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EMIR ABDELKADER: ALGERIAN MILITARY RESISTANCE AND STATESMAN (1832-1847)

Mohamed REHAI
University of Skikda
m.rehai@univ-skikda.dz / mohamedrehai@gmail.com

Abstract : During the nineteenth century, Algeria witnessed military resistance against the French occupation since 1830, starting with an official resistance by the Algerian regime led by Dey Hussein, which did not last long and ended with the fall of the Algerian capital on 5 July 1830, then the resistance of Haj Ahmed Bey in eastern Algeria, the latter considered himself the successor of Dey Hussein, then popular resistance began, the most important of which was the resistance of Prince Abdelkader bin Muhyiddin, this resistance began at the level of western Algeria in 1832 and expanded to cover the national level, and continued until 1847, and our article comes to highlight the personality of Prince Abdelkader and the facts of this resistance, and then to what extent it was able to counter French colonisation.

Keywords: Military resistance, Emir Abdelkader, French colonisation, Treaty de Michel, Treaty of Tavna, General Vallee, General Bijou.

L'Emir Abdelkader: Résistant militaire et homme d'État Algérien (1832-1847)

Résumé : Au cours du XIXe siècle, l'Algérie a connu une résistance militaire contre l'occupation française depuis 1830, en commençant par une résistance officielle du régime algérien dirigé par Dey Hussein, qui n'a pas duré longtemps et s'est terminée par la chute de la capitale algérienne le 5 juillet 1830, puis la résistance de Haj Ahmed Bey dans l'est de l'Algérie, ce dernier se considérait comme le successeur de Dey Hussein, puis la résistance populaire a commencé, dont la plus importante était la résistance du prince Abdelkader bin Muhyiddin, cette résistance a commencé au niveau de l'Algérie occidentale en 1832 et s'est étendue pour couvrir le niveau national, et a continué jusqu'en 1847, et notre article vient pour mettre en évidence la personnalité du prince Abdelkader et les faits de cette résistance, et a quelle point elle a pu contrer la colonisation française.

Mots-clés : Résistance militaire, Emir Abdelkader, colonisation française, Traité de Michel, Traité de Tafna, Général Vallee, Général Bijou.

Introduction:

In 1830, Algeria was subjected to direct French occupation, after official resistance from the Algerian regime at the sites of Sidi Fraj and Sttawali, which ended with the signing of a surrender agreement between the ruler of Algeria, Dey Hussein, and the French campaign commander, General Debourmont, then the colonial expansion began to collide with popular resistance in Mitiga, led by Ibn Zaamoum and El Haj Sidi Saadi. They continued to resist until Sidi Saadi joined the resistance of Prince Abdelkader in 1834. In eastern Algeria, Ahmed Bey considered himself the successor of Dey Hussein and the representative of the Ottoman Sultan in the region, and his capital was Constantine, in these circumstances, the resistance of Prince Abdelkader bin Muhyiddin emerged.

The resistance of Emir Abdelkader is considered one of the most important popular resistances that began in 1832 after his pledge of allegiance from the notables and scholars of Western Algeria. It was organised and strategic, compared to other resistances, due to the results it achieved on the ground, as it was able to inflict defeats on the French army, which was headed by generals and officers of different ranks, graduates of military schools, and with great experience in the field of war and fighting, as the Emir forced them to recognise his emerging state, which geographically reached two-thirds of the area of present-day Algeria: To what extent did Amir Abdelkader's resistance contribute to the fight against French colonisation, which in turn branches into sub-questions: Who is Amir Abdelkader, what are the stages of his resistance, and what are the results of this resistance? In this study, we relied on the historical method, which focuses on description and analysis, describing events and facts and then analysing and interpreting them.

With regard to the hypotheses of this research, it aims to explore the circumstances of the start of this resistance and the extent of its resistance to French colonialism. The French occupation of Algeria was direct and did not respect the provisions of the surrender agreement, such as respect for property, religious sanctuaries, respect for women and others, and this behaviour prompts the population to confront and resist the military.

Abdelkader was the leader of the Qadiriyya order in Algeria, can organise the ranks and inflict defeats and losses on the French, and Algerians are known for their patience in adversity and their steadfastness in wars, so the French colonialist will find it very difficult to eliminate this resistance, and will resort to evasion and disrespect of agreements and treaties, which is a method that compromises military honour. In this study, I will introduce Emir Abdelkader, his pledge of allegiance to the Emirate, the management system he followed, the military organisation that characterised his resistance, the stages of this resistance and the treaties he signed, and finally the most important results.

1. The birth and upbringing of Prince Abdelkader:

Prince Abdelkader ibn Muhyiddin was the leader of the Qadiri order in Algeria, he was born in September 1807 (al-Jilali, 2014, p.280), in Al-Qaitna, west of the city of Camp in the province of Oran, memorised the Holy Quran when he was only twelve years old, then moved to Oran and studied jurisprudence, fundamentals and hadith with the judge of Arzio 'Ahmad al-Tahir al-Batawi' then returned to his town and taught in the mosque in the early 1823, the same year he married his cousin Lala Khira) (Farkous, 2012, p.17).

Accompanied by his father Muhyiddin, he attended many meetings to resolve conflicts between tribes as a result of the arbitrariness and excesses of the Turkish regimes ruling at the time in Algeria (Munawar, 2006, p.145). Muhyiddin tried to perform the Hajj in 1825, accompanied by his son Abdelkader, but Bey Hussein (Governor of Oran) prevented them from doing so and placed them under heavy guard, believing that Muhyiddin wanted to revolt against the Turkish regime, until he gave him permission to go to Hajj in 1827 (Churchill, C.H, 2004, p.53.)

On their way, they were warmly received in Cairo by the governor Muhammad Ali, and they learnt about the governor's achievements in the administration and the army, then they went to the Holy Places and performed the Hajj, then they went to Damascus, Baghdad and the Hejaz, and there he met the leading scientific, religious and political figures, and from the famous people of the East, from whom he learnt during his journey, we mention Sheikh Abdullah al-Kazbari, the imam and muhaddith of Damascus, Zia al-Din Khalid al-Naqshbandi al-Suhrawardi, Sheikh Muhammad al-Qadiri, head of the Baghdad Sharaf and others .(al-Jilali, op. cit. p. 281).

Following the occupation of Algeria in 1830, the inhabitants of western Algeria turned to Muhyiddin for advice, and he advised them to turn to the Sultan of Morocco. The Algerians offered the Sultan of Morocco (Moulay Abd al-Rahman) to pledge allegiance to him as their emir if he extended his hand of assistance to them against their common enemy, and after hesitation, he accepted and sent his son Ali at the head of a force estimated at 5000 (five thousand) knights and artillery and camped in Tlemcen in Oran province. (Churchill, op. cit, p.53). Muhyiddin and his son recognised the Sultan's emirate, and the whole country recognised his authority, but the French authorities sent an ultimatum to the Moroccan Sultan and ordered him to withdraw urgently from Algeria, and threatened him with war, so he gave orders to his son to withdraw. (Farkous, 2012, p.46)

The French occupied the tourist cities, occupying the Grand Marseillaise and the forts of Oran, and Bey Hussein surrendered. (Harb, 2004, p. 71). The leaders of Bani Hashim and Bani Amer met in the presence of Muhyiddin and unanimously decided on jihad in April 1832, and they confronted the French campaigns on the western region of Oran, in which they achieved important

victories, especially in the first and second battles of Khank al-Nitah in May 1832, and the battle of Burj Ras al-Ayoun in Oran , and cut off the lines of communication to General Boyeh, who was trying to expand the occupation of this region(Bouaziz, 2009. p. 36), Abdel Qader gained experience from these battles against the French colonialist.

2. Allegiance to Abdul Qadir:

Muhyiddin refused to bear the burden of resistance and continue the jihad under his leadership due to his advanced age, and the issue of pledging allegiance to the Moroccan Sultan did not succeed, so the people turned again to Sheikh Muhyiddin and offered him to pledge allegiance to his young son Abdul Qadir, and he accepted their opinion, and Abdul Qadir also accepted to bear this responsibility, so the leaders of the tribes of the Camp region pledged him to listen and obey in all circumstances, and to give themselves, their money and their children for the word of God, Islam and the nation on 27 November 1832 and his age at the time was only twenty-four years (24 years). (Julien, sd, p. 24) He had the qualities of a leader such as courage, wisdom and faith, the honourable people, scholars and notables pledged allegiance to Abdul Qadir. (Saidouni, 2000, p.158) This was the first private allegiance that took place in Wadi Farouha at the 'Dardara Tree' in the country of Grace, then the second public allegiance at the Emirate Centre in the city of Camp on 04 February 1833. (Al-Jilali, op. cit. p. 286).

3. System of Government and Administration:

Amir Abdelkader took the initiative to organise the government apparatus, arranging the administration and the pillars of government, and building the foundations of the modern Algerian state politically, militarily and socially, making the city of Camp the capital of the state and the Emirate House. He also established a Council of Ministers and a Shura Council and his administrative organisation developed further after the Treaty of Tafna.

The Council of Ministers combined the military, political, and judicial powers of Amir Abdelkader, and his cabinet consisted of:

- The Minister of Foreign Affairs was Hajj Ben Miloud Ben Arach.

- The Minister of Interior is Muhammad bin al-Sayyid al-Arabi

-The Minister of Defence is Muhammad bin Jilali.

- The Minister of Public Finance is El Hajj Ben Abi Abdallah El Hajj Jilali.

- The Minister of Treasury or Private Finance is Abu Said Mohamed Ben Fakha.

- The Minister of Endowments is Hajj al-Tahir Abu Zaid.

- The Minister of Zakat and Tithes is Abu Muhammad al-Jilani al-Alawi.

- The Minister of Justice is Hajj Ahmed bin al-Hashimi al-Marahi.

- The head of the court is Hajj Mustafa bin al-Tuhami. (Farkous, op. cit. p. 81).

The Shura Council was composed of eleven members, headed by the Qadi al-Quds, all of whom were people of knowledge and virtue. (Al-Jilali, op. cit. p. 290).

4. Emir's administrative provinces:

The Amers state was based on federal foundations and consisted of eight administrative provinces, each headed by a caliph (initially four provinces, then four were added after the Treaty of Tafna), and each province was divided into several districts, each of which was headed by an 'agha', and each district was divided into clans or tribes, each headed by a 'leader' and each band of the tribe under the influence of a 'sheikh. (Farkous, op. cit. p. 83), the administrative provinces that made up the Emir's administration were:

- Tlemcen Province, with Tlemcen as its capital, and the caliph was Mustafa bin al-Tuhami, followed by Muhammad al-Buhamidi al-Walhasi.

- The province of Mokam, whose capital is Mokam, and the Caliph is Muhammad bin Freiha al-Mahaji, followed by Hajj Mustafa bin Ahmad al-Tuhami, who combined two positions, this position and the head of the court.

- Melliana Province, whose capital is Melliana and the harbour of Cherchell, the Caliph is Muhieddine Ben Allal Al-Qliai, then Mohammed Ben Allal came after him.

- Titri Province with its capital Medea, the Caliph is his brother Mustafa bin Mohieddine, then he was dismissed and replaced by Mohamed Barkani.

- Majana Province, whose capital is Setif, and the caliph is Muhammad Abd al-Salam al-Magrani, then came Muhammad al-Kharoubi al-Qlai'i, then came Muhammad bin Omar al-Issawi.

- The Zebban region in the Eastern Sahara, and the capital is Biskra, the caliph was Farhat bin Said, followed by Hassan bin Azzouz, then Mohammed al-Saghir bin Abdel Rahman.

- The region of the Greater Kabylia Mountains, whose capital is Borj Hamza, the caliph was Ahmed bin Salem Dabissi.

- The Western Sahara region, the capital is Aghouat, and the caliph was Kaddour bin Abdelbaki. (Saadallah, 2009, p197.)

The Amir gave wide powers to the caliph, such as collecting taxes, establishing borders, judging people, protecting security and citizens, and fighting the enemy: The appointment of the caliphs was not limited to a period of time, and the caliphs transmitted the Amir's orders to the Agwat, the Agwat to the Qayyad, and the Qayyad to the Sheikhs, and among the most prominent of his successors we mention: Mustafa ibn al-Tuhami, the Caliph of Camp, and Muhammad al-Buhamidi al-Walhasi, the Caliph of Tlemcen.

5. Amir Abdelkader's military organisation:

Emir Abdelkader organised the army according to modern methods, he divided the army into three legions: The infantry, the cavalry, whom he called 'cavalry', then the archers, the artillery, whom he called 'Tabajiya'. The number of the Emir's regular army between infantry, cavalry and artillery is about eleven thousand two hundred and forty soldiers, while the Emir's soldiers between regular volunteers did not exceed sixty thousand (60 thousand), fifty thousand volunteers and ten thousand regulars in 1840, and there is an account (Leon Rush) that the number of the Emir's regular army reached 14460 soldiers. (al-Jilali, Ibid, p. 291), including 3000 infantry, 10,000 cavalry, 1000 cavalry, 1000 cavalry, 400 cavalry and 60 artillerymen dragging behind them six cannons, four of them of calibre 6 and two large ones, and the regular army had only eight hundred rifles and about three hundred grenades, and there is also a version that the number of the French army in 1840 was about one hundred thousand soldiers. (Al-Jilali, Ibid, p. 291).

The Emir built forts and fortresses to prevent the French occupation forces from penetrating inland, including Taqadet Castle (May 1836), Taza Castle (May 1838), Saida Castle (January 1839), Sebdo Castle (June 1839), and Bogar Castle (July 1839). These castles included tanneries, iron smelting, weapons repair workshops, and stores of sulphur and lead. (Azan, 1925, p170).

The Emir benefited from the expertise of Spanish, Italian, French, Jewish, Maltese, Danish, and Swedish makers in the war industry. The Emir began establishing the war industry in 1834, where he set up a factory for light weapons and cartridges, and minted currency, although it did not last long, and moulded a type of coin. He also minted two types of currency, which he called Muhammadiyah, on the first face of which he recorded the date of striking the coin, 'struck in Takdamt in 1837', and on the other side of the coin, the Holy Quran, 'We have God's help and support', 'The religion of God is Islam', and there is the half value, which is half the value of Muhammadiyah.

6. Stages of Amir Abdelkader's resistance:

Amir Abdelkader's resistance can be divided into two phases, the phase of strength and expansion (1832-1839) and the phase of weakness and decline (1839-1847). Before assuming the Emirate, he fought under the command of

Wada Muhyiddin and gained war experience, participating in the first and second battles of Khang al-Nattah (May 1832), (Munawar, op. cit. p. 150) and fighting the loyalists of the French invaders.

6.1. Phase of power and expansion (1832-1840):

After pledging allegiance to Amir Abdel Qader, he was interested in building his state and establishing an organised army, so this phase was characterised by strength and terrorising the enemy, and inflicting many defeats on the French army until they were forced to negotiate, the Amir's method of fighting was hit and run and guerrilla warfare, so the battle of Tina was 27 May 1833, in which the Amir surrounded the forces of De Michel, who attacked the Gharaba tribe, and 80 of the Mujahideen were martyred and more than 200 injured, while three Frenchmen were killed and 14 fighters were injured, and this was the result of unequal forces, and French artillery was bombarded with force) (Farkous, op. cit. p. 54).

When De Michel occupied Arzio and Mostaganem, the Emir besieged De Michel's forces in Oran, Arzio and Mostaganem. This siege had an impact on the French forces, and the Emir was able to capture soldiers who tried to break the siege and De Michel's correspondence to Emir Abdel Qader to release the prisoners, including a correspondence to interview him and conclude a peace treaty.

- Treaty of De Michel, 26 February 1834:

The treaty stipulated the cessation of fighting between the two parties and the presence of representatives of the Emir in Oran, Mostaganem and Arzio, and a representative of the French in Camp, as well as respect for the Islamic religion, the release of detainees from both sides, freedom of trade, the return of soldiers who fled from both sides, freedom of travel with an approved passport, and France recognised the Emir for the provinces under his control (Saadallah, 2007, p. 30)

The Treaty of De-Michel constituted an obstacle to the policy of occupation in its expansionist and exploitative sense (Zouzou, 2013, p.10) France also considered this treaty as a personal act of De Michel, so he was replaced by General (Trizal) as governor of Oran, so the general worked to spoil the treaty by signing the 'Treaty of Dignity' with some tribes that wish to enter the protection of the French to ensure their trade, while they are under the protection of the Emir according to De Michel's treaty, they are the tribes of Dawair and Zamala) (Bouaziz, op. cit. p. 40).

Trezel's assault on the Prince's territory was a breach of the treaty, The general's enthusiasm led him to expand, and he himself attacked the city of Camp, the capital of the Emir, and then the city of Tlemcen, so there were fierce battles between the two sides, including the Battle of Maqta, where the Emir's

forces were divided into four rapid units, and inflicted a great defeat on the French. (Agéron, 1990, p.11), which resulted in the removal of Trizel and his replacement by General Darlange and the arrival of Clozal as Governor-General.

The French reoccupied Camp and Tlemcen, but the Emir regained his strength and defeated the French forces at the Battle of Tafna on 25 January 1836. When Cluzel failed in his campaign against Constantine in 1836, Emir Abdelkader wanted to capitalise on the situation, so he ordered his successor Ibn Allal to besiege the capital, removing Cluzel and replacing him with General Dumremont and appointing Bijou to Oran.

- Treaty of Tafna, 30 May 1837:

Contacts took place between General Pigou and Amir Abdelkader for the release of French prisoners, which ended with the conclusion of the Treaty of Tavna on 30 May 1837. (Bouaziz, op. cit. p. 42) The Emir devoted himself to establishing his state, subjugating his opponents and strengthening his authority, and the French plan was to launch a large campaign in Constantine and end the Ottoman rule, which was represented by Ahmed Bey. (Cornac, 2018, p92) This was done in October 1837, and then came the step of denouncing the treaty. The treaty states:

- The Emir recognises French authority over the cities of Algiers and Oran

- France retains the areas adjacent to the two cities.

- France recognises the Emir's dominion over the territory of Oran, the territory of Titre and the part of Algiers that has not come under French influence on the eastern side.

- The Emir pays the French a quantity of grain and a number of cows in the city of Oran in three stages.

- The Emir can buy from France the weapons and ammunition he needs, such as gunpowder, sulphur and others.

- France relinquishes to the Emir the city of Tlemcen, the fortress of Machour with its old artillery, and the Marsa Rashkoun.

- Criminals will be exchanged between the two parties.

- Both France and the Emir may appoint representatives in the cities of the other party to look after the interests of the people belonging to them (Bouaziz, op. cit. p. 43).

This treaty enabled the Emir to expand his influence to eastern Algeria, and to have mutual representation in the cities. (Ibn Abdelkader, 1903, p. 175) More than two-thirds of Algeria came under his authority. The treaty also enabled him to purchase weapons, open trade, exchange consuls, assign Europeans to train his regular army, and set up arms factories. The treaty remained in force until Marshal Valli broke it by attacking the Emir's territory.

6.2. The Phase of Weakness (1841-1847):

After the occupation of Constantine, Marshal Valli came as governor (1838-1840) and created a border crisis with the Emir and then provoked him by passing through his lands in October 1839. The Emir considered this a violation of the Treaty of Tavna and declared war after his meeting with the Shura Council on 19 November 1839 (Munawar, op. cit. p. 159) .The Emir attacked the camp of Medea and Mtija and the outskirts of the capital, then General Pigou came again in 1841, and the French government provided him with an extension to pursue the Emir, so the French army reached about 85,000 soldiers, and Pigou worked to besiege the Emir in collusion with the tribes that rebelled against him.

The French managed to topple the Emir's mobile capital 'Zamala' in 1843, with an estimated population of about 20,000 inhabitants. (Churchill,2004, p. 256) In this year, the Emir was forced to take refuge in Far Morocco, but the Moroccan Sultan 'Moulay Abd al-Rahman' abandoned him after he was his ally and supported him, after the French fleet bombed the city of Tangier in the Battle of Isle in 1844 (Saadallah, op. cit. p. 262).

The Tangier Agreement, followed by the Lalla Mugnia Agreement of 1845, which stipulated that there should be no cooperation with the Emir and that he should be arrested and imprisoned, forced the Emir to return to Algeria in 1845, where he was caught between three fronts: France, the King of Morocco, and the French collaborators from the tribes that rebelled against him.

The prince was forced to negotiate. He asked for safety for himself, his family and his companions on the condition that they lay down their arms on the condition that they would be allowed to leave the country to the Levant. General Lamorcier agreed, and the Duke Dumal, the new ruler of Algeria, gave him a pledge on this. (Saadallah, op. cit. p. 262) However, the French authority broke its promise with the Emir, and arrested him in 1847, and he was imprisoned for five years in French prisons, including Amboise.

When Napoleon III came to power in 1852, he released him, rehabilitated him and offered him to stay in France, with great privileges. He was also proposed to be king of the Arabs, as part of the Arab Kingdom project proposed by Napoleon III, and there were also proposals to appoint him as governor of Algeria as part of a co-operation with France (Ballesteros, 1865, p15) and his first stop was Turkey, then he chose to emigrate to Damascus with his family and friends.

In Damascus he became one of the notables and scholars of this city, and was a teacher in its famous Umayyad Mosque, and the prince had a great contribution to eliminating the sectarian strife that occurred in the Levant between Muslims and Christians in 1860. (Cornac, op. cit. p286). The Emir's principled position was based on the teachings of Islam, which rejects religious persecution and preserves the rights of Christians and protects them from aggression, as he sheltered a large number of them and guaranteed their protection, and this position had an impact on the Christian world, as the Emir received letters of thanks and appreciation from various Christian countries, and he foiled a plan that aimed to cut the Levant from the Ottoman Empire, and prevented French armies from entering the Levant and stayed there until his death in 1883 (Bouazir, op cit p56) .His remains were transferred to Algeria in 1966).

Conclusion:

The resistance of Prince Abdelkader bin Muhyiddin is considered one of the most important Algerian resistances against the French occupation in the nineteenth century. He was born in Qaitna in Western Algeria, memorised the Qur'an and learned the Arabic language and religious sciences, grew up on horsemanship and horse riding, participated in the resistance against the French colonialist alongside his father Muhyiddin, and was crowned emir in 1832 by the notables and scholars of Algerian Arabia, with the understanding that he would resist the French occupier, and managed to convince the tribes to join his resistance.

Amir Abdelkader was able to form an administrative apparatus consisting of eight provinces with each province headed by a successor. He also formed an advisory council and a government that included several ministries. After the Treaty of Tafna, he had diplomatic representation with many countries, and the period between 1832 and 1839 was the stage of his power, and his influence expanded to cover two-thirds of present-day Algeria, during which he achieved many victories, including his famous victory in the Battle of Maqta in 1835, and forced the French generals to negotiate with him, including General de Michel and General Pigou, and forced them to recognise his sovereignty over large parts of the Algerian territories.

The period between 1839 and 1847 was a period of weakness for the Emir's resistance. The French colonialist managed to eliminate Ahmed Bey's resistance in eastern Algeria, and then devoted himself to eliminating the residence of Emir Abdelkader through the scorched earth policy adopted by General Bijou, so the Emir became resistant on three fronts: the French front, the front of the King of Morocco, and the front of the tribes rebelling against him, which prompted him to negotiate in order to lay down his arms and travel to the Levant.

This prompted him to negotiate to lay down his arms and travel to the Levant, but the French colonialist who gave him safety as part of the negotiations betrayed him and imprisoned him in French prisons, until he was released after Napoleon III came to power in 1852, to choose Damascus as his self-imposed exile, and he lived in Damascus for the rest of his life until his death in 1883.

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