

Commercial relations between the Regency of Algiers and Spain between 1786 – 1830

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Abstract:

The relations between Regency of Algiers and Spain during the Ottoman era were characterized by hostility and wars. Were there economic and commercial relations between them, especially those that linked the two countries? in this study, we will show the face of trade relations between the two countries. Commercial relations between them go back to the year 1786, when the first peace treaty was concluded between them. the 1792 treaty concluded between them increased the pace of commercial activities. many spanish commercial companies have established centers in Regency. The Algerian company Bakri and Boujennah took over its commercial activity with some Spanish coastal cities and Alicante. In this research, we will learn about the most important goods exchanged between the two countries between the years 1786 and 1830, and the most important coastal cities that exported and received goods.

Keywords : Regency of Algiers, Spain, trade, port, company, wheat.

Introduction :

The Regency of Algiers, because of its geographical location facing the Mediterranean Sea, had relations with European countries, Spain in particular, because of its proximity to Algeria. Although relations between the two countries were constantly characterised by hostility and war from the beginning of the sixteenth century until 1786, from that date onwards, following the conclusion of the peace treaty, they began to ease and trade began to flourish. In this study, I will look at aspects of trade relations between the two countries between 1786 and 1830, beginning with an overview of the nature of the Regency of Algiers' foreign trade with Europe in the last quarter of the eighteenth century. As with Spain, the treaty of 1786 paved the way for trade between the two countries, despite the continued Spanish occupation of the city of Oran until 1792. The treaty

concluded between the two countries in 1791 after the liberation of Oran increased the pace of trade, allowing Spanish commercial companies to set up centers in Algeria. On the Algerian side, only the Bakri and Busnach company is mentioned, for the transfer of goods from Algerian ports to certain Spanish ports such as Cartagena and Alicante. The most important Algerian exports to Spain were cereals and livestock. Algerian imports from Spain were weapons, various manufactured products and certain foodstuffs such as tea. At the end of this study, I will list the most important commercial ports of the two countries.

1-The nature and development of trade relations between the two countries:

In the last quarter of the eighteenth century, Algeria's commercial relations with Europe were conducted by foreigners who established centres in some Algerian ports, such as the Royal African Company and its successor, the African Agency, in 1794. In addition, Algerian vessels played a significant role in transporting goods to and from the port of Algiers, the most famous of which was the Bakri and Bouchanaq Company, which increased its activity during the wars of the French Revolution, supplying France, Italy and Spain with grain by ships from other countries. Algerian merchants sought to have their own merchant fleet to market their goods, but the Chamber of Commerce of Marseille hindered their activity, and they were unable to compete with the Livornese Jewish merchants. Algerian Jews were pressuring the Dey to ask the French authorities to prevent these merchants from opening shops in their ports. The monopolisation of Algerian foreign trade by foreigners led to low prices for exported items and high prices for imported items (Al-Zubairi, M.L., 1984, p.84). The percentage of ships that came from Marseille to the port of Algiers or returned from it in the direction of Marseille reached 86 per cent, the Italian port of Leghorn ranked second with 10 per cent, the port of Genoa 0.5 per cent, and the Spanish ports together accounted for 2 per cent (Amine M., 1988, p.34). The composition of the Algerian merchant fleet in terms of the number and types of ships during the period 1808-1810 (Panzac D., 2004, p.194). This is the status of Algeria's foreign trade with European nations on the eve of the revival of its trade relations with Spain.

During the first half of the 18th century, Spain suffered from occasional droughts and had to resort to importing wheat and barley to cover its need for these crops. The methods of cultivation and the means used resulted in a poor agricultural harvest. In the second half

of the century, agriculture experienced a revival due to French influence, which led to the establishment of the (Société d'amis du pays), which contributed to improving agricultural techniques. Through its agricultural policy, the Spanish government endeavoured to launch major irrigation works that lasted until the end of the century.

Algeria's economy is primarily based on agriculture, as it has large areas of plains such as the Annaba Plain in the east, the Mitija Plain in the centre and the Grace Plain in Masker in the west. Cereals were cultivated, especially wheat and barley. In addition to the nature of its climate, which allows for agriculture based on natural irrigation. The importance of the Mitija Plain lies in its proximity to the city of Algiers (Khouidja, H.B. 1982, p.88), where there are farms and livestock. These animals were a source of other economic crops such as hides, wool and tallow, for which foreign markets were in high demand, including Spanish markets, which were interested in buying Algerian crops after the two countries reached a peace treaty in 1786.

This shift in relations between the two countries came at the end of the eighteenth century following Spain's transition from military action against Algeria, which allowed the establishment of economic relations as well as political ones. This situation resulted in the settlement of many Spaniards in Algeria. It also led to the establishment of Spanish commercial enterprises that transported various Algerian goods to many Spanish ports. It also defined the nature of relations between the two countries and established a framework for trade, as stipulated in Article 7 of the aforementioned treaty (A.H.N. Estado, leg. 3617).

In order to stimulate trade with Algeria for the importation of wheat, the company Goyeneche was established in Spain. This company was initially responsible for giving the necessary guarantees and monitoring the grain market for the government of Florida Blanca. At the end of 1790, the company was able to monopolise all wheat purchases from Algiers and Arzew (Aguilla, C., 1974, p.40). It became the second customer from Algeria after the French Royal African Company, which was based in the Constantine's beylik.

Given the importance of trade with the Algerian province, the Spanish consul in Algeria, Las Heras, requested that the company's representatives be sent to Algeria in order to acquire goods and provide gifts. He suggested that she appoint a representative in Algiers and another in Arzew. However, Spain was late in paying its debts to Algeria and the Dey was dissatisfied with this matter. This is what

contributed to the Spanish government not establishing a Spanish Chamber of Commerce in Algeria(Aguilla, C.,1974,p.44). Things remained as they were until the signing of the agreement in 1791.

This agreement gave impetus to economic relations between the two countries. The Algerian authorities began to allow Spanish merchants to buy wheat, not only from the western ports of Algeria, but also allowed them to buy this material from the eastern regions such as Annaba and Kala, which were dominated by the French Royal Company, as it was mentioned in one of the documents: "We learned that the Spaniards came to... Annaba and they obtained permission to buy grains, and that they deal directly with the Bey, and that their multiple ships carry what is sold to them, and as a result we did not obtain the amount stipulated in the agreement concluded in Algeria (Al-zoubairi M.L.,1984,p.92-93).

2- Trading companies:

The treaty of 1791 helped to develop commercial activity between the two countries. On the Spanish side, the treaty opened the way for traders to move to the Regency of Algiers more easily than ever before. In addition, several Spanish trading companies entered the Regency. On the Algerian side, the Société Bakri et Busnach contributed to the transport of goods from Algerian ports to certain European ports, those of Spain. The following is a list of these companies:

2-1- "Campañá" company:

This company⁽¹⁾ settled in Algiers at the beginning of the year 1792, and was able to extend its activity to Oran. When it began its activity in Algeria, the envoy of the Spanish king was received by the Bey Muhammad the Great, with some gifts in the name of the King of Spain. He was able to obtain a headquarters for the company, which was an old military warehouse. This company's interest was focused specifically on grains and livestock. Al-Bay agreed with the company representative to determine the prices of the goods that are sold to the company's office. They are as follows: a cow is 130 riyals, a sheep is 36 riyals, hides are between 7-15 riyals, wax is 600 riyals per quintal, cotton is 140 riyals, barley is 15 riyals, and wheat is 30 riyals. This was for a full year (Aguilla, C.,1974,p.69). The strong Spanish currency, the strong piastres³, dominated the Algerian markets, as well as in the rest of the Mediterranean markets. This affected the French Royal African Company, especially after it was prevented from fishing coral following the dispute with the Regency⁽²⁾, so producers were forced to transport their grains to the capital or to the

markets of western Algeria to sell them to the Spanish. They took advantage of this situation and extended their activities to eastern the Regency(Al-zoubairi M.L.,1984,p.208-209).

There is another agreement between the aforementioned company and Al-Bay to build a building shared equally in terms of costs to establish a soap factory. After eight months had passed in Algeria, the company established a chamber of commerce in Oran, and before the king's delegate returned to his country, Domingo Roman was appointed to head the office in Oran, assisted by ten employees. The activity of this chamber has increased over the years, and the amounts of its expenditures have grown to reach millions of riyals(Aguilla, C.,1974,p.70).

The company brought into Algeria the professionals that the Bey needed, as more than 60 men from various professions arrived in Oran, most of them specialists in construction, and the Bey benefited from their experiences in rebuilding the city destroyed by the earthquake(Aguilla, C.,1974,p.69-70). Muhammad al-Kabir also sought to help these craftsmen develop some local industries. He tried to obtain cannons made of local metals. He partnered with two of them, Juan Ruiz and Julian Villareal, but this experiment did not produce the expected results(Aguilla, C.,1974,p.70).

The company's Oran office did not last long, as its commercial activity stopped at the end of the year 1793, due to the inappropriate actions of the Spanish Consul, which caused the Dey to complain to the King, including his lack of respect for the decision of the Bey of Oran when he prevented Spanish merchants from buying wheat, when they refused to pay a thousand Sequin in the agreed upon month. The Dey informed the Spanish king that he had decided to abolish the Spanish monopoly on trade in Oran, and that all people were free to buy and sell⁽³⁾.

The repercussions of the dispute led to the liquidation of the company's office in Oran. In December 1794, Pedro Sicabaig received an order from his country to leave Oran with the office's employees. The office ceased permanently in March 1795 after three years of activity (Aguilla, C.,1974,p.120).

2-2- "Garrigo" company:

The entry of this institution into Algeria dates back to the moment when it was granted to its owner, Juan Garrigo⁴. The right to buy leather, wool and wax, and therefore its activity, initially became part of a company of a group of Catalan merchants Garrigo, Sagarra and Cia. This company was established in Algiers in 1792. Like the

Campania company, it had a license to purchase a variety of products for export. However, what distinguishes the Garrigo Foundation from its counterpart in Campania is that it is a private company, as it is expressed today, and that it does not represent anyone other than herself. While the "Campania" company was directly linked to the king, meaning that its director was considered the official representative of the King of Spain, which required him to undertake certain actions, such as offering gifts to certain members of the government in Algeria. The Company was authorized to purchase cereals, livestock, hides and wool whose value was equal to or greater than the value of purchases from the French Royal African Company, taking into account Garrigo's relationship with the Dey, which allowed him to purchase goods with a certain delay. in payment over several years (Aguilla, C., 1974, p.87).

De Paradis indicated that average exports from Algiers at the end of the eighteenth century amounted to 8,000 quintals of wool, and between 20,000 and 25,000 quintals of wax. Between 20,000 and 25,000 hides, and 300 or 400 quintals of wax (Paradis, V. 1895, p.284). There is no doubt that a significant amount belonged to the Garrigou company. Due to this status, Garrigo sometimes served as Spanish vice-consul to the Dey. The Garrigo company, along with the Campania company, were allowed to export to Algeria the Spanish Piastre currency, in order to purchase goods from Algeria ⁽⁴⁾.

Thus, the treaties concluded with Spain, especially the last treaty (1791) at the end of the eighteenth century, led to a commercial recovery in Algeria after the entry of Spanish companies into it, which made it exposed to pressure from the major powers to monopolize the goods that they needed, especially during crises that These countries experienced it among themselves, starting from the events of the French Revolution until the Congress of Vienna in 1815.

2-3- "Goyeneche" Company :

This company, attributed to its owner, Count Miguel de Goyeneche, was the main supplier to the army in major cities such as Valencia, Murcia, Málaga, Algeciras, Ceuta, Melilla and Oran. As local production was insufficient during the long years of drought, this company was forced to turn to the Algerian market. She needed the support of the Spanish Prime Minister, the Count of Floridablanca, to obtain authorization to establish a commercial establishment in Algiers or Arzew. It was authorized by the Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, as well as the Association of (L. Rigal y Urrutia) to compete with the French trading company Gimon.

In this regard, it should be noted that during the year 1789, the State of Algiers approved the creation of a commercial institution in Algeria. But the Spanish consul in Algeria, de las Heras, rejected this proposal, preferring to appoint one of the company's trusted representatives at the Spanish consulate in Algeria to place orders and negotiate the selling prices of the cereals with the Dey and the Bayat at Camp and Constantine. The company agreed to appoint someone to the consulate. She began trading during 1790 and subsequently obtained 20,000 bushels of wheat and 20,000 bushels of barley in the west of the country. In 1791, she also managed to obtain large quantities of grain from the West Beylik region, namely 60,000 bushels of wheat and 40,000 bushels of barley. Thus, this company was able to obtain large quantities of Algerian cereals, particularly in the west and center of the country, and it became Algeria's main customer after the Compagnie Royale Africaine Française de Kala. (Ismet, T.H., 2005, pp146-148)

2-4- Coral fishing company:

This company had previously exploited coral fishing off the coast of Tripoli, after Spain concluded a treaty with Libya in the year 1784. As for Algeria, since 1790, the governor of Oran, D. Basilio Gascon was in negotiations with the Bey camp about coral fishing projects and the Bey initially agreed to let the Spaniards extract coral in the waters under his jurisdiction (Atard, V.A., 1967, p. 555.). The two countries did not reach an agreement in this regard until the end of the year 1791, against the background of the treaty concluded between the two countries, whereby the Spaniards obtained the right to fish on the Algerian coast, especially on the western coast. However, Spanish fishermen sometimes did not respect the scope set for them by the Algerian authorities, so they would exceed it to other areas (Aguilla, C.,1974,p.80).On August 3, 1792, a fisherman from Catalonia came with a crew consisting of eight people off the city of Algiers to fish for coral. The Dey ordered them to leave the place and go to the Oran coast. The company was operating on the Oranian coast during the months of September and October 1792, and during the first half of September it was able to collect significant quantities of coral. While the following period witnessed a decline in production, which led fishermen to withdraw. The agreement stipulated that Algeria would receive a third of the amount of coral collected in October. On this basis, the fishermen left 60 Castilian tons of coral in Oran, and took 404 Castilian tons with them to Barcelona (Aguilla, C.,1974,p.82). In 1793, the "Factoria de los Cinco Gremios Mayores" company from

Barcelona, based in Madrid, benefited from the exploitation of the Oranese coast (Terki-Hassaine I. 2004,p.221).

2-5- "Bakri-Busnach" company:

Evidence indicates that the establishment of this company dates back to the year 1793, when France asked it to supply it with grain for five years(Al-zoubairi M.L.,1984,p.263). It is stated in one of the French records that in 1794, the French government of the Directory obtained a financial loan in the amount of five million francs during the reign of Dey Hassan, without interest, and that the company took in charge of mediation in the discussions, as well as in matters of supplying France with wheat(Rozet et Carette, 1980,p.253).This company played an important role in trade exchange with Spain, and facilitated the tasks of Spanish merchants to carry out their activities in Algeria(Archivo General ,Spain, H.2311).

When Algeria regained Oran, the people of Mahon lost the grain and other agricultural goods they had been getting from western Algeria. They resorted to searching for their needs from other regions, including the ports of Beylik Constantine in eastern Algeria, but they found the African Agency⁽⁵⁾ standing in their way and preventing them from entering the ports of eastern Algeria, where it had major commercial interests. But Mahon merchants sought help from the Bakri-Busnach company to contact the people of this region and obtain their necessary needs.The most important area they reached was the port of Stora, east of the current city of Skikda, located far from the control of the French, whose presence was concentrated in Annaba. They began to go there to ship the goods they bought from the people. When the French learned of the activity of the Spanish in this region, they complained to the authorities affiliated with the Bey of Constantine to take the necessary measures to prevent them, but Bakri's interventions prevented them from implementing their goal. This neglect was mentioned in a letter sent by Guibert to the French Consul in Algeria, Philippe Vallière, dated the 18th of Nivose (Tird year of the Republican calendar at the time of the French Revolution), in which he said: «We learned that the Mahonites began shipping the wheat that was sold to them yesterday, and now they are... They are working to buy others, and the seller does not tell them »(Al-zoubairi M.L.,1984,p.139).

The company expanded its activity to Spanish ports. On July 17, 1790, Joseph Cohen Bakri shipped from Algeria in the direction of Cartagena to his agent there, Thomas Sabicla, 4,500 bushels of wheat

and 310 bushels of barley. On September 19, 1792, he shipped 998 bushels of wheat to Alicante(Amine M., 2003,p.305).

In addition to economic activity, this company played a political role in improving relations between the two countries. When relations between them became tense in the year 1803, and the Minister of the Navy in the Dey's government, Mustafa Pasha(1789-1805), announced that he considered Spain an enemy country, the Spanish consul turned to Busnach to mediate. He got a positive result. The minister did not content himself with accepting the reconciliation with Spain, but rather he summoned its consul to his palace and received him on December 27, 1807, and concluded reconciliation with him in the presence of Bouchnak. He also assured him of Algeria's good intentions towards Spain(Al-Arabi I, 1974, p. 52).

3-Algerian exports to Spain:

The most important Algerian products exported to Spain were :

3-1- Cereals :

Before signing the peace agreement with Spain in 1786, Algeria was exporting some quantities of wheat to some Spanish merchants, and following the entry of Spanish companies into Algeria after the aforementioned agreement, Algeria was exporting very small quantities to them, due to the continued tension with Spain due to their continued presence in Oran and Mers-el-Kébir. After the year 1791, most of the discussions that took place between the Algerian authorities and Spanish merchants revolved around purchasing grains, especially wheat. The Treaty of 1791 also stipulated a mention of grain (grano), in Articles Five and Six⁽⁷⁾.

Spain was in dire need of wheat, due to its limited production, and in order to supply its army, which was posing a problem to the government. Its colonies on the African coast relied on wheat from outside the region. Spanish companies were keen to purchase this material from Algeria, as the Goyenche Company, beginning in 1792, was able to conclude a deal with the Bay of Oran to purchase a quantity of 100,000 khila(Aguilla, C.,1974,p.256), which were delivered during the following two years³. In the Oranian region, prices increased by nearly three times, and the following table shows the evolution of the prices of wheat sold to the Spanish between the years 1789-1792(Merouche L. 1009, p.174).

Table 1 (Wheat prices between 1789 and 1811)

Year	Price of Fanègue in Spanish Piastres
1789-1792	1.50
1793	2.40
1794	2.40
1809	2.50
1811	4.00

Source: Lemnaouar Merouche, (2009), Dirasat anne Al-djazair..., t.1, Dar al-Casabah li-ennashr p.184.

Within three years, Algeria exported to the Campania company from Oran 42,239 khila of wheat and 4,540 khila of barley. Algerian wheat was desired by European countries such as Spain and France, which were experiencing unstable political events, and this affected the quantity of Spain's purchases. The process of exporting Algerian wheat to Spain was active starting in 1809, along with other European countries, especially from the ports of Oran and Arzew. During the three years 1811, 1812, and 1813, Algeria exported to Spain the following quantities of grain: 50,000, 30,000, and 5,000 khila. (Aguilla, C.,1974,p. 258). What is observed in these quantities is their decline, and this is mainly due to the worsening situation between Algeria and Spain due to its delay in paying the debts it owed, and this is what led to a decrease in the quantities of wheat exported to Spain(Guenane D. 1999,pp.341-342).

Regarding prices, the 1791 agreement determined them by what was in the market⁽⁸⁾, and therefore they did not witness stability. According to some Spanish reports, the companies that entered Algeria had entered into bargains with the Algerian authorities in order to reduce the price. Before the entry of these companies, the price was less than 30 riyals per kilo of wheat, and 15 riyals per kilo of barley. One company received a shipment of wheat at a price of 18 riyals. In the year 1792, the Bey of Oran concluded a commercial contract with the Campania Company that included the quantities and prices of agricultural crops and heads of livestock agreed to be sold to the aforementioned company³. After this year (1792), the Bey of Oran raised prices by concluding a contract with the Campania Company at a price of 30 riyals per khila of wheat, and 15 riyals per khila of barley for a year. If the bey transported the goods to the warehouses in Oran, the price would rise to 40 riyals per khila (Aguilla, C.,1974,p. 264).

In the year 1793, prices rose to 36 riyals per khila in Oran, and 31 riyals in Algiers, and later the Dey began demanding 50 riyals per khila. In the year 1794, the French wanted to import wheat from Algeria, which helped raise its price. The Spanish Consul Laria was able to import 26 thousand khila at a price of 48 riyals, even though the price given by France was 72 riyals. In Oran, the Campania company lost its monopoly on purchasing this material, and so its representative, Domingo Roma, had to buy wheat through auction, where the price reached 50 riyals per khila (Aguilla, L.C. 1974 :264). In the year 1811, the price rose again in Algiers, where it reached 80 riyals. After the year 1813, production decreased, which led to a decrease in exports of this materia (Merouche L. 1009, p. 211).

3-2- Livestock:

In addition to grains, Algeria is also famous for exporting livestock to many European countries, including Spain. The Campania Company was concerned with importing livestock in order to supply some Spanish regions such as Barcelona and the Balearic Islands. Purchases were made through Spanish merchants specialized in this profession. Algeria exported to the Campania Company through two Spanish intermediaries, Francisco Seguy and José Sellaras, 4,240 sheep and 457 cows, and they were sent to Palma and the island of Ibiza. In the year 1792, the Spaniards were buying bulls of all weights from the Oranian regions at a price of 6.50 piasters per bull, and sheep at 1.80 piasters per sheep (Merouche L. 1009, p. 211).

In the year 1793, Algeria exported 2,851 sheep and 696 cows to the La Juntas de Abastos Foundation in Barcelona. The city of Oran exported a lot of livestock to the Spanish coastal cities, including the cities of Almería and Alicante, where the first benefited from 315 cows and 1,020 sheep, and the second city's share was 1,191 cows and 5,225 sheep. Malaga received a few tenths of livestock.

In terms of prices, documents related to the Campania company stated that it paid 130 riyals per cow and 36 riyals per head of sheep, and its sale in Spain ranged between 150-220 riyals per cow and 33-45 riyals per head of sheep (Aguilla, L.C. 1974 ,pp.270-271).

At the beginning of the nineteenth century, Spain sought to buy horses from Algeria. The first shipment left Oran on February 14, 1809, consisting of 16 horses and 4 mules. Its costs amounted to 47,363 Algerian riyals, equivalent to 2,368 (Pesos fuerte). It was mentioned in One of the archival documents states that Algeria exported 175 horses during the year 1809, for a sum of money amounting to 18,739.19 pesos, and the same document showed the

price of one horse, which ranged between 93 pesos in the month of June, and 131 pesos in the month of February of the aforementioned year(Archivo Histórico Nacional, Madrid, leg. 6152/2).

During the years 1809-1810, Algeria exported to Spain more than 200 horses, apparently for the purpose of using them in the army, given the political conditions that Spain was experiencing after being subjected to the French invasion led by Napoleon in the year 1808. Spain stopped buying them in the following years due to their high prices and the death of some of them while being transported to Spain(A. H. N., Madrid, leg. 6152/2)..

3-3- Leather, wool and wax:

The Regency of Algiers was famous for exporting other commercial materials, such as leather, wool, candles, and other goods to many European countries, including Spain. Therefore, the Spanish were keen to secure their access to these materials in the treaty of 1791, which is what was stated in Article Four⁽⁹⁾. Garrigou's company obtained the same concession as the French. Based on this agreement, Algeria exported to Spain approximately two-thirds of its hides at the end of the eighteenth century(Aguilla,L.C.1974 ,p.275).

Within a few years, Algeria exported to the Campania Company from the port of Oran 12,150 pieces of cow hides, 5,190 pieces of tanned hides, and more than 3,000 pieces of poor quality hides. In exchange for this, a sum of money amounting to 12 thousand Piastris forte. At the beginning of the 19th century, another company began purchasing leather from Algiers, called "Patron" because its owner⁽¹⁰⁾ was aware of the commercial situation in the Regency.

As for the city of Algiers, the Garrigo Company was responsible for purchasing leather and wool for a period of four years, at a price of 14 riyals per piece. De Paradis stated that between 20,000 and 25,000 pieces of hides were coming out of the city's port annually(Paradis,V.,1895,285). There is no doubt that a large percentage of this number belonged to Spain.

Beginning in the year 1805, another company entered the field of purchasing leather from Algeria, called Patron, and its owner⁽¹⁰⁾ had knowledge of the commercial situation in Algeria. At the end of this year, it was able to transport two shipments carrying 16,700 pieces of hides to Barcelona. In the following year, the company transferred the sale of its production from Spain to the port of Marseille in France, due to the lack of demand for hides in Spain at this time, especially during the unrest that Spain witnessed starting in the year 1808.

Despite the prevailing situation; In 1810, Algeria exported 18,300 pieces of hides to this company(Aguilla,L.C.1974 ,p.278).

With regard to wool, Algeria exported to the Campania company during the years 1792 and 1793 two shipments, one consisting of 392 parcels (Balle), and the other of 88 parcels. In the same year, this company exported a quantity of wax at a price ranging between 32 and 36 piastre. In the year 1794, it exported 261 quintals at a price of 30 piasters per quintal. It is worth noting that Baylek of the West exported an amount estimated at 461 quintals of wax, and this material was sold in Spain at a price of 60 piasters per quintal.

As for the city of Algiers, the export of wool and wax is more important, as most of the quantities came from Beylik of Titteri, and the quantity that was exported to the Garrigo Company from this port was not known. But De Paradis mentioned that between 7,000 and 8,000 quintals of wool were leaving the port of Algiers annually to Christian countries (Paradis V. 1895,p.282). Without any percentage belonging to the Garrigo company, which was still active in Algiers.

In 1805, Patron obtained the privilege of buying leather, wool and wax. By the end of the year, it was able to increase its collection of leather to 500 quintals of wool and 600 quintals of wax.

By way of comparison, we can mention the quantities of leather, wool and wax imported by France from Algeria by the Société Royale Africaine Française: these totalled 102,062 pieces between 1785 and 1789, with an average of 20,000 pieces of leather per year. On the other hand, the Garrigo company, because of its presence in the Regency of Algiers, obtained 6,000 pieces. In terms of imports, the "Société Royal Africaine Française" achieved 78,286 quintals of wool between 1754 and 1759, then fell to 4,584 quintals over the following six years. This was the period when peace had not been made with Spain (Paradis V. 1895,p.282).

As for wax, the quantity exported from the Regency of Algiers by the French company was smaller, either from the city of Algiers or from that of Oran, where the company obtained a few hundred quintals. As for Spain, it could be said that it obtained the same quantity of leather and wool wax, or that this quantity was exceeded.

3-4-Tobacco:

A Spanish study mentions that the Spanish introduced tobacco growing to Oran in 1619, and then took care to develop it later, because of the considerable financial income it generated. The value of Spanish revenue in riyals from tobacco imported from Oran during the years 1790 and 1791 reached 45,356.80 riyals in November 1790,

but by November of the following year (1791) this revenue had fallen to 44,475.10 riyals. The fall in the value of income between these two years, with a deficit of 881.7 riyals, is due to the circumstances experienced by the town of Oran during this period, particularly in the second year (1791)(Acero B. A.1996,p.22).

3-5- Other income:

In addition to the products mentioned above, the Regency of Algiers exported other products to Spain and various European countries, but in small quantities compared to leather and cereals. In Oran, El-Bey signed a contract with the Campaña company to supply it with oil. The company obtained 880 units of good quality oil at a price of 60 riyals. The company's representative (D. Roman) also obtained a further 541 units of oil for use in the soap industry. Oran had a workshop manufacturing this product until 1794. Other Algerian cities specialised in this industry, such as Qalaa Beni Rached, Bou Saada and Tlemcen, while the Djurjura region was famous for making black soap from olive residues (Saidouni N.; Al-bouabdelli M. 1984,p.284).

The Regency of Algiers also sold cow and sheep tallow to the same company at a price of 7 piastres per quintal. In addition, the Regency exported batches of camel hair and beans to Spain. The Bey of Oran delivered 5,000 quintals of shot to the Campaña company, which also sold the iron from the bombs dropped on the city of Oran during the siege of 1791. From 1810, the Patron Company became interested in importing other products from the Regency of Algiers, such as sulfur, pepper and cypress apples. (Aguilla,L.C.1974 ,p. 284).

4- Algerian imports from Spain:

The rulers of Algiers made their requests to the Spanish companies, or through the Spanish consul in Algiers. This is mentioned in a letter dated 8 Jumada al-Awwal 1201 AH, corresponding to the end of 1786, sent by a senior official named Yazid, who asked the Spanish consul to send him some goods. The letter reads: "From Yazid to the Spanish Consul in Algiers, and after, we order you to send us millef (a kind of precious fabric) of good quality, silk elfina (thin silk cloth), tea and sugar, and to deliver them to the bearer of the letter" (National Historical Archive (Madrid), Leg 3617).

The accounts of the Campania Company reveal the tastes and desires of the bey and his court, and we can distinguish three groups of goods that the Regency imported from Spain: arms, manufactured goods and foodstuffs. Weapons were prioritised by the rulers, given the country's relations with the outside world, especially with an

uncertain Europe. The Regency imported weapons from Spain through its companies operating in the country. These companies facilitated Algeria's requests for arms in order to obtain the goods they desired from the Regency.

At the beginning of the 19th century, Spain agreed to supply the Regency of Algiers with eighteen cannons through the Patron company. After a few years, a thousand rifle barrels were manufactured in Barcelona for the soldiers. Campaña personally delivered twenty-five cannons(Aguilla,L.C.1974 ,pp. 290-291).The task of the chakmamdjies(Arms manufacturers) in the arms industry and the assembly of cannons consisted of importing the materials for their industry from Spain, as well as from other countries such as Italy and England(Al-zoubairi M.L.,1984,p.111).

The Bey also asked for some jewellery, watches and other manufactured goods. The Campaña company sent Oran several deliveries of silk blankets and luxury fabrics. The company's accounts show that the quality fabrics were of many types. In 1794, Algiers received several deliveries of silk (Aguilla,L.C.1974 ,pp.292).

The Regency of Algiers also imported foodstuffs such as tea, consumption of which was on the rise in Europe as well as in the Regency. It also imported sugar, which was greatly needed. There were other products that other parts of society needed. The most important were tools for ships and naval activities, as well as salt, of which the Garrigo company systematically delivered large quantities, followed by the Patron company. The Regency of Algiers also imported manufactured goods from other European countries from the Spanish market. The value of goods such as silk, pepper, sugar and coffee from German and British establishments was 300,000 Spanish dollars in 1822 (Shaler W. 1982,p102).

Representatives of Spanish companies based in Algeria responded to the requests of the highest officials of the state, in return for their friendship and, in some cases, commercial privileges. The account books of the Spanish companies contain lists of various goods that were sent to Algerian ports, especially to Oran. Ships other than those belonging to these companies would come to Algiers harbour in search of grain, sometimes with cargoes of various goods. Many industrialists needed quantities of raw materials and tools necessary for their work that they did not have, so they imported them from abroad. (Al-zoubairi M.L.,1984,p.111).

At the end of this research, we mention the most important ports between which the said goods were transported. The most important

ports in Regency Algiers were Oran, Arzew, Algiers and Annaba. The amount of goods exported from these ports varied in terms of volume. Most of the goods exported to Spain were from Regency's western ports, such as Oran and Arzew, due to their geographical proximity to the Spanish coast. As for the Spanish ports, the most important is the port of Cadiz, which received and exported most of the goods to Regency, followed by the port of Barcelona and Malaga. Other ports are Palma de Mallorca, Cartagena, Alicante and Puerto de Santa Maria (Aguilla, L.C. 1974, pp. 310-312). If we want to make a comparison between the value of exports and the value of Algerian imports with Spain, it is shown in the following table.

Table 2 (The value of Algerian exports and imports with Spanish ports in 1796.)

Spanish ports	Exports (Riyal)	Imports (Riyal)
Alicante	3.060	94.997
Barcelone	158.267	708.839
Cadix	3.548.571	3.953.531
Carthagène	-	261.996
Malaga	94.800	484.378
Palma de Majorque	29.594	200.236
Puerto de Santa Maria	-	26.110
Total	3.831.292	5.730.087

Source : Vilar & Lourido, (1994), *Relaciones entre Espana y el Maghreb siglos XVII y XVIII*, Editorial Mapfre, p.164.

Conclusion:

Political relations between the two countries remained tense until 1786, when they concluded a peace treaty that improved political relations and trade. However, this agreement did not put a final end to the dispute between the two countries as long as Spain continued to occupy Oran and Mers El-Kebir. This is why the siege around the city continued until 1791, when the Spanish accepted peace with Algeria with the evacuation of the two cities. This treaty expanded political and economic relations between the two countries.

However, these relations, which lasted until 1830, were often affected by France and Great Britain, who were competing in Europe and in the Mediterranean Sea, which meant that they were sometimes strained and sometimes improved. In addition to this, there were several issues that often caused controversy between the two countries: the question of interpretation or application of treaties concluded between the two parties, the maritime confrontation

between their ships, and the questions of debts owed by certain Spanish merchants or consuls.

The most important Algerian products exported to Spain were grain, livestock, leather, wool and wax. The main imports from Spain were weapons, tools for maritime activities and foodstuffs such as tea, sugar, coffee and fabrics. The main Algerian ports that exported and received goods from Spain were Oran, Arzew, Algiers and Annaba.

Notes :

- (1) Its owner is Don Manuel Alvarez Campaña. It is based in Cadiz, Spain. It had established trade relations with Morocco since 1780, selling wheat to Morocco.
- (2) The reason for the dispute was that the son-in-law of the French consul in the Regency, Meifrun, who was a friend of the bey Baba Hassan, was accused by his country's authorities of high treason for dealing with Britain, and Bey Hassan ordered from Constantine not to deal with the company's representatives until Meifrun was pardoned.
- (3) See the letter of protest from Pasha Hassan to the King of Spain, Carlos IV, dated 28 September 1793, in, Yahia Bouaziz, *Al-murasalat al-djazairya al-isbania fi arshif al-tarikh al-watani li Madrid (1780-1798)*, Diwan al-matbuaat al-djamiya, Al-djazayir, 1993, pp .174- 179.
- (4) This was a gold coin used by Algerian traders for purchases. There were other Spanish gold coins in circulation in Algeria, such as the Doublon and the Ducat.
- (5) It emerged in France following the demise of the Royal African Company, which monopolised trade with Regency of Algiers and was replaced by a decision issued by the Committee of Public Safety on 7 February 1794.
- (6) Grain measuring jug estimated at 16.5 litres.
- (7) El Baxa nuestro senior por lo que hace a las diez mil medidas de grano. Articulo 5 ; El Baxa nuestro senior les consede la facultad de comprar cada ano diez mil medidas de grano, Articulo 6.
- (8) "Al precio que corre en el mercado del pais y no se exigira ancorage de todos aquellos bastimentos que vangara a cargar esta cantidad de grano", articulo : 6, El-Archivo Histórico Nacional, (Madrid), legajo 3579 .
- (9) "Los comerciantes Espanoles podran comprar...otras cosas como cera , cueros y lanas", Articulo 4º, El-Archivo Histórico Nacional, (Madrid), Estado, legajo 3579.
- (10) His name is "Benito Patron" and he was a partner of Campania.

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Appendix

Report on the expenses incurred for the purchase of 16 horses and mullets which left Oran for Spain on 14 February 1808(1)

Al H. E.

Memoria sobre los gastos ocasionados en la compra y Embaque de 16 Caballos y 4 Mulas que salieron de Oaxa para España el día 14 de Febrero de 1802, a bordo de la Tartana Angelina nombrada Malburg, mandada por el Sr. Sait, arreglada a las noticias que con la misma fecha pasó a este Consulado Sr. Antonio Niquero, Vice-Consul de S. M. en aquella Plaza, o sabe:=

	Pagos hechos	La. mon.
Primera costa de 16 Caballos en dueros plata	1007 . . . 1	20141 . .
Idem de 4 Mulas	320 . . .	6400 . .
Gastos de preparacion del Buque con divisiones, Cayo- llav, trazar, Cabezadas, provision de	280 . . 16	5616 . .
Pagado en Oaxa el 10: pto de anticipacion	1607 . . 17	32157 . .
de los P. 1607 pto y 17 pto	160 . . 12%	3215 . . 1/2
	1768 . . 12%	35372 . . 1/2
Se deben pagar para reducir a dueros plata en que se han de entregar los P. 1768 pto 12%	530 . . 11%	10611 . . 1/2
a razon de 30 pto precio corriente del Cambio	2299 . . 6%	45984 . . 1/2
Se debe pagar en Angel el 3 pto de fijo y anti- cipacion de los P. 2299 pto 6%	68 . . 12%	1379 . . 1/2
Total	2368 . . 3%	47363 . . 1/2

Cuyo P. 2368 pto 3 pto y 1/2 mon. Repartidos entre los barcos que fueron embarcados
cuenta cada uno a su salida de Oaxa, sin pagar los fletes P. 118 pto 2 pto y 6 mon.
mon. o = 2368 pto y 6 mon. mon. Angel 3 de Marzo de 1802.

Pedro Ortiz de Zúñiga



(1) Source : Archivo Historico Nacional (Madrid).