

The Written Press in Algeria During the Colonial Period (1830–1962)

MAIZA Salim ^{*1}, YAZIR Mhamed ²

¹ Lecturer A, University of Amar Telidji – Laghouat, Algeria. sa.maiza@lagh-univ.dz

² Lecturer A, University of Amar Telidji – Laghouat, Algeria. m.yazir@lagh-univ.dz

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Abstract:

Since its emergence, the written press in Algeria has undergone various stages, playing a heroic role in resisting French colonial rule by supporting both political and military resistance. Based on their objectives, newspapers were classified into four main categories: government press, Ahbab Al-Ahali Press, and Indigenous Press and Nationalist (Pro-Independence) Press. The latter category faced oppression and restrictions, unlike the other three, which generally aligned with colonial policies, recognized French rule, and coexisted with it. As a result, these newspapers enjoyed protection and support from the colonial authorities. In contrast, the nationalist press faced persecution from its inception, with the first nationalist newspaper being established in Paris. Its mission was to raise awareness, enlighten both the Algerian and even the French public, and advocate for independence by all available means, whether military or political. Despite the obstacles and challenges it encountered, the nationalist press persevered in its struggle, thanks to figures whose names are immortalized in Algerian history. Additionally, the Arab dimension played a significant role in the success of the Algerian press, whether through Arab newspapers that reached Algeria or by providing headquarters for some Algerian newspapers in countries like Morocco and Tunisia.

Keywords: Algerian written press, newspapers, French colonialism, resistance, independence.

Introduction

Throughout the colonial period, from the onset of French occupation in 1830 until Algeria's independence in 1962, the country witnessed various forms of resistance—political, military, and even media-driven. Although the latter, represented by the written press, emerged only years after the French occupation, it quickly became a powerful platform for raising awareness among the Algerian people and even the broader Arab world. Recognizing the profound impact of the written word on both the Algerian population and French public opinion (particularly through French-language newspapers), the colonial authorities sought to co-opt many Algerian newspapers to serve their interests. At the same time, they fiercely combated opposition newspapers, employing a range of suppressive tactics, including arrests, confiscations, and forced closures. Despite these challenges,

several newspapers withstood these repressive measures, repeatedly resurfacing after each ban to continue their mission of enlightening public opinion and exposing the distortions and fabrications propagated by the colonial regime. At every stage of Algeria's journalistic history, numerous newspapers emerged, led by influential figures and pioneering journalists who turned the press into a battleground for intellectual resistance. Their contributions are forever etched in the history of Algerian journalism.

Based on this historical context, the following question arises: **What were the key phases of the Algerian press during the colonial era, and which major newspapers played a significant role during this period?**

Research Questions:

- What were the cultural conditions in Algeria during the colonial period?
- What were the stages of development of the Algerian press during the colonial era?
- What were the most prominent Algerian newspapers during the colonial period?
- Who were the key figures in Algerian journalism during the colonial era?
- What were the main challenges faced by the written press in Algeria under colonial rule?
- What were the key factors that contributed to the continuity and development of the written press in Algeria?

Research Objectives :

- Shed light on the conditions in Algeria during the colonial period.
- Examine the key stages of the development of the Algerian press during the colonial era.
- Identify the most prominent Algerian newspapers of the colonial period.
- Highlight the leading figures in Algerian journalism during the colonial era.
- Explore the challenges faced by the written press in Algeria under colonial rule.
- Analyze the key factors that contributed to the continuity and growth of the written press in Algeria.

Significance of the Study:

This research holds great significance as it sheds light on a crucial period in Algeria's history—the colonial era—which had a profound impact on all sectors, including the media, particularly the written press. The importance of this study lies in its objective: to analyze the past in order to gather insights and data that enhance our understanding of the present state of the written press and help anticipate its future trajectory. Since the present is an extension of the past and a foundation for the future, examining this historical period is essential. Moreover, the Algerian written press underwent numerous historical phases and played a pivotal role in resisting French colonial rule from its emergence until independence. Throughout these stages, several influential figures left an indelible mark on Algerian journalism. Therefore, it is necessary to highlight these historical milestones to

draw lessons and inspirations that can be instilled in current and future generations, ensuring that they continue the legacy of those who came before them.

Definition of Terms and Concepts (Ihaddaden, 2012, pp. 27-40):

- 1- **Government Press:** This refers to newspapers directly or indirectly supervised by the French colonial administration in Algeria, primarily through the Governor-General and other officials. Direct supervision involved complete governmental control, as seen in "Al-Mubasher", while indirect supervision took the form of continuous political guidance and financial support, such as subsidies provided to "Kawkab Ifriqiya" and later "Al-Najah". Due to French legal restrictions that prevented the government from officially owning newspapers, this category remained relatively limited, with financial aid granted only to selected publications. However, government-backed newspapers enjoyed continuity, a characteristic that other types of press lacked. This category first emerged in 1848 with the publication of "Al-Mubasher", and it remained active until 1956, when "Al-Najah" was also discontinued.
- 2- **AHBAB AL AHALI Press:** This Western term refers to a group of French individuals who were dissatisfied with colonial policies and sought to extend support to a specific elite among Algerian Muslims, aiming to prevent them from losing hope in the French presence in Algeria. From their perspective, as stated in their books and newspapers, they believed they were offering the highest and most honorable service to their homeland, which is why they called themselves Ahbab Al-Ahali. Their activities began in the early years of the occupation, particularly in 1847, when Ismaël Thomas Urbain started publishing articles urging the French authorities to pay greater attention to the Muslim population and to involve them in land investment and modern urban development.
- 3- **Indigenous press :** This term refers to newspapers managed entirely by Algerian Muslims in terms of administration, financing, editing, and distribution. The content of these newspapers focused on Algerian Islamic issues, public affairs, and the relationship between Algerians and the colonial presence, while fully acknowledging French rule. This type of press experienced significant growth and development after its emergence in 1893 with the establishment of "Al-Haqq" in Annaba. It played a crucial role in highlighting the suffering of Algerian Muslims under colonial oppression, repression, and land confiscation by the French authorities. This growing awareness unsettled the French government, prompting the French Parliament to send an investigative commission. "Al-Haqq" presented a comprehensive report to the commission, outlining the causes of Muslim grievances in Algeria. However, it refrained from pointing directly to French colonial rule as the main cause, instead attributing the suffering to two factors: the absence of laws regulating Muslim land ownership and the hostile stance of certain colonial officials toward Algerian Muslims.
- 4- **National press (independence):** This term does not refer to newspapers that emerged within Algeria itself but rather to a type of press that outright rejected the French colonial presence in Algeria and actively opposed it. From the inception of the first newspaper of this kind in Paris, these publications worked to raise awareness among Algerians about the necessity of demanding independence and striving for it by all possible means. This category of press differed from the previous types, which either accepted or cooperated with the French colonial authorities in a peaceful manner.

Research Methodology:

Research methodology is a fundamental component of any research plan; where the researcher determines under this title the type of method they will rely on to solve their research problem... It happens that the researcher uses the historical method if the nature of the problem is historical; meaning it examines the history of a specific phenomenon or issue within a defined historical period (Ramadan, 2019, p. 147). This is precisely what we will do in our study; as we rely on the historical method, which scholars agree is primarily associated with historical research, and its purpose is to analyze the past to extract information and data that aid in understanding the present and predicting the future, since the present is an extension of the past and a foundation for the future. Therefore, studying history is of great benefit not only in the field of history but also in other scientific fields, such as media and communication sciences, to understand, for example, the conditions that surrounded the emergence of communication and its means in the past, in addition to studying the developments it has undergone before reaching its current state. The historical method can also be used in the study of media institutions and the transformations they have known since their inception until today, as well as those responsible for them... (BenMorsli, 2010, pp. 293-294). This is what led us to adopt this method in our study of the history of the written press in Algeria during the colonial period.

First: The Cultural Situation in Algeria During the Colonial Period:

Given the significant role that the written press held among Algerians throughout the colonial period, and despite the restrictions imposed by France through its colonial policies, this press contributed to spreading religious, national, and patriotic awareness from the beginning of the occupation until independence.

Many newspapers were established in Algeria, each following specific political orientations. For example, the newspaper "Al-Taquadoum", founded by Ibn Al-Touhami, targeted the "elite", while the Communist Union had numerous French-language newspapers, the most notable being "Le Conflit de Classes" (Saadallah, 2011, p. 267).

Additionally, The Étoile Nord-Africaine or ENA (French for North African Star) revived the publication of "Al-Iqdam"; which was initially issued by El Amir Khaled, until the Hizb Al-Shaab (Algerian People's Party) launched "Al-Shaab" journal in 1937, assigning its editorial work to Mohammed Qanane and the poet Moufdi Zakaria (Saadallah, 2011, p. 268).

As for the Association of Algerian Muslim Ulama, it published several newspapers, including "Al-Shehab", "Al-Sharia" and "Al-Sunnah Al-Nabawiya", "Al-Sirat Al-Sawi", and both versions of "Al-Basair".

By the mid-1940s, several other newspapers emerged, including:

- "Al-Musawah" founded by Friends of the Manifesto and Liberty Party in 1944.

- "El-Djazair El-Djadida" established by the Communist Party in 1946.
- "Al-Aamal AlJazairi", "Al-Ummah AlJazairiya", and "AlJazairAl-Hurra", launched by the People's Party/Movement for the Triumph of Democratic Liberties between 1953 and 1954.
- "Sawt AlJazair" published by the Algerian People's Party in Arabic.

In addition to Arab magazines from both the Maghreb and the Eastern Arabic, which contributed to strengthening the connection between the Algerian people and their Arab and Islamic surroundings.

Several cultural associations and clubs were also established, such as Nadi El Taraqqi, which organized numerous lectures in both Arabic and French between 1927 and 1930 (Saadallah, 2011, p. 315).

Overall, despite the conditions of occupation, Algeria experienced cultural diversity through newspapers, magazines, cultural clubs, associations, lectures, and intellectual competitions. These efforts aimed to stimulate the cultural scene and raise awareness among Algerians, in addition to the role played by zawayas (religious schools) and Sufi orders in preserving the fundamental elements of Algerian identity.

Second: the development stages of the written press in Algeria during the colonial period:

There are several classifications of the history of the Algerian written press during the colonial period:

➤ A historical classification by the poet **Moufdi Zakaria**, which he presented in a radio program broadcast in Tunisia in 1959, which he divided into five stages as follows:

- 1- The colonial press lasted from 1830 to 1907.
- 2- The Pen Resistance Press ran from 1907 to 1923.
- 3- The Associated Press lasted from 1923 to 1936.
- 4- The political resistance press lasted from 1936 to 1954.
- 5- The Liberation Revolution period press lasted from 1954 to 1960.

However, Dr. Foudil Delliou critiques this framework for inadequately addressing the initial emergence of journalistic activity in Algeria starting in 1893, as well as for overlooking the qualitative advancements within the French-language press in Algeria between 1870 and 1881.

➤ In his doctoral dissertation, published in French by the National Book Foundation in 1983, **Dr. Zohir Ihaddaden** offers a classification of Algerian print media during the colonial period, which Dr. Foudil Delliou notes closely mirrors the earlier framework proposed by poet Moufdi Zakaria. Ihaddaden divides the era, particularly focusing on the "Indigenous Press" phase, into three major periods:

1. **Ahbab AL Ahali Press period (1882–1907)**
2. **Development of the Indigenous Press (1907–1919)**

3. Period from 1919 to 1930: spanning from the emergence of the "El Iqdam" newspaper associated with Amir Khaled's movement in 1919 to the "El Ummah" newspaper in 1930. Ihaddaden further subdivides this final phase into two sub-periods, separated by the year 1923, marking the cessation of "El Iqdam" and an intensification of media suppression. It appears that Ihaddaden was significantly influenced by Zakaria's prior classification, as both focus predominantly on the Indigenous Press (Delliou, 2014, pp. 17-18).

- In a subsequent, more comprehensive classification, **Ihaddaden** incorporates the "French Press Published in Algeria"; encompassing both governmental and Ahbab AL Ahali publications, alongside the Indigenous Press in its traditional and nationalist forms. This approach categorizes the evolution of Algerian journalism based on the nature of the newspapers, differing from his earlier periodization.

Ihaddaden's expanded classification delineates four primary categories:

1. **Governmental Press** (1848–1882)
2. **Ahbab Al Ahali Press** (1882...)
3. **Indigenous Press** (1893...)
4. **Nationalist Press (Independence)** (1930 onwards)

- **A Historical Classification by Saadallah Abu Al-Kasim**, He divides the stages of Algerian newspapers into four phases, regardless of the language in which they were written (based primarily on the timelines of the two World Wars and the War of Liberation). These stages are as follows:

- 1- **The Pre-World War I Era:** (1890–1914).
- 2- **The Interwar Period:** (1919–1939).
- 3- **The Period Between World War II and the War of Liberation** (1954–1962):(1940–1956).
- 4- **The Independence Era:**(1962 to 2013).

It is observed that Abu al Kasim Saadallah's classification of Algerian journalism excludes the period prior to the emergence of Algerian press (specifically 1890 or 1893, as noted by Dr. FoudilDelliou), thereby overlooking the French press in Algeria from 1830 to 1893. Additionally, Saadallah designates 1956, instead of 1954—the onset of the Algerian War of Independence—as the historical point marking the cessation of most Algerian newspapers due to the liberation struggle. Finally, this classification does not account for the remaining years of the War of Independence (1956–1962) nor the various qualitative developments characterizing the post-independence era (Delliou, 2014, pp. 18-19).

- **A historical classification** based on the political developments in occupied Algeria, considering the subordination of the Algerian media system to the French political system and the political and military events that influenced Algeria:

- 1- **French Press Under Official Authorities (1830–1870)**
- 2- **Era of French Press Freedom and Emergence of Ahbab Al Ahali Press (1870–1892)**
- 3- **Inception of Algerian Press and the Beginning of Pen Resistance (1893–1918)**
- 4- **Proliferation of Reformist and Political Press (1919–1954)**
- 5- **Press During the Liberation Revolution (1954–1962)** (Delliou, 2014, p. 21).

Third: the most important newspapers published during the colonial period:

Algeria is recognized as the first Arab nation to introduce print media. The European press, serving as the voice of the settlers in Algeria, significantly influenced Algerians to enter the journalistic field; it acted as a catalyst, motivating them to engage in this domain. The press was widely disseminated; for instance, the French-language newspaper "L'Estafette d'Alger" was published but ceased after its second issue. Subsequently, the French colonial authorities issued the weekly Al-Murshid al-Jazairi in rudimentary Arabic, aiming to confuse Algerian public opinion.

According to historians, the third Arabic-language newspaper to emerge in Algeria was "Al-Mubasher", headquartered in Algiers and first issued on September 15, 1847, by the colonial authorities; it is classified as official press. The internal and external political and social circumstances, as well as the conditions in the Arab and Islamic world before World War I, played a role in reviving Algerian journalism. Inspired by these factors, Algerians recognized the potential of the press in resisting colonization. During this period, several Arabic-language newspapers were established by foreigners for material purposes, but they did not last long. Examples include: "Al-Nasiha" in 1899, "Al-Akhbar", founded in 1902 by Borrucand in Algiers, which continued publication until 1933. It adopted progressive stances, starting with defending detainees involved in the Ain uprising near Miliana in 1901, and culminating in a widespread campaign against the "indigene" law, which permitted colonial authorities to treat Algerian Muslims brutally and inhumanely (Ihaddaden, 2012, p. 31), "Al-Muntakhab" in 1903, "Al-Ahyaa" magazine in 1907 in the capital, established by a French Arabist woman. Notably, this journalistic activity encouraged Algerians to establish newspapers that were Algerian in language, methodology, and purpose. Below, we highlight the most significant of these publications:

- 1- **Al-Haq (1894):** Recognized as the first national Arabic weekly newspaper, it was founded in Annaba in 1894 by three Algerians: Suleiman Benbenqi, Omar Al-Sammar, and Khalil Qaid Al-Ayoun. Due to restrictions imposed by the French colonial authorities, the newspaper ceased publication after less than a year.
- 2- **Kawkab Ifriqiya (1907):** Established by Sheikh Mahmoud Kahoul on May 17, 1907.
- 3- **Al-Jazair(1908):** A weekly newspaper founded by Sheikh Omar Rassem on October 27, 1908, focusing primarily on religious and national issues. Only two or three issues were published before it discontinued due to financial constraints.
- 4- **Al-Muslim (1909):** Launched on October 14, 1909, in the city of Dellys. Sources do not specify the founding entity or the duration of its publication.

- 5- **Al-Haq Al-Wahrani (1911):** A weekly newspaper, reportedly the first to initiate a subscription in support of the Ottoman Red Crescent.
- 6- **Al-Islam (1912):** Founded by Sadeq Dendane and Muhammad Azzedine El Kallal in the capital.
- 7- **Al-Faruq (1913):** Established on February 28, 1913, it was considered one of the most prestigious Algerian newspapers of its time. It featured contributions from writers in Tunisia alongside Algerians and continued publication until early 1915.
- 8- **Algerian Post (1913):** Founded by Muhammad Azzedine El Kallal.
- 9- **Dhu al-Faqar (1913):** Founded by Abu Mansour al-Sanhaji, the pseudonym of Omar Rassim.
- 10- **Al Siddiq (1920):** A weekly newspaper established by Omar ben Qaddur and Mohammed Ben Bakir; it had a short lifespan.
- 11- **Al-Eqdam (1920):** A weekly scientific, political, and economic newspaper founded by Amir Khaled. It featured diverse topics and was published in both Arabic and French, focusing on issues pertinent to Algeria and the Islamic world, as well as the relationship between Islamic nations and Western colonial powers...
- 12- **Al-Najah (1920):** Initially a weekly publication before transitioning to a daily in 1930, it was established by Abd al Hafid Ben el Hachemi and Mami Isma'il in Constantine. After two or three years, it began publishing three times a week and continued until 1956 (Shaaban & Sabti, 2012, pp. 71-72).
- 13- **Lisan alDin (1923):** A weekly religious and political newspaper with a short lifespan.
- 14- **Sada alSahra' (1925):** Founded by Ahmed ben Al-Abed Al-Okbi in Biskra on November 23, 1925. In its early stages, it featured contributions from Sheikh Al-Tayeb Al-Okbi and Mouhamad Al-Amin Al-Amoudi. The newspaper did not last more than one year.
- 15- **AlJazair (1925):** Established by Mouhamad Al-Saeed Al-Zahiri, bearing the slogan "Algeria for the Algerians".
- 16- **Al-Haqq (1926):** Founded by Ali ben Moussa Al-Okbi in Biskra on April 23, 1926.
- 17- **Al-Balagh aljazairi (1926):** Serving as the voice of the zawiya alwiyya in Mostaganem, it was first issued on December 24, 1926.
- 18- **Al-Barq (1927):** Directed by Abdelmadjid Rahmouni, it appeared in Constantine on March 7, 1927. The newspaper had a social, literary, critical, political, and economic agenda, with the motto "Serving the nation and the public interest." Only one issue was published before it ceased.
- 19- **Al-Islah (1927):** A reformist weekly by Sheikh Al-Tayeb Al-Okbi, issued in Biskra on September 8, 1927. It caused a significant stir among the circles of Sufi orders and zawiyas at the time due to its strong tone and compelling arguments against prevalent innovations and misguidances.

- 20- **Al-Taqaddoum(1928)**:Representing Dr. Ibn Al-Touhami, who in 1928 led a group of Algerian deputies in the Oran province (Shaaban & Sabti, 2012, p. 73).
- 21- **Al-Sharia (1933)**: A weekly newspaper issued by the Association of Algerian Muslim Ulama in Constantine, it lasted no more than forty-one days.
- 22- **Al-Sirat al-Sawi (1933)**: It endured for only four months.
- 23- **Al-Basair (1935)**: One of the most renowned and widely circulated Arabic newspapers, notable for its profound impact on national life in all its aspects. It continued until 1939 (MinistryofMujahideen, 2023).
- 24- **Al Musawahmagazine (1944)**: Issued by the Friends of the Manifesto movement, led by Farhat Abbas in March 1944, it expressed the movement's aim of achieving equality between Algerians and French. It was confiscated with the arrest of Ferhat Abbas in May 1945.
- 25- **El Joumhouria Al Jazairia(1946)**: Issued in March 1946, it was the newspaper of the Democratic Union of the Algerian Manifesto Supporters Party, founded by Farhat Abbas after his release from detention, maintaining the original program of the Manifesto Supporters movement.
- 26- **Al-Ummah al-Jazairiyya (1946)**: A monthly newspaper published in French, it was among the publications of the Movement for the Triumph of Democratic Liberties, led by MessaliEl Hadj (the party that replaced the dissolved People's Party). It continued from July 1946 to October 1948.
- 27- **Al-Maghrib al-Arabi (1947)**: A weekly newspaper published in Arabic, with some special issues in French. It was affiliated with the Movement for the Triumph of Democratic Liberties and continued from June 1947 until the end of 1949.
- 28- **Al-Jazair al-Hurra (1949)**: Initially a bi-monthly publication before becoming a weekly, it was published in French and continued from August 1949 to November 1954. During the split in the Movement for the Triumph of Democratic Liberties in August 1954, the faction supporting Messali Hadj retained this newspaper, while the central committee faction took over "Al-Ummah al-Jazairiyya".
- 29- **Al-Manar (1951)**: A bi-monthly newspaper that appeared independent but was initially affiliated with the Movement for the Triumph of Democratic Liberties before becoming independent. It was published from March 1951 to November 1953.
- 30- **Al-Basair (1947)**:After ceasing during World War II (1939-1944), it resumed publication in 1947 and continued until March 1956. The French colonial authorities shut it down after it published the Association of Algerian Muslim Ulama's report supporting the revolution.
- 31- **Alger Républicain**:A weekly newspaper that later became a daily, affiliated with the Algerian Communist Party. The French colonial authorities confiscated it in 1957 after party members joined the revolution (AbdulRahman, 1985, pp. 44-45).
- 32- **Al Mouqawama (1956)**:Established by the National Liberation Front (FLN), it consisted of three newspapers (in Arabic and French), one published in France, another in Morocco, and a third in Tunisia. They were merged into a single newspaper, "Al Moudjahid," in 1957.

- 33- **Al Moudjahid(1957):**Founded by the FLN, it initially printed on "Rhino" machines in booklet form with limited distribution due to secrecy and revolutionary conditions in Algeria. In 1957, after the weekly strike and the departure of the revolutionary leadership from Algeria, it was decided to unify the revolutionary press, leading to the cessation of "Al Mouqawama al Jazaeriya" and the consolidation of its staff into "**Moudjahid**", Supervised by two members of the revolutionary leadership, it began publishing from Tetouan, Morocco, before moving to Tunis in November 1957. "**Moudjahid**" played a significant role in the success of the Algerian revolution and continues to be published today (Ihaddaden, 2012, pp. 44-45).

Fourth: Algerian journalists during the colonial period:

During the colonial period, several prominent Algerian figures made significant contributions to the field of journalism. Among these notable individuals are: (Bouzir, 2016, pp. 22-23).

1. **Mohamed Ben Siyam:** Born in Miliana into a distinguished family that collaborated with the French authorities in the region, Ben Siam held the position of Agha under French administration. He maintained a close relationship with Napoleon and is recognized as the first Algerian journalist to author a newspaper article. In this piece, he detailed his attendance at a ceremony held by the King of France to commemorate his ascension to the throne, providing a comprehensive account of his journey to France, his participation in the event, and his explorations throughout the country. This article skillfully blended traditional travelogue narratives with contemporary reportage styles.
2. **Ahmed Bedoui:** Approximately born in Algiers around 1820, El Bedoui received his education in the city, particularly at the Great Mosque, and also acquired proficiency in the French language. In 1839, he joined Amir Abdelkader in the struggle for independence, serving as the Emir's secretary. Subsequently, he worked with the Amir's deputy, Ben Salem, remaining with him in the Djurdjura Mountains until Ben Salem's surrender, after which El Bedoui returned to Algiers. Marshal Bugeaud appointed him to the secretariat of Léon Roches in the translation bureau. Later, he transitioned to the press department of the French government under Baron De Slane. El Bedoui eventually became an editor at the newspaper El Moubachir, making him the first specialized Algerian journalist. During his tenure, he elevated the newspaper's linguistic quality and expanded its content to include global news, social topics, literature, and sciences, moving beyond its previous focus on military and political bulletins. He served as the secretary of the editorial board from 1847 until 1878.
3. **Abu al-Qasim Mohamed al-Hafnawi:** Born in the village of El Dis in 1852, al-Hafnawi pursued his education in various religious institutions, including zawiya Sheikh Ben Daoud in Djurdjura, the Tolga zawiya, and the El Hamel zawiya, from which he graduated as a distinguished scholar. He was appointed as a teacher at the Great Mosque in Algiers and advanced through academic ranks to become the city's mufti. In 1884, he joined the newspaper Al-Mubasher, dedicating five decades to journalism with a focus on news and translation. Al-Hafnawi had a particular interest in economic journalism and was influenced by the Arab renaissance movement, which inspired him to author the book "Ta'rif al-Khalaf

bi Rijal al-Salaf". He also penned numerous critical articles, especially concerning works on Islamic jurisprudence, history, and literature.

Fifth: Challenges Faced by the Algerian Print Press During the Colonial Period

The Algerian print press, particularly the nationalist press opposing French colonialism, endured numerous challenges throughout the colonial period, from the inception of the first newspapers until independence in 1962. The primary difficulties included:

- 1- Restrictions and various forms of repression by the French colonial authorities; the Algerian press was not treated equally to its French counterpart, which enjoyed legal protection, freedom of expression, and administrative facilitation—privileges the Algerian press lacked.
- 2- Limited financial resources, confining the Algerian press (both the Arabic-speaking and French-speaking presses) to opinion journalism, focusing on articles without extending to news reporting.
- 3- The Algerian press suffered from low-quality printing and a lack of diversity in journalistic content, in addition to an abundance of advertisements that sometimes occupied up to fifty percent of the printed space.
- 4- Intense intellectual conflict between the French and their supporters among Algerian intellectuals advocating for assimilation, and the reformists and their nationalist supporters who engaged in political battles against French occupation and its policies in all dimensions.

Sixth: Factors Contributing to the Continuation and Development of the Print Press in Algeria:

Undoubtedly, the print press in Algeria endured various forms of suppression throughout the colonial period, particularly from French colonial authorities, as well as challenges such as financial constraints and a lack of diversity in content. Despite these obstacles, journalistic activity persisted until independence. The following are the key factors that contributed to the sustainability of the print press in Algeria:

- 1- The insistence of some Algerian journalists to continue despite the obstacles imposed by the French occupation and the formation of a generation of Algerian intellectuals imbued with national culture and proficient in the Arabic language, which is what the Society of Muslim Scholars succeeded in doing through its schools; the Society was able to graduate large numbers of Algerians who participated in the Second World War in the ranks of the French army and conveyed to Algerian society the essence of what they gained from their experiences.
- 2- The influence of the Arab press in the Arab East and the Maghreb, especially the Tunisian, Egyptian and Syrian press, in which Algerians found the model to which they aspired to resist the occupier and strive for freedom and independence, despite the limited number of newspapers from the Western East due to French restrictions. However, they had a great impact on Algerian public opinion. Among the newspapers that influenced the Algerian Arabic-speaking press were Al-Jazeera, Al-Ayyam and Al "Jamia Al Arabiya" (Syria), "Al-

Irfan", "Al-Bayan", "Al-Muqattam" and "Al-Jihad"(Egypt), and "Al-Hidaya", "Al-Ikhwa" and "Sada Al-Islam" (Iraq) (AbdulRahman, 1985, p. 39).

- 3- The Algerian press was influenced by global circumstances, particularly the developments that emerged from World War II, which contributed to its advancement. The key aspects of this influence include (AbdulRahman, 1985, p. 43):
 - The Algerian press began to express distinct political orientations based on well-defined political and social philosophies.
 - The press exhibited an advanced level in journalism, including printing, layout, style, and the cultural background of editors, benefiting from global developments in the field.
 - Despite a reduced number of publications, their influence became deeper and more significant than before, especially compared to the numerous newspapers that emerged between the two world wars without leaving a profound impact on Algeria's intellectual and political life.
 - Publications became more regular, as they were no longer individual ventures like earlier newspapers. Instead, they were backed by political organizations with relatively substantial resources, ensuring their continuity and aiding in the refinement and development of journalistic practices.

Conclusion:

The Algerian print press has undergone numerous phases, during which journalists faced severe repression and persecution by the French colonial authorities. The colonizers recognized the significant role of the press in enlightening Algerian public opinion, inciting rebellion, and demanding independence. Despite the challenges and obstacles imposed on the national press, it persevered in its struggle, thanks to prominent Algerian figures whose contributions are etched in the history of Algerian journalism. The Arab dimension also played a substantial role in the activity and continuity of the Algerian press, both through Arab newspapers that reached Algeria and by providing headquarters for some Algerian newspapers in countries like Morocco and Tunisia.

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