

## «CONFLICT IN THE MAGHREB»

**Umurbaev Rustam Shakirjanovich**

*4th-year student of Tashkent State University of Oriental Studies*

*Tashkent city*

*urustam316@gmail.com*

*+998946995982*

**Abstract:** *For centuries the five North African countries, Algeria, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco and Tunisia, have been known as the Maghreb. In this chapter we concentrate on the central Maghreb states, that is Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia, and the problems of unity in the «Greater Maghreb», which also includes Libya and Mauritania. Since then they have undergone several radical structural changes and several crises.*

**Key words:** *Relationships, independent, economic situation, installation.*


**Introduction.** Maghreb crises and conflicts can be divided into two groups. First, external and intra-Maghrebi crises, which are mostly a heritage of colonialism and, to some extent, to differences in political regimes. Second, internal crises and conflicts. While these can at least partly be explained by the colonial heritage too, they are also a result of an accumulated «maldevelopment» during independence.

The failure of the independent states to promote economic development for a large part of the population is the background of the Maghreb's internal crises. The consequences are most frequently felt in the social and cultural sectors. Their accumulation means that each Maghreb country is undergoing some form of political crisis with the potential of transforming the regimes and challenging the states.

In the light of the accelerated political developments during the 1980s, it seems quite clear that these internal crises are assuming ever greater significance, becoming more and more intricate, and engulfing external and intra-Maghrebi crises. We argue that the external crises must be solved relatively rapidly to allow these countries to face their internal problems. Let us not forget that internal Maghrebi crises are, in many respects, very much externally interrelated.

The international economic crisis in the 1980s seriously affected the Maghreb countries, two-thirds of whose exports go to the EEC. The slump of the dollar has touched them all, particularly Algeria and Libya - the major oil- and gas-exporting countries. Tunisia and Morocco were somewhat luckier. The oil income of Algeria





dropped from \$13 b. in 1985 to \$8 b. in 1988 (Mortimer, 1990, p. 163). In Libya the GNP per caput de-creased over almost the same period from \$12,000 to \$8000, and the total earnings of the country fell to \$5.5 b. (Balta, 1990, pp. 51, 238). Morocco was affected by the fall in world market prices for phosphate. Mauritania suffered drastic drops of its foreign exchange earnings as a result of the decline of world market prices for iron ore.


The decline of export earnings made foreign debt service a much heavier burden for Maghrebi economies. The total debt ratio for Algeria is 48 per cent, for Tunisia 70 per cent and for Morocco 106 per cent of GNP (Stork, 1990, p. 7). This has had two crucial repercussions. First, all the weaknesses and structural imbalances in the development strategies since independence have become evident to everybody. They are primarily the neglect of the agricultural sector and the accumulated problems of food production. Several agricultural and land reforms have not succeeded in changing the performance of food production and the influence of food security projects has often been quite the opposite. The Maghreb depends on food imports for about 50 per cent of its consumption (Anderson, 1990, p. 147).

Second, the fact that the industrial policies pursued since independence benefited only a very narrow stratum of society - the new bourgeoisie. Moreover, the modern industrial complex is often working at less than 50 per cent of its capacity, due to problems of spare parts, raw materials and maintenance. Because of the difficult domestic economic situation the new industry has faced selling problems at home and became less competitive vis-a-vis the large economies of scale in world markets.

After a sharp decrease in export incomes, the Maghreb states were obliged to apply a policy of readjustment and of satisfying basic needs. However, both have contributed to a social «malaise» and played a crucial role in the emerging internal conflicts. Tunisia's policy towards Libya is driven by two main interests, including security concerns and economic considerations. Since the conflict occurred in Libya, Tunisia has experienced two significant challenges: fragmentation of the security landscape in western Libya and constant disruption of cross-border oil supply generated by Libya's economic difficulties. Together, these two phenomena have severely disturbed the country's economy.

The conflict in Libya continues to impact Tunisia's economy significantly. Before the conflict, Libyan-Tunisian bilateral commercial relationships were at a historical high point, and many joint projects had recently been set. The two states were about to finalize the installation of a free economic zone between Ben





Guerdane in Tunisia and Libya's Ras-Jedir border development area. Tunisia has been affected heavily by this conflict because of the security concern, which led to reduced tourism and investment and increased security spending. Consequently, according to the World Bank report, between 2011 and 2015, the Libyan civil war reduced Tunisia's growth by 24%.

**Conclusion.** Maghreb countries suffered greatly in the aftermath of Muammar Gaddafi's overthrow. Libya's vast desert border, populated by communities with a long history of smuggling, presents a significant challenge to Libya's neighbours. However, some neighbouring countries will likely pursue their interests through their ties with Libya. But these countries still support a restart of the process of political negotiations to reach long-lasting political stability in the country, which will help increase foreign investment in the region, especially in the tourism sector. From a security point of view, Maghreb countries seek the restoration of order on their borders with Libya, which have experienced some terrorist attacks and sustained arms trafficking. From a commercial standpoint, thousands of their people, especially Tunisian guest workers, were employed in Libya's several sectors, including the energy sector, before the crisis in Libya in 2011, and Tunisia seeks their return to Libya and a continuation of the critical remittances that those workers contributed to the Tunisian economy.

#### REFERENCES:

1. Balta, Paul (1990), *Le Grand Maghreb des indépendances à l'an 2000*, Alger, Éditions Laphomic.
2. Belkaïd, Akram and Benjamin Stora (1999), *Les 100 portes du Maghreb*.
3. *Tunisie, trois voies singulières pour allier islam et modernité*, Paris, Les Éditions de l'Atelier/Éditions Ouvrières.
4. Ben El Hassan Alaoui, Mohamed (1994), *La coopération entre l'Union Européenne et les Pays du Maghreb*, Paris, Nathan.
5. Berahab, Rim (2016), "Structure des échanges entre le Maroc et l'Afrique: Une analyse de la spécialisation du commerce", in *OCP Research Papers*, No. 16/07 (July).

