

## ALGERIA

Polity5 regime codes:

fac	scode	polity	pers	bmon	bday	byear	emon	eday	eyear	exrec	exconst	polcomp
0a	ALG	-8	3	7	5	1962	6	19	1965	3	2	1
0b	ALG	-9	24	6	20	1965	2	23	1989	3	1	1
1X	ALG	-2	3	2	24	1989	1	13	1992	3	3	7
1O	ALG	-7	4	1	14	1992	11	16	1995	5	1	1
2X	ALG	-3	8	11	17	1995	4	8	2004	3	3	6
2Xa	ALG	2	15	4	9	2004	99	99	9999	5	5	6

PITF Problem Events:

1) 07/62-12/62 (REV 07/62-09/62; ETH 07/62-09/62; GEN 07/62-12/62)

2) 05/91-12/04 (REV 05/91-12/04; ARC 01/92)

**0a)** July 5, 1962 (independence) – Immediately after achieving independence on July 5, 1962, a split occurred inside the National Liberation Front (FLN) and the Provisional Government of the Algerian Republic (GPRA) between two factions, one led by Youssef Ben Khedda, Prime Minister of the GPRA, and the other by Ahmed Ben Bella and the “historic leaders of Algerian independence” who had had been released from imprisonment in France. A newly-formed Political Bureau of the FLN, in which Ben Bella’s faction was in the majority, took over the functions of the GPRA and the Provisional Executive. Heavy fighting occurred before troops loyal to Ben Bella and the Political Bureau, many of which had returned from sanctuaries distant from the capital, could gather strength and occupy the capital. General elections to the Constituent Assembly were held on September 20, 1962, based on a single list of candidates selected by the Political Bureau, mostly from among its own supporters. The FLN was instituted as the sole legal party.

### **Ethnic/Revolutionary War: July 1962-September 1962**

Immediately following the achievement of independence, civil war breaks out between forces loyal to "historic leader" Ben Bella and his rival Ben Khedda to determine who would control the new regime. Ethnic-Berber forces in the Kabylie region enter into a revolt against the FLN government.

### **Politicide: July 1962-December 1962**

After achieving independence from France through force of arms in July 1962, Algerian militants attacked Europeans and Muslim civilians suspected of collaborating with French colonial authorities.

**0b)** June 20, 1965 (event) – On June 19, 1965, President Ben Bella was ousted by a military coup headed by Colonel Boumediene, the First Deputy Premier and Defence Minister, and a Revolutionary Council assumed control. Despite a series of protest demonstrations in Algiers and other cities, the Council succeeded in consolidating its control of both the government and the FLN.

**1X) Date of Change to Factional-Autocratic:** February 24, 1989 (national referendum for constitutional reform and legalization of opposition parties)

### **Brief Explanation of Change To:**

A national referendum on constitution reform was held on February 23, 1989 in response to widespread anti-government riots in October 1988. Algerians voted overwhelmingly in favor of the sweeping reforms, which would effectively end one-party state socialism and pave the way for a multiparty system. The mandated changes were adopted by the ruling party, Front for National Liberation (FLN), in July 1989.

### **Identify Main Factions:**

- *Front for National Liberation (FLN)* — Ruling party since Algeria gained independence in 1962. By the late 1980s, the FLN was riven by serious internal factionalism and abandonment by disenchanted leaders. The party organization, however, enjoyed the support of the Algerian military, which proved crucial in electoral confrontation with the FIS. It also rallied “secular parties” in the face of the “Islamist threat,” represented by the FIS.
- *Islamic Salvation Front (FIS)* — Islamist party standing in opposition to the ruling FLN. The FIS was largely a populist organization that advocated the formation of an Islamic state in Algeria.

Other minor factions: *Ethnic-Berbers* concentrated in the Kabyle region have pressured the government for greater regional autonomy.

### **Revolutionary War: May 1991-December 2004**

Efforts by ruling FLN to ensure its electoral success through legislative gerrymandering triggered mass protests in May 1991. The military increased its political influence in effort to prevent the election of Islamicists, which occurred despite their efforts. The government cancelled the election results, exacerbating conflict between Islamic militants and the military-backed government. The conflict was characterized by intense terror campaigns on both sides designed to undermine each other’s support bases. The conflict was largely ended by the gradual disintegration of the FLN and the consequent re-election of reform-minded President Abdelaziz Bouteflika in April 2004, in which the military remained neutral.

**10) Date of Change from Factional-Autocratic:** January 14, 1992 (adverse regime change – military takeover)

### **Brief Explanation of Change From:**

#### **Adverse Regime Change: January 1992**

In the shadow of surprising FIS victories in June 1990 local elections, efforts by the ruling FLN to ensure their success in national elections through legislative gerrymandering triggered mass protests led mainly by the FIS. The military increased its influence in the political arena in an effort to prevent the election of an Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) government. In the first round of legislative elections, held on December 26, 1991, FIS candidates had won 188 of 231 constituencies in which there had been an outright winner, whereas the FLN had won only 15. Second round elections had been scheduled for January 16, 1992, in the remaining 199 constituencies. President Chadli Bendjedid suddenly resigned on January 11, 1992, and a newly created five-member High Committee of State (HCS), chaired by Mohammed Boudiaf and backed by the military, assumed presidential powers on January 14, 1992. The second round of

elections was immediately cancelled. A State of Emergency was declared on February 9 and the FIS was officially “dissolved” by state order on May 4, 1992.

**2X) Date of Change to Factional-Autocratic:** November 17, 1995 (presidential election)

**Brief Explanation of Change To:**

A general election was held on November 17, 1995, for which the FIS was officially banned. The incumbent President, Liamine Zeroual, emerged victorious in the first multiparty presidential election in independent Algeria. All three defeated candidates made statements implying their recognition of the result. The election also gave legitimacy to the military-backed regime.

**Identify Main Factions:**

- *Front for National Liberation (FLN)* — Ruling party since Algeria gained independence in 1962. The FLN won a slight majority in the 2002 parliamentary elections and enjoyed the support of the second largest party, the *National Democratic Rally (RND)* party. Despite disagreements regarding policies, the FLN also maintained the support of the military.
- *Islamic-Oriented Parties* — Although a constitutional amendment in 1996 banned parties based solely on religion or ethnicity, support for Islamic rule remained the primary organizing factor for anti-government actors. The primary opposition to the FLN came in the form of two moderate Islamic-oriented parties, the Reform Movement and the Movement for Peaceful Society (formerly Hamas). The latter won 69 of 380 seats in the 1997 elections, and together these two parties won 85 of 389 seats in the 2002 elections.

**Changes within Factional-Autocratic Period:**

**2Xa)** April 9, 2004 (presidential election) – President Abdelaziz Bouteflika was elected for a second five-year term on April 9, 2004 in generally peaceful and free elections, defeating his main rival, former prime minister Ali Benflis, with 85% of the vote. Benflis’ campaign had split the FLN party into pro-Bouteflika and pro-Benflis camps, leaving Bouteflika to run as candidate for the RND and Movement for Peaceful Society parties. Bouteflika, who won the presidency as an FLN and military-backed candidate in 1999, had come to be seen as a reformer; the military remained neutral in the 2004 election.