

The Algerian Countryside Between the Beylik System and the Reforms of Ahmed Bey 1826-1837

الريف الجزائري بين نظام البايلك وإصلاحات أحمد باي 1826- 1837

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Abstract:

The Algerian countryside underwent many changes according to the position of the system and its political outlook, so that the countryside was influenced in the long term, as during the Ottoman period when rulers were interested indoors rather than the sea, after the decline of maritime resources, due to the fact that the countryside became the important space in general politics. Of course, this research paper deals with the phenomenon of the Beylik system as a local geographical unit, with a power distribution structure and economic autonomy, where this Beylik adapted to the global countryside for three century, but experienced crises in the last era,

Keywords:

Power Distribution, Local Adaptation, Economic Approach, Social Closeness.

ملخص:

شهد الريف الجزائري العديد من التغييرات التي تأثرت بموقف النظام القائم ونظريته السياسية ، على غرار ما حدث خلال العهد العثماني، فبعدما كان الحكام يهتمون بالبحر وما يدره من موارد، تحول اهتمامهم منذ القرن الثامن عشر بالداخل، بعد أن شحت موارد عالم البحار الفسيح، وفي ظل هذه التقلبات الجيواستراتيجية أصبح الريف فضاء مرجع في بناء هياكل السياسة العامة، لذلك تتناول هذه الورقة البحثية ظاهرة نظام البايلك كوحدة جغرافية محلية ، ذات هيكل في توزيع السلطة وباستقلالية اقتصادية ، حيث تكيفت منظومة البايلك مع بنية الريف الجزائري لمدة ثلاثة قرون ، لكن هذه المنظومة عانت من أزمات في العصر الأخير، لذلك عمد أحمد باي آخر بايات قسنطينة إلى اشهار اصلاحات بغية احياء المنظومة العثمانية لحكم هذه المنطقة الغنية من الشرق الجزائري.

كلمات مفتاحية: توزيع السلطة، اقتباس محلي، مقارنة اقتصادية، التقارب الاجتماعي.

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1. Introduction:

In the first half of the sixteenth century, Algeria became one of the most important focal points in the Ottoman Empire, from 1518 to the second half of the seventeenth century, the marine activity was very importance in this Mediterranean regency. And with its political capital and clear border with Tinisia and Morocco modern Algeria emerged, and the territory became geographically well-defined such that it helped the central authority to establish the administrative and the economic system as the system of Beylik. So What is this system?

In other hand Algeria known in this long period a different stages of reign : 1- stage of Baylar Bayate (1518- 1588) 2- stage of Bachaouate (1588-1659) 3- stage of Aghaouate (1659-1671) 4- stage of Dayate (1671- 1830) where this last stage witnessed fluctuations in the reign that affected the general situation ended with French colonialism in 1830, of course this situation due to many factors, specially the nature of government which linked with person not with general political sight, so we have in the local memory rulers with a good reputation like the Dey Mohamed Othman Bacha (1766-1791) and the Bey Mohamed El Kebire (1779- 1797) who ruled in the West region of Algria, and the Bey Salah (1771- 1792) who ruled who ruled in the Est region of Algria. But after his death this region witnessed a lot of unrests touched various sectors, so we will discover in this research paper the reforms which announced by the last ruler of Algeria Ahmed Bey in the countryside, through the area of Ameurs Cheraga tribe near of Constantine city. So the questions why these reforms ? and what is their importance surrounding Constantine ?

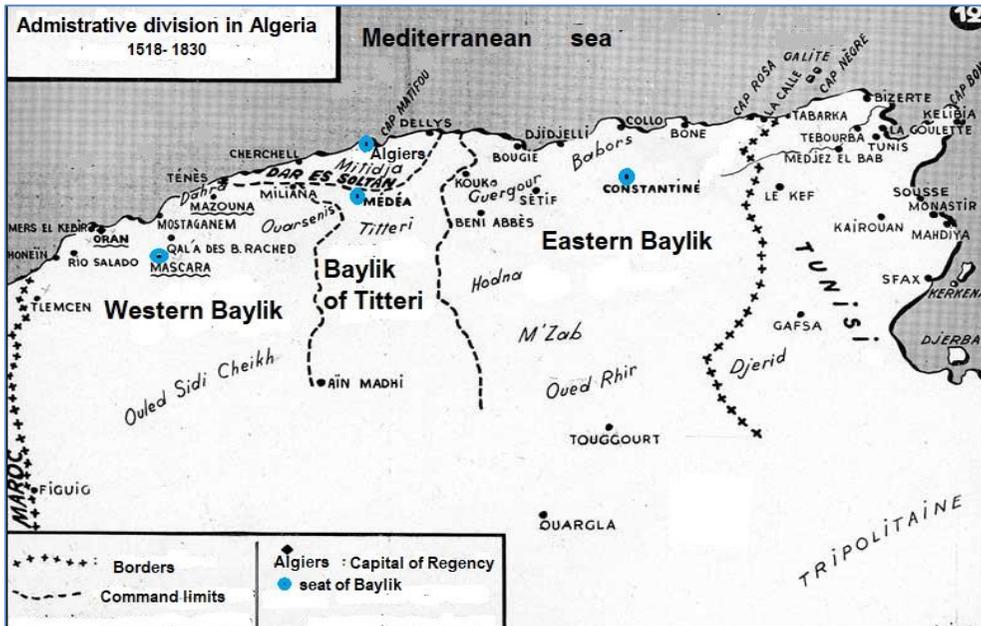
2.The Beylik System:

In fact, the central authority divided Algeria into four areas: Western Baylik, Eastern Baylik, Baylik of Titteri, and Dar Esoultane or House of the Ruler (Sultane).Each of these Bayliks have a regional capital, indicated in blue on the map: Constantine city as the capital of Baylik of East, Media city as the capital of Baylik of Titteri, Algiers city as the capital of Dar Esoultane, which was the capital of the regency in the same time. Furthermore, we have Mascara city as the capital of Baylik of west, but in 1771 after the liberation of Oran from Spanish occupation, (in the era of Mohamed Elkebir) this city became the regional capital (De Grammont, 1887, p, 116) .

Accordingly, we have two interior capitals (Constantine and Mascara) and two maritime capitals (Algiers and Oran), which reflects the combination of Ottoman authority in the Beylik system between the sea and the land.The name of the ruler of this Beylik was called « Bey », which was traditionally used to represent the central authority in the Beylik. This system is a local geographical and economic unit. It is also a method of distributing the power

The Algerian Countryside Between the Beylik System and the Reforms of Ahmed Bey 1826-1837

due to the vastness of Algeria and the structure of the tribal society (Babés, 1988,p, 48).



Source : Prepared by the Researcher

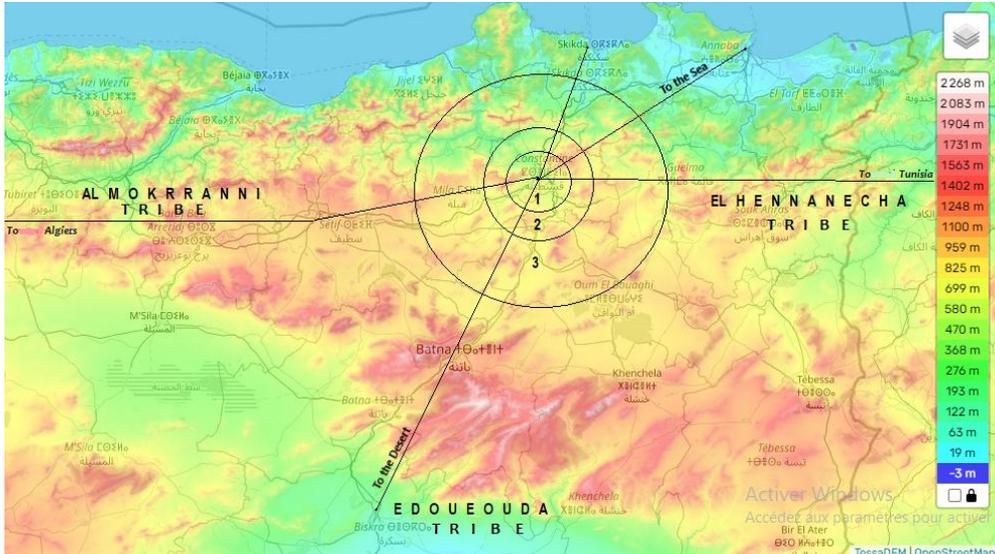
3. The relationship between the Constantine City and its Countryside

After elaborating the Beylik system It is crucial to talk about The relationship between the Constantine city and its countryside. In fact when we talk about this relationship, we will discover three types of the Constantine city: 1-Constantine : The Old city 2-Constantine : The Regional Capital 3-Constantine : Circle Center.

Constantine (the Arabic term: قسنطينة *Qusanṭīnah*),. The city was originally founded by the Phoenicians, who called it Sewa (royal city). (Mercier, 1903,p.03) Later, it was renamed Cirta by the Numidian king Syphax, who turned it into his capital. After that, the city served as the base for the Romans, but during the civil war, the city was destroyed. Rebuilt in 313 AD, it was subsequently named in Latin as "Colonia Constantiniana" or "Constantina", in honor of Emperor Constantine the Great (Mercier, 1903,p.53-56).

After the period of Islam, this city was the old regional capital of Hafsīd dynasty wherein the brothers Aroudj took control over it, by forming alliance with a noble family known as Lefgoune. and preventing the noble family known as Ben Abdelmoumene from practicing politics, because this family was an ancient ally of the Hafsīd dynasty in Constantine city, Thereafter, the Ottoman had invested in the past of this city and chose it as regional capital

since 1520. (Al Mubarak, 1852, p,49), But the question is how the Beys managed to expand the Ottoman reign in this vast and rich region? The following map illustrates the expand the Turk’s reign in the area:



Source : Prepared by the Researcher

Actually the central authority had built a Security, Economic and social system, which was framed around three polar sub-systems: 1 - the land 2- the Alliance and 3- the Major Axes. Through this sketch, I explain these three foundations.

In the first circle within a 12 Km radius, the Turk’s established the lands of Baylik which are directly exploited by the authority. In the second circle within a 40 Km radius, the Turk’s established the lands of Azel (isolation)-kind of farmlands were operated directly by the central authority (Beylik) through distributing it to the senior palace officials. In the third circle within a 80 Km radius, the authority established the lands of Arche that were in common, where the power had pushed the tribe groups to settle there as Agricultural and military alliance (Carette, Warnier, 1847, p.120)

But outside the last circle, the Turk’s central authority had shared a great deal of power with the large and great tribes, such as El Hennancha in border of Tunisia or Edouaouda in Ziban’s Sahara or Elmokrani in Bibans mountains. With this smart method, the Bays took control of the major axes (to the Sahara, to the sea, to Tunisia, and to Algiers) and Constantine became center of the circle. So it was formed The relationship between the Constantine City and its Countryside in the Beylik of East (Carette, 1844, p.05- 14).

The Algerian Countryside Between the Beylik System and the Reforms of Ahmed Bey 1826-1837

4. Ahmed Bey : From Ziban (Desert) to the Palace

The political tendency mentioned above grew and played a major role in the development and a stability specially in the era of Salah Bey (who ruled between 1771 and 1792). However, after killing this famous Bey in 1792, many tragic events took place, and the Beylik went to the worst until 1826. (Grangaud, 2008, p.259). Thus, how did the central authority deal with these bad conditions ?

In 1826 the last supreme ruler (Dey Houcine) had decided to get engaged in a new policy, to eradicate the problems. so he chose a politician with an Algerian cultural background. Who is this person ? and how did he attend to that situation in the surrounding of Constantine ?

In fact, El Hadj (Pilgrim) Ahmed grew up in different conditions compared to other Beys. His family was equipped with rich culture. His father Mohamed Cherif was from Turkish origin, but his mother was from Ziban desert near Biskra. These different origins dived his character into diversity which allowed him later to have a mixture between the local culture and the Turkish one. In this regard, he took his political culture from his father's family in which his grandfather was Bey called Ahmed El Kili (1756- 1771) , and his father was Khalifa of Bey (Bey's vice). On the other hand, he learned the local customs when he grew up in Ziban. This Bedouin environment armed him with courage and vigilance (Ferkous, 1984, p.222- 228).

In 1826, El hadj Ahmed became the senior ruler in the East of Algeria, where he announced radical changes in many sectors, especially the economic and social sectors. The historical events indicated that Ahmed Bey built a new wonderful palace as the seat of government, where this palace still today, and he remained loyal to the Ottoman regime in Algeria, wherein he resisted French colonialism when it landed on the coast of Sidi Fredj in 1830 (after that he became Bacha – representing the Ottoman regime in Algeria). He also continued to resist after the fall of Constantine in 1837 until he died in 1850 (Emrit, 1949, p.65- 120).

Rachid Rydha the son of Hamda Khoudja tell us about Ahmed Bey, who met him in 1833 " Ahmed Bey is a young man who does not exceed forty, he is very short, his eyes is black and cup-wide, his nose is short and curved, and his face is dark because of the heat of the sun, he has a black eyebrow, and a bushy mustache. He is a man concerned about his appearance, he wears Algerian clothes embroidered by silk (Félicien, 2008, p.29)

5. The Radical Change

After Ahmed Bey became the first man in the Beylik of Constantine since 1826, he begins his mission in this unrest province by taking control against nembrous tribes such as Zemoura, Ghira of Setif, and Ouled Abd Enour, Ouled Sultan whose settle Bellezema in Ourés mountains. Of course

Ahmed Bey had cut the wing of Turks party, and built one in their political influence, Likewise towards Ahmed Bey took advantage of his suzerain's good dispositions towards him, to obtain authorization to isolate some of the of Constantine's, most influential families, who by their continued opposition and their deaf conduct, arrest warrants were issued at the same time against Ben Zekri's sons, Mostpha and Abdellah, also against Ben Naamoun (Vayssettes, 2002, p.230)

Actually Ahmed Bey succeeded in a short time for bringing the stability, but the major external events affected Algeria, after the incident in 1827, that made a fire started when the France imposed a blockade against Algeria during three years, followed by military campaign in 14 June 1830 led by Marshal Bourmont against Algiers, where Ahmed Bey was there paying the taxes called " Edounouche" .Dispite Ahmed Bey participated in resisting the French occupation, and the combined effort of Turks and Arabs united from all points of Regency, but the capital city of Algiers fell in 05 July 1830 (Ferkous, 1984, p.223).

After these tragic events Ahmed Bey returned to Constantine and there he occupied himself in strongly organizing the new troops of Zouaves, serve discipline and continual maneuvers made it an elite troops which was to replace the Turkish militia. In other side he also pushed his opponents out the political game, in order to protect the city of Constantine from any disturbance or threats (Vayssettes, 2002, p.232).

After the fell of Algiers city and give up of Dey Houssein, this tragic situation made Ahmed Bey to save the Ottoman power in Algeria, so he took the title of Bacha as represent of the high gate (الباب العالي) in Algeria, due to that in 1831 he hit the money in his name and distributed it in all the Beylik of East, and he also gave all his care to the administration surrounded himself with wise and experienced persons, called Mekhaznia (seniors officials) they are as follows: Ali Ben Aissa in a job of Bach Hamba as a first minister, where this face became the second man in the palace, and also Mosepha Ben Aioun in a job of Khalifa of Bey (Bey's vice), and El Hadj Houssein in a job of Caid El Aouaci (its base Ain Beida), its large and strong tribe settled in the East of Constantine, where the last job allow its owner can become Bey like Salah Bey (Ferkous, 1984, p. 116-118).

In the level of senior staff that called Mekhaznias in the period of the last Bacha, they are as follows :Ali Belbdhaoui in a job of Caid Eddar, where his task is to military and artisan surveillance, and he have other task, we will discover in this research paper. And to record everything related to the treasury (بيت المال) , Ahmed Bey install Mostepha Ben El Arbi, and Caid Merzoug in a job of commander of Bey's Guard (باش مكاحلي). Of course for further reforms that protect the rich Beylik against the internal and external threats, Ahmed Bey took care of the Agha (الأغا) position, that was under his leadership thirty-

The Algerian Countryside Between the Beylik System and the Reforms of Ahmed Bey 1826-1837

nine fighting tribes whose settled surrounding Constantine like Zenatia, Bousellah, Beni Merouene, Seraouia, where this tribes can gather one hundred knight help the army Turkish military in its campaigns, therefore Ahmed Bey was installed in the position of Agha called El Hadj Ahmed Ben Hamid, one of most important personality in the palace (Temimi, 1978,p 215- 217).

Of course the context of these installations indicates Ahmed Bey's interest in the organization in the countryside, so he installed Ibn Dally in the position of Caid El Aachour (leader of tenth) in the Eastern part, while he installed Mohamed El Kebeily in the same position in the Western part of Constantine's Beylik, where this important post is to control the production of agricultural to determine the amount of tenth that is pay to the treasury. In addition to these posts in the countryside, we have also headmaster of Waqf, as a recorder of owner of everything related to the property of the Beylik, and in the last Ahmed Bey installed El Cheikh Mesaoud Ben Ibrahim in the position of horses breeding (باش سراج) (Temimi, 1978,p 216).

Actually Constantine has been formed the capital of most of the population from the countryside, so any reforms focus in this vital space, since the era of Salah Bey (1771- 1792) , who also applied reforms in the Eastern Beylik especially in the countryside, so any reforms for get its fruits must be concern the rural society.Ahmed Bey's memoirs tell us about the strong relationship between him and the tribes, after the fall of Algiers city in 05 July 1830, when the tribes allied with Ahmed Bey to fight the campaign of French army against Constantine in 1836. Ahmed Bey wrote in his memoirs " I called in a long time ago all the forces in province of Constantine, where the commanders agreed. I remember they were present Messaoud Ben Mebarek Cheikh of Ghira, Rezgi Cheikh El Hennancha, El Hadj Redjeb Cheikh El Herakta, El Arbi Diaf Cheikh L'Oures, Mohamed Ben Bouaziz Cheikh Belezema, Cheikh Ouled Bouaoune, Ahmed El Mokrani, Mohamed Ben Abd Eslam El Mokrani...they gathered 5000 knights, and 2000 infantrymen". Of course before this events Ahmed Bey send a petition to the British parliament in 1834, complaining about the French occupation of Algeria, as many tribal Cheikhs or Caids sealed this petition like Segnia, Ouled Abd Enour, Aneur Gheraba as evidence of rural society's link to the authority of Ahmed Bey (Vayssettes, 2002, p.232- 236).

In fact, the biography of the last Bey in the Ottoman period provides us with several events and wildly decisions linked to the fate of the Beylik, which we will discover through surrounding Constantine especially in the territory of Aneur Cheraga tribe as a model.

6.Surrounding The Constantine City

In the Algeria tribes map that drawn by Carette and Warnier, in Algeria 1847 , we can determine many tribes that lived in the east of Algeria, because

of their large number, we choose the Ameer Cherga tribe as model. But first, who is this tribe and how did it live?

In fact the tribe in the Ottoman Algeria is a basic component that is specific to the rural society, where the senior rulers had organized these tribes by gathering them in focal points. The tribes settled farmlands crossed by a valley, or those crossed by a great way. Such alliance enabled the ruler to dominate the most important farmlands, especially those located around the city of Constantine (Carette, Warnier, 1847, p.65-68).

Actually, in the 18th century the Bey Salah (1771- 1792) allowed many families of Ameer's tribe that lived close to Setif to move toward the east region. These families who had gone from the West into the East were known later as « Cheraga ». At that point of time, the number of those families was seven; settled east of Constantine city, in the plains crossed by the Mehiris valley, known as « Ameer Cheraga ». (Procès-Verbaux du Sénatus Consulte, tribu des Ameurs Cheraga 1868, p.03).

These tribesmen were able to dominate this vast region after a long fight against the tribes that lived in this fertile plains, like El Herakta, Guefa, that had withdrawn and migrated far from these plains. After this important step that made a powerful alliance between the rulers of Constantine and the tribes of Ameer Charaga, where he had established one of the most important plains of Constantine, located behind Boumerzoug valley on an area of 31000 hectares divided into two kinds of real estates. The first was a land of « Arch » that was in common, on an area of 10000 hectares, and the second real estate was the land known as « Azel » as wealth to operate directly by the central authority (Beylik) including 28 lands (Procès-Verbaux du Sénatus Consulte, tribu des Ameurs Cheraga, 1868, p.26- 29).

Unfortunately, these two kinds of real estates created two different classes of society within Ameurs Cheraga tribe: one that used to benefit from the land of « Arch » lived in a tragic situation where poverty was its main feature, (because of high taxes) but the farmers that settled the land of « Azel » enjoyed a happy and stable life because they lived under the protection of Bays, and also had no taxes to pay (Gaid, 1975, p. 147).

7.Outside the Traditions of the Government

This period is full of changes, which had been announced by Ahmed Bey at 04 levels:-The taxes - social Integration - Agricultural Real Estate - Agricultural Investment. Starting with the first level which is:

7.1. At the level of The Taxes

The system of taxes before Ahmed Bey was disappointed, for many reasons, the most important of them it's the different between the agricultural real estate which gave two kinds of lands, the first consider as feudal of

The Algerian Countryside Between the Beylik System and the Reforms of Ahmed Bey 1826-1837

government (Azal lands), the second consider as feudal in common (Arch lands), due to this paradoxical situation, the members of Ameurs Cheraga divided in two classes of society, where the members whose settled the land of Arch were obliged to pay the tax called "Djabri" as a rent (Arfa, 2006, p. 180).

Ahmed Bay announced a reform in the system of taxes because this system was tiresome for tribesmen, who were obliged to pay the taxes according to the area where they lived, not according to the harvest. Therefore, Ameurs Cheraga paid 1000 Saa (estimated 2000 quintals) of wheat, and 1000 Saa of barley, This led Ahmed Bey to suggest a modification to this unfair system where he applied another system which he believed could be fair and easy for the farmers of this region. He applied the tax called « Houkour » that means a lease of land estimated as follows: 10 Baseta (2.5 French Francs) for every one « Djebda » (Ten Hectares) as for « El Achour » the tenth an Islamic tax, that Ahmed Bey applied one Saa (1.7 kg) of the wheat, and one Saa of the barley for every Djabda (10 hectares) (Procès-Verbaux du Sénatus Consulte, tribu des Ameurs Cheraga, 1868, p.41).

On the archival documents revealed to us a new turn in reshaping the system of taxes, where Ameurs Cheraga in the stage of last Bey, they were sowing 500 Djebda (5000 hectares) it looked like half an area of the tribe, where they pay 6700 Real Begeau as Houkour, and 500 Saa of wheat, and 500 Saa of barley as Achour. In other hand the farmers of Ameurs Cheraga whose settled the lands of Azel pay only the tax of "El Achour " estimated by Saa of wheat, and Saa of barley, and bundle of hay, according to the Djabda (Ferkous, 1984, p. 46).

With time Ahmed Bey gained control over the Beylik of East, so the general situation of countryside began flourish, through the spread of security, and soon the internal Beylik stood strong in front of local theats. Mainly the attempt to better rule pushed the first in Constantine to crystallization a sight that can protect the Beylik from the weakness before its too late, so Ahmed Bey was considered the system of taxes as vital sector in the general reforms, so it was clear for him to rely on Islamic taxes, where he keep the tax of "Lezma " on Ameurs Cheraga that were paid 600 Basta (1500 franc) in every six month. Added of that the members of this tribe where paid the tax called "El Bechara" estimated five Begeau for each tent after each installation of the leader on the tribe (Procès-Verbaux du Sénatus Consulte, tribu des Ameurs Cheraga, 1868, p.68-71).

7.2. At the Level of the Social Integration

Actually the ally between the Beys and some tribes allowed to establish the Beylik system, which lived three centuries without a big problems, where the Beys sharing the power with local leaders, due to we have in the Historical Algerian countryside a several local leaders (الزعامات المحلية) as El Cheikh (الشيخ)

like Cheikh El Arab in the Sahara of Biskra (Zaab) who is under his power eleven tribes, or Cheikh Belezma (Oures mountains) who is under his influence thirteen tribes, and we have also El Caid (القائد) like Caid El Heracta, who under his power thirty two small tribes, and Caid Ameurs Cheaga who is under his influence six tribes, where their famous Caid was Tchaker, that became later Bey of Constantine from 1814 to 1818 (Vayssettes, 2002, p.34).

This method of integration of society countryside in the general policy has developed and became more mature in the era of Ahmed Bey, where he expand the policy of intermarriage through his marriage to the daughter of Abd Esslam Cheikh of Ouled Mokran. Of course the Constantinian countryside in these conditions went toward more of stability, that helped Ahmed Bey to take care of the agricultural tribes that lived in the Constantine gates, like Ameurs Cheraga tribes whose known the policy of integration, but what are its most important feature ?

In fact the ruler of the Beylik had gone far that period, through reinforcing relationships with tribe groups, that lived in these plains, where he became the owner of the land of Azel located at the deep of the plains of Ameurs Cheraga with 148 hectares crossed by Mehiris valley. After that, he pushed the farmers of Ameurs Cheraga to farm this Azel which was referred to as « Azel El Bey » that means Azel land of the ruler, while the farmers were known as « Ouled El Bey », meaning the ruler's sons. Of course, this policy was new in the Beylik of Constantine because we did not know about it when reviewing the historical events (Arfa, 2006, p.112).

7.3. At the Level of Agricultural Real Estate

Again through reinforcing relationships with tribe groups, Ahmed Bay distributed a land of « Azel » to one of the tribes called Abdallah, the servant of Ahmed Bey mother's. The area of this farmland is 513 hectares located in the Boumerzoug valley basin, near Constantine. In the same time, Ahmed Bey gave another farmland as Azel to a person called Benmakhbech from Ameurs Cheraga. This land with 244 hectares was also located on the Boumerzoug valley basin. This kind of lands were distributed in the past to senior palace officials (Procès-Verbaux du Sénatus Consulte, tribu des Ameurs Cherag, 1868, p.36-41).

In other hand for reorganization the power Ahmed Bey preventing the Turkish persons from practicing policies, like the Salah's Bay in law Mostpha Estenbouli, also Ahmed Bay preventing the some Constantinian family, like Ben El Abeid, Ibn Naamoun, Ibn Zekri. In other hand, close to him the local persons that lived in the countryside where he integrate them in the government, the most important of them name Ali Ben Aissa El Ferguani (from Beni Ferguane tribe, that lived in the North-West of Constantine), where he became the second person in the palace as Bach Hamba (Army chief), after

The Algerian Countryside Between the Beylik System and the Reforms of Ahmed Bey 1826-1837

that this family expand in the space of countryside where Ali Ben Aissa has a large of agricultural lands in Beni Hemeidan surrounding Constantine city (Procès-Verbaux du Sénatus Consulte, tribu des Beni Hemeidan, 1882, p.16).

The brother of Ali Ben Aissa called Mohamed El Arbi Ben Aissa who had a rich library, and Judge in Constantine, due to this important situation in the society, the Bey Ahmed gave it two Azel lands in the territory of Ameurs Cheraga as concession, the first Azel crossed by Mehiris valley called "Gabel El Ghorf" on an area of 514 hectare, and the second Azel's land located in the Boumerzoug basin, called " El Karfa" on an area of 897 hectare (Procès-Verbaux du Sénatus Consulte, tribu des Ameurs Cheraga, 1868, p.32).

7.4. At the Level of the Agricultural Investment

After killing Sallah Bey in 1792, the Beylik of Constantine experienced a tough situation for a long time, especially that agriculture was below the level at that time. In his attempt to deal with this frustrating situation and solve the problems, Ahmed Bey focused on fertile hills which were located at the heart of Ameurs Cheraga plains. But, what did those hills stand for? and why did Ahmed Bey chose those hills?

In fact, the fertile lands around Constantine city formed the first axis for agricultural revival. So, the success of any step taken by a ruler was highly linked to the level of control of fertile lands and its wideness. Hence Ahmed Bey built his policy on agricultural investments in surroundings of Constantine, which were located exactly on the hills of Ameurs Cheraga tribe. They had a local naming « Saraa » of Berber origin, meaning the fertile hills at an altitude of more than 900 metres (Atoui, 1996, p.234)

In this golden region, Ahmed Bay attempted to link them to the general political reforms by means of two main strategies. The first strategy was to support Constantinian feudal families by giving them these rich lands, while the second was distributing farmlands to palace employees because this politics could reinforce the relationship between the power and these golden plains.

Ahmed Bey formed several Azel lands: 1- Azel « Ain Elhedjar » (498 hectares) 2- Azel « Henchir El Bey » (440 hectares) 3- Azel « Chaabet El Guemmah » (732 hectares), and the three Azels were located in the same place attached to each other and crossed by Mehiris Valley. In contrast, the fourth Azel, called « Aneur Ethleth » with a large area (1236 hectares), was located in the basin of Boumerzoug valley. Ahmed Bey distributed these four lands as concession for Ali Beledjaoui from Constantinian family, where he was « Caid Eddar » the leader of home, one of the senior officials in the palace (Arfa, 2006, p.22).

Ahmed Bey formed another Azel land with 270 hectares, commonly called « Ain El Mers », and gave it as a concession for « Bach Cahouagi »,

whose name means the header of the servants who make and give the cafe in the palace. Later, the fertile hills became linked directly to the Beylik stores, what would guarantee an abundance of the grain product (Procès-Verbaux du Sénatus Consulte, tribu des Ameurs Cheraga, 1868, p.32). And In the following table an illustration of areas that Ahmed Bey converted into isolation lands:

Table 1: The formation of Azel Lands During the Era of Ahmed Bey

Beneficiary	The Name of Azel	Location	Erea
Ahmed Bey	Ouled El Bey	Crosse by Mehiris valley	148 Hectare 95 Are
Ali Belebdjaoui Caid Eddar	Ain Elhedjar	Seraa	498 h 25 a
	Chaabet El Guemmah		732 h, 75 a
	Henchir El Bey		440 h, 85 a
	Ameur Ethleth		1236 h, 80 a
	Ain El Kahla	East bank of Boumerzoug valley	403h 60a
Judge Mohamed El Arbi Ben Aissa, the brother of Bach Hamba Ali	Gabel El Ghorf	Crosse by Mehiris valley	514 h 25a
	Bled El karfa	East bank of Boumerzoug valley	897h 85 a
Abd Ellah the servant of Ahmed Bey mother's	Esefsafa	East bank of Boumerzoug valley	513a 20 a
Ben Mekhbeche the servant of Ahmed Bey	El Makhbchia	East bank of Boumerzoug valley	244h 60 a
AliBach Cahouagi	Ain El Mers	Saraa	270 h, 70 a
Total	11 Azel	/	5901h 80 a

Source: Procès-Verbaux du Sénatus Consulte, tribu des Ameurs Cheraga, 1868, p.22- 68

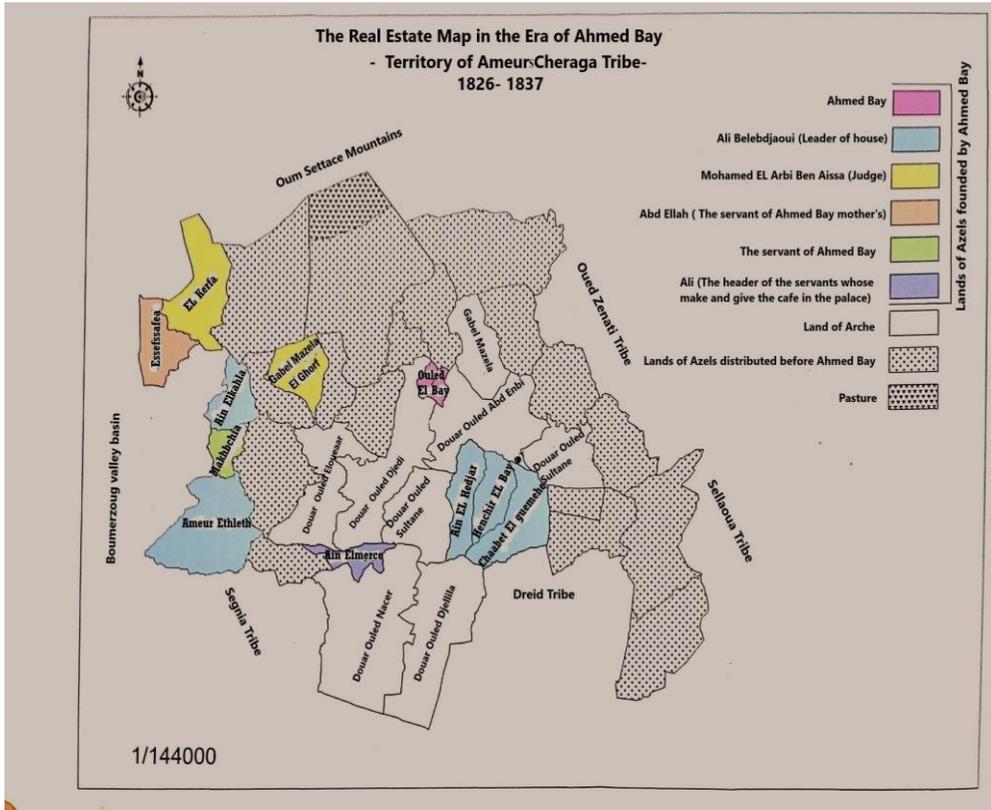
The Algerian Countryside Between the Beylik System and the Reforms of Ahmed Bey 1826-1837

8. Conclusion

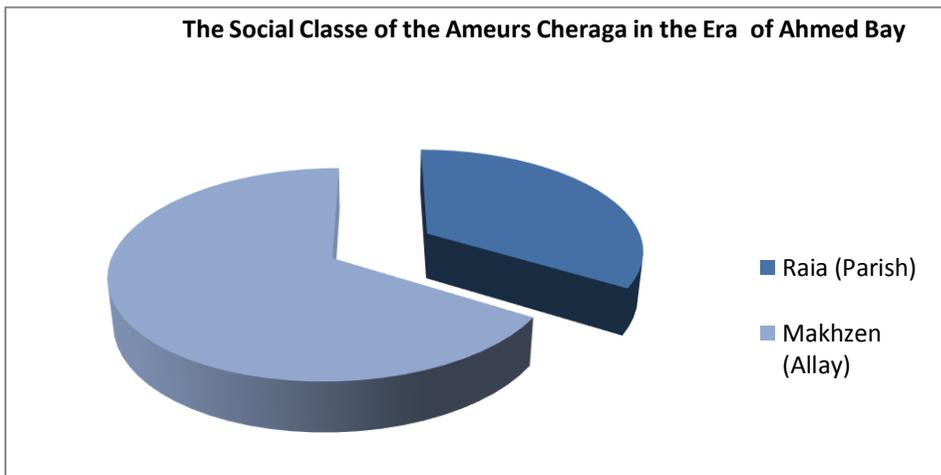
The Algeria countryside was part of general system which ruled through three century, where the ottoman empire established in Algeria the mechanism of the Beylik like Beylik of Constantine as local government in region of East, where this mechanism or system lived by coexistence with the other, with his culture and with social customs, due to we can say we are in front of Historical phenomenon, could gather between the local mind and the central system, and between the life tribe, and the organization politic. But we found through this research papers this system was based on the person, not on the institutions, so after the death of Salah Bey in 1792, the Beylik of Constantine know unrest and collapse in most sectors, like the agriculture, which back off, and became below the line, where this worse situation stood 34 years, until Ahmed Bey took the power in 1826.

Through the hinterland of Constantine as model we discovered that part of region formed the base of wildly reforms, where the last ruler Ahmed Bey recover the stability through build the bridge of relationships between the power and the tribes, and he gained control over fertile lands, so this decisions as signs of other politic, its objective to dive in the local society, and relying on fertile spaces for the development of the agricultural economy. Of course this reform vision could give her fruits, when the Constantine city was to withstand against the first French campaign in 1836, due to the strong link of hinterland with Constantine as capital.

Appendix:

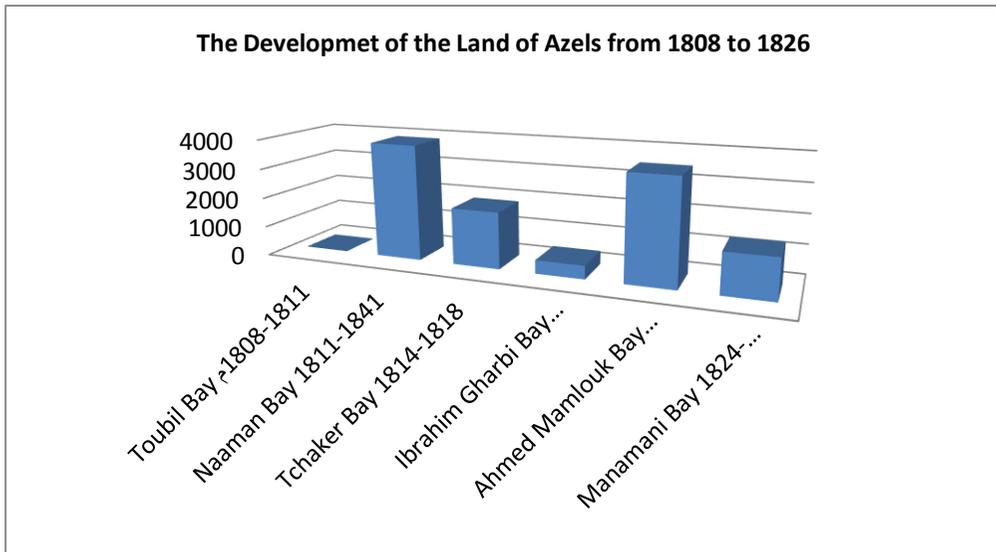


Appendix 1: The Real Estate Map in The Era of Ahmed Bay – Territory of Ameurs Cheraga Tribe 1826- 1834.

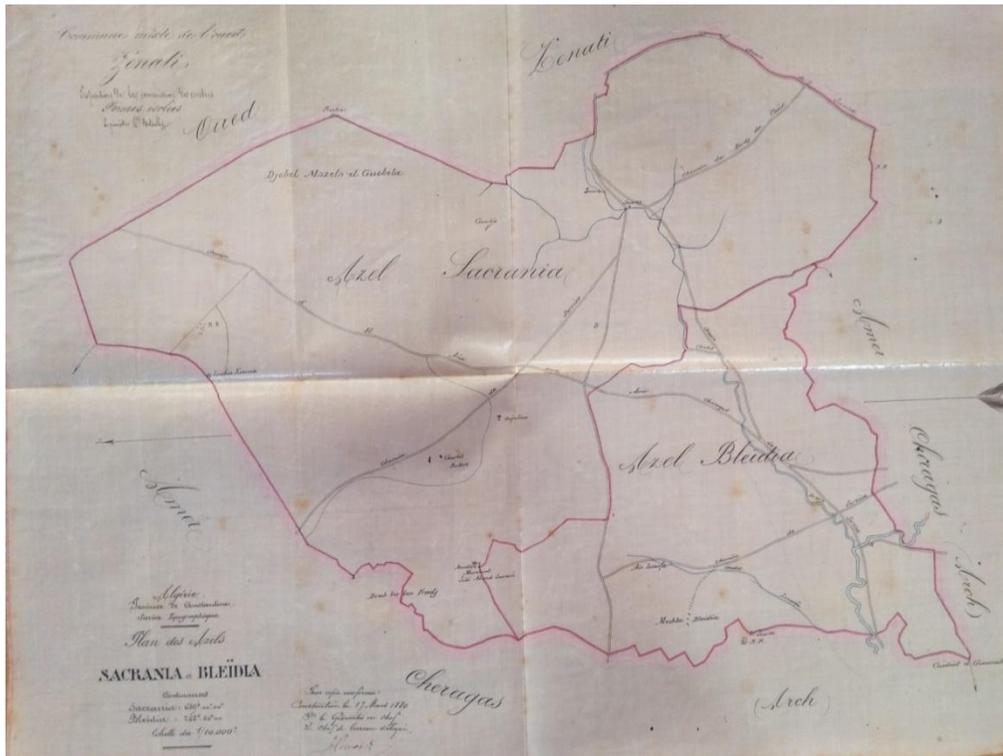


Appendix 2: The Social Classe of the Ameurs Cheraga in the Era of Ahmed Bey

The Algerian Countryside Between the Beylik System and the Reforms of Ahmed Bey 1826-1837



Appendix 3: The Development of the Land of Azels from 1808 to 1826.



Appendix 4: The Borders of the Lands of Azel, FR.ANOM, 4L /41

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The Algerian Countryside Between the Beylik System and the Reforms of Ahmed Bey 1826-1837

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