

THE MILITARY AND POLITICS IN ALGERIA

Since Algeria's independence, the Algerian military is considered to be a major actor in Algerian politics.

1954-1962

Algerian War of Independence ends the French colonization.

Ahmed Ben Bella, a military leader in the War of Independence, is elected, unopposed, as the first president.

1963

1965

Col. Houari Boumedienne overthrows Ben Bella, dissolves the National Assembly and suspends the constitution.

Boumedienne dies and is replaced by his Defence Minister, Col. Chadli Bendjedid who gets elected, unopposed, as president.

1979

1992-1999

After the electoral victory of the Islamists, a military coup forces the president to resign and suspends the elections. The military places its candidates in the presidency post and engages in a bloody civil war with Islamist militias.

Abdelaziz Bouteflika becomes president in 1999. Bouteflika tries to strengthen the presidency vis-a-vis the military and makes the largest military restructuring in post-independence Algeria by the end of 2018.

1999-2019

2019

Gaid Salah, the Chief Staff of the army, forces Bouteflika's resignation on the grounds of the Hirak, becoming the most powerful man in Algeria.

