

AFRICA REVIEW AN UP-TO-DATE GEOGRAPHICAL, HISTORICAL, POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC SUMMARY OF THE AFRICAN COUNTRIES

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ALGERIA

1. Official name:

Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria
République Démocratique et Populaire d'Algérie
al-Jumhuriya al-Jaza'iriya ad-dimuqratiya ash-sha'Biya

2. Geography:

2.1. Situation: in North Africa, with the Mediterranean Sea as northern border and the Sahara desert in the south, between 19°N and 37°N, 9°W and 12°E.

2.2. Total area: 2 381 741 km².

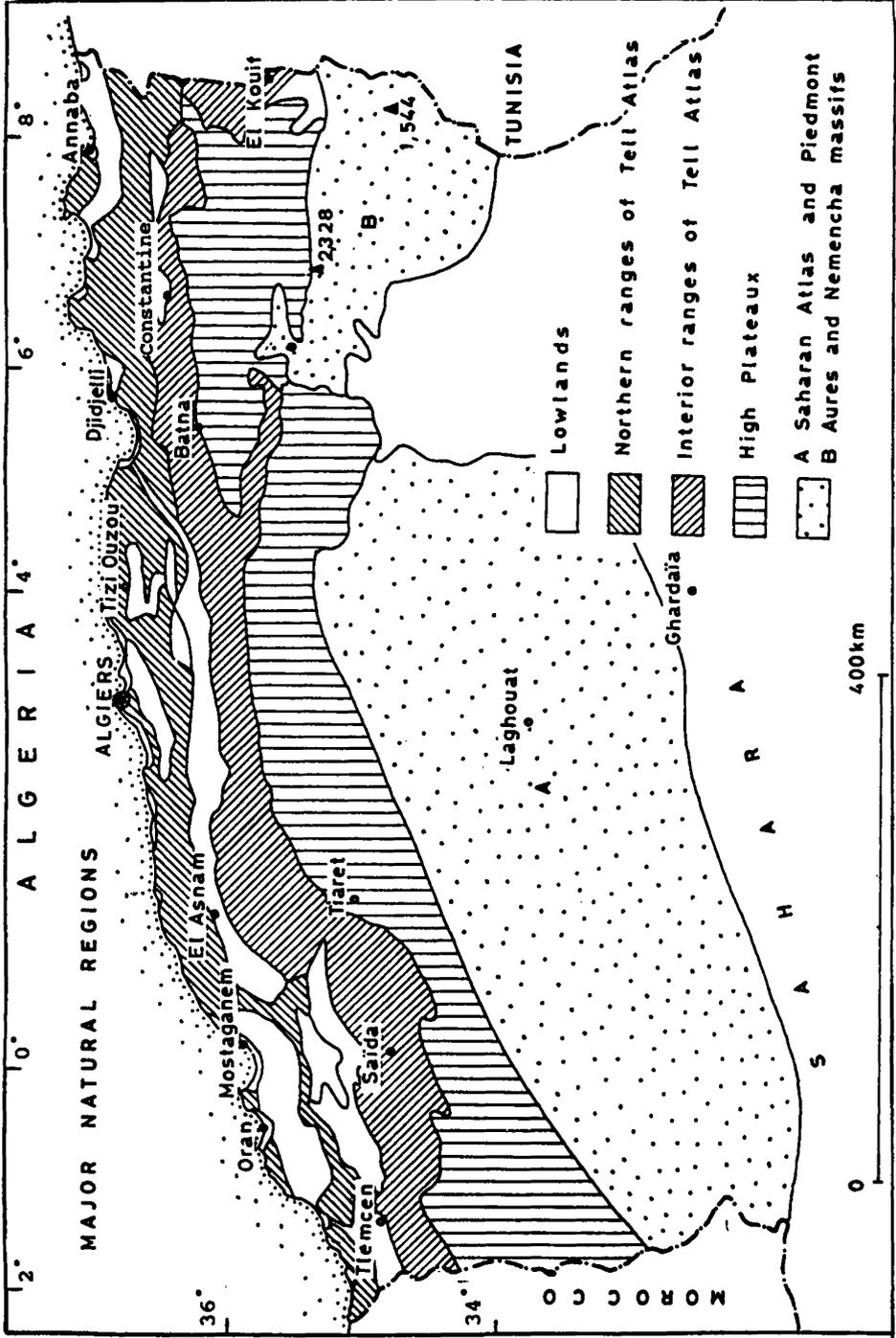
2.3. Natural regions: northern Algeria is characterized by the coastal Tell-Atlas mountain range, gradually converging eastward and enclosing plateaux and basins. The high plateaux south of the rugged Tell-Atlas have an average altitude of 1000 m. They are bordered in the south by discontinuous, deeply eroded ridges of the Sahara Atlas mountains. South of these mountains is the Sahara desert.

2.4. Climate: the climate of North Algeria is typically Mediterranean with rainfall in winter and almost total drought in summer. The desert region has an annual rainfall of less than 100 mm but this varies greatly throughout the years.

3. Population:

3.1. Total population: 25.36 mln (1990), urban population: 44,7% (1990).

3.2. Population density: 10 per km² (1988).



3.3. Population growth rate: 3.1% (1985-1990).

3.4. Capital: EL DJAZAIR (ALGIERS), 2.0 mln inh. (1983).

3.5. Languages: Arabic (official), French (commercial) and Berber.

3.6. Religion: Sunnitic Islam.

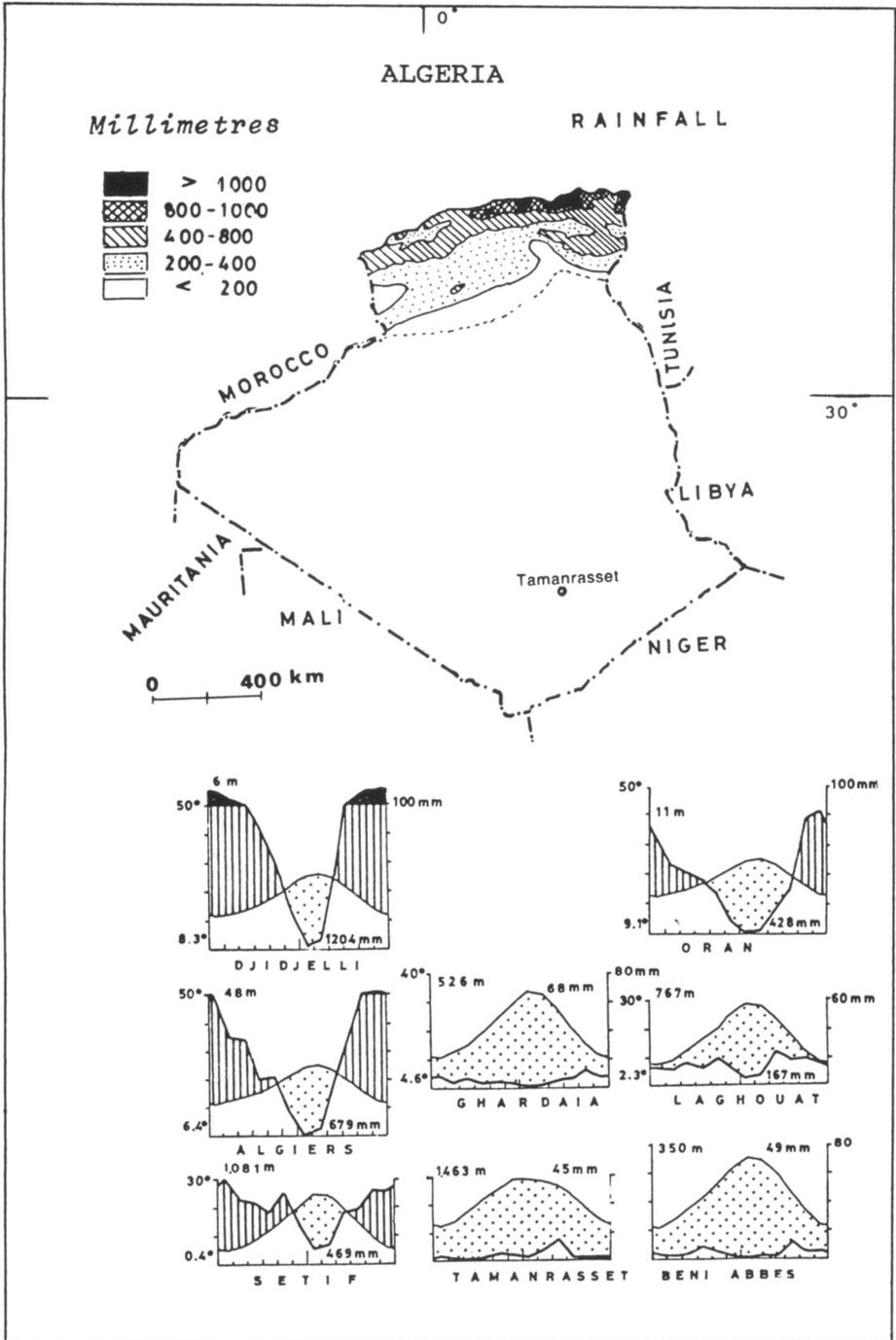
4. History:

The autochthonous population of Algeria consisted of Berbers. Arab invasions resulted in complete islamisation and in a mixed Arabo-Berber population. Several dynasties ruled Algeria up to the 16th century when the land became an Ottoman domain. Under the Ottoman empire the Turkish local ruler, the Bey of Algiers, administered the region with the help of Turkish soldiers in a very autonomous way.

In 1830 Algeria was invaded by the French and the territory was gradually incorporated and ruled as French departments because of the massive settlement of European, mainly French, colonists (in 1950 about 1 mln on a total population of 13 mln). The Europeans came to monopolize the best land and the economy was developed according to the needs of the French market. Resistance to the French occupation was always ruthlessly subdued.

In november 1954 a coordinated and armed insurrection of the islamic population led to a severe war with the French army. In spite of cruel repression, the death of about a million civilians and the deployment of 1/2 million French soldiers, the resistance movement of the FLN, the national liberation movement, forced the French government to recognize the right of self-determination. A group of extremist Europeans called for a "French Algeria" and opposed the peace-talks but they could not avoid the process to complete independence. The large majority of the European settlers fled the country. Algeria acquired independence in July 1962. The French rule and the war of independence left a completely devastated administration and economy.

After 3 years of internal political struggle, the first President Ben Bella was overthrown by his army-chief Houari Boumediene. Between 1965 and 1976, the country was ruled by a Council of the Revolution under Boumediene together with some military confidants. Socialism was the official doctrine. The revenues of oil and gas enabled a social policy and great investments in the heavy industry. The constitution of 1976 legalized the rule of Boumediene and the socialist option. It introduced also a National Assembly, but the members were presented for election by the single party, the FLN.



End 1978, Boumediene died of a blood-disease. The party presented colonel Chadli Bendjedid as presidential candidate and he was elected president in Januari 1979. The changing economic situation together with the fiasco of the socialist economic policy, constrained Chadli Bendjedid toward an economic liberalization. In october 1988 heavy riots, the most violent uprising since independence against FLN-rule, forced president Chadli Bendjedid to accelerate and to extend the constitutional reforms announced earlier. The popular pressure not only asked for economic changes, but also for profound political reform.

The constitution of 1989 generates an entirely new political regime. The word "socialism" is banned completely and the creation of political parties is allowed. In 1990, more than 20 political parties were already recognised. During the local elections that year the ruling FLN was defeated at most places by a massive victory of the islamic fundamentalist party, the FIS. In june 1991, violent and even armed protest organised by the fundamentalists against a new electoral law forced president Bendjedid to postpone the national elections, to declare the state of emergency and to promise early Presidential elections.

5. Nature of political system:

Algeria is, according to the constitution, a popular democratic state. Islam is the state religion and Arabic is the official language. The fundamental freedoms and the rights of man are recognized.

The unicameral, popularly elected, 295-member National People's Assembly holds legislative power. The constitution provides for a political responsibility of the Prime Minister ("Head of the Government") and the members of the Government to the National People's Assembly. The State guarantees the right to form political associations.

The President is elected by universal suffrage for five years. The President presides over the Council of ministers, where bills are discussed. The President can ask the Assembly for a second reading of a law and this new vote requires a two-thirds majority. Only the President has the initiative for a constitutional revision. The declaration of the state of emergency is depending only on the decision of the President and it can attribute him large exceptional powers.

6. Economy:

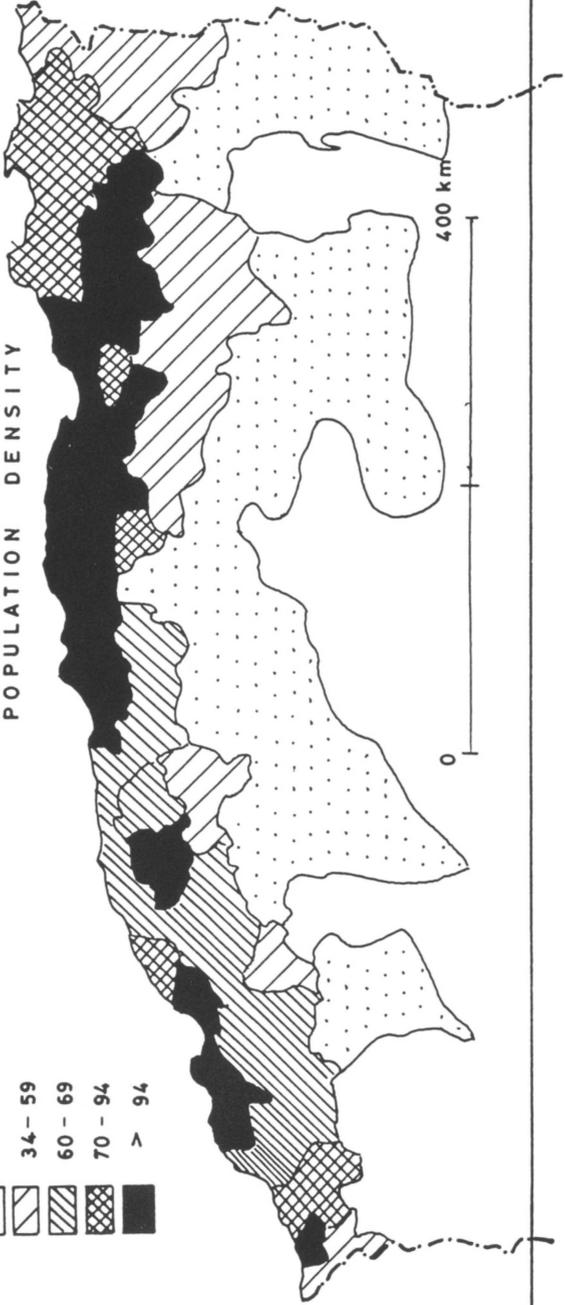
GDP: agriculture 12%, industry 47%, services: 41% (1988).
Employment: agriculture 35%, industry 20%, unempl. 10% (1982).

ALGERIA

Number of persons per km²



POPULATION DENSITY



6.1. Mining: Petroleum and natural gas are predominant by far and most of the production is exported. In order of importance they are followed by lead, iron and phosphate. Small amounts of copper, zinc, manganese and wolfram are produced.

6.2. Agriculture: 3% of the total area is arable land or cultivated with permanent crops (1984). Agriculture is concentrated in a small coastal belt of max. 200 km width. 1/3 of the arable land is state-owned and under collective exploitation. Main food crops are wheat, barley and other cereals, potatoes, pulses, vegetables, olives, figs and dates. Main export crops are grapes (annual production 280-380 000 t), citrus fruit (oranges 70%, clementines and tangerines 25%), tobacco, olives and early vegetables such as tomatoes, peas, beans, artichokes and potatoes.

6.3. Livestock: 15% of the total area is permanent pasture. Sheep (14.3 mln), goats (3.57 mln) and camels (130 000) (1988) are concentrated north of the Sahara Atlas. Cattle (1.5 mln) (1988) are almost entirely restricted to the Tellian regions. The annual beef production amounts to 33 000 t. Poultry is also important with an estimated annual production of 124 t eggs and 57 000 t of meat (1988).

6.4. Forestry: 1.7% of the total area is covered by forest (1984) which consists of oak (50%) and Aleppo pine (*Pinus halepensis*) (30%). Also *Thuja*, *Juniperus*, *Cedrus* and *Pinus pinaster* occur.

6.5. Fishery: The average annual catch amounts to 40 000 t, subdivided as follows: seafish (sole, gurnet and seabream) 30%, crustaceans 25% and, in the Oran district, anchovies 25%.

6.6. Industry: Industrial plants are numerous, well-developed and diversified. The petroleum industry lies ahead, followed by the metallurgic and agricultural machinery assembly industry, textile, fertilizers, cement, leather, food industries (wine, fruit juices, canning etc.), chemical industries, building materials and electrical constructions. Tourism industry is rapidly developing.

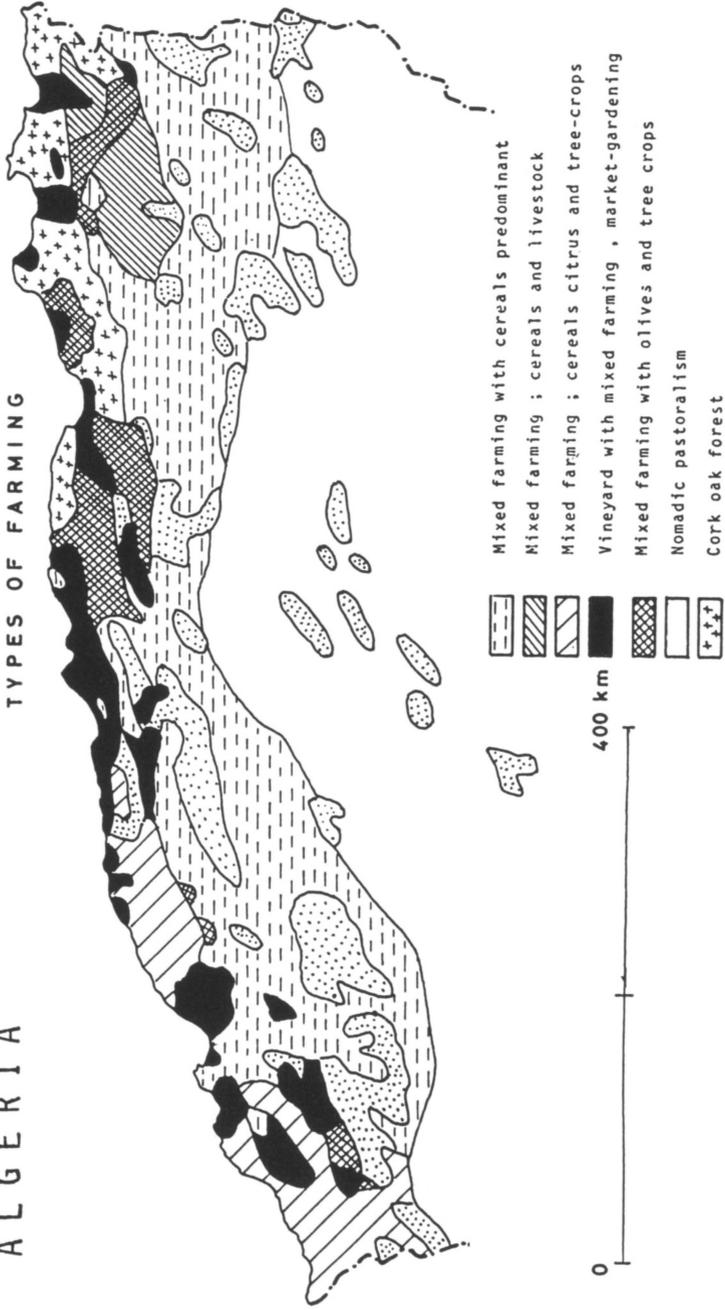
6.7. Weights, measures and currency: kg, meter
1 Algerian Dinar (AD) = 100 centimes
1 US \$ = 12.0 AD (Dec 1990)

7. Trade:

Total exports amount to 8 029 mln US \$ (1987), of which fuels, minerals and metals represent 98% (1984). Main clients are the EEC (50%) and the USA (25%). Total imports amount to 7 029 mln US \$ (1987), subdivided as follows: machinery and transport equipment: 32% and food: 19% (1984). Main suppliers are the EEC (57%) and the USA (11%).

ALGERIA

TYPES OF FARMING



8. Miscellaneous:

Literacy: 57.5% of the population older than 15 years (1987).

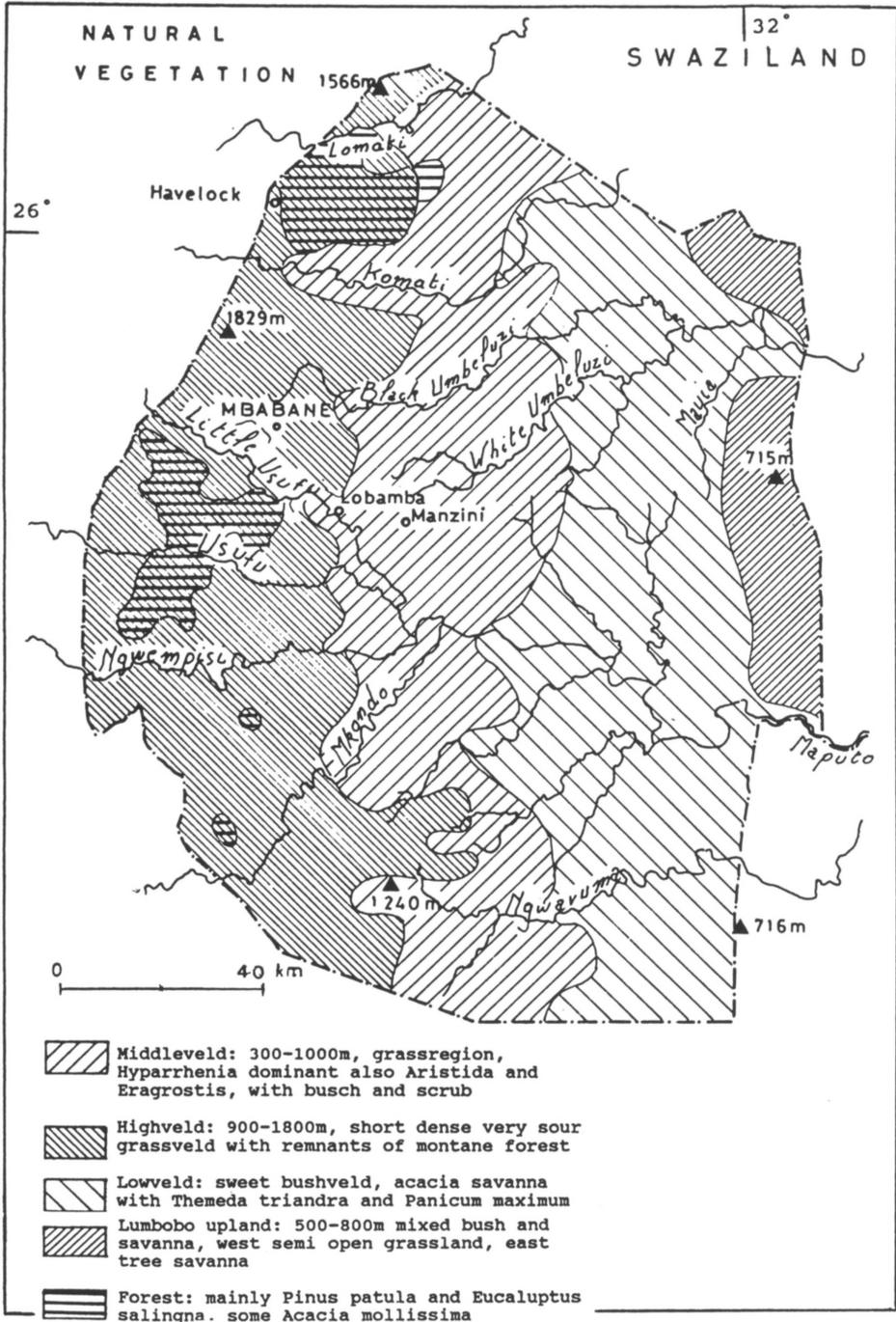
World Bank classification: Algeria belongs to the upper middle-income LDC-s, with a GDP per capita of 2680 US \$ (1987).

Membership of international organisations:

GATT, ILO, IMF, OAPEC, OAU, OPEC, UN, UNESCO, WHO, African Development Bank, Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development, Arab League, Islamic Conference, Islamic Development Bank, World Bank, Arab Maghreb Union (with Libya, Mauritania, Morocco and Tunisia).

Algerian Embassy in Belgium: Molièrelaan 207
1060 Brussel
Tel. 02/343.50.78

Belgian Embassy in Algeria: Chemin Youcef Tabeyi 22
El Biar,
Alger, Algérie



SWAZILAND

1. Official name: Kingdom of Swaziland

2. Geography:

2.1. Situation: the country is surrounded by the Republic of South Africa, except along 110 km of its eastern border where it adjoins Mozambique.

2.2. Total area: 17 364 km².

2.3. Natural regions: a country of widely varied relief: low plateaux in the east, to deeply dissected high plateaux in the west with maximum altitude around 1800 m.

2.4. Climate: subtropical, much of the rainfall falls in heavy thunderbursts.

3. Population:

3.1. Total population: 676 000 (1986), urban population: 15.2%.

3.2. Population density: 33 per km².

3.3. Population growth rate estimated at: 3.5%.

3.4. Capital: MBABANE, 39 000 inh. (1983).

3.5. Principal languages: English and Siswati (official).

3.6. Religion: 60-70% Christians, traditional religions.

4. History:

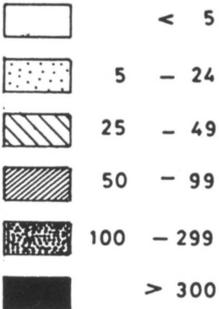
The name Swazi comes from Mswazi, who defeated in the middle of the 19th century the local Sotho with a Nguni army. Together with them and some Zulu he founded Swaziland. It is still a kingdom today. The king is called "The Bull" or "The Lion". The queen-mother or Indlovukati detains a sacred stone used during fertility rituals such as rain invocation. Each year a number of rituals - Incwala - are performed in the vicinity of the royal court. To withstand the frequent attacks of the Zulu tribes, the Swazi king asked support of the official British

POPULATION DENSITY

SWAZILAND



persons per km²



representative of Natal in 1840. Since then, Europeans began to settle in the country. It became a protectorate of Transvaal in 1884. After the British-boer war (1899-1902) it became a protectorate of the British Crown. It achieved independence in 1968 as a member of the British Commonwealth.

5. Nature of political system:

The constitution, of 1978, confirms the strong powers of the King. Since 1989, King Mswati III assumes full executive powers. A bicameral Parliament is based on the traditional tribal structures. The House of Assembly counts 50 deputies, the Senate 20 senators. 40 deputies are elected by and among an 80-member electoral college, with 2 members chosen by each tribal community. The House of Assembly elects 10 senators. The King appoints 10 other senators and also 10 deputies. The Imbokodvo National Movement (INM) is the only authorised party.

6. Economy:

GDP: agriculture: 24.3 (1987), industry: 22.8% (1984).
Employment: agriculture: 71.5% (1981).

6.1. Mining: Iron ore and some asbestos (10th world producer), coal and some gold, diaspore, barite and pyrophyllite.

6.2. Agriculture: 8% of the total area is arable land or cultivated with permanent crops (1984). Maize is the most widely grown crop. It occupies 60% of the arable land. Sorghum is important in the lowlands, beans are grown in the Highveld and groundnuts in the Upper Middleveld. Sugar-cane is by far the most important export crop. Other cash crops are cotton, tobacco, rice, citrus fruit, pineapples, bananas and avocados.

6.3. Livestock: 66% of the total area is permanent pasture (1984). Most of the cattle is owned by Swazi farmers. The quality as draught animals and producers of milk and meat is low. Social mores favour the increase in number, more than improvement of quality. The goats are mainly of indigenous breed and are kept for their meat and skins. Sheep are economically of little value.

6.4. Forestry and woodland: 6% of the total area (1984). Nearly 60% of the area under forest plantation is in the Upper Urutu and most of the remainder is in the Pigg's Peak area. 90% are conifers, with as main species *Pinus patulata* and 10% are eucalyptus, mainly *Eucalyptus saligna*.

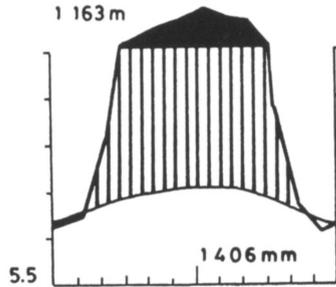
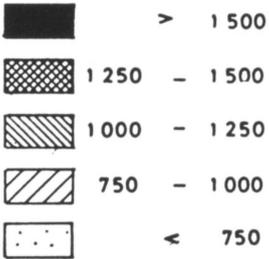
6.5. Fishery: none.

RAINFALL

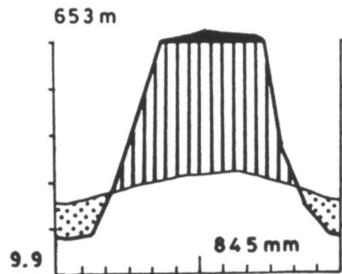
SWAZILAND



in millimetres



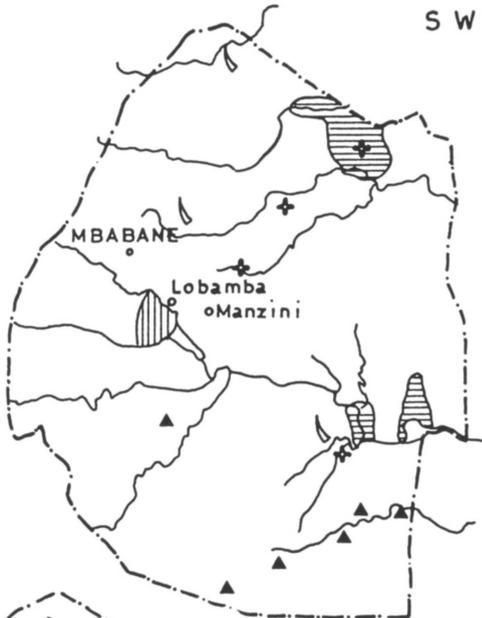
MBABANE



STEGI

MAIN CASH CROPS

SWAZILAND



-  irrigated area
rice, sugar cane
and citrus
-  irrigated area
citrus, pine apple
-  cotton
-  bananas
-  tobacco

FARMING REGIONS



-  mainly dry land arable
farming and stockraising
commercial and subsistence
-  irrigation schemes
-  cattle holding grounds
-  afforestation, pines and
eucalyptus

0 80km

6.6. Industry: Is relatively well-developed and based on the processing of agricultural products.

6.7. Weights, measures and currency:

kg, meter

1 Lilangeni (E) = 100 cents

1 US \$ = 2.655 E (March 1990)

7. Trade:

Export products are sugar-cane (60%), iron ore, asbestos, wood, livestock products and cotton. Main clients are the EEC and South Africa. Main suppliers are the EEC and South Africa.

8. Miscellaneous:

Membership of international organisations: GATT, ILO, IMF, OAU, WHO, UNESCO, African Development Bank, Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa (recipient), Commonwealth, Economic Commission for Africa, Southern African Development Co-ordination Conference, World Bank. Swaziland is a signatory to the Lomé Convention (EEC-ACP).

Swaziland has no representative in Belgium.

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Olymbio Park
P.O. Box 31 204
Lusaka, Zambia