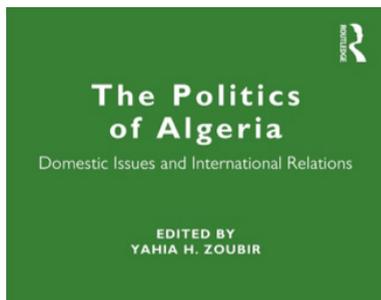


Yahia H. Zoubir (ed.),
The politics of Algeria: Domestic issues and international relations,
London and New York, Routledge, 2020, 314 pp. [ISBN: 978-1-138-33096-2]



Algeria's political and sociological transformation in the last decades is a real key to understanding the Middle East and North African region. Recent publications—as Rana Jawad, Nicola Jones, Mahmood Messkoub, *Social Policy in the Middle East and North Africa: The New Social Protection Paradigm and Universal Coverage*, Northampton, Edward Elgar Publishing, 2019—pinpoint the growing Algerian role in the Arabic scene. Algeria is in the crossroad of geopolitics indeed. In fact, it is the largest African state and one of the most influential nations in the

Mediterranean, which a crucial interest for Europe too.

Bearing this in mind, the present book aims to be referential for both students and scholars alike, interested on North African affairs. The studies conducted in this book seek to analyse the most notorious transformations and influences that Algeria has in neighbourhood countries: “*The authors of the chapters in this book are a mix of sociologists, economists, political scientists, linguists, and international relations specialists who have used the theoretical and methodological instruments in their respective fields to decipher the complexities that characterise the Algerian political system*” (p. 2). The diverse, yet comprehensive approach on Algerian affairs, is one of the strengths of the study, which has been carried out from a multifactorial perspective.

The book is divided, shall we say, in some sort of a dual structure. On the one hand, the first part is composed by twelve chapters, where different authors address local issues ranging from gender, youth, language, and identities issues. Moreover, decisive matters such as the role of media and human rights activism are also some of the local affairs' main themes that the reader may come across when approaching this book. The economy of Algeria should also be on the spotlight in any modern analysis of a growing nation as Algeria. Thus, the authors also recapitulate the landmarks of financial and economic measures that the Algerian Government has been promoting in recent times to enhance economic growth.

On the other hand, the second part of the book tackles Algeria's role on the international scene, with particular emphasis on Europe and the Mediterranean basin. Additionally, new areas of relation emerged in the Sahel area and Eastern Asia. Thus, the book also examines the strategic partnership of the country with China as well as Algeria's relations with Iran and the Gulf Cooperation Council.

In sum, *The politics of Algeria: Domestic issues and international relations* seeks to explain from multiple approaches how this country has turned a growing actor with an economic blossom. Likewise, the book attempts to analyse the consequences of such growth in the local and global milieus, through a thoughtful and nuanced overview of the country's geostrategic position.

ANTONIO TORRES