducting historical-analytical examination of military coups in the Arab World carries inherent sensitivity due to the nature of political secrecy surrounding these events for security and strategic dimensions. Therefore, collecting non-biased information about such political shifts including the 1965 coup in Algeria can be challenging, particularly due to accessibility reasons on the one hand, and the contradictions of domestic vs. external narratives on the other hand. Therefore, re-assessment of these materials necessitates historical-analytical objective examination of the contextualization of events and the terminological analysis of reports, intelligence information, archives, and different types of narratives internally and externally. Thus, by adopting methodological lens descriptively, historically, and analytically, this paper reveals non-traditional dimension of the political event of the 1965 Algeria coup based on foreign perspectives, particularly the British archives instead of over-relying on domestic

and official narratives, paving the way for non-biased understanding of the political events, and not to mention its social and economic impacts. These archives include testimony of military leaders, memoirs, and official documents preserved in the National Archives in the United Kingdom.

## 2.1 Literature Review

The Algerian coup on 19 June 1965 is considered a turning point in modern Algerian state political history, especially as it constitutes significant power configuration after independence. Under Houari Boumediène's leadership, Minister of Defense and Vice President, the military industry gained control post overthrowing the President Ahmed Ben Bella. `At that point, the political organization was colossally reshaped and put into application after liberation from the French colonial regime in 1962. The new leadership coined the coup as a 'Revolutionary Correction' characterizing its systematic political nature. Algeria was facing serious challenges in maintaining the state post-colonial rule, as Stora (2012) emphasizes that constant conflict between political powers and military industry escalated within the National Liberation Front (FLN). By way of illustration, Ben Bella opted for authoritarian centralism minimizing military power by establishing a centralized ruling party. Differently, Boumédiène's senior leadership went for centralizing the military sector instead to protect national interest amidst dynamic regional-international events consequence due to the Cold War.

Al-Saadi (2022, pp. 269-286) emphasizes that examination via foreign sources such as the British records is crucial in obtaining deeper understanding of the 1965 Algerian coup provided that they offer external viewpoints that extend beyond official narratives. While reports of intelligence and diplomatic British documentation, incorporating embassy files from Algiers, correspondence of diplomacy and strategic political evaluation, record Algerian political developments as noted by international officials within the context of Cold War political clashes between Eastern and Western spheres.

The coup is considered a political turning point in the political system of Algeria, resulting in the dissolution of the National Assembly, constitutional suspension, and the launching of the Revolutionary Council by the new political

leadership of Boumédiène's party. This shift triggered one-party exclusive ruling and the direction toward centralized state power. Researchers have noted that these successive events of political developments led to major long-term political aspects of Algeria's political system. These changes included minimizing forms of freedom such as civil engagement in political decision-making, and the expansion of military power in politics and main pillars of governance. For instance, Stora (2012) further affirms that Boumédiène built a military-centered state joining the 'army-state nexus', establishing authoritarian nationalist priority of military intervention in Algerian politics.

Therefore, the importance of examining the 1965 coup as documented in British records constitutes the availability of external objective examination as a political-critical reading of Algerian political domestics. This document safeguarding political criticism from nationalist tendencies biases while offering a broader perspective of how international powers reacted to Algeria's domestic political shifts within the context of the Cold War. Therefore, following this type of historical adoption supports an analytical approach to re-read domestic political events, foreign policy directions, and the nature of military power in Algerian politics.

Barei (2003) notes that Algeria's independence in 1962 post violent wars, constituting regional political encouragement for the whole African continent under colonization. The Algerian War (1954-1962) is considered a vital shift in the process of decolonizing the region, provided the fact that British policymakers observed French colonial systems, their implications, and imperial interests in Africa. Furthermore, Torrent (2023) emphasizes that post Rhodesia's Unilateral Declaration of Independence on 18 December 1965, Algeria's diplomacy with the UK deteriorated as protests rose against the Labour government's non-force actions regarding white minority regime in Salisbury. Despite diplomatic attempts, UK's relations with Algeria were unstable until restored in April 1968, when there were shared interests in Algeria's decolonization process, policy-making controversies in Africa, untenable adherence to the European Economic Community, and the establishment of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

Furthermore, Rajak (2023, pp. 661–680) addresses Tito (President of Yugoslavia and co-founder of Non-Aligned Movement) and Bella's meetings in March 1964 and April 1965. These meetings were in the critical time of the evolutionary development of the Non-Aligned Movement, evidently constituted in Belgrade's 1961 Conference and Cairo second conference in 1964. These encounters of both leaders shape ideological clashes, political ambitions, and unknown future that consequently shaped Third World and Polarization of the Cold War.

Kesseiri (2005) pinpoints the significance of ideological tensions in determining the direction of Algeria's foreign policy during the leadership of Boumédiène between 1965 and 1978, evaluating political and diplomatic perspectives constituting policy-making and political decision-making on foreign affairs. By way of illustration, Byrne (2009, pp. 427–447) places the Algerian state within the global arena and Cold War polarities constituting its ideological situation of socialism in the 1960s. This aspect emphasizes the trajectory of political attention drawn to Algeria post its liberation from colonization. Al-Saadi (2022, pp. 269-286) further emphasizes that upon Boumédiène's hold of political authority, the country went through different forms of shifts domestically, socially, politically, and economically. Additionally, Mohamed and Al-Morsi (2016) have conducted investigations of the 1965 movement in June alongside the political rising impact of Egypt addressing surrounding regional events and establishing political legitimacy of the coup.

Overall, reviewing the current research, this paper highlights that there is scarcity in adopting foreign narratives such as British reports and archives in interpreting political dynamics of the 1965 coup. Even though numerous studies have examined this political shift of Algeria's history, adoption of foreign sources as primary offers non-biased understanding of the political trajectory of the new political system post the 1965 coup. More specifically, this paper follows the descriptive-analytical examination as historically investigated in previous studies, while integrating British documentation as a reliable foreign source for understanding a major political shift in the history of Algeria and that shaped its modern reality today.

This analysis incorporates understanding Algeria's global standing, relevance of policy-making to domestic political changes, and constituting an analytical framework applicable to future literature on examining country-specific political shifts such as the political turning point of Algerian coup in 1965. Ultimately, addressing the research question and problem, the study emphasizes that Algeria had major political shifts pertaining to coups on the part of the military that controlled the direction of how both state and society are shaped. Examining British archives to understand these political transformations particularly the 1965 coup is underexplored in literature, as this study highlights the significance of external sources as an encounter to official narratives of the event. These files carry non-domestic perceptions, engagements of diplomacy, and intelligence info with respect to regional and international rising events surrounding the coup at that time.

The problem the study is tackling is the scarcity of exploring external sources, building a comparative-based historical examination between foreign documentation and domestic narratives. Therefore, this paper mainly addresses this research question: What perceptions and political perspectives of the underlying domestic triggers, course of internal shifts, and consequences of the 1965 coup in Algeria deduced and documented in the British archives, and what differences lie between British reports and records and those documented from the traditional domestic narratives?

## 2. Method

### 1.2 Research Design

This research adopts a descriptive-analytical methodology adopting historical-political criticism of British archival documentation tracing Algerian internal shifts, perceptions, and narrative-based perspectives. The research design consists of examining the dynamics of the 1965 coup in Algeria politically, historically, and perceptually via comparative approach of differences between British documentation constituting external sources as opposed to official domestic narratives.

### 2.2 Data Collection & Analysis

This study analyzes the event of the nationalist coup by looking at wide context politically and within its temporal frame, reshaping political perception of the significance of the event and evaluating its implications via chronological-historical tracing of its documentation externally and internally. Therefore, the study undertakes a set of analytical steps in deducing perceptions and political facts from the documents including:

1) Reviewing existing research addressing the particular Algerian shift and frameworks that adopt an archival-historical approach in providing political understanding of domestic shifts.
2) Examining British records, particularly reports, intelligence files, and diplomacy documentation relevant to the political event of the coup.
3) Carrying out a perceptual comparison between British archives and official narratives, highlighting perceptual, ideological, and political interest differences.

## 3. Findings And Discussion

### 1.3 Underlying Triggers of the 1965 Coup

The Algerian coup was a result of multiple relevant factors that shaped the domestic political shift constituted as a military coup. It was not a mere personal clash between two political parties or leaders, especially that there were rising legacy challenges that required for the new political power to balance issues amidst the revolution and power transfer assuring political re-shaping. Therefore, the study highlights the underlying dynamic triggers and causes of the coup by revealing involved political factors such as struggle over political legitimacy and state orientation, societal demands, public perceptions, and constituting a national economy capable of facing economic crises and establishing economic domestic reshaping. All of such factors play a role in the emergence of the 1965 coup.

#### 1.1.3 Political Factors

Between 1963 and 1965, the three-year period post-independence is considered massively unstable characterizing political turbulence and clashes

within top political classes. As a result, getting rid of colonialism was not an end in itself, as the challenge later revolved around the formation of the new state, implementation of political legitimacy, and power balances and distribution. On the other sphere, institutions triggered controversies that intensified the action and political justification for military intervention.

❖ Post-Independence Conflicts

The Algerian struggle did not conclude with independence in 1962; rather, it shifted to a new arena—the contest over state identity and the nature of governance. The Algerian strive did not stop at granting independence in 1962 as the state transformed into a crisis of political identity and governance issues. The higher political classes were divided into opposing directions whether adoption of traditional-Islamic ruling or support for one-party secular European-like systems. Constitutional instability and legitimacy turbulence maximized the disturbance of political clashes and elite rivalry within the spectrums of the National Liberation Army. The 1962 summer crisis reveals the transformation of political competitions into domestic forms of violence.

Within the wave of nationalism, Algeria had an optimistic perception toward the country's future after independence; however, this collective feeling was backfired with domestic political complications due to power clashes over the future-assigned political party. By way of illustration, FLN senior officials did not manage to outline a well-defined direction for domestic governance, while other party officials opted for military centralization under Bell's leadership. There are other types of groups as well that politically favor military establishment within the reconstruction of both party and state. This politically-stressful environment became realized as a conflict between the Provisional Government of the Algerian Republic and National Liberation Army impacting massively the nature of the armed clash.

Intelligibly, this political shift overall constituted singularized opposition against colonialism; however, the power transfer resulted in having party rivalry for determining mode of governance and military scale of intervention within the

state. Consequently, Bella's remaining party factions aiming to restore power were opposed by rising leaders who viewed post-colonial rule as threatening the power of armed forces and institutional power of political parties.

Furthermore, other political entities such as the Socialist Forces Front under the leadership of Hocine Aït Ahmed in 1963 domestically opposed party authoritarianism and establishment of non-polarity power dynamics. This post-independence political reality consisted of not only power struggles, but also the potential future of governance forms and the aspect of political diversity within Algeria's new political system. For instance, Bella's direction was about authority centralization minimising any revolutionary modes within the system, leading to later clashes with civic powers and military industry that looked up to revolutionary figures (Harbi, 1983, p. 255).

The examination of this critical period manifests the nature of political clashes within upper classes and political parties that incorporate personal competitions for forming their desired legitimacy, while civil institutes were diminished leading to expectations of military intervention in balancing power struggles; and thus, the occurrence of 1965 coup. The leading causes triggering the 1965 is vividly detailed in the following two report below:

CIA-RDP79R01012A026100040001-9

Document CIA-RDP79R01012A026100040001-9 indicates that political tensions and weak institutional structures after independence increased elite rivalries and hindered the effectiveness of civilian governance, creating fertile ground for military intervention.

CIA-RDP79R01012A026100040001-9

Document CIA-RDP79R01012A026100040001-9 indicates that, in the aftermath of independence, Algeria inherited a highly fragile and crisis-ridden economy, characterized by severe destruction of infrastructure resulting from colonial policies, heavy dependence on raw-material exports, and a significant lack of institutional capacity for reconstruction and development. The document further explains that this inherited economic structure constrained the newly

established Algerian state's ability to provide effective public services or generate sufficient employment opportunities, which negatively affected economic and social stability in the post-independence period and posed profound structural challenges to state-building efforts and comprehensive development.

❖ Leadership Clash: Bella vs. Boumédiène

This post-independence reality resulted in rising tension between the two leaders and their parties. Despite the fact that they had preliminary agreement on both revolutionary and military levels of intervention, yet, it shifted later toward power struggles. More specifically, Bella opted for governance centralization and personalized authority diminishing institutional powers and neutralization of other political parties manifested in the deconstruction of REvolutionary Council and the support of the National Assembly. On the other political sphere, Boumédiène's party saw this direction as a risk to both the state and military, leading primarily to the marginalization of military sectors. The disagreement heated more being viewed as existential collision especially the military's role could be diminished in governance matters.

Over a continuous three-year period, the question of authority remained central to Algeria's political struggles. Beginning with the 1962 crisis, followed by the conflict between party secretary-general Mohamed Khider and President Ben Bella—ultimately resolved in favor of the latter—then the emergence of the Socialist Forces Front in 1963 under Hocine Aït Ahmed, and culminating in the 1964 rebellion led by Colonel Chaabani, these episodes reflected the intensity of internal power contests. Rather than stabilizing the political system, these confrontations contributed to further deterioration in Algeria's economic and social conditions. The conflict reached its decisive turning point with the "Corrective Movement" coup of 19 June 1965, led by Boumédiène against his former ally, Ben Bella.

In three years-time, power struggles over political authority remained the central issue to Algeria beginning in the 1962 crisis where Mohamed Khider,

party secretary-general and President Bella, settled for Bella eventually. The Socialist Forces Front followed in 1963, under leadership of Hocine Aït Ahmed, developed later in 1964 as a rebellion led by Colonel Chaabani. These successive events mirrored the level of escalation of domestic struggles, instead of balancing the political system resulting in the decline of Algeria's social and economic apparatus. The "Corrective Movement" represents the turning point when the coup occurred on 19 June 1965 by Boumédiène for the removal of his ex-ally; Ben Bella. This political point of Algeria's history constitutes similar instability as the dimensions of the 1962 crisis via military involvement. In other words, the same military power that brought Bella to political authority removed him from presidency (Hisher, 2018, p. 79).

Despite that the early leadership in office by Boumédiène was not as tense as Bella's ruling, he encountered opposition from prominent political figures such as Mohamed Boudiaf, Hocine Aït Ahmed, Krim Belkacem, and Ahmed Mahsas. Nonetheless, Boumédiène controlled most of the forms of resistance as military alleged loyalty to his party and politically and unified under the Revolutionary Council. However, his early period remained full of unrest triggered by Chief of Staff Colonel Tahar Zbiri on 14 December 1967 for attempting the overthrow of his leadership and Council (Hisher, 2018, p. 89). These political forms of opposition were then in their direction supported by Amazigh and Islamic resisting youth movements.

The strife between the two leaders: Bella vs. Boumédiène reveals Algeria's peak power struggle provided that institutional authorities were diminished and the state's future was in the hands of any potential military intervention and thus, the party's power centralization. The involvement of armed forces in 1965 was thus an accumulative consequence of many interventions attempts to resolve power disputes and reconstruct the shape of Algeria's state post-independence. The following report pinpoints power limitation of civilian intervention:

CIA-RDP79-00927A005000090002-8

Document CIA-RDP79-00927A005000090002-8 shows that escalating disputes between President Ahmed Ben Bella and Chief of Staff Houari

Boumédiène, combined with ineffective political institutions, weakened civilian authority and enabled military intervention.

### 2.1.3 Social Factors

Algeria as a society was loaded with tragedies of hundred-thousands of martyrs, forced immigration, and political instabilities. The newly-grounded political structure constitutes a colossal hindrance in re-implementing this society civilly and satisfying public ambitions who fought for their independence. Nonetheless, the variance between public perceptions and the state's ability resulted in firing political chaos.

❖ Post-Revolution Social Challenges

Algeria dramatically went from 'revolutionary structure' amidst liberation to a 'civil society' requiring welfare and public services. The state encountered colossal obstacles in gathering thousands of Islamic fighters (mujahideen) into the reconstruction of the state and having them as integral part of the economic system, recovery of displacement, and minimizing illiteracy levels as populations during colonialism. Moreover, the failure of the state to steer the shift efficiently led to the neglect of ex-fighters, and public frustration.

Algeria in 1962 had its independence declaration post the 125 French colonialism. Radical shifts in this period were resulted out of colonial ruling strategies in distorting Algerian traditions such as social solidarity, tribal kinship, clan system, and religious traditions as for adopting Western values such as freedom of speech, capitalist mindset, and individualism.

The goal was to diminish the social power of mutual support and people's bonds which constitutes a powerful resisting force against any form of invasion. As a consequence, the society suffered from fragility and vulnerability for suppressing their demands and wants, thus, diminishing any opposing powers.

Nonetheless, this colonialism in determining the social hierarchy and submitting the Algerians was not that strategically efficient. Despite colonialism's

attempts to distort tribal systems and resettling and thus oppressive camping of massive populations, their policies were not successful in destroying the collective spirit of Algerians morally and socially. In fact, Indigenous roots of religion and social values stayed resisting against these colonial oppressing attempts. This is evident by the massive liberation movement that eventually succeeded in declaring independence but with many sacrifices nationwide in Algeria's history of liberation from French colonial rule (Ben Aouda, 2023, p. 255). This political post-colonial feeling amongst institutions is reported in the following document:

CIA‑RDP79R01012A026100040001‑9

Document CIA‑RDP79R01012A026100040001‑9 emphasizes that social dislocation, high expectations among the population, and post-war trauma created widespread discontent, weakening the authority of civilian institutions.

### 3.1.3 Unemployment

Unemployment, specifically in graduates of youth and school graduates, embodied the most challenging social issues. The economy after the war was inefficient in providing job opportunities in the labor market. Unemployment had two angles: first: urban citizens and second: institutional along with graduates who aspired for elevating employment levels after the declaration of independence. Unemployment turned not only as an economic issue, but also as a political risk, especially that jobless youth formed protesting potentials and collision with the new government, thus, placing tensions among upper classes' perception of stability threats. Furthermore, Abdel Naser and Al-Aali (2025, p. 98) emphasize that Algeria post-independence went through many ordeals economically and socially that disturbed market functionality. At that time, there were significant levels of unemployment especially with systematic lack of training and qualifications. This consequence of joblessness was mirrored in the position shortages in the economic and administrative institutes which demand an advanced set of criteria. As a result, the government targets employment issues aiming to minimize joblessness for providing more job opportunities and achieving justice economically and

socially. Also, successive states attempted to fulfil these economic obligations by applying policies in terms of two primary stages. First stage targeted directed-based economy in which the government relies on public-sector hiring policies where it is possible to invest more significantly in public institutions, enterprises, and supporting the overall public economy. From a different sphere, the market economy in the 90s incorporated a new stage of employment strategies supporting individualistic efforts manifested in entrepreneurship, small and middle-class businesses and implementing youth-employment programs including professional implementations and hiring policies.

Therefore, providing job opportunities for the youth within the market forms an integral policy to achieve social justice and economic equality. Nonetheless, the expansive public-hiring approach as a first reformative model suffered from colossal obstacles such as low productivity economically, particularly with rising population growth and the maximization of crises financially in the 80s. Moreover, market-based strategies as an alternative model in offering job opportunities remained unstable as unemployment levels stayed significant among graduates. Additionally, the non-official sector constitutes an integral role of the labor reflecting economic instabilities within applied policies. These models mirror defaults in handling in depth structural-based economic plans to satisfy needs and demands among Algerian youth and citizens. This aspect is reflected in the following repot:

CIA‑RDP79‑00927A005000090002‑8

Document CIA-RDP79-00927A005000090002-8 reports that unemployment and lack of opportunities for educated youth contributed to social unrest and undermined public confidence in civilian rule.

### 4.1.3Economic Factors

Algeria post-independence struggled with a suffering economy that was shaped to serve colonial ruling and interests. The government encountered major

challenges including reconstructing the devastated infrastructure, dramatically changing the colonial-based economy into a nationalist productive market while supporting financing and nationalizing domestic resources. For instance, Bella's system was not efficient in offering practical economic policies that turned the financial crises as a pressuring burden on the regime.

Moreover, the political clashes have backfired in later stages, inheriting both social and economic consequences in determining the direction of the political crisis. These consequences incorporate a severe rate of unemployment, economic-structural fragility and social injustice; all of which led to political chaos within Algerian politics.

### 4.1.3Difficulties of Reconstruction and Economic Development after Independence.

The new regime was in an impossible situation in which infrastructure including bridges, villages, factories, and roads was in ruins, which demanded nationwide economic reconstruction from the very beginning. The state was reliant on a three-year strategy; yet, it faced hindrances due to lack of capital and financial experience and over-reliance on external and foreign support. These procedures apply to financial self-administration in ruined lands, factories, and farms leading to financial and productivity instabilities. The economic result is stagnancy due to lacking in goods, prices fluctuations, and continual striving. Economic re-structuring post-independence struggle with underlying obstacles in depth rooted from colonial imperialism and post-effects of Liberation. The mission extended beyond war casualties, as the situation maximized for the necessity of conducting a national economic state that turns ruins into better conditions.

Lack of not only financial capital, but also lack of human capital was another challenge that resulted out of widespread illiteracy under colonialism. Upon independence declaration, illiteracy amounted to 90 percent while having only elite educated minorities. Additionally, decline in medical, engineering, educational, and administrative industries led to the deprivation of sustainable programs and the availability of public services. These challenges were maximized by demographic and social instabilities mirrored in a growth rate of 3.2 percent in population

rapidly resulting in posing more pressure on scarcity of resources. The government also needed to deal with almost two-million displaced people and not to mention the massive number of three-hundred thousand refugees abroad. Also, joblessness and poverty led to a stagnant market, and thus, leading to national economic crisis.

The state ended up with economic burdens and massive structural liabilities. Also, the national economy was suffering from ex-colonial debts and war damage costs, and not to mention, over-reliance on raw material exports such as hydrocarbons resulting in weakening the national market to international fluctuations and creating various types of obstacles to the development of national industries, especially with the economic dependency of manufactured and goods such as food products. The accumulative consequences of such economic challenges were consistently accompanied with unemployment crises. As mentioned before, public-sector employment following the model of directed economy also impacted levels of productivity negatively and caused extensive economic burdens. While adopting market-economy model, there remained significant levels of joblessness among youth and university graduates, white also, informal sector continued expanding, mirroring policy insufficiency in tackling instabilities within inherited and rooted structures that needs reconstruction of materials and state pillars for addressing this unified national strive for more efficient economy (Mohamed, 2023, p. 250). Economic disturbance is reported in the following document:

CIA‑RDP79R01012A026100040001‑9

Document CIA‑RDP79R01012A026100040001‑9 indicates that the post-independence Algerian economy was highly fragile, dependent on exports, and lacked institutional capacity for reconstruction and development.

### 2.3 How the Coup Occurred

This section shows that the overthrow of Ben Bella's ruling was not a result of a referendum or democratic political change, as the new state came through a well-excuted military coup, reflecting its new transformations of power dimensions

within the state institutions and its relation to military industry. Moreover, this study highlights the phases of the military operation planned in 1965 where Boumédiène's procedures aimed at capturing the totality of the political authority of the state. Moreover, this section analyzes the chronology of Algerian army's growth from the beginning of its emergence from FLN and to its shift toward liberation constituting a major power construction after independence declaration.

### 1.2.3 Execution of 1965 Military Coup

The call for removing Bella's power was not accidental at all, especially there were pre-planned military maneuvers within the Defense Ministry along with narrowed groups of Boumédiène's officers and supporters. This military secretive move turned into a new political reality, relying on military-based loyalty, secret communication, and hub gatherings in which the move was conducted while Bella was negligent about the political stability of his own party's power.

❖ Engineering the Coup — From Secret Deliberation to Structured Plan

The coup's pillar, therefore, consisted of meetings secretly conducted by the 'Oujda group' led by Boumédiène, which had prominent officers such as Abdelaziz Bouteflika, Ali Kafi, and senior officers. In this case, Bell was able to hold control of presidential security; however, he was behind in controlling military moves and political forms of loyalty.

Additionally, the primary objective was to remove any form of political presidential powers via taking control of capital barracks by arm forces leading to blocking any form of communication between Bella and any potential outside triggers, and thus, the coup was successful in seizing radio and TV stations announcing what they called as "Revolutionary Correction" as public began to recognize the political shifts of such an event. The date of June 19 was intentionally targeted as it was timed with preceding scheduled visit of Bella to Iraq, leading to take advantage of Bella's preoccupation and lack of caution of what is actually happening on the ground. Therefore, this coup in 1965 was a politically engineered move through cooperation between the military sector and Boumédiène being the Minister of Defense back then. Also, Bella's ruling was

engaged in political disputes that required political re-establishment, which in itself, risked his power and gave advantage to the opposing rising party. Under the new banner; "Revolutionary Correction", the military intervention was inevitable as tensions rose with the political power fluctuations.

The military intervention was historically perceived as highly secretive and characterized by unique military discipline and loyalty toward the political goal, especially with the securing of armed units and neutralization of any arising powers. Furthermore, on June 18-19 in 1965, the rising power smoothly controlled strategic sites, and consequently Bella himself was arrested without any significant resistance. This systematic preparation of the coup carried its own political legitimacy and presented a revolutionary plan to save the declining state. As a result, Boumédiène successfully transferred power to the Revolutionary Council, having the loyalty of the military being the central force in Algerian politics (Abia, 1976). This military covert move is affirmed in the following document:

CIA-RDP79T00936A003800060001-9

Document CIA-RDP79T00936A003800060001-9 details the covert military planning and execution of the June 19, 1965 coup, emphasizing the organized nature and rapid control of key strategic locations.

❖ The Scenario of June 19 — Control in Hours, Justification in Minutes

This operation occurred at dawn with loyal Republican Guard forces led by Mohamed Tobal capturing the presidential palace in Algiers along with Bella being in bed at that time unaware of the move. At the same time, armed forces seized the headquarters of radio and television, controlled all forms of communication, and offices, while Bella's ministers and officials were arrested also accordingly.

Boumédiène announced by 10:00 the dissolution of all previous political institutions and the initiation of the Revolutionary Council, while the capital stayed under military imposition protecting the coup from any potential resistance.

The coup constituted a turning point in Algeria's political history. It was planned preliminary on June 17; however, as it was time-clashed with a soccer match in Oran taking advantage of public distraction, the execution was postponed on June 19. While there were successive economic endeavors achieving agrarian, industrial and cultural enhancements formed as a 'triple revolution', political analysts emphasize, this political shift led to authoritarian military imposition diminishing Algeria's democratic experience after its independence (Halaq, 2025).

CIA‑RDP79T00936A003800060001‑9

Document CIA‑RDP79T00936A003800060001‑9 confirms that the coup's swift execution relied on simultaneous seizures of government, media, and military infrastructure, followed by immediate justification as a revolutionary correction.

### 2.2.3 The Army's Role in Seizing Power after the Revolution

The 1965 coup was therefore an accumulative effort of the rising political power center of the military since the declaration of independence. The military as a result constituted a 'state within the state, taking power of all types of sectors including defense, security, economic, and political powers.

❖ The Army as Guardian and Heir of the Revolution

The National Liberation Army (ALN), later renamed People's National Army, gained political legitimacy for revolution. Numbers of forces had 1,200 fighters at revolution outbreak while later almost 30, 000 positioned under the current leadership, which emerged from clandestine armed movements in massacres in May 8, 1945 (Mustafa, 2013; D. N., 2016).

The Soummam Conference in 1965, August 20 led by Larbi Ben M'hidi and Abane Ramdane conducted a revolutionary unitary within institutions, incorporating the National Council at Algerian Revolution and the Committee of Coordination and Execution.

❖ Engineering the New Regime — From Military Force to Political Structure

Post the coup, the military established its authority institutionally via the

Revolutionary Council, delegating officers to major roles in the political party, government, and public administration, having national security subordinated to military intelligence and economic sectors. Willis (2023) emphasizes that the deep state of this new state was in consolidated control by military and state security directing governance non-democratically. The military-institutional control is reported as follows in CIA reporting:

CIA-RDP79-00927A005000090002-8

Document CIA-RDP79-00927A005000090002-8 emphasizes that the post-coup political structure institutionalized military supremacy through the Revolutionary Council and loyalist appointments across government and security institutions.

### 4.2.3 Outcomes and Transformations

The 1965 decision for the coup has re-formed Algeria's system for decades, transferring the politically and operationally internal and external structures.

1.4.2.3 Consolidating the "Fortress State" — the Army as Supreme Authority

The abolishment of ex-powers by coup turned the state as a single unit consolidated by military industry, forming the major apparatus for revolutionary legitimacy, as confirmed in the following report:

CIA-RDP79R01012A026100040001-9

`Document CIA-RDP79R01012A026100040001-9 indicates that the Revolutionary Council and security services became supreme political authorities, effectively replacing civilian institutions and centralizing power in the military.

- Militarization of Society

Terminological terms relevant to military such as 'front', 'battle' and 'discipline' were prominently implemented in the new social and economic programs, portraying armed forces as the ultimate model for law and order whereas any form of partisan

parties depicted as trigger for instability and potential chaos (Qasi, 2016).

2.4.2.3 Policy Transformations — From Revolutionary Disorder to Developmental Security State

❖ Internal Policies: Legitimacy through Development and Security

The new political system imposed an authoritarian economic approach adopting the Four-Year Plan between 1970 and 1973) incorporating massive industrialization, agricultural reformation, and removal of any opposing parties directed by FLN. This centralization is also mentioned in the following reporting:

CIA-RDP79-00927A005000090002-8

Document CIA-RDP79-00927A005000090002-8 emphasizes that Bouteflika and Boumédiène's policies combined centralized economic planning with tight political control to legitimize military authority.

Abdul Rahim (2024) pinpoints that constitutional discourse carried objectives of social justice; yet, incorporates laws that potentially restrict freedoms under the umbrella of national security.

❖ External Policy: From Rhetoric to Leadership

The pragmatic approach for directing foreign policy was a key characteristic for running the orientation for institutions, while preserving alignment with social liberation supporting countries such as Palestine and some African countries, moving toward Non-Aligned Movement leadership. By way of illustration, the new party hosted the Non-Aligned Summit and OPEC meetings in 1973, paving ways for stronger ties with the Soviet Union in terms of arms support as well as Western World in terms of investment and technology, as well as playing a mediator role regionally in Libya and the Sahel crises (Abdul Rahim, 2024).

- **More Narratives and Perspectives**

Despite the fact that this paper mainly adopts British archival documentation and a number of CIA reports, contemporary media has had its own interpretation of the 1965 coup. For instance, Media in Egypt and Arab newspapers have

highlighted the revolutionary legitimacy concept of necessity of leadership within the domestic curtain of power struggles. Western records in diplomacy, on the other spectrum, institutional issues and political stability directions, while Arab press was nationalistic in spirit covering ideological shifts and political dynamics for Arab future. More comparative-based studies are needed in exploring the nature of domestic media ideological and in terms of records compared to more sources of foreign documentation.

## 4. Conclusion And Recommendations

The historical-analytical re-evaluation of the 1965 Algerian coup assures that the context of the post-independence military engagement is strongly oriented in gradually accumulative transformation institutionally rather than spontaneous political series of disturbances. The Algerian situation manifests how the military, being the liberation armies, carried in its movement political credibility shifting from sovereign protectors to political engineers of revolutionary authoritarianism at the cost democratic powers or civilian-based structures and institutes. This research analyzed the 1965 coup in terms of its national political-military events and global contexts, prominently the Cold War. The results show that the coup in 1965 was not a prompt course of events as the outburst of rising dynamics institutionally and politically especially power struggles were a leading factor amidst the military's massive intervention and decline of constitutional and democratic state stability. Furthermore, the British records indicate well-oriented follow-up of Algerian rising events and close examination of the implications and consequences of this coup within the context of the Cold War regionally and internationally. Overall, the paper states that British archives stand as an integral source for re-assessing the 1965 coup compared to state records, providing deeper examination of this type of power transfer post the event of independence. Therefore, the findings affirm recommendation of engaging more comparison-based research between national and international political reports.

The findings show that the removal of Ben Bella by Boumédiène's party was

a pre-planned military operation that triggered the rise of domestic political tension and collision between constitutional authority and independent military powers.The British reports show that military role was accompanied by systematic diminishing of constitutional balance and intensifying political chaos, enabling armed forces to stand as the nucleus of political sovereignty being the savior within the conflicted economic-social environment post-colonialism and the declaration of independence. Additionally, this paper highlights that the political discourse of the 'Revolutionary Council' was guided by strategic centralization of military leadership transitioning the state from a vulnerable pluralist system into a more military-controlled and security-directed political regime. Ultimately, the study pinpoints the significance of the epistemology of external non-domestic narrative and reports in re-examining post-colonial national transformations and offers well-catered non-biased understanding of political events such as the 1965 coup as a pre-planned, structured and historically accumulative process rather than as a mere incidental outbreak. The foreign domestic adoption of British archives constitutes interpretational insights on Algerian political developments and paves the way for more analytical objectivity of political narratives of Algeria's domestic crises and shifts. The British archives reveals that the significance of foreign perspective in understanding the historiography of nations stands as a challenging narrative to official recordings and interpretation of domestic national politics. By adopting a comparative-based approach, this research juxtaposes domestic documents with British archives paving way for more objective multi-perspectival examination of the 1965 coup and the dynamic sequences of power transfers. Historiographically, this paper expands the narratives of the 1965 coup highlighting the significance of examining Algeria history via the perspective of foreign sources incorporating its post-colonial history and its accompanying narratives. This historiographical understanding adopts multi-archival examination of political shifts. Therefore, the study recommends that research should adopt external sources such as foreign intelligence records as an analytical-historical element in conducting a non-biased framework of understanding contemporary Algerian history. Also, the study highlights that interdisciplinary analyses are significant in utilizing political

history, international relation, and security studies in revealing non-biased dimensions of the contextualization of hot political events such as the Algerian coup along with geopolitical complexities.

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