

Reality And Consequences of The Urbanization Phenomenon In Algeria

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Abstract

This study aims at showing that before colonization, Algeria was rurally dominated by a major nomad and semi-nomad population. Then, the successive political and military colonial actions led to in-depth changes in the spatial distribution of the population. In this line, the coastal cities included the communication infrastructure and the industrial units; therefore, their populations developed rapidly. Besides, the concentration in the coast and the rapid growth of the population increased hugely during the liberation revolution against the French colonization, which aimed at taking over the populations through putting them in groups. Thus, Algeria inherited an urban system that is characterized dedicated to the concession of the coast with a with a large concentration of the population in the North, unlike the relatively depopulated regions of High Plateaus and Southernmost that are relatively depopulated.

Keywords: *Urbanization, Growth, Population, Concentration, Rural Exodus.*

1. Introduction

The urban growth is defined as the process of the demographic growth (increase of the urban population) and the spatial extension of the urban units. In this line, some attribute economic aspects or specific functions to the concept of the urban growth according to the type of services. The works of ONS have tackled the growth of the population and the increase of the number of agglomerations without focusing on the economic aspects. In this regard, a high demographic growth was witnessed in the 02 first decades after the Algerian independence, accompanied by rural exodus and important immigration flows that caused a considerable increase of the urban population and a densification of the Algerian urban system.

Later in 1990s, the demographic pressure decreased and was exacerbated by the rural exodus due to the security instability mainly in the Algerian countryside. Nowadays, the urbanization achieved since independence can be characterized with speed in the reconstruction of the state and making up for the basic needs of the population such as housing, furniture, infrastructure, etc. Therefore, the urbanization was carried out through many programs and plans such as the Director Plan of Urbanism, which mainly targeted programming, quantifying the needs, and localizing the availability of the urbanisable estates that are not subject to major constraints such as the agricultural use, servitude, geotechny, or the judicial form of the estate.

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Thus, big programs have been carried out to increase the size of the agglomerations and the number of the cities. Nevertheless, the projects of the urban, or spatial, growth did not achieve the target development aims because they brought about an important dysfunction amid the cities, which led to problems rather than solutions. Based on what has been said, we raise the following problematic: “why did the urban growth accelerate during the last decades?” In this regard, sub-questions arise as follows:

What is the impact of the urbanization on the population, knowing that the urbanization is a main factor for the degradation of the green cities?

How can we get a harmonious relation between the urbanization and the spatial distribution of the population?

2. Population and Urban Growth

2.1 Evolution and Localization of the Populations and the Agglomerations

The administrative organization in Algeria is based on:

- The Wilaya: it is made up of Dairas that include municipalities that are the slimmest legal elements of the territorial division.
- The municipalities: they are very heterogeneous dimensions that may be very wide. We can usually find one or more agglomerations in the same municipality; or many municipalities in one agglomeration.

The agglomeration that includes the headquarters of the Municipal Popular Assembly is called Chef-lieu while the other agglomerations are secondary. On the other hand, the agglomerations that include many municipalities are called inter-municipal agglomerations.

Besides, if the municipalities are the administrative basis of the territorial organization, they are not the historic basis regarding the national territory. This is due to the frequent revisions, which make us rely on the agglomerations in the statistics of the urban phenomenon, rather than the municipality, though they do not have the judicial status.

In fact, the Algerian territory has faced big regional and local gaps after independence. Hence, the government reconsidered the territorial meshing with three successive administrative divisions (1963, 1974, and 19984). Since independence, Algeria made general censuses of the population and houses (1966, 19677, 1988, and 2008). In this period, the geo-administrative units increased rapidly and the organization of the space had witnessed important administrative reforms before each census.

2.1.1 The Territorial Reorganization of the Municipalities of 1963

One year after the independence, the municipalities were reorganized aiming at reducing their number to face the problems of the supervision and the administrative void left by the colonial administration after the departure of the Europeans. Hence, the number of the municipalities decreased from 1577 to 676 while Wilayas and Dairas remained 15 and 91, respectively. In this context, the then Algerian municipality was managed by Ordinance 67-24 of 18 January 1963 on the municipal law that provided in its first Article that the municipality is the political, administrative, economic, and social territorial community.

2.1.2 The Redesign of the Territorial Organization of the Wilayas in 1974

Eleven years after the grouping of 1963, a new division was inaugurated in 1974 and focused on the geographic cohesion for the new Wilayas. Other objectives of this new division were:

- Ensuring the internal economic coherence and an equal distribution of the opportunities of development between all the regions of the state.

-Making a restructuration of the urban organization with an orientation towards the small and middle-sized cities to reduce the weight and attraction of the big coastal agglomerations, redefine the urban links dominated by South-North relations, and contribute to the fixation of the population in the center of the state. Therefore, the municipalities were little concerned with this new territorial division that touched the big administrative units. In this line, the communities increased from 676 to 703 (and then to 704 in 1977) and the Wilayas increased from 15 to 31.

2.1.3 The Territorial Reorganization of 1984

The main reasons behind the new territorial reorganization were the appearance of many new economic centers, the accelerated urbanization, and the big demographic growth. Thus, the authorities took into consideration the role of the local facts in the development of the territory and aimed at achieving the best spatial cohesion after the new orientations of the economic system. Besides, they aimed at reducing the gaps between the different regions left by the colonial policy and exacerbated by the economic policy in the two first decades after independence, as it focused mainly on the big urban poles and the coast.

This was oriented toward a better meshing of the national territory through increasing the local decision centers, the extension of the net of the local communities, and the diffusion and improvement of the services and the furniture in the deserted zones in order to achieve a spatial, social, and economic equilibrium between the different regions of the state.

The law on the reorganization of the territory in 1984 increased the Wilayas from 31 to 48 and the number of the municipalities to the double as shown in table 01:

Table1: Evolution of the administrative entities

Years	Wilavas	Municipalities
1962	15	1577
1963	15	676
1974	31	704
1984	48	1541

Source: Urban armature, statistic collection No° 163, 2008

The different divisions of the territory confronted the state will of deploying the Wilayas from 15 to 48 in 1948 and enlarged the municipalities to 1541 at the present, i.e.; the double of the number in 1974.

Besides, 33 agglomerations turned into Wilayas from 1974 to 1980 This promotion was achieved in the territorial division and affected the proliferation and growth of the chef-lieu agglomerations of the Dairas and municipalities.

2.1.4 The Governorate of Big Algiers

The last modification of the shape of the territorial communities in RGPH 1998 manifests in the territorial organization of the Wilaya of Algiers. In fact, 24 municipalities of the bordering Wilayas have been reattached to this Wilaya. In this line, the Wilaya of Tipasa waived 14 municipalities, Blida waived 04, and Boumerdes waived 06. Therefore, Algiers was given a special statute making it a governorate (Ordinance 97-14 of 31/05/1997 and Ordinance 97-15 of 31/05/1997), taking into consideration the fact of being the capital. Besides, it was given a special organization that differs than the other Wilayas, as it includes urban circles and municipalities. In this line, the Directorate of the Big Algiers included 28 circles and 29 municipalities.

This special organization was abolished in the beginning of 2000 by the decision of the constitutional assembly (Ordinance No° 2000-01 of 01 March 2000) on the anti-constitutionality of the Ordinance on the creation of governorate. Hence, the Wilaya of

Algiers and its municipalities became managed by the law applicable to all the states. On the other hand, the territorial consistency of the Wilaya of Algiers that is made up of 57 municipalities and its organization into “administrative circumscriptions managed by delegate-Walis” remained.

2.2 Spatial Division of the Population

The study of the total population shows that it increased with 6.3 million between 1987 and 1998. The last decade witnessed a democratic growth of 4.97 million, making the population 34.08 million in 2008. The growth rate confirms a slowness as the growth rates shifted from 3.1% in 1977/87, to 2.1 in 1987/1998, to 1.61% in 2008.

The spatial structure of the population is polarized on the North of the state in general, and is, more precisely, on the littoral band that borders the Mediterranean with a width of 50 to 100 km from the East to the West. In fact, more than 36% of the Algerian population live in this narrow band of 45000 Km² (1.9% of the territory). This region contains the most fertile agricultural lands, the transportation infrastructure, the communications, and all the necessary facilities for the industrial activity.

The second zone called “Tell and Steppe” is located in the mountainous chain of the Tellian Atlas in the North and the Saharan Atlas in the South. It includes the high plains of Constantine and the Steppic zones of the West. It has a surface of 255000 Km², represents 10.7% of the territory, and holds about 53% of the total population; i.e., an average density of 70.6 inhabitant per Km². Traditionally, it is a region for cattle ranching and cereal farming. However, it took advantage of high industrial investments since independence.

The 3rd region is the “South” that is a vast arid surface of 2 million Km² and represents 87% of the national territory. It is little populated; its 3.7 million inhabitants made 10.9% of the total in 2008. The density of the population is 1.8 inhabitant per Km². Nevertheless, the contrasts are so strong between the empty regions in many parts of the Sahara and the overpopulated regions in the North that the average significance of these densities must be considered carefully. In fact, 09 out of 10 Algerians live in the North (from the coast till the Saharan Atlas) on almost 12% of the total surface.

On the opposite, 8.7% of the population live in more than 2 million Km². This disequilibrium is due to the natural and climatic conditions and the movements of the people in the development schema that focuses on the industrial poles around the big metropolis of the North.

Table 02: the division of the population according to the 03 Algerian physical spaces

physical space	Approximate surface Km ²	Population in milieu			Density inha/Km ²			Annual growth rate	
		1987	1998	2008	1987	1998	2008	1998/ 1987	2008/1998
Coast	45 000	8 904	11 000	12 342	197,8	244,4	274	1,9	1 ,17
Tell and	255 000	12 145	15 300	18 010	47,6	60	70,6	2,08	1,67
Northea	300 000	21 049	26 300	30 352	70,1	87,7	101,2	2	1,46
South	2 081 000	2 002	2 801	3 728	0,96	1,35	1,8	3,04	2,94
Algeria	2 381 000	23 051	29 113	34 080	9,7	12,2	14,3	2,1	1,61

Source: Urban armature, statistic collection No° 163, 2008

The examination of the population according to the three physical spaces shows that the population of each region knew a positive increase in the three last censuses. Nevertheless, these evolutions have different sizes and lean to decrease. In fact, the coast

witnessed and increase of 2.1 million people between 1987 and 1998 compared to 1.34 million between 1998 and 2008. The “Tell and Steppe” knew variations of 3.16 and then 2.7 million in the same periods. As for the South, it registered an increase of 801000 and 927000 people (See table 02 above).

The current municipalities have generally small surfaces in the coast and bigger ones the more we go down in the Tell and the Steppe. In the South, the surfaces of the municipalities amount up to those of Dairas and sometimes of Wilayas of the coast. In fact, the average size of the Eastern municipalities is 80 Km², while in the Tell and Steppe it is 300 Km², and 11300 Km² in the south. Nevertheless, their populations have opposite statistics as they increase as we go northward due to the physical conditions and the existence of a large desert in the Algerian South. In this regard, almost 90% of the population is concentrated in 12% of the whole surface in the North. The density passed from 9.7 inhabitant per Km² in 1987, to 12.2 inhabitant per Km² in 1998, and to 14.3 Km inhabitant per Km² in 2008.

The average annual growth rates in each zone show that the population in the North increases more than the national average of the natural growth. The Tell and the Steppe witnessed equal average annual growth rates in the two considered periods. As for the South, it knew the highest annual growth rate estimated at 3% compared to the national growth rate estimated at 2.1% between 1987 and 1998, and 1.61% between 1998 and 2008.

2.3 The Population and Density according to the Territorial Programming Spaces (Law 2001-20)

The territorial Programming Spaces are 09 and include groups of bordering Wilayas that have similar or complementary development problems. They are:

1. The North-center: it includes 10 Wilayas, namely: Chlef, Bejaia, Blida, Bouira, Tizi-Ouzou, Alger, Medea, Boumerdes, Tipasa, and Ain Defla.
2. The North-West: it includes 07 Wilayas, namely: Tlemcen, Sidi-Belabbes, Mostaganem, Mascara, Oran, Ain Temouchent, and Relizane
3. The North East: it includes 08 Wilayas, namely: Jijel, Skikda, Annaba, Guelma, Constantine, El-Tarf, Souk Ahras, and Mila.
4. The Center High Plateaus: it includes 03 Wilayas, namely: Laghouat, Djelfa, and M'sila.
5. The West High Plateaus: it includes 05 Wilayas, namely: Tiaret, Saida, El Bayadh, Tissemsilt, and Naama
6. The East High Plateaus: it includes 06 Wilayas, namely: Oum-El-Bouaghi, Batna, Tebessa, Setif, Bordj-Bou-Arredj, and Khenchela.
7. The South East: it includes 04 Wilayas, namely: Ouargla, El-Oued, Ghardaïa, and Biskra.
8. The South West: it includes 03 Wilayas, namely: Bechar, Adrar, and Tindouf.
9. The Hoggar-Tassili: it includes 02 Wilayas, namely: Tamanrasset and Illizi.

The examination of the evolution of the distribution of the population through different Territorial Programming Spaces shows that the North holds more than 60% of the population; whose half lives in the center. The share of this zone is in constant decrease (from 69% in 1977 to 63.1% in 2008). Its population increased with more than 10 million in 31 years. Unlike the 03 Spaces of the North, those of the High Plateaus and the South witnessed an increase as the population of the 1st region passes from 23.4% in 1997 to 27.4% in 2008; 14.4% of this rate lives in the Eastern Space. In absolute terms, the

population increased with almost 5.4 million between 1977 and 2008; of which 1.6 million was registered in the last decade.

Table 03: the evolution of the population according to the Territorial Programming Spaces

Territorial Programming Spaces	Surface%	Population in millions				Structure of the population			
		1977	1987	1998	2008	1977	1987	1998	2008
North Centre	1,49	5,93	7,7	9,42	10,7	35,4	33,4	32,3	31,4
North East	1,33	2,71	3,64	4,55	5,18	16,2	15,8	15,7	15,2
North West	1,5	2,91	4	4,85	5,63	17,4	17,4	16,7	16,5
NORTH	4,32	11,5	15,34	18,82	21,51	69	66,6	64,7	63,1
Centre High Plateaus	4,63	0,9	1,31	1,92	2,54	5,4	5,7	6,6	7,4
East High Plateaus	2,25	2,09	3,24	4,23	4,9	12,5	14	14,5	14,4
West High Plateaus	5,85	0,92	1,31	1,57	1,89	5,5	5,7	5,4	5,6
HIGH PLATEAUS	12,73	3,91	5,86	7,72	9,33	23,4	25,4	26,5	27,4
South East	15,69	0,95	1,31	1,83	2,29	5,7	5,7	6,3	6,7
South West	31,95	0,27	0,42	0,56	0,72	1,6	1,8	1,9	2,1
Hoggar-Tassili	35,32	0,05	0,11	0,17	0,23	0,3	0,5	0,6	0,7
South	82,95	1,27	1,84	2,56	3,24	7,6	8	8,8	9,5
TOTAL	100	16,73	23,04	29,1	34,08	100	100	100	100

Source: Urban armature, statistic collection No° 163, 2008

The region of the South represented 9.5% in 2008 and gained only 1.9% since 1977. This represents 1.97 million, of which 0.68 million was between 1998 and 2008. In 2008, the Programming Space of the South East was the most populated in this region with 2.29 million out of the 3.24 million of the whole region.

Regarding the density and the growth of the population, table 03 shows that:

- The densities of the population are constantly increasing while the average annual growth rates decrease regardless the considered space.
- The North East region is the densest with 209 inhabitant per Km². In this regard, the North Center is twice denser than the North East and the North West.
- In the High Plateaus, the average density is 30.76 inhabitant per Km². The Eastern part witnesses the highest density with 91.27 inhabitant per Km².
- The South region is the largest and the less populated with an average density of 1.64 inhabitant per Km². The South East is the densest with 6.13 inhabitant per Km².

3. Urban Armature

Speaking about the urban armature, the relative dense meshing of the urban net in the North becomes the loosest in the region of the High Plateaus where the distances and the weakness of the density contribute to the prioritization of the cities.

We notice the emergence of the regional poles and the rapid increase of all the urban centers, mainly those of 50000 to 100000 inhabitants (Urban armature, op. cit., p. 88).

The south has a net related to the physical and natural conditions as the cities are organized according to the availability of the water resources and communication axes.

For 1187 agglomeration censused in 1966, only 95 were urban, mainly in the Tellian region (80 in total). The 04 big cities (Algiers, Oran, Constantine, and Annaba) included big populations. In this line, Annaba that is the less populated among them (162000) is twice more populated than Blida, Setif, and Sidi Bel Abbes together (which include in total 88000 inhabitants).

This structure of the urban armature characterizes the organization of the colonial exploitation economy and the regional disequilibrium.

In the census of 1977, we notice the reinforcement of the national urban armature that goes to 209 cities. This translates the effects of the industrialization and the development resulting from the urban activities.

The noticed structure of this urban armature highlights the persistence of the inherited disequilibrium, the continuity of the preeminence of the 04 big cities, and the reinforcement of the differential urbanization on behalf of the Tellian zone. The latter gained 62 cities compared to 1966 where the High Plateaus had 34 cities and the South had 18. Then with 142 cities in 1977, the zone had 70% of the national urban armature.

In 1987, we notice a netter reinforcement of the general urban armature that increased to 447 cities. The evolution of the global structure of this armature since 1977 is translated by the reinforcement of the small cities as shown in this table:

Table 04: evolution of the urban armature according to the size between 1977 and 2008

Years	Number of agglomerations at RGPH								Increase of the number of the urban agglomerations		
	1977		1987		1998		2008		1977-1987	1987-1998	1998-2008
	Tot.	Urb.	Tot.	Urb.	Tot.	Urb.	Tot.	Urb.			
Less than 5000	1985	32	2962	49	3218	0	3562	3	17	-49	3
5000 to 10000	113	47	260	185	409	198	465	283	138	13	85
10000 to 20000	73	70	100	92	216	201	257	238	22	109	37
20000 to 50000	38	38	93	79	133	114	178	142	41	35	28
50000 to 100000	16	16	37	26	51	34	61	47	10	8	13
+100000	8	8	18	16	30	32	40	38	8	16	6
Total	2233	211	3470	447	4057	579	4563	751	236	132	172
Net variation of the number of the agglomerations d'agglomérations	-	-	1237	236	587	132	506	172	-	-	-

Source: "Demain l'Algérie"- Ministry of Furniture and Territorial Development/ 1995, p. 53.

Urban armature, statistic collection No° 163, 2008

The current Algerian city that represents the projection of the contrasts and conflicts of the society is characterized with:

- A disarticulated global urban space that forms a socio-spatial mosaic with no unity; the current city looks fragmented.

- A built familial space that is generally inappropriate and unrecognized by its inhabitants.

The city highlights the successive strategies of the diverse transformations, the economic functions, the spatial morphology, the sociological profile, and the functioning mode.

4. Consequences of the Urbanization Phenomenon

The transformations witnessed in the urban spaces have multiple effects that may be apprehended and grouped under harmful trends.

4.1 Heavy Trend to the Coast Development

The strong urban growth and the multiplication of the agglomerations generated big spatial disequilibrium, mainly in the coastal space.

The coast has always constituted natural outlets for the movements of people and goods coming from the interior of the state.

The North of Algeria that includes the coastal plains and the interior basins between the two internal Tellian chains (Dahra-Zaccar- Blidian Atlas) and the external Tellian chains (Beni Chougrene, SENIS- Titteri, and Bibans) provides all the requirements for the human activities and settlements. This includes the natural and climatic conditions, the good infrastructural meshing, the cities nets, the training tools, the good supervision, etc.

In this vast region of more than has 18 million inhabitants (more than 63% of the national population as shown in table 05), the richest agricultural lands are found all along with the most important water resources and the littoral and forest potentials.

Table 05: the evolution of the population according to the Territorial Programming Spaces

Territorial Programming Spaces	Surfaces	Population in Millions				Structure of the population			
		1977	1987	1998	2008	1977	1987	1998	2008
North Centre	1,49	5,93	7,7	9,42	10,7	35,4	33,4	32,3	31,4
North East	1,33	2,71	3,64	4,55	5,18	16,2	15,8	15,7	15,2
North West	1,5	2,91	4	4,85	5,63	17,4	17,4	16,7	16,5
NORTH	4,32	11,55	15,34	18,82	21,51	69	66,6	64,7	63,1
Centre High Plateaus	4,63	0,9	1,31	1,92	2,54	5,4	5,7	6,6	7,4
East High Plateaus	2,25	2,09	3,24	4,23	4,9	12,5	14	14,5	14,4
West High Plateaus	5,85	0,92	1,31	1,57	1,89	5,5	5,7	5,4	5,6
HIGH PLATEAUX	12,73	3,91	5,86	7,72	9,33	23,4	25,4	26,5	27,4
South East	15,69	0,95	1,31	1,83	2,29	5,7	5,7	6,3	6,7
South West	31,95	0,27	0,42	0,56	0,72	1,6	1,8	1,9	2,1
Hoggar-Tassili	35,32	0,05	0,11	0,17	0,23	0,3	0,5	0,6	0,7
South	82,95	1,27	1,84	2,56	3,24	7,6	8	8,8	9,5
TOTAL	100	16,73	23,04	29,1	34,08	100	100	100	100

Source: Urban armature, statistic collection No° 163, 2008

The availability of the transportation infrastructure (land, train, ports, airports, and energies) supported the implantation and development of the productive activities and their strong concentration. The coast holds 91% of the metal, mechanic, metallurgic, and electronic industries, 90% of the construction material industries, 85% of the chemical industries, 65% of the leather industries, and 56% of the textile industries (statistic collection No° 163, 2008, pp. 31-35).

The Algerian coast has big potentials such as water, soil (37% of the national potential), forests (32% of the total surface), and fishery, touristic, and ecological potentials (National Park of el Kala, Taza, Gouraya, Cheria, Babor, and Macta).

These resources are threatened by an intolerable demography and anarchic urbanization that lead to a serious environmental degradation (pollution, erosion, and deterioration of the life quality).

Outside the big coastal agglomerations, the regions face issues of chronic underdevelopment, and are the source of the labor force in the big urban and industrial poles.

4.2 Degradation of the Natural Resources

The chaotic urbanization, the lack of the urban management, and the non-consideration of the environmental problems cause serious issues to the environment such as the degradation of the natural resources.

4.3 Continuous Degradation of the Soil Resources

Many thousands of acres of the best agricultural lands in the North have been sacrificed for the urban development. There is a clear regression of SAU: 0.80 acres/inhabitant in 1962, 0.32 acres/inhabitant in 1991, 0.13 acres/inhabitant in 2005 (Demain l'Algérie, 1995, p. 14). The urban extension of Algiers was made on the zones with the strongest agricultural potentials (Metidja and Sahel). It includes:

- 10% of the surface of Metidja.
- 21% of the Sahel.
- And 80% of the South of the Sahel”.

Between 1974 and 1987, the depredation of the agricultural lands reached 70000 acres. The same phenomenon affected almost 78000 during the period between 1988-1996 (750 acres underwent the same between June 1995 and March 1996 despite the Presidential Directive of 14 August 1995).

The pressure on the agricultural lands amplifies the pressure on the urban zones. Thus, we must stop the weakening of the villages and rural centers though the expansion of the peri-urban habitats and the movement that reinforces the dualities “urban region- rural region” instead of stimulating the development of the rural life.

4.5 Degradation of the Water Resources

The urban population growth and the development of the activities caused an overexploitation and contamination of the groundwater and led to an important increase of the trash in the natural milieu; this is beyond the assimilative capacities of the oueds.

In North Algeria, 193 out of 358 urban agglomerations (out of 447 defined by ONS in 1987) are located near dams and fields that include groundwater; this represents 6288000 inhabitants in 1995, i.e., 45% of the total urban population.

It is important to recall that Algeria is amid the poorest states regarding the hydric potentials. The Algerian citizen has only 1/5000 of the annual average quantity per/capita while the theoretic average of scarcity is estimated by the World Bank at 1000 m³/inhabitant/year.

The distributed volume represents 85% of the produced volume; i.e., a loss of transfer and treatment of almost 15%. Besides, we must add those losses inside the nets which we do not have exact evaluation about. However, we can estimate the losses to be between 40% and 50% contrary to the admissible rate of losses estimated at 15 to 20%.

The water sanitation nets developed chaotically according to the development of the cities. The elaboration of an urban plan relies on the schema of the supply and sanitation

of water. Besides, the adopted purification systems (purification stations in almost all the cases) do not lead to primary in-depth studies regarding the basins or watersheds.

The number of the stations of domestic water purification made in Algeria is estimated at 46 with a treating capacity of 1000 to 750000 equivalent/inhabitant. Nevertheless, they have a total capacity of 2900000 equivalent/inhabitant for a population estimated at 2452000 inhabitants (PNAE-DD, Algeria, January 2010).

Practically speaking, these tools are usually out of service, sometimes abandoned, or work irregularly.

The frequent epidemics that spread through water since 1980 raise worries as many dangers were found as cholera, fever, typhoid, viral hepatitis, and dysentery. These problems become daily problems in summer. The epidemics that spread through water result from:

- The juxtaposition of the drinkable water nets and the sewage water that causes a bacteriologic contamination for the drinkable water.
- The industrial and agricultural wastes that lead to the contamination of the groundwater.

4.6 Degradation of the Coast Zones and the Ecosystems

2/3 of the Algerian population lives in the Tellian fringe, hundreds of agglomerations, tens of ports, and in the biggest industrial complexes. This generates a strong chemical and organic pollution due to the waste thrown directly in the sea without treatment. Besides, this leads to a degradation of the fishery resources and the pollution of the touristic sites, and considerably reduces the expected economic advantages.

5. Conclusion

The urbanization that accompanied European colonization generated an urban system that proved to be not very favorable to development and which, today, has become parasitic. An excessive rate of urbanization - we are talking about more than 45% for the next decade - has been and still risks being an obstacle to industrialization and development. If the repellent nature of the countryside is not eliminated, hyperurbanization has every chance of continuing for a long time, thus accentuating an imbalance whose disastrous effects have been measured for more than a quarter of a century.

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