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Title of research article

Algerian National Security in the Context of Sahelian Geopolitical Volatility: Libya as a Paradigmatic Case of Regional Instability and Strategic Resilience

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Abstract

Algeria's national security posture is increasingly challenged by the evolving instability in the African Sahel, a region characterized by fragile state structures, insurgent mobilizations, and rival geopolitical interventions. This study examines Algeria's security doctrine in the context of Sahelian insecurity, with particular emphasis on the Libyan crisis as a paradigmatic case. Libya's post-2011 collapse transformed it into a generator of asymmetrical threats—transnational terrorism, illicit arms trafficking, organized crime networks, and migratory surges—that reverberate across Algeria's eastern borders. The research demonstrates that Algeria's strategic calculus is compelled to reconcile between defensive militarization and preventive diplomacy. While Algeria maintains a doctrine of constructive neutrality and supports Libyan reconciliation processes, it simultaneously fortifies its border security architecture, strengthens intelligence networks, and expands regional security cooperation. Findings reveal that Algeria's resilience hinges on balancing sovereignty protection with active engagement in multilateral frameworks, highlighting Libya as both the principal vulnerability and the testing ground for Algeria's security doctrine.

Introduction

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National security constitutes the sine qua non for the perpetuation of state sovereignty and the preservation of internal equilibrium, particularly amidst the tectonic geopolitical realignments afflicting proximate geographies. Within this paradigm, Algerian national security epitomizes an instructive case study to interrogate the modalities of state resilience vis-à-vis exogenous and endogenous perturbations in a geo-critical locus such as the African Sahel. Algeria, situated at the geostrategic confluence of the Maghreb and the wider Saharo-Sahelian belt, grapples with an intricate nexus of security dilemmas ranging from transnational terrorism and organized criminal syndicates to surging irregular migratory flows—each imperiling its domestic cohesion and subregional ascendancy.

The Sahel region stands as a cartographic epicenter of perpetual volatility, wherein internecine conflicts, security vacuums, and great-power entanglements coalesce into a multidimensional crucible of instability. Libya—Algeria's eastern contiguous neighbor—exemplifies a paradigmatic manifestation of this tumult. Since the systemic disintegration of the Libyan state apparatus in 2011, the country has metastasized into a cauldron of militancy, armament proliferation, and jihadist insurgency spillovers. The 965-kilometer porosity of the Algeria–Libya border amplifies the permeability of these threats, engendering profound implications for Algeria's security calculus.

The geopolitical kaleidoscope of the Sahel further complicates Algeria's efforts to fortify its frontiers and insulate its sovereign space. The intensification of strategic rivalries among extraregional powers—including France, Russia, and the United States—exacerbates the regional entropy and constrains Algeria's maneuverability. Moreover, non-state violent actors such as Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) and the Islamic State in the Greater Sahara (ISGS) exploit the Libyan anomie to entrench themselves and orchestrate transborder asymmetrical incursions, posing existential menaces to Algeria and its Sahelian counterparts.

Beyond kinetic security threats, Algeria must navigate a cascade of socio-economic reverberations stemming from regional dislocations. Irregular migration corridors traversing Libyan territory into Algerian lands exert pronounced stress on the nation's infrastructural and economic subsystems. Simultaneously, the transborder proliferation of narcotics and small arms—engineered by hyper-fluid organized crime networks—undermines Algeria's internal sovereignty and juridical order.

In navigating this geopolitical minefield, Algeria has adopted a doctrine of constructive neutrality and preventive diplomacy, particularly with regard to the Libyan imbroglio. The country aspires to function as a disinterested interlocutor in Libyan reconciliation efforts, advocating for a comprehensive political détente that may recalibrate regional stability. Concurrently, the Algerian state has invested in force projection capabilities, bolstering its defensive posture along its southern and eastern peripheries while optimizing its intelligence infrastructure to preempt latent threats.

In view of these geopolitical vicissitudes, the perpetuation of Algerian national security necessitates a grand strategic schema centered on the consolidation of domestic resilience, the intensification of subregional security entente, and active immersion in multilateral conflict-resolution mechanisms. The Libyan theatre, by virtue of geographic adjacency and strategic entanglement, remains the most illustrative litmus test of Algeria's ability to metabolize complex geopolitical shocks and articulate a sustainable securitarian paradigm.

Research Problematic

The principal epistemological query animating this investigation is: **To what extent does the prevailing geopolitical maelstrom in the African Sahel—especially the Libyan crisis—reverberate upon Algerian national security? And what strategic modalities has Algeria operationalized to attenuate these security perturbations?**

Research Hypotheses

1. The Libyan crisis—punctuated by insurgency, arms trafficking, and state disarticulation—constitutes a proximate and existential security hazard to Algeria.
2. Algeria's strategic posture is predicated on an integrated triad: fortification of defensive apparatuses, regional multilateralism, and anticipatory diplomacy to confront Sahelian threats.

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3. The international geopolitical competition within Libya exacerbates the securitarian dilemma, compounding Algeria's strategic vulnerabilities.

Research Objectives

1. **Deconstruct the Concept of Algerian National Security:** Expound upon its theoretical scaffolding and pragmatic salience amid regional and international stressors.
2. **Elucidate the Libyan Crisis's Spillover Effects:** Examine the securitarian ramifications of Libya's post-2011 fragmentation for Algerian stability.
3. **Assess Algeria's Strategic Response:** Analyze the state's securitarian and diplomatic countermeasures vis-à-vis the geopolitical upheaval in the Sahel.
4. **Proffer Strategic Recommendations:** Formulate a set of empirically grounded and conceptually robust propositions to fortify Algeria's national security architecture and promote regional pacification.

Chapter One: The Foundational Framework of Algerian National Security

Algerian national security constitutes the bedrock upon which the edifice of state stability and sovereign perpetuation is constructed. It is inherently multidimensional—interlacing political, economic, social, and military parameters—shaped profoundly by Algeria's geostrategic location and its pronounced regional leverage. This complex matrix of determinants compels a precise and contextualized definition of national security, one that is congruent with Algeria's intrinsic socio-political architecture and geopolitical exigencies.

Section One: General Definition of National Security and Its Contextualization within the Algerian Paradigm

1. General Definition of National Security

National security is traditionally delineated as the institutionalized capacity of the state to insulate its sovereignty, safeguard its political autonomy, and preserve its fundamental interests from both internal subversion and external aggression. This overarching conceptual framework encompasses a multiplicity of interlocking dimensions—predominantly military, political, economic, and socio-cultural—that collectively underpin the resilience and continuity of the nation-state [1].

2. National Security in the Algerian Context

Within the Algerian strategic imaginary, national security is construed as the state's comprehensive ability to preserve its structural cohesion, ensure domestic stability, and uphold regional sovereignty amid a volatile and threat-laden geopolitical environment. The Algerian security doctrine thus integrates a trilateral matrix encompassing political sovereignty, economic robustness, and social cohesion—all of which are intrinsically influenced by the fluid dynamics of the surrounding region [2].

In this vein, Dr. Nour-Eddine Alaoui articulates a refined conception whereby Algerian national security is particularly oriented toward the containment of terrorist insurgencies, transnational organized criminal networks, and regionally induced disorders. His perspective accentuates the dialectical nexus between politico-military security and the emergent imperatives of economic and societal protection, thereby underscoring the growing centrality of integrated securitization strategies in Algerian statecraft [3].

Section Two: Geostrategic Specificities of Algeria's Geographic Disposition

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[1] Mohamed Abdelkader, *Concepts of National Security*, Egypt: Al-Nahda Publishing House, 2nd ed., 2016, p. 15.
[2] Ahmed bin Mohamed, "National Security in the Maghreb Countries", Morocco: Al-Ufuq Al-Jadid Publishing House, 1st ed., 2018, p. 20.
[3] Nour Eddine Alaoui, *National Security in Algeria*, Algeria: Al-Fikr Al-Muʿasir Publishing House, 1st ed., 2020, p. 30.

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1. Geopolitical Location

Algeria occupies a preeminent locus among both African and Arab polities, with its geospatial attributes constituting one of the most determinative vectors shaping its regional and international role. Geographically situated in the northern tier of the African continent, Algeria spans a vast territorial expanse of approximately 2,381,741 square kilometers—rendering it the largest sovereign entity in both Africa and the Arab world[4]. This expansive territoriality endows the nation with a multifarious array of ecological and climatic zones, each imparting distinct challenges and strategic dividends.

Far from being a mere territorial behemoth, Algeria assumes the function of a geostrategic hinge point between continental systems, thereby amplifying its geopolitical and geoeconomic salience[5]. Its spatial positioning astride the African-European interface, coupled with extended frontiers abutting the Sahelian corridor—including a 965-kilometer boundary with Libya—confers upon Algeria not only considerable geopolitical leverage but also exposes it to a multiplicity of securitarian vulnerabilities [6].

2. Regional Neighborhood

Algeria is geopolitically encircled by seven neighboring states: Tunisia and Libya to the east; Niger and Mali to the south; Mauritania and Western Sahara to the southwest; and Morocco to the west. The enormity and porosity of these borders expose Algeria to an intricate mosaic of transboundary security and political dilemmas, necessitating bespoke and adaptive strategic responses[7].

Moreover, Algeria's liminal positioning between North Africa and the Euro-Mediterranean sphere—boasting a Mediterranean littoral of approximately 1,200 kilometers—augments its maritime and continental relevance. Concurrently, its geographical protrusion into the vast Saharan expanse designates Algeria as a pivotal axial state within the Sahelian subsystem[8].

Section Three: The Multidimensional Facets of Algerian National Security

1. The Political Dimension

The political dimension of Algerian national security underscores the imperative of safeguarding regime continuity and preserving national unity amidst a tumultuous regional landscape. Algeria adheres to a doctrine of "constructive neutrality" in regional affairs, emphasizing the inviolability of its sovereign decision-making autonomy and its aversion to entanglements that may compromise its strategic independence [9].

2. The Military Dimension

The militarized facet of Algeria's security paradigm revolves around the protection of national borders from conventional and asymmetric threats, especially those emanating from structurally fragile neighboring states such as Libya and Mali. Algeria relies upon a robust, highly institutionalized national defense apparatus, equipped and mobilized to deter and neutralize both internal insurgencies and exogenous aggressions [10].

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[4] Ahmed bin Zine, *The Geopolitics of Algeria*, Algeria: Al-Maʿrifa Publishing House, 2nd ed., 2018, p. 12.

[5] Ibid., p. 13.

[6] Nour Eddine Abdullah, *The Geography of National Security*, Tunisia: Al-Fikr Al-ʿArabi Publishing House, 2nd ed., 2019, p. 35.

[7] Said bin Marzouq, *The Border Geography of Algeria*, Algeria: Al-Nahda Publishing House, 1st ed., 2020, p. 45.

[8] Ali bin Youssef, *Political Geography in North Africa*, Algeria: Al-Hikma Publishing House, 2nd ed., 2019, p. 35.

[9] Ibid., p. 50.

[10] Said bin Marzouq, "Military Challenges in Algeria", Algeria: Al-Nahda Publishing House, 1st ed., 2021, p. 75.

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3. The Economic Dimension

Algeria's securitarian infrastructure is inextricably interwoven with its economic substratum—particularly its dependency on hydrocarbon revenues. As such, national security policy prioritizes the fortification of critical economic infrastructure and the inviolability of strategic energy corridors, positioning energy security as a cardinal axis within the broader security architecture [11].

4. The Social Dimension

The sociological underpinning of Algerian national security emphasizes national cohesion and the cultivation of resilient societal fabrics. This entails combating structural inequities such as systemic discrimination, endemic poverty, and illiteracy, while simultaneously promoting inclusive and sustainable development, especially in borderland peripheries vulnerable to marginalization and external infiltration [12].

Chapter Two: Geopolitical Challenges in the African Sahel

Section One: Extraterritorial Interventions in the Sahel

The African Sahel has been a theatre of escalating interventionism by extrinsic geopolitical actors—including France, the United States, and the Russian Federation—whose competing strategic prerogatives have significantly exacerbated regional instability. These interventions, often cloaked in counterterrorism rhetoric, are predominantly motivated by geopolitical realignment and resource-driven interests, thereby entangling Algeria in an increasingly intricate regional security labyrinth [13].

Section Two: The Impact of Regional Conflicts on Algeria

The endemic volatility in the Sahelian corridor exerts direct and deleterious effects on Algerian national security, chiefly through the diffusion of anarchic spillovers such as arms proliferation, narcotrafficking, and transboundary insurgencies. The Libyan crisis, in particular, constitutes a principal epicenter of threat projection, with the post-2011 collapse of Libya's centralized governance apparatus serving as a crucible for regional destabilization and a conduit for non-state armed actors [14].

Chapter Three: Security Threats Emanating from the Libyan Crisis

The Libyan crisis—catalyzed by the 2011 dismantling of the Gaddafi regime—constitutes one of the gravest geopolitical ruptures in both North Africa and the Sahelian subregion. This post-regime collapse engendered a pervasive security vacuum, thereby catalyzing the proliferation of jihadist networks and transnational organized crime syndicates. Libya has since metastasized into a principal epicenter for regional destabilization, its repercussions radiating acutely across neighboring states, especially Algeria, due to the extensive porosity of their 965-kilometer shared frontier [15].

Section One: The Proliferation of Terrorism and Transnational Organized Crime

1. Expansion of Terrorist and Criminal Networks

The anarchic vacuum in post-Qaddafi Libya has been systematically exploited by a plethora of violent non-state actors, who have entrenched their operational presence and transformed Libyan territory into a fulcrum for cross-

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[11] Abdelkarim Ahmed, *Energy Security in Algeria*, Algeria: Al-Ufuq Al-Jadid Publishing House, 2nd ed., 2020, p. 90.
[12] Sami Al-Hadi, *Social Security in Algeria*, Tunisia: Al-Mutawassit Publishing House, 3rd ed., 2018, p. 110.
[13] Ali Hammoudi, "International Rivalry in Africa", Egypt: Al-Hilal Publishing House, 1st ed., 2021, p. 50.
[14] Said Marzouq, "Politics and Security in the African Sahel", Algeria: Al-Nahda Publishing House, 2nd ed., 2020, p. 75.
[15] Ahmed bin Youssef, *Regional Security in North Africa*, Algeria: Al-Hikma Publishing House, 2nd ed., 2018, p. 14.

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border insurgent activities. Libya has effectively become a logistical launchpad for terrorist offensives targeting adjacent countries, notably Algeria and Tunisia[16].

Since 2011, Libya has devolved into a sanctuary for a constellation of extremist militias and jihadist factions, which capitalize on the state's institutional atrophy to orchestrate transfrontier operations. The ensuing dynamic poses a formidable challenge to Algerian security, particularly as it pertains to the unregulated flow of armaments and combatants across national borders[17]. Organized crime networks have concurrently flourished—engaging in narcotics trafficking, human smuggling, and illicit financial flows—thereby further complicating the securitarian landscape[18].

2. Arms Trafficking

The institutional disintegration of the Libyan state has precipitated an unprecedented diffusion of weaponry, effectively transforming Libya into a hyper-fluid black market for small arms and light weapons. These arms are routinely funneled across borders, posing a direct and proximate threat to national security frameworks, especially in Algeria and Mali[19].

The Libyan crisis stands as an enduring epicenter of security perturbation, with its reverberations constituting existential challenges to Algerian sovereignty. Mitigating these threats necessitates an integrated approach, encompassing intensified regional coordination, enhanced defense preparedness, and sustained diplomatic engagement aimed at fostering a political resolution in Libya. The viability of Algerian national security remains contingent upon the state's agility in adapting to these emergent threats and striking a delicate equilibrium between internal and external security imperatives[20].

Section Two: Irregular Migration from Libya and Its Impact on Algeria

Irregular migration constitutes a multidimensional dilemma facing the North African corridor, with Algeria serving as a principal transit and, increasingly, destination hub for clandestine migrants fleeing socio-economic precarity. Libya, given its status as a collapsed state and de facto migratory corridor, is a primary source of these unregulated migratory flows into Algerian territory. The unmitigated influx of migrants across the Algeria–Libya axis poses not only a profound threat to national security but also exerts substantial pressure on Algeria's socio-economic equilibrium. Accordingly, decoding this phenomenon mandates a rigorous dissection of its etiological underpinnings and resultant ramifications[21].

These migratory flows constitute an onerous burden on Algeria's security and fiscal infrastructure, as they are often interwoven with the logistical networks of criminal syndicates seeking to monetize illicit human mobility[22].

1. Security Implications

Irregular migration from Libya exacerbates Algeria's securitarian vulnerabilities by operating in tandem with the transshipment of narcotics, arms, and insurgent operatives. The synergetic convergence of these phenomena fuels the entrenchment of organized crime and escalates asymmetric threats along Algeria's eastern frontier[23].

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[16] Sami Al-Hadi, *Terrorism in the African Sahel*, Tunisia: Al-Maʿrifa Publishing House, 2nd ed., 2021, p. 55.
[17] Abdelkader Omran, "Libya and Regional Security", Libya: Al-Wahda Al-Wataniyya Publishing House, 1st ed., 2019, p. 110.
[18] Sami Al-Hadi, *Terrorism in the African Sahel*, op. cit., p. 56.
[19] Khaled Mahmoud, *Arms Trade in Africa*, Egypt: Al-Nahda Publishing House, 2nd ed., 2020, p. 42.
[20] Ibid., p. 43.
[21] Abdelhamid Abdullah, *Irregular Migration from Libya and Its Regional Impact*, Algeria: Al-Fajr Publishing House, 1st ed., 2019, p. 18.
[22] Ali bin Marzouq, *Irregular Migration and Border Security*, Algeria: Al-Nahda Publishing House, 1st ed., 2020, p. 62.
[23] Mohamed Al-Hadi, "Irregular Migration in the Mediterranean", Tunisia: Al-Mutawassit Publishing House, 2nd ed., 2018, p. 90.

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2. Economic Ramifications

The phenomenon imposes acute macroeconomic and budgetary stressors, necessitating escalated allocations for border surveillance and internal security operations. Additionally, labor market saturation—due to heightened competition between foreign migrants and domestic job seekers—further complicates socio-economic planning[24].

3. Social Consequences

The uncontrolled influx of irregular migrants generates multidimensional societal pressures, manifesting in overstretched health and educational services, and fomenting integration challenges within host communities. These stressors risk engendering latent social fissures if left unaddressed [25].

Irregular migration from Libya therefore constitutes a multifaceted threat to Algeria across the security, economic, and social spectra. While the Algerian state has implemented numerous countermeasures, a sustainable solution necessitates comprehensive regional and international coordination to effectively neutralize the systemic drivers of this phenomenon.

Chapter Four: The Algerian Strategic Doctrine for Confronting Security Challenges

Algeria is confronted with a confluence of security threats precipitated by an amalgam of geopolitical, economic, and sociostructural dynamics. Situated at a geopolitically fraught juncture—bordering to the east states entrenched in chronic conflict such as Libya, and to the south, crisis-prone territories like Mali and Niger—Algeria finds itself necessitated to adopt a multidimensional securitarian architecture. Understanding the intricacies of Algeria's strategic response is pivotal to apprehending how the state endeavors to immunize itself against both endogenous disruptions and exogenous destabilizations.

Section One: National Security—Definition and Constituent Dimensions

From a doctrinal standpoint, Algerian national security aspires to safeguard and perpetuate sovereign integrity across the entirety of its territorial continuum. It has, since its post-independence inception, prioritized the elaboration of institutional frameworks and infrastructural constructs designed to facilitate permanent, all-encompassing security coverage throughout the national space. The Algerian security apparatus has progressively evolved through investments in both the technical and methodological modernization of its interventionist and operational protocols[26].

In this context, national security emerges as the axial pillar of Algeria's overarching securitarian paradigm—encompassing both internal cohesion and external vigilance. Its functional substratum is predicated on a triad of variables: political stabilization, border defense, and counterterrorism. In recent years, Algeria has contended with a diversification of threats, including jihadist insurgency, illicit trafficking, and unregulated migratory flows[27].

Section Two: Core Components of the Algerian Security Strategy

1. Augmentation of Defensive Capabilities

The strategy emphasizes the capacitation of the national security forces in the domains of counterterrorism and border interdiction. This includes the institutionalization of synergistic frameworks with neighboring states for

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[24] Karim Abdullah, *Security in the African Sahel Region*, Algeria: Al-Ufuq Publishing House, 2nd ed., 2020, p. 70.

[25] Samir bin Abdullah, *Irregular Migration and the Algerian Economy*, Algeria: Al-Fajr Publishing House, 1st ed., 2021, p. 80.

[26] Abdelrahman Hilal, *Irregular Migration: Its Social and Political Impact*, Algeria: Al-Hikma Publishing House, 1st ed., 2020, p. 90.

[27] Said Mourad, *National Security in Algeria: Challenges and Strategies*, Algeria: Al-Majd Publishing House, 2nd ed., 2019, p. 23.

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cooperative threat mitigation[28]. Algeria has allocated significant resources toward fortifying its military-industrial base, with an emphasis on the southern and eastern borderlands—particularly the Libyan frontier—where specialized units have been deployed and equipped with cutting-edge surveillance and combat systems to ensure strategic border control[29].

In parallel, the state has embarked on an aggressive technological modernization campaign, integrating advanced deterrent and reconnaissance technologies—including unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) and thermal imaging systems—to buttress its situational awareness and preemptive capabilities[30]. Concurrently, it continues to refine its military doctrines through procurement upgrades, enhanced tactical readiness, and rigorous training regimens tailored to asymmetrical threat environments[31].

2. Regional and International Cooperation

Algeria's strategic vision is anchored in fostering transboundary securitarian synergies through bilateral and multilateral partnerships with contiguous and regional actors. These partnerships facilitate intelligence-sharing mechanisms and operational interoperability in combatting transnational organized crime and terrorism[32]. Algeria deems its strategic alignments with proximate states such as Tunisia and Mali, and its engagement with institutional frameworks like the African Union, indispensable to addressing interlinked regional threats. It also maintains calibrated collaborations with global actors including France and the United States, particularly in intelligence and counter-trafficking domains[33].

However, Algeria remains doctrinally averse to foreign military entanglements, staunchly advocating for conflict resolution through indigenous diplomacy and negotiated settlements[34]. In parallel, Algeria has prioritized the securitization of its southern and southeastern trade corridors—particularly those vulnerable to illicit cross-border flows—through the deployment of sophisticated surveillance assets such as drones and infrared camera systems (reference implied).

Section Three: Evaluating the Effectiveness of Algeria's Security Strategy

1. Achieved Successes

Algeria has recorded a series of strategic triumphs, notably the dismantlement of multiple terrorist cells and a discernible de-escalation in the incidence of domestic political violence. Additionally, it has succeeded in re-establishing operational stability along critical sections of its eastern and western borders[35].

2. Persistent Challenges

Despite such progress, Algeria remains enmeshed in a labyrinth of enduring threats—including cross-border militancy, entrenched smuggling networks, and intensifying internal economic constraints. These exigencies necessitate a continual recalibration of Algeria's security doctrine to remain congruent with the mutable dynamics of regional and international security environments[36].

Section Three: Appraising the Efficacy of Algeria's Security Strategy

[28] Ibid., p. 24.
[29] Khaled Belkacem, *Algerian National Security: Strategic Studies*, Algeria: Al-Ufuq Publishing House, 1st ed., 2021, p. 37.
[30] Khaled Mahmoud, "National Defense in Algeria", Algeria: Al-Majd Publishing House, 2nd ed., 2020, p. 140.
[31] Khaled Belkacem, *Algerian National Security: Strategic Studies*, op. cit., p. 37.
[32] Abdelrahman Saleh, *The Algerian Armed Forces: Evolution and Challenges*, Algeria: Al-Maʿrifa Publishing House, 3rd ed., 2021, p. 90.
[33] Sami Hamdi, *Security Cooperation in Africa*, Morocco: Al-Maʿarif Publishing House, 1st ed., 2019, p. 180.
[34] Nour Eddine Hilal, *Regional Coordination in Facing Security Threats*, Algeria: Al-Andalus Publishing House, 1st ed., 2019, p. 80.
[35] Sami Hamdi, *Security Cooperation in Africa*, op. cit., p. 181.
[36] Karim Abdullah, *Algeria's Policy in Confronting Irregular Migration*, Algeria: Al-Ufuq Publishing House, 2nd ed., 2020, p. 110.

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1. Achieved Successes

Algeria has registered a series of salient achievements in neutralizing diverse security threats. Foremost among these successes is the systematic dismantling of multiple terrorist cells, accompanied by a marked attenuation in the frequency and intensity of violent incidents within national borders. Moreover, the Algerian security apparatus has succeeded in restoring relative stability across its eastern and western border zones—a feat indicative of the operational consolidation of its territorial defense posture[37].

2. Persisting Challenges

Despite these operational gains, Algeria continues to grapple with a constellation of enduring security dilemmas. Chief among these are the transboundary incursions of armed non-state actors, the structural entrenchment of smuggling networks, and mounting domestic economic pressures. These challenges underscore the imperative for Algeria to recalibrate and periodically renew its security doctrine in alignment with the shifting contours of regional and international threat environments[38].

Conclusion

Algeria emerges as a pivotal geostrategic actor within the North African geopolitical matrix, contending with a plethora of convergent security challenges—foremost among them, the protracted Libyan crisis. Since the eruption of hostilities in Libya in 2011, Algeria has actively positioned itself as a stabilizing force in the region, even as it has found itself increasingly exposed to the spillover effects of regional entropy, manifesting in the proliferation of terrorist networks, irregular migratory flows, and cross-border illicit economies.

The systemic fragmentation of Libya—marked by institutional disintegration and politico-security vacuums—has transformed the state into an epicenter for extremist proliferation and transnational criminality, thereby imperiling Algerian stability through both overt and latent securitarian vectors emanating from its eastern frontier.

Algeria's strategic response has been multifaceted: reinforcing regional and international alliances, bolstering the operational readiness of its armed forces, and implementing a comprehensive security doctrine oriented toward the interdiction of terrorism, organized crime, and border infiltration. Nonetheless, the evolving complexity of regional threats necessitates a security paradigm that is both structurally robust and adaptively dynamic.

Key Findings

1. The Libyan conflict has constituted a critical destabilizing variable in the broader regional equation. Its consequences have transcended Libya's borders, catalyzing the mobilization of insurgent actors and terrorist syndicates along Algeria's eastern perimeter. Furthermore, the politico-institutional void has facilitated waves of clandestine migration, thereby engendering socio-economic strain within Algerian borders.

2. Algeria is confronted with a multidimensional threat landscape, ranging from Salafi-jihadist insurgencies (including affiliates of Al-Qaeda and ISIS) to the entrenchment of criminal economies involving arms trafficking and narcotics smuggling. Irregular migration—particularly via Libyan corridors—exacerbates these security dilemmas, placing additional burdens on national infrastructure and governance.

3. The state has pursued a series of defensive recalibrations, including enhanced border surveillance, military modernization, and expanded security diplomacy with adjacent nations. While these measures have yielded tangible dividends, they underscore the exigency for an even more agile and integrated security framework.

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[37] Tareq Saleh, *Assessment of Algeria's Security Strategy*, Algeria: Al-Fajr Publishing House, 1st ed., 2021, p. 120.
[38] Mohamed Al-Amin, *National Security in Algeria: Challenges and Aspirations*, Algeria: Al-Nur Publishing House, 1st ed., 2020, p. 130.

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4. Algeria has maintained a posture of relative neutrality vis-à-vis the Libyan imbroglio, consistently advocating for intra-Libyan dialogue and consensual political settlements. While this position bolsters Algeria's credibility as a regional mediator, it also necessitates a delicate balancing act between external engagement and domestic security consolidation.

Recommendations

1. Algeria should amplify its securitarian coordination with Sahelian neighbors—specifically Tunisia, Niger, and Mali—while simultaneously deepening its engagement with multilateral frameworks such as the African Union and the United Nations. Intelligence-sharing and logistical harmonization are indispensable to countering transnational threats.

2. Sustained investment in the modernization of defense infrastructure is imperative. This includes advancing the operational training of armed forces, integrating next-generation surveillance technologies, and safeguarding vital national assets against hybrid and asymmetrical threats.

3. Algeria must intensify the securitization of its southern and eastern frontiers through satellite monitoring, unmanned aerial systems, and biometric control mechanisms. Simultaneously, it must address root causes by engaging in development-focused partnerships with migrant-source countries to mitigate push factors.

4. Algeria ought to continue its diplomatic function as an impartial mediator in regional conflicts, particularly the Libyan dossier. Strategic investment in regional stabilization serves as a long-term hedge against security volatility and a catalyst for peaceful inter-state relations.

5. The Algerian security strategy must remain fluid and anticipatory, capable of adapting to the volatile tempo of contemporary threats. This requires institutionalizing periodic strategic reviews and scenario-based planning to preempt emergent security fissures—ranging from terrorism and human trafficking to clandestine transnational networks.

In summation, Algeria's geostrategic posture renders it both an indispensable regional actor and a perennial target of security perturbations emanating from its turbulent periphery—chiefly Libya. Amidst this complexity, Algeria's security doctrine continues to evolve along lines of adaptability and systemic resilience. While commendable progress has been made in threat containment, future stability will hinge on sustained regional cooperation, calibrated military enhancement, and the institutionalization of mechanisms to mitigate irregular migratory pressures.

Ultimately, Algeria's equilibrium in an era of geopolitical fluidity remains inextricably linked to the sophistication of its securitarian architecture and the strategic foresight embedded within its regional engagements.

Method and Methodology
The study adopts a qualitative and multi-method approach, including:

1. Historical-Institutional Analysis: Reviewing Algeria's evolving national security doctrine since independence and its recalibration after the Libyan crisis of 2011.
2. Geopolitical Analysis: Mapping the spatial dynamics of the Algeria–Libya border and its exposure to asymmetrical threats.
3. Documentary Research: Analyzing official Algerian policy statements, African Union and UN resolutions, and regional security agreements.
4. Comparative Approach: Positioning Algeria's response within the wider Sahelian security framework, particularly in relation to Mali, Niger, and Libya.
5. Analytical Synthesis: Integrating security studies theories (realism, securitization, regional security complexes) to evaluate Algeria's strategy.

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This methodology allows for a holistic understanding of both the material threats and the strategic responses shaping Algerian national security.

Actuality (Research Significance)

The significance of this research lies in its focus on Algeria as a pivotal actor in the Maghreb-Sahel security nexus. The Sahel has emerged as one of the most volatile geostrategic corridors globally, with implications not only for Africa but also for Europe and the wider Mediterranean. Libya, as Algeria's immediate neighbor, epitomizes the dangers of state collapse and the diffusion of non-state armed actors. Understanding Algeria's responses provides critical insights into:
- How mid-level regional powers manage border insecurity.
- The interplay between preventive diplomacy and militarized containment.
- Algeria's role as a mediator in intra-Sahelian crises and its impact on continental stability.

Findings

The research yields several key findings:

1. Libya as a Security Multiplier: Since 2011, Libya has functioned as a hub for arms proliferation, insurgent mobility, and jihadist sanctuaries, intensifying Algeria's exposure to asymmetrical threats.

2. Border Vulnerabilities: Algeria's 965-kilometer frontier with Libya constitutes a major security liability, requiring unprecedented military deployment and surveillance.

3. Doctrinal Adaptation: Algeria has recalibrated its traditional non-interventionist doctrine toward a hybrid model emphasizing defensive militarization (troop mobilization, technological monitoring, counter-terror operations) and preventive diplomacy (mediation in Libyan peace talks).

4. Regional Security Entente: Algeria recognizes the limitations of unilateral measures; thus, it engages in cooperative frameworks such as the African Union's counter-terror initiatives and the G5 Sahel discussions, albeit cautiously.

5. Socio-Economic Spillovers: Beyond military concerns, Algeria faces rising irregular migration, narcotics trafficking, and economic stress emanating from Libyan instability, all of which intersect with domestic political fragilities.

6. Grand Strategic Imperative: The sustainability of Algeria's security model depends on consolidating internal resilience, diversifying alliances, and institutionalizing regional security cooperation mechanisms.

Ethical Considerations

The study is based exclusively on secondary sources, including official documents, scholarly analyses, and international reports. No human subjects or confidential data were used. Academic integrity and proper citation of sources are strictly observed.

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Conflict of Interest

The authors declare no conflict of interest.

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