The Impact of the Turkish-Algerian Cooperation in Industrial Investment on the Algerian National Economy

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Abstract:
The economic partnership between Algeria and Turkey has grown significantly through industrial investments.High-level visits and bilateral agreements have strengthened cooperation between the two countries. Turkish investments have increased Algeria's productive capacity and supported job creation.They have also contributed to workforce training and skills development.
Turkish firms bring efficiency and follow international quality standards.This allows their products to compete effectively with European goods.However, challenges persist, especially between 2018 and 2025.Bureaucratic inefficiencies and institutional constraints discourage foreign investment. Algeria's dependence on hydrocarbons limits broader economic diversification.Structural reforms are essential to maximize benefits and ensure sustainable industrial growth.
Keywords : Industrial investment, Algerian national economy, Foreign Direct Investment, Hydrocarbon dependency , Market competition

Introduction:

The economic relations between Algeria and Turkey have witnessed remarkable development and dynamic growth, positively impacting the economic development of both countries, especially in industrial investment through companies and industrial enterprises across various sectors. The numerous visits by Turkish President «Recep Tayip Erdogan» to Algeria have significantly supported economic partnership between the two nations. This has been achieved through economic cooperation agreements and protocols in various fields, particularly investment and industry, enabling many Turkish investors to engage in industrial investment in Algeria.

This has benefited the Algerian national economy by increasing the productive capacity of several industries, creating numerous job opportunities, and contributing to the training and qualification of the workforce.

Algerian-Turkish relations span a historical period from 1518 until the French occupation of Algeria in 1830. France made considerable efforts to erase the historical, cultural, and civilizational landmarks symbolizing Algeria's regional and international standing. After gaining independence from French occupation, Algeria initially adopted a socialist economic approach, characterized by state control over the means of production, which did not foster a conducive environment for investment. However, various local and international events and transformations compelled Algeria to abandon the socialist approach and gradually embrace a market economy, especially following the economic, political, and security crisis that afflicted Algeria from the late 1980s until the end of the 1990s. This latter period saw the election of President «Abdelaziz Bouteflika» in 1999. His presidency was the longest among Algerian presidents and was marked by the expenditure of over 1200 billion dollars to drive economic development and encourage investment through a series of policies and reforms across various sectors. Efforts were made to attract foreign investment, with Turkish investment in Algeria receiving a significant share of foreign investments due to the shared vision between the two countries in achieving economic, political, and security interests in the region. Turkish industrial investment plays a crucial role in developing the Algerian national economy due to several factors, including the efficiency and effectiveness of the Turkish workforce, in addition to their adherence to international quality standards. This has enabled Turkish products to compete with European products in terms of cost and quality, allowing the national economy to benefit from these economic advantages, which can positively impact its future development. In light of the above, this article seeks to answer the following **research question:**

- How has the Algerian-Turkish economic cooperation in industrial investment impacted economic development in Algeria?

This study is based on the following **hypotheses**:

1:Turkish industrial investment in Algeria contributes to supporting and developing the national economy by introducing new industries that reduce import costs.

2: Turkish industrial investment in Algeria aids in training and qualifying Algerian labor to establish private investments.

3: Turkish industrial investment offers numerous advantages that positively impact the national economy's development in Algeria.

Study Structure:

The article's structure unfolds across an **introduction**, **four distinct sections**, and a c**oncluding synthesis**. The initial section, "**Conceptual Framework of Foreign Direct Investment,"** meticulously defines Foreign Direct Investment, delineating its core characteristics and the determinants influencing its attraction. This is followed by **"Evolution of Algerian-Turkish Economic Relations**," which chronologically traces the development of bilateral economic ties, highlighting significant agreements, trade volumes, and investment trends that have shaped this partnership. The subsequent section, "**The Reality of Turkish Industrial Investment in Algeria and its Role in Serving the National Economy**," provides an empirical examination of the tangible contributions of Turkish industrial investments across various Algerian sectors, detailing their role in job creation, technology transfer, and fostering self-sufficiency. Finally, "**Obstacles to Turkish-Algerian Industrial Investment (2018-2025): Implications for Algeria's Economy,"** critically analyzes the impediments to Turkish industrial investment, encompassing institutional constraints, persistent hydrocarbon dependency, and competitive market dynamics. The article concludes by synthesizing the findings, underscoring the vital role of foreign investment and the potential for deepened Turkish-Algerian economic cooperation.

Section 1: Conceptual Framework of Foreign Direct Investment

Foreign Direct Investment is defined as:**"the ownership by a foreign investor of part or all of the investments in a specific project, in addition to participating in the management of the project with a national investor in the case of joint ventures, or having complete control over management and organization in the case of absolute ownership of the investment project".** Furthermore, the foreign investor transfers financial and technological resources and technical expertise in all This definition highlights two main characteristics of (Gharbi, 2013, pp. 7–8) fields to the host countries. (Badaache, 2008, pp. 50–51)

1. The flow of capital between two or more countries.
2. Direct control of the foreign party over the project.

In another definition, the **International Monetary Fund and the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development** agree that : "**foreign direct investment is a long-term investment outside the borders of the home country that gives its owner the right to participate in the management of the project"**. According to specialists, the contribution or ownership percentage in the investment project should be equal to or exceed 10% of the total cost of the project. (Gharbi, Op;cit, p 9).

Based on these definitions, a set of determinants represent the investment climate in a country and act as factors controlling the attraction of (FDI) in a specific country, as well as its success or failure. These primarily relate to: (Ibid, p p 22, 23)

- Market size and growth potential.
- Stable macro-economic policies.
- Legislative and regulatory framework for investment.
- Financial incentives and financing.

Section 2: Evolution of Algerian-Turkish Economic Relations

In the late 1990s, the Turkish government resolved to play an active role in Africa to strengthen its diplomatic, economic, and cultural ties with African countries. In 1998, Turkey issued a document outlining its new direction in Africa, titled "The African Policy". (Hamdi, 2010)

Turkish interest in African countries can be attributed to the latter being a fertile environment that encourages investment, despite suffering from economic, cultural, and social stagnation, and possessing vast untapped natural resources. This positions Turkey as an economic competitor to European countries in Africa.

Additionally, two determinants have played a role in shaping Turkish economic policy towards Arab and African countries. The first determinant is the economic strategy adopted by the «Justice and Development» Party upon its ascension to power in 2002. The second determinant is the Turkish government's announcement of its economic plan, which includes intensifying policies of economic interdependence with neighboring regional countries. This was expressed by the "win-win" principle, achievable through establishing a strategic economic partnership (Chelghoum, 2015, p. 111)

Several factors have enabled the development of Turkish-Algerian economic relations, making Algeria Turkey's strategic economic partner in the North African region, as it represents the main gateway to Africa. The initial signs of strengthening economic relations between the two countries were Algerian President Abdelaziz Bouteflika's visit to Turkey (April 2-4, 2005), followed by a reciprocal visit by Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan to Algeria (May 22-23, 2006). These reciprocal visits had a noticeable impact on the volume of exports and imports between the two countries. By 2010, Turkish exports to Algeria reached 1.5 billion dollars , while Turkish imports from Algeria amounted to approximately 2.3 billion dollars. (Bouzidi, 2013, p. 116) The Friendship and Cooperation Agreement signed between the two countries in 2006 contributed to strengthening their economic relations. Bilateral trade reached approximately 5 billion dollars, and the volume of Turkish investments in Algeria approached 4.5 billion dollars by the end of 2013. Turkey based its strategy on interdependence, expressing it through the "win-win" principle, with both parties aiming to increase trade volume to 10 billion dollars in the coming years. **(Gherab & Boussah, 2019, p. 199).**

Turkish investment in Algeria has contributed to its economic growth and the creation of tens of thousands of jobs (Ibid, p 204). It has also played a role in training qualified labor and imparting expertise that enables them to establish independent local small and medium-sized enterprises separate from Turkish investors. Turkey has topped the list of investing countries in Algeria, with approximately 138 projects across various sectors. Of these, 39 projects have been completed, with most concentrated in the industrial sector, which received the largest share with a total of 23 projects valued at 720 million dollars. (Gherab & Boussah, 2019, p. 203)

The visits of Turkish Foreign Minister «Ahmet DavutOglu» and then Prime Minister «Recep Tayip Erdogan» in late June and early July 2013 had a positive impact on the development of economic relations. Turkey benefited from an increase in exported quantities of Algerian gas, which rose from 4 billion cubic meters annually to 5 billion cubic meters, in addition to the extension of the long-term supply contract. A joint committee was also established to expand cooperation in air and sea transport. (Bouzidi, 2013, p. 120).

Economic partnership areas between Turkey and Algeria are expanding to include diverse economic sectors. Turkish investment in Algeria has encompassed major construction projects and construction companies, large and medium-sized factories, including iron and steel, food industries, and clothing and textile industries, in addition to other diverse economic fields.

All of this has been within the framework of achieving common interests between the two countries. Turkey's adoption of a soft power policy and its vision based on production in Algeria, grounded in a "win-win" approach, has led to the activation and strengthening of relations between the two countries, extending from the economic to the political sphere in various common international and regional issues. (Gherab & Boussah, 2019, p. 204)

Turkish-Algerian cooperation has been reflected in multiple areas. The number of Algerians visiting Turkey for medical treatment, tourism, or business increased by 30% in 2018. Turkish Airlines now operates four daily flights to and from Algeria, and there are 500 weekly flights between the two countries in partnership with Air Algérie. This is largely due to the facilitations introduced by the Turkish government regarding electronic visas, **(Borouy, 2019, p. 9)** leading to a significant boost inhe tourism sector compared to previous decades. In 2013, approximately 130,000 Algerian tourists visited Turkey.Regarding trade policy between Turkey and Algeria, a joint economic committee and a joint business council have been established to oversee the embodiment and enhancement of economic cooperation and trade. Energy exports account for the lion's share (97%) of Algeria's exports to Turkey. Turkish exports to Algeria are diverse and include various goods needed by the Algerian market, such as cars, equipment, iron and steel products, cement, machine parts, textile products, sweets, clothing, household appliances, telecommunications devices, as well as grain, fruits, vegetables, plastic products, and others. (Bouzidi, 2013, p. 116) Customs duties on raw and semi-finished products have also been reduced. Furthermore, both countries intend to enter another phase of economic cooperation by signing a free trade agreement. (Chelghoum, 2015, p. 112)

The level of economic relations between the two countries is developing at a remarkable pace, as evidenced by the increasing number of economic investments and the rise in trade volume, in addition to benefiting from the economic advantages of both countries. The governments of both countries are working to facilitate investment procedures and economic exchange through numerous agreements and diverse economic partnerships, as well as organizing economic and commercial exhibitions, which will further facilitate investors and those interested in investing.

Section 3: The Reality of Turkish Industrial Investment in Algeria and its Role in Serving the National Economy

Foreign Direct Investment is considered a productive investment, especially in the industrial sector. It contributes to the flow of capital and the generation of hard currency. It also plays a role in creating jobs, transferring technology to the host country, and supporting foreign trade exchanges by focusing on export-oriented industries, especially if the host country possesses advantages not available in the foreign investor's home country. (Gharbi, 2013, p. 10) The number of Turkish companies investing in Algeria has reached approximately 1000, providing over 22,000 job opportunities in various fields, primarily in the construction sector. (Borouy, 2019, p. 5) According to the National Agency for Investment Development, based on investment statistics recorded in 2017, Turkey ranks first in mixed investments in terms of the number and value of projects, with over 20 investment projects exceeding 200 billion Algerian dinars, providing nearly 6,000 job opportunities. (Borouy, 2019, p. 5)

The construction and infrastructure sector holds a significant portion of Turkish investments in Algeria. Turkish investments in this sector have diversified to include construction companies and raw material factories, with over 200 Turkish companies active in this field. **(Borouy, 2019, p. 5)**

This sector widely benefits a considerable number of Algerian workers who contribute to it and simultaneously gain from Turkish expertise in construction, especially regarding modern construction methods, techniques, and materials used. This enables them to establish their own companies capable of entering this field strongly.

Turkish investors are also interested in the textile and clothing industry due to the high Algerian demand for Turkish textile and clothing products. More than 1.5 billion dollars have been invested in partnership with Algerian companies uner the 51/49 rule to establish two complexes for tailoring women's and sports clothing and textiles in the wilayas of Bejaia and Relizane, aiming to create over 5,000 direct and indirect jobs. This significant investment will contribute to the development of the textile branch in Algeria by transferring Turkish expertise and skills in textile manufacturing and producing Algerian-branded products of good quality and at reasonable prices. (Bouzidi, 2013, p. 120)

The "Tayal" textile factory in Relizane was established in partnership between a Turkish company and bankrupt Algerian textile factories. It specializes in producing shirts, denim trousers, wool products, and yarn, and aims to achieve multiplied results by employing 10,000 Algerian workers and relying on exports, with a production capacity of 24 million units. (Kimouche, 2018)

The partnership project in the textile industry in Relizane will be a unique experience through a strategy based on implementing the project in two phases. The first phase involves the establishment of 8 fully integrated factories, a business center, and a training school for textile and knitting professions with a capacity of 500 trainees per cycle. In the same context, a cooperation protocol was signed between the Turkish National Public Enterprise Teksalg and the Turkish company Boyner Sanayi A.Ş. to establish a mixed company for the production of wool and textile products in the city of Meskiana in the wilaya of Oum El Bouaghi, with a production capacity of 1,000 tons in the first year, reaching 3,000 tons in the third year of production commencement. (Algerian Press Service, 2018)

Among the areas of partnership in industrial investment, we find "Hayat" company for manufacturing cleaning and disinfection materials in Blida, which invested over 7 million dollars. The products of this company have gained popularity and acceptance in the Algerian market due to their good quality and competitiveness with other brands. Regarding the pharmaceutical industry, major Turkish companies contribute to this field, with "Abdi Ibrahim" investing an estimated 25 million dollars (Borouy, 2019, p.

5) with a production capacity of 51 million production units as per the latest statistics in 2017. **(Abdi Ibrahim, n.d.)**

One of the most important Turkish investments is the iron and steel plant inaugurated in the city of Bethioua in Oran province, supervised by the Turkish company "Tosyali". The plant is valued at 750 million dollars, has a production capacity of 4 million tons annually, and employs 4,000 workers, in addition to 500 direct additional workers after expansion procedures, and 10,000 indirect workers. This Turkish-Algerian investment is expected to save 2 billion dollars annually in hard currency for the public treasury. The Turkish-Algerian partnership in this field will allow for an increase in the production of iron for construction and meet market needs. Experts believe that the iron production plant in Oran, along with the El Hadjar iron and steel complex in Annaba, and the Bellara project in partnership between Algerians and Qataris in Jijel province, will contribute to achieving self-sufficiency in iron and halting its import in the near future. (Kimouche, 2018)

Section 4: Obstacles to Turkish-Algerian Industrial Investment«Implications for Algeria's Economy»

The Algerian regulatory and institutional environment for foreign direct investment has presented substantial impediments to Turkish industrial capital, marked by its discernible volatility and pronounced bureaucratic friction. (U.S. Department of State, 2024) The re-introduction of the "51/49 ownership rule" for certain sectors in 2021, mandating majority Algerian equity in joint ventures, serves as a prime illustration of policy shifts that, while ostensibly aimed at fostering national control and local capacity building, can paradoxically disincentivize foreign investors by limiting control and profit repatriation. This policy creates a disjunction between the perceived risk and potential return for foreign entities, thereby dampening their propensity to commit substantial long-term industrial capital. (Medini & Chekka, 2024, pp. 8–9) Furthermore, empirical observations point to persistent challenges in navigating Algeria's administrative apparatus, including convoluted customs procedures, difficulties in cross-border financial transactions, and allegations of systemic corruption. These transactional costs and uncertainties contribute to a higher "institutional burden" for Turkish investors, delaying project execution and escalating operational expenditures **(Mekki & Derradj, 2024, pp. 12–13)** From an institutional economics perspective, such an environment fosters information asymmetry and reduces predictability, which are critical disincentives for FDI, thereby constraining the multiplier effects of Turkish industrial projects on the broader Algerian economy. (Medini & Chekka, 2024, p. 9)

Despite notable Turkish industrial investments, particularly in heavy industries like steel, the Algerian national economy continues to exhibit a pervasive structural dependency on hydrocarbon revenues, posing a significant challenge to comprehensive economic diversification. While firms such as Tosyalı have substantially augmented Algeria's domestic steel production capacity, thereby lessening import reliance in a key industrial input, the macroeconomic vulnerabilities stemming from oil and gas price volatility persist . (Shafir, 2021, p. 23)

This reliance on a single primary commodity export fundamentally constrains the government's fiscal space and its ability to undertake sustained, large-scale public investments crucial for broader industrial development . (World Bank, n.d.)

Turkish industrial cooperation in Algeria is situated within a complex competitive landscape, characterized by the entrenched presence of major global economic actors, notably from China and the European Union . While Turkey has rapidly ascended to become a significant foreign investor, it continuously faces the strategic imperative of differentiating its value proposition against these established competitors who possess deep historical and economic ties with Algeria (Middle East Council on Global Affairs, 2023) Issues concerning the perceived quality of certain Turkish construction projects, as occasionally noted by Algerian official sources, highlight the ongoing need for Turkish firms to consistently meet or exceed international standards to solidify their competitive edge Moreover, the robust growth of Turkish industrial output in specific sectors, such as textiles, has, at times, raised concerns about potential market crowding-out effects on nascent domestic Algerian industries. This necessitates a delicate balance between fostering foreign investment and safeguarding the development of local production capabilities (Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik, n.d., p. 13) From an international political economy perspective, managing these competitive dynamics and ensuring that Turkish industrial investments generate genuine industrial complementaritrather than merely substituting local production—is a continuous challenge that requires strategic policy coordination and robust industrial planning from the Algerian side. (Energy Capital & Power, 2023).

While Turkish industrial investment holds significant promise for bolstering Algeria's economic diversification goals, the period of 2018-2025 has underscored the persistent structural challenges within the Algerian economy that impede the full realization of this potential.

The continued dependence on hydrocarbon revenues, coupled with a complex and often inconsistent regulatory framework, entrenched bureaucratic hurdles, and difficulties in accessing robust financial mechanisms, collectively create a formidable barrier to the optimal absorption and amplification of foreign direct investment, including that from Turkey. Therefore, for Algeria to fully leverage its strategic partnerships and achieve sustainable industrial development beyond 2025, a concerted effort towards comprehensive structural reforms, particularly in governance, financial market development, and institutional streamlining, remains paramoun Conclusion: effort towards comprehensive structural reforms, particularly in governance, financial market development, and institutional streamlining, remains paramount.

Conclusion:

Foreign investment plays a crucial role in the development and growth of national economies, bringing multiple benefits including employment generation, public treasury support, self-sufficiency, and hard currency acquisition through exports. Turkey is an important country for Algeria, and vice versa, with economic relations between the two countries developing remarkably in recent years, achieving significant results reflected in increased bilateral trade exceeding 4 billion dollars.

The strengthening of economic relations through agreements and economic partnerships has led to increased Turkish interest in investing in Algeria. This has yielded qualitative results in various economic sectors, notably construction, textile and clothing industries, and iron and steel. Turkish companies, in partnership with Algerian entities, have invested billions of dollars, enabling direct and indirect employment of tens of thousands of workers. Furthermore, it has facilitated training, preparation, and the transfer of Turkish expertise in various industrial fields to Algerians, empowering them to establish independent private enterprises.

Turkish investment in Algeria will contribute to a certain extent to the development of specific economic sectors, in addition to the possibility of achieving self-sufficiency in these areas in the coming years, before moving to exports. It can be concluded that achieving all of this represents a strategic success for the national economy, reinforcing avenues for enhancing partnership and economic cooperation in other economic sectors. It can also reflect on the development and further strengthening of political and diplomatic relations between the two countries.

The economic relationship between Turkey and Algeria has significantly advanced in recent years, has led to increased Turkish interest in investing in Algeria across sectors like construction, textiles, clothing, and iron and steel. These partnerships have involved billions of dollars in investment, creating tens of thousands of direct and indirect jobs. Additionally, they have facilitated the training and transfer of Turkish industrial expertise to Algerians, empowering them to establish independent private enterprises.

Such investments are expected to develop specific Algerian economic sectors, potentially leading to self-sufficiency and future exports, marking a strategic success for the national economy and strengthening political and diplomatic ties. However, Turkish industrial investment in Algeria from 2018 to 2025 has encountered significant obstacles, including institutional constraints like the re-introduction of the "51/49 ownership rule" and pervasive bureaucratic inefficiencies.

Algeria's continued reliance on hydrocarbon revenues also impedes comprehensive economic diversification, despite Turkish investments in heavy industries like steel. Furthermore, Turkish cooperation faces a complex competitive landscape with established global economic players such as China and the European Union, necessitating consistent high standards from Turkish firms and careful management to avoid crowding out nascent domestic industries. Overcoming these challenges through structural reforms in governance, financial market development, and institutional streamlining is essential for Algeria to fully leverage its strategic partnerships and achieve sustainable industrial development beyond 2025.

Recommendations:

Based on the analysis of the study's findings, the following recommendations are proposed to further enhance Algerian-Turkish economic cooperation and overcome existing impediments:

1:Algeria should prioritize comprehensive structural reforms, particularly in its legislative and regulatory framework for investment. This includes addressing the volatility of policies like the "51/49 ownership rule" by establishing a more consistent and predictable environment to attract and retain foreign investors.

2:A concerted effort is needed to overcome bureaucratic inefficiencies, simplify convoluted customs procedures, facilitate cross-border financial transactions, and tackle systemic corruption.

3: Algeria must intensify efforts to reduce its pervasive structural dependency on hydrocarbon revenues. This will free up fiscal space for sustained public investments in broader industrial development and create a more attractive environment for FDI in non-energy sectors, complementing existing Turkish investments in heavy industries.

4:Both countries should engage in strategic policy coordination and robust industrial planning to ensure that Turkish industrial investments generate genuine industrial complementarity within Algeria.

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