



The Silk Road and the Chinese- Algerian Relations Through the Viewpoint of Teachers of Sociology in the Algerian Universities

طريق الحرير والعلاقات الصينية الجزائرية

من خلال وجهة نظر أساتذة علم الاجتماع بالجامعات الجزائرية

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Abstract

The research deals with a recent topic that concerns the Silk Road and the Sino-Algerian relations, and the contribution of this distinguished relationship in reaching the underlined objectives which include achieving investment in the economic field, supporting the market with diversified products, establishing basic structures and railways, constructing roads and reducing unemployment, employing the Algerian and Chinese labor, and attaining an economic growth which contributes to increasing the income of foreign currency under the current circumstances in Algeria.

The conduct of an exploratory study through studying the view of sociology professors, from some sample Algerian universities, contribute to enrich the subject of the study and to provide a forward-looking vision of the reality of the relationship and of understanding the present. This study aids too to list some suggestions that contribute to the development of the relationship between China and Algeria.

JEL Classification Codes: R40 ; R41 ; F14 ; N70 ; Q00

Keywords

The Silk Road
The Algerian-
Chinese Relations
The Road and the
Belt Project.

الكلمات المفتاحية

المخلص

يتناول البحث موضوع حديث يخص طريق الحرير والعلاقات الصينية الجزائرية وإسهامات هذه العلاقة في تحقيق الأهداف المسطرة لهذه العلاقة المتميزة والتي منها تحقيق الاستثمار في المجال الاقتصادي ودعم السوق بالمنتجات المتنوعة وإنشاء الهياكل القاعدية والسكك الحديدية وتشديد الطرقات والتقليل من نسبة البطالة وتشغيل اليد العاملة الجزائرية والصينية وتحقيق نمو اقتصادي يساهم في زيادة المداخيل من العملة الصعبة في ظل الظروف التي تعيشها الجزائر في الوقت الراهن. كما أن إجراء دراسة استطلاعية من خلال وجهة نظر أساتذة علم الاجتماع لعينة من الجامعات الجزائرية يساهم في إثراء موضوع الدراسة وتقديم رؤية استشرافية تشخص واقع العلاقة وفهم الحاضر وتقديم الاقتراحات والآفاق التي تساهم في تطوير العلاقة بين الصين والجزائر.

تصنيف JEL: R40 ; R41 ; F14 ; N70 ; Q00

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I.INTRODUCTION:

Due to the advancement that China has witnessed in the commercial and technical fields, she has adopted a project which suits its aspirations and future to build a street that will boost the production and development among the region's people .It will be a symbol of development, growth, and pride, and perhaps it will be a rival to China's Great Wall. After such immense construction, China will be an image of the interdependence, brotherhood, and peace. This long street, that China called Belt and Silk Road, will link more than one country. She built China's Great Wall without developed tools and machinery, so what about today as she has possessed technology and advanced means?

The one who has hold and initiated this great thought is the Chinese current president " XiJinping" who seeks to develop his country to find a common benefit ,linkage ,peace, and commercial and cultural exchange between people joined with such road. With different labels like "21stSilkRoad", "ChineseMarshall-plan", this project will be a strong plus to the three continents: Asia, Africa, and Europe in various fields (Kuo. & Niko, p.1)

This study aims at identifying the contents of the Silk Road Project and the Sino-Algerian relations and the future prospects of this partnership on Algeria in particular. This will be done through knowing the viewpoint of a sample of sociology professors in the Algerian universities. The overall objective of this study is to explore the results and prospects of the Silk Road on the future of Algeria politically, socially, economically, and even culturally.

1. The history of Algerian-Chinese relations

China and Algeria are historically attached due to fundamental factors which have characterized their relationship .The most important ones are supporting each others' issues and helping each other in numerous political positions.

The official relations between the Republic China and the National Liberation Front (FLN) started after the Chinese recognition of the interim government on 22 September 1958 when Xuan Lai, the Chinese Prime Minister, singled out Elmodjahid Newspaper with an interview in which he said:" I truly extend my sincere congratulations to the Provisional government of the Algerian Republic which its establishment has just been announced. Like The Arab and worldwide people who love peace (*Mujahid Journal*, 1958, p. 8), the Chinese people are pleased for the construction of this government".

President "Mao Zedong" also sent a congratulatory message to the Algerian prime minister in which the

Chinese government acknowledged its recognition of the Interim Algerian Government. After that, the diplomatic relations between China and Algeria were instituted in December 20, 1958 (Kab,2010).

Mao Zedong, the Chinese leader, considered that the formation of the Interim Algerian Government was an expression of the Algerian people's will without bargaining with colonialism, and Mr. Farhat Abbas described the Chinese recognition as a great encouragement because it reflects 600 million Chinese(Dabash,2009,p.147).

II.THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK AND PREVIOUS STUDIES:

1. The Chinese support for Algeria after independence (1962):

Since Algeria's independence, China has been providing her with many aids to promote economic and social development where the first group of the Chinese teams, who help foreign countries, was directed to Algeria to work there in April 1963.

At the beginning of the era of the Algerian President Ahmed Ben Bella, Algeria followed the approach of the oriented and managed economy where in this area, the Algerian government relied on the assistance coming from China and on the keenness of its President, Ahmed Ben Bella, to extend bridges of communication with her and with all socialist countries; this increased the rapprochement between the two countries.

During the reign of President Houari Boumedienne, Algeria and China entered a stage called "Ideological All" where the Cultural Revolution in China coincided with the Revolutionary Reform Movement in Algeria. This phase knew consensus in the Chinese and Algerian positions on several key historical issues such as supporting the national liberation movements, anti-imperialism, and backing the Palestinian affair.(Al-Hamashi & Rabie, January 2013).

Without forgetting the ideological factor which is crucial in the Sino-Algerian relations. Its role in consolidating these relations is considered to be older than the role of the economic factor itself. This is due to the so-called *Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence* which the Chinese leader Xuan Lai promulgated in 1954, and then adopted more widely at the Non-Aligned Conference in Bandung in 1955. These five bases are (Jiang, 2019)

- China's support for the policy of neutrality and non-alignment.
- Supporting the path which the Arab peoples choose.
- Supporting the solutions that the Arab countries agree on to resolve their controversies by peaceful means and by non-interference in Arab conflicts.
- All countries' respect of the independence and sovereignty of the Arab countries and the non-interference in their affairs.

It should be noted here that the Algerian-Chinese relations witnessed a decline in the end of the 1970s until the 1990s because of the deterioration of the political and economic situation. During that time, Algeria was experiencing a political crisis and a very difficult economic situation. This was accompanied by the degradation of the security situation and the concern of its leaders to resolve the situation at home to get it out of crisis.

Algeria plans to diversify its partners by adopting a partner –diversification strategy to increase competition. This will create a competitive spirit among the various institutions in the national market, as well as motivate foreign partners to redouble their efforts. This novel method also allows the strengthening of national delivery capacities to meet the growing demand.(Citizen Portal,2011)

As for China, we may say that in this concern, she has deepened its economic partnership with Algeria to get out of the impasse of what Francoise Nicolas called the "asymmetrical attribute" of the Chinese economy. Actually, China imports from the rest of Asia (Japan, Korea, Asian countries), while she mainly exports to industrialized countries. This urges her to search for

companies outside this circle. Algeria, too, has to find historical partners such as China to get rid of her economic dependence.(Al-Hamashi,ibid.,p.85)

2. Fields of cooperation between china and Algeria:

A. Field of Hydrocarbons:

The economic relations between Algeria and China began with the signing of the first agreement in 1964. There was always a tendency to lift up these relations, but at the beginning of the nineties, this cooperation was slightly affected, and it returned and developed further in the late 1990s.

In this context, the two countries signed several agreements. The most important ones are:

The agreement signed by Chinese President Hujishao during his visit to Algeria in 2004 and the Framework Agreement on Cooperation in the field of hydrocarbons.

The Algerian exports to China during 2008 which were 500 million dollars consisted mainly of petroleum and mineral products, while her imports represented about 4 billion dollars of Pharmaceutical and food products. The Chinese Petroleum Group "Petro China" and Algeria signed a compliance to build the first joint project of Algerian foreign cooperation in the field of oil in July 2003, and in December 2003, she signed two accords on prospecting in the area of 112 – in Basin Sharif and another area. In 2004, the National Oil Company "Sonatrach" and the Chinese Petroleum Company signed a protocol of agreement which covered several fields as exploration, production, treatment of oil and natural gas, transport through channels, and projects to build oil sites (Boumsber & Razak Lakhra, 2013).

In 2004, CNPC and SINOPRC were able to secure research and exploitation rights in the Basin of Mia valley where the first is active in having more, and it was able to win the refurbishment of a refinery in *Skikda* in March 2005. The Algerian company NAFTAL, in collaboration with SORAL CHINE, formed a joint venture in January 2006 under the name of "NAFTAL CHINE" that is specialized in distributing refined petroleum products. In 2010, the Chinese Ambassador in Algeria announced the distribution of refined petroleum materials. He declared too that his country would sign a contract with the Ministry of Energy and Mines for the exploration of oil in southern Algeria.

In 2013, China became the first exporter of Algeria, and she was able to displace France which monopolized the classification for decades. China's exports to Algeria reached \$ 8 billion in 2013, \$ 8.2 billion in 2014, and ranked first in the first quarter of 2015 with \$ 2.13 billion merchandises; this raise was 12.8% compared to the same period in 2014. In the first quarter of 2015, China's exports represented 16.4% of Algeria's total imports during the period.

Up to this day, the Chinese side still encourages Chinese companies which have the ability to invest and do business in Algeria and to cooperate in the fields of energy, minerals, etc. On the other hand, Algeria also welcomes Chinese companies to participate actively in her economic construction, to establish corporate relations and cooperation on the basis of mutual benefit, common gain, and to enhance cooperation in the fields of energy, minerals, petrochemicals, infrastructure, renewable energy and others. This would aid Algeria to increase her capacity for industrial production and self-development and to work together to develop the African market compared to the international market(Foreign Ministry of the People's Republic of China).

Table(01): shows the extent of development of trade exchanges between China and Algeria from 2007 to 2014. They are as follows

Year	Size (extent) of trade exchanges (million Dollar)
2008	\$ 3.8 million
2009	\$ 4.4 million
2011	\$ 6.4 million
2013	\$ 8 million
2015	\$ 8.2 million

Source: Foreign Ministry of the People's Republic of China, Premier Li Qiqing Holds Talks with Algerian Prime Minister Abdelmalek Sellal. Available at www.pm.prc.gov.cn

Table(02): shows the extent of Chinese imports and exports to Algeria from 2007 to 2014. They are as follows

Years	Chinese exports to Algeria	Chinese imports fromAlgeria
2012	\$3.31 million	\$4.95 million
2013	\$6.42 million	\$3.31 million
2014	\$8.19 million	\$1.81 million
2015	\$6.96 million	\$2.1 million

Source: Foreign Ministry of the People's Republic of China, Premier Li Qiqing Holds Talks with Algerian Prime Minister Abdelmalek Sellal. Available at www.pm.prc.gov.cn

B. Development field:

As for Algerian-Chinese relations in the development field, China aims to enhance cooperation between the productive forces of the two countries, to exchange views, and to discuss partnership opportunities. Chinese officials believe that the cooperation of productive forces, especially in developing countries, is the most effective solution for development and economic recovery; on the one hand, China is present with her experience and potential, especially the quality of her work, the speed of her completion and the ability to embody the projects programmed within the framework of the five-year development plan 2015-2019, on the other hand, Chinese enterprises through their presence in Algeria and through their positive participation in grassroots projects, transport, and communication possess knowledge and experience in the Algerian market(H.Hanane, 2019).

According to a ministry statement, the Minister of Industry and Mines talks with the Chinese Ambassador in Algeria "Ying Guangyu " about the contribution of Chinese companies in the industrial development program, and he confirmed that Algeria is about to implement the five-year plan for public investments 2019-2015; he added that all industrial and mineral sectors will be intensively developed. During the conversation, the Chinese diplomat pointed out that his country is interested in this program 2019-2015, appreciating the quality of relations between the two countries.

Taking as an example, the new commercial port of the center and the project of iron exploitation in "Djbeilat", as well as the exploitation of phosphate in the sulfur valley, in addition to projects of

installing cars, promoting environmental cooperation , shifting it to towards new horizons.. This can be done through a qualitative leap that moves from the traditional fields like construction, infrastructure, and communications to wider areas that are taken into account. Sectors that Algeria prioritizes in her five-year development plan include agriculture, industry, and tourism(Dabash,2019). Relations between the two countries show their readiness to provide financial assistance to finance development projects. The Chinese ambassador in Algeria, "Bang Yao Ngo," affirms that his country is prepared to provide financial loans to Algeria, if requested. He said that his country, which has allocated \$ 60billion over three years to support development on the continent, prioritizes Algeria in the field of financial cooperation which includes financing of joint ventures. He reveals that the first fruits of this cooperation will be embodied in the project "Port of Algiers, Central" which will be located near the city of *Cherchell* in the province of *Tipasa*. Many projects, especially in building, have been given to Chinese establishments, such as the Great Mosque, the capital's Opera, and construction projects.

The volume of investment of the Chinese companies, which are active in the construction sector in Algeria, reached one million dollar, in the last eight years. This has made Algeria the second market, after Nigeria, for the Chinese construction companies in Africa. This sector has attracted the attention of Chinese businessmen; so, they attempt their best to win the next pentagram plan. The Chinese agency, Xzinhua, has revealed that Chinese companies invested more than \$ 20 million in Algeria in many sectors particularly in construction and public works.

According to the American investigation bureau, "think-tank", the Chinese companies invested 14 billion dollars in Algeria during 2005 /2013, out of her 15 worldwide main partners. According the same investigation, building sectors have captured the interest of those sample companies in recent years. The companies have won many of the projects, mentioned above, like the East-West Highway project, the new headquarters of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and others. This will give a picture about the future of Algerian-Chinese cooperation in the field of development (Ihabe, 2019).

The competition between the economic giants in the world, as France and China over the Algerian market, got hot mainly because that since the economic relations between China and the Maghreb countries in general: "Morocco, Algeria, and Tunisia" grow steadily and witness important development in commerce and investment, etc. China's economic orientation towards a region that was and still be under the French- American influence, strategically makes the Chinese economic relations with the three countries very significant(Chairi,2019) . The economic relations between Algeria and China have witnessed a real impetus from 2000 to establish a general strategic partnership 10 years later. According to the latest statistics, France lost her position as the first economic dealers with Algeria in 2013. As revealed by the Algerian customs in its latest outcome, the status that China maintained during the first trio of the business year 2014 makes China's exports to Algeria \$ 1.67 billion. In return, Algeria is seeking to benefit from the competition between France and China . This latter is increasing her investments in Algeria steadily. In 2013, Algeria's imports from China reached more than \$ 6.82 billion compared to \$ 6.25 billion from France which preserves her status as the first investor in Algeria out of oil and gas sectors. During the same year,

Algeria imported more than \$ 55 billion of goods while she exported \$ 63.5 billion, mostly oil and gas or petroleum products.

The economist Abderrahmane Mebtoul says "What brings France and China is the value of the Algerian currency which is \$194 billion and 173 tons of gold. This ranks the Algerian reserve of the precious metal. In March 2014, the French company "Total" lost a deal of \$ 5 billion which was aimed to build a gas factory. The latter was for "Sonatrack", the Algerian Gas and Oil Company. On the other hand, a Chinese company has received construction projects worth \$ 20 billion. This made France face difficulties for the Chinese giant who has deployed its companies with its 30,000 workers.

France has been disappointed in regaining its position as the first commercial financier of Algeria from China despite the Marathon tours and efforts of French officials, who were supported by the improvement of political relations between Paris and Algeria. According to foreign trade statistics which were revealed by the National Bureau of Statistics of the Customs Department, China was ranked as the first exporter to Algeria for the second consecutive year, by \$ 7.44 in the first 11th months of 2014. (Africa "Chronic" in the European-American Conflict, May 4th, 2014)

The following tables illustrate China's, France's, and America's imports from and exports to Algeria for 2013-2015. They are as follow:

Table(03): China's, France's, and America's Importation from Algeria

Country	Importation's value in 2013	Importation's value in 2015
China	\$6.82 million	\$8.92 million
France	\$6.34 million	\$5.42 million
The United States of America	\$2.85 million	\$2.71 million

Source: Africa "Chronic" in the European-American Conflict, May 4th, 2014

Table(04): China's , France's ,and America's Exportation to Algeria

Country	Exportation's value in 2013	Exportation's value in 2015
China	\$6.42 million	\$2.27 million
France	\$6.74 million	\$4.92 million
The United States of America	\$4.69 million	\$1.97 million

Source: Africa "Chronic" in the European-American Conflict, May 4th, 2014.

3. Historical background of the Silk Road:

Historically speaking, the Silk Road refers to a group of land routes which linked East Asia with the Mediterranean Sea through Central Asia, but the main path to this road was not exactly known. The name "The silk Road" was first used by the German traveler and geographer Ferdinand Freiherrfonrichthoven in 1877, and he used it to describe the roads which Chinese silk, produced by the Han Empire ,passed through during BC 206 to AD 220 all the way to Central Asia.

Although the use of this term was limited to this road during that particular historical period, without reference to the trade corridors which linked the two regions during later historical periods,

the concept is then employed to refer to all the roads that joined China to the center Asia and the Mediterranean.

It is noted that this designation was misleading due to a number of factors. These trade routes were not only used for the trade of silk, but numerous goods were passed through; some of which are more important than the silk product, as horses, cotton, paper, and gunpowder. On the other hand, these roads were not only intended to link the East and West, but part of it was directed to the Indian subcontinent which contributed not only in commerce, but in the spread of Buddhism there. Practically speaking, this concept was used to refer to the road that starts from the two cities (Milward, 2013, p. 20-21): the Chinese Lubang and Changan passes through the Hexi Corridor to the end of the pass at The Chinese city of Dunhuang. The road is then divided into three main corridors: the Northern Corridor, which connects the Tian Shan Mountains and Urumqi City, the capital of Xinjiang and the central corridor that runs from the city of Thurián in western China to the southern tip of Zhejiang down to the Chinese city of Hotan, and then to Central Asia, Persia, Iran, ending in Europe, and the southern corridor, which passes through the mountains Yambar to Pakistan and India. It is worth mentioning that these trade corridors were not only limited to the land route, but also included a sea lane, the one which is taken by the Arab traders from the Arabian Peninsula to the Chinese cities: "Guanzhou" and "Quanzhou" and "Ninbo" and 'Yanfzhou'. Through it, not only silk, but porcelain, ceramics, chilli, etc. were exchanged. It was the Arabs who controlled this road because they preferred it and because they found the land road more expensive (ibid. p. 11).

4. The emergence of the Silk Road: (ibid. p. 20-21)

In 1877, the German geographer F. von Richthofen labeled the transportation Road which used for silk trade and basically joined China represented in "Han family" and the southern and western part of central Asia and India as the Silk Road. The latter means the ancient land transportation line stretched from China, across western and northern China and whole Asia, to areas near Africa and Europe. Through this route, extensive political, economic, and cultural exchanges between different regions and nationalities were taking place. During the dynasty of "The Tang family" and with the shift of material civilization towards the west (i.e. to abroad) via the Silk Road, the Chinese silk industry reached its peak and its weaving and decorative styles increased. During the ancestry of "Ming family", Silk textiles have inherited traditions that raised their kinds, qualities, and beauties since the reign of the Tang family, the fact that attracted traders from all over the globe.

Between the 7th and 9th centuries, the Silk Road flourished even more as it brought birds, rare animals, jewelry, spices, glassware, gold and silver coins from the West; music, dance, food, fashion, and decoration from West Asia and Central Asia, to China. Meanwhile, Chinese products and technology such as silk, paper-making, printing art, painted pots, ceramic vessels, dynamite and compass were exported abroad via the Silk Road. Therefore China contributed significantly in world civilization. Because of trade development, the cultural exchange through the Silk Road was activated; hence, Buddhism was introduced to China as one of the world's three largest religions in the late rule of Western Han family. The introduction of Buddhism from India to China was recorded in wall paintings that are about 10,000 square meters. They still exist in the stone cave temple which was built in the third century AD in Qir in Xinjiang. Through the Silk Road, Buddhism entered from India to Qizirbshinjiang and Don Huang Gansu and then to China's

interior regions. The remaining Buddhist stone caves across the Silk Road, such as: Muwaqqar Caves, Huang, and Longmin Stone Caves, Blue Yang Shamir which were formed and decorated with Oriental and Western art styles are indicative of the cultural exchange between China and the West through the Silk Road .They are all considered World Cultural Heritage.(International University of Africa,2017,p.01)

With the change of the political and economic map in Europe and Asia after the ninth century AD, and especially with the advancement of navigation technology, the role of maritime transport in trade exchange has emerged, and the role of this traditional land route has diminished. In the 10th century, this route was rarely considered a trade route.

In recent years, the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) has launched a new research program on the Silk Road. The Silk Road is called the Dialogue Road aimed to promote dialogue and exchange between the East and the West.

5. Concepts and terms on the Silk Road:

The Belt Road is a very necessary not only for China, but for every country that passes through. Since China has become a technical economic country, it needs this road. The idea has won the admiration of many countries. This project is the interdependence of the peoples of the world, the renunciation of hatred and the promotion of peace and security among the peoples connected by this road.

This great construction will bring China into the hearts of nations with her greatness and pursuit of all that is beneficial and beautiful .This will help spread the cultural and civilized diversity that China possesses.(Africa International University, *ibid.*,p. 03)

6. Basic Information about "the Belt "and "The Road" and their significance:

The cooperation in building the “Belt with the Road” aims to embody the values of the ancient Silk Road, which enabled countries in Asia and Europe to exchange goods, technologies, individuals and ideas.This will lead to the economic and cultural development and social progress of these countries, and to promote dialogue and interaction between different civilizations. (*ibid.*, p.04).

Today, the international community must upgrade the spirit of the Silk Road which represents peace, cooperation, openness, tolerance, mutual benefit, and resilience to difficulties. It should also modernize that spirit to revive and devote its value in the modern era so as to achieve new material and moral wealth for human society.

Sharing the construction of the “Belt with the Road” goes hand in hand with efforts to strengthen regional cooperation, which is the mainstream of that period. The 'Belt with the Road' will link central Asia, South Asia, Southeast Asia, West Asia, and other sub-regions. This will enhance communication between these regions and will enable them to complement each other's needs and to benefit from each others. Consequently, it establishes and complements logistic, industrial, and valuable chains which cover Asia and Europe ;as it aids to strengthen the efforts of Asian and European countries in unlocking the potential of domestic demand in each one of them and in the region as such.It helps also to create new areas for economic growth, to enhance this economic growth self-driving force, and to empower its capacity to confront risks. This will restructure economy and develop its quality.(*ibid.*,p.5)

The construction of "the Belt with the Road" was in line with China's development requirements and China's desire to strengthen cooperation with outside countries. The "Belt with the Road" covers the central and western regions, some coastal provinces, and cities in China. Building the 'Belt with the Road' centered on China's regional development strategies, the new type of modern urbanization, and the openness over the outside countries. This will enlarge and accelerate the openness of the landlocked and border areas so that it helps to form a new equation for full-dimensional openness in China. The construction of the "Belt with the Road" is also considered a milestone for Chinese diplomacy in the new era since it contributes to deepen the relationships and maintain the common development of China and other Asian and European countries.

7.The main content of the Belt with the Road":

The "Belt with the Road" initiative takes economic cooperation as its foundation, and human and cultural communication as its main pillar. This initiative is committed to non-interference in the internal affairs of the countries of the region, and it does not seek to wrest leadership in regional affairs or to limit the scope of influence in the region. The "Belt with the Road" is not an entity or a mechanism. It will rely mainly on the existing bilateral and multilateral mechanisms between China and related countries which will make use of existing and effective regional cooperation frameworks. The geographic and international scope of the "Belt with the Road" will also be open. Countries located on the ancient Silk and sea roads will play an important role in it. Other countries will be either welcomed to participate in.

The main content of the construction of the "Belt with the Road" is in five points that highlight practical cooperation based on detailed projects .It will bring tangible benefits to the people of the related countries. These points are as follow:(ibid.p.06).

- **Policies' coherence:** Different countries can adequately communicate strategies and policies for economic development. These strategies will be organically melt based on the principle of "finding commonalities between differences" and drawing up plans and procedures for regional cooperation through consultation. This will give "The green light" in terms of policies and laws for regional economic integration.

- **Road connectivity:** China and related countries need to discuss positively the improvement of trans-boundary infrastructure in traffic, and to take gradual steps to form a transportation network which links the copious sub-regions in Asia as it connects Asia to Europe and Africa. Therefore, this will treat the issues of disconnection or bonding without scrolling or scrolling without flowing.

- **Business (Works) Continuity:** It includes discussing ways of facilitating trade and investment, formulating appropriate arrangements that help to remove trade and investment barriers, and increasing the speed and quality of the regional economic cycle .This will release the potential of the Belt and Road countries in the fields of trade and investment. It will expand too "the cooperation cake".

- **Currency trading:** It means working to achieve local barter and currency exchange, strengthening bilateral and multilateral monetary cooperation, establishing financial institutions for regional development, reducing transaction costs; thereby, enhancing resilience to financial risks through regional arrangements, and augmenting the competitiveness of the region's economy as a whole, internationally.

- **Understanding Mindsets:** China and related countries need to consolidate the grassroots of official relations, to boost communication and dialogue among different civilizations, and to increase friendly exchanges between the peoples of countries, especially at the level of community groups, so as to strengthen mutual understanding and traditional friendship.

8. The Origin of the Silk Road Initiative:

During his visits to Kazakhstan and Indonesia in September and October 2013, the prominent Chinese leader Xi Jinping unveiled the initiative. Then, the president of the state council "Premier Li Keqiang during" promoted it during his visits to Asia and Europe. The initiative was heavily covered by Chinese state media, and by 2016, it often appeared in the People's Daily News. (The state council of the people's republic of China ,May 2019)

Some estimates consider the Belt and Road Initiative as one of the largest infrastructure and investment projects in history; the one which covers more than 68 countries, including 65% of the world's population and 40% of global GDP (Gross Domestic Product) since 2017.

The action plan, which was jointly issued by the National Development and Reform Commission, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the Ministry of Commerce, provided insight into the vision and endeavors of the program initiated by China.

In September 2013, and during his visit to Kazakhstan, President Xi Jinping introduced the concept of the Silk Road Economic Belt. In a speech given at the University of Nazarbayev, Xi suggested that China and Central Asia cooperate to build the Silk Road Economic Belt. It was the first time that the Chinese leadership recalled the strategic vision.

In October 2013, President Xi proposed the construction of a cohesive society between China and ASEAN, and he offered guidance on building a 21st century maritime Silk Road to promote maritime cooperation. In his address to the Indonesian parliament, Xi also suggested the establishment of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) to finance infrastructure construction and to promote regional interdependence and economic integration.

In March 2019, China signed an infrastructure plan with Italy; the latter became the first European country to join the initiative. Western Europe sees this as a benefit for business and for greater geopolitical influence. The agreement is not entirely binding and it does not undermine Italy's Western political and security alliance.

Initial focus was on investment in infrastructure, education, building materials, railways, highways, cars, real estate, power grid, iron, and steel.

In late 2014, the leading group to promote the development of one single belt road was formed, and its leadership lineup was announced on February 1st, 2015. This steering committee reports directly to the State Council of the People's Republic of China.

In March 2014, in his report on government work given in the annual meeting of the country's legislature, the Chinese Premier Li Keqiang called for speeding up the Belt and Road Initiative along with the economic corridor between Bangladesh, China, India, Myanmar and the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor.

Concerning the initiative, on March 28th, 2015, the Chinese State Council outlined the principles, framework, and key areas of cooperation and its mechanism.

9. The stated objectives of the project: are (Turebekova ,December 2016):

- Building a large unified market and making full use of both international and domestic markets
- Cultural exchange and integration;
- Promoting mutual understanding and trust among Member States
- Inventing a pattern that goes along with capital flows, talent pool, and technology database
- Creating a coherent economic zone by building solid infrastructure such as railways, roads and soft infrastructure such as trade agreements and a common legal trade structure with the court system to monitor agreements.
- Increasing cultural exchanges and expanding trade outside this region, which is very similar to the historic Silk Road. The cultural exchanges and commerce will be extended too to South Asia and Southeast Asia.

10. Chinese Challenges:

Perhaps the biggest challenge for China's efforts in the “liberal international system” is that the Belt and Road projects, unlike most Western aid and loans, often stimulate horrific matters regarding environmental standards, human rights ,and governance despite China's record in that affair has been improved somewhat over the past few years. China is often the greatest investor in pariah countries, because these countries are ruled by corrupt autocrats who do not respect human rights such as Zimbabwe, North Korea, Niger, Angola, and Burma. The Silk Road Economic Belt focuses on combining China, Central Asia, Russia and Europe (the Baltic Sea) and on linking China to the Persian Gulf and the Mediterranean Sea through Central Asia and the Indian Ocean. The 21st century Silk Road was designed to move from the coast of China to Europe via the South China Sea and the Indian Ocean in one direction, and from the coast of China across the South China Sea to the South Pacific on the other side. The following are the most important events that contribute in the development of China's Belt and Road Initiative so far.

The Belt and Road Initiative addresses the “infrastructure gap” and therefore it has the potential to accelerate the economic growth throughout the Asia-Pacific, Africa, and Central and Eastern Europe region. A report from the World Pension Board estimates that Asia, without China, requires about \$ 900 billion in infrastructure investments annually over the next decade.(M.Firzli& J .Nicolas,2015).

11. Reasons for China's selection of Algeria:

One of the reasons which make China has chosen Algeria is that Algeria is one of the safest countries in the world .It has a strong army capable of protecting its interests and those of its partners, unlike Morocco, which suffers from internal crises and a weak army that is unable even to protect its country or to liberate its territory. Algeria's relations with China are as old as their historical and cooperative links.

A. The economic potentials of Algeria reinforce the principle of preference given to her:

(Khelaf,2019)

The ambassador of the People's Republic of China in Algeria, Yang Gangyo, confirmed that Algeria is their first partner in Africa, as it is ranked among the top three African countries in the field of economic development. This "gives her a privilege ".

In a ceremony where the Chinese Embassy afforded 10 million dinars as a grant to Sahrawi refugees, at the Algerian Red Crescent headquarters, the Chinese ambassador declared to "Al-Masaa newspaper" that China's selection of Algeria to be a regional partner in the Silk Road issue, at the African level, reflects the strong economic cooperation between the two countries. This was clearly seen in their partnerships in various fields. The Chinese ambassador added that the strong historical ties have strengthened the friendship between the two countries. He noted that Algeria, besides being a regional partner on the continent, she is also the first Arab country that establishes bilateral relations and a pioneering strategic partnership with China.

The Chinese diplomat justified the priority that his country gives to Algeria in the fact that Algeria has the energetic and human potentials. He reiterated Beijing's readiness to accompany Algeria in diversifying its economy in light of the many expected projects.

As far as, the value of trade exchanges between the two countries, Mr. Gangyou pointed out that it amounted \$8 billion in the last five years. He announced his country's will to increase the pace of her investments in Algeria.

One can note that China has chosen Algeria as its regional partner in Africa as part of the \$ 500 billion Silk Road Initiative, after other countries' attempts like Morocco to seize this status. One can say too that the Silk Road initiative is the most China's ambitious foreign policy

B. The "Belt with the Road" initiative is in line with Algeria's vision of regional integration (web.ibid.):

Mr. Ahcene Boukhalfa, Algeria's Ambassador in China, confirmed that the "Belt with the Road" initiative, which Algeria joined under an agreement signed with China in September 2018, will allow the coordination and harmonization of development programs, the linkage of infrastructure, and the strength of human relations and exchanges. The enterprise is in line with the country's vision for Maghreb and African integration. In an interview with *Al-Masaa news*, the ambassador pointed out the comprehensive strategic partnership that was established in February 2014 between the two countries, and which was the first partnership between China and an Arab country, has made the Algerian-Chinese cooperation comprehensive, permanent, and common. He said that 30 Algerian students will benefit annually from a scholarship to prepare for a doctorate degree in Chinese universities; the Algerian diplomat called the Algerian students to take advantage of scholarships offered by Beijing to foreign students because of China's higher education level.

Mr. Boukhalfa assured to *Al-Masaa News*: "The friendship between Algeria and China is not born today. The People's Republic of China was the first non-Arab country to recognize the Algerian Interim Government in September 1958, and to establish diplomatic relations with her on December 20, 1958," This was the event that we celebrated its 60th anniversary, last December.

The relations between the two countries have been strengthened over the years until the establishment of a comprehensive strategic partnership in February 2014; it was the first such partnership that China has concluded with an Arab country. This allowed the Algerian-Chinese cooperation to be comprehensive, durable, and shared.

In this context, Algeria and China have adopted and implemented a five-year plan for the comprehensive strategic partnership for the years 2014-2018. It allowed them to continue the habit of political consultation and coordination internationally; it helps to strengthen commercial and

economic cooperation, and to promote the cultural and human exchanges between the Algerian and Chinese peoples. The two sides are currently assessing the outcome of the past five years before preparing a new five-year plan for the years 2019-2023. Economically, the Chinese companies have made numerous major construction and infrastructure projects. In this context, in October 2016, Algeria and China signed an agreement on enhancing productive capacities to allow the Algerian economy to benefit from Chinese expertise through the transfer of knowledge through direct investment and technical cooperation in several fields, such as mechanical and petrochemical industries, renewable energy, mining, and building materials industries. This will certainly contribute to the efforts to diversify the Algerian economy.

It is worth mentioning too that "Tebessa Phosphate Exploitation Project, which was officially launched in November 2018, as partnership between Sonatrach and a Chinese enterprise, will allow the production of more than 5 million tons of phosphate annually, covering the needs of the local market and diversifying Algerian exports. This is just some of all; i.e., only to name a few since it is not possible to discuss all bilateral cooperation activities here. Algeria joined the Belt and Road initiative, last September.

- **How can our country benefit from this initiative?** (web.ibid.)

The "Belt and Road" initiative, launched by Chinese President Xi Jinping in 2013, is a platform for cooperation that aimed at achieving common development among countries, especially through linking infrastructure and intensifying investment. It is natural that Algeria, which is an important partner of China in Africa and the Arab world, plays a role in the implementation of this initiative, due to her geographical location, economic potential, and diplomatic weight. Moreover, the "Belt and Road" proposal is in line with Algeria's vision and efforts in the Maghreb and African integration's field under the trans-Saharan road, in linking the Algerian Mauritanian road network, as well as in deal of the central port of Cherchell, which will be completed in partnership with the Chinese side.

Under the agreement with China held in September 2018, Algeria's accession to the Belt and Road plan will allow for coordination and harmonization of development programs, for linking infrastructure ,and for strengthening human relations and exchanges. This contract will also enable our country to participate in the various mechanisms, events, and activities that will be organized within the framework of the "Belt and Road" initiative in various political, economic, social, and cultural fields.

On 25, 26, and 27th April 2019, Algeria participated in the second edition of the "Belt and Road" Forum for International Cooperation .Algeria also contributed on April 24, 2019 to the launch of the Belt and Road mechanism for energy cooperation, and a week earlier, she took part in lancing the Belt and Road Association for Tax Administrations .Besides, she has an access to the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, which is the source of funding for the projects Embodied in the framework of the initiative alongside the "Belt and Road" fund(web.,ibid.)

- **Is there a vision to expand cooperation between Algeria and China in other areas?**

In fact, the co-operation between Algeria and China is not only limited to the economic sphere, but it also includes other various fields. In the field of high-technology, multiple cooperation, as audiovisual broadcasting, telecommunications, distance education and digital management between

the Algerian and Chinese partners, resulted in launching *the Alcomsat 1* satellite on December 11, 2017, the first project of this kind between China and an Arab country. It will be used in various fields like audiovisual broadcasting, telecommunications, distance education, and digital management.

In tourism, and in July 2018, the two sides agreed to facilitate the granting of visas to Chinese tourist groups which wish to visit Algeria; this would further encourage the promotion of the Algerian destination.

In the agricultural field, Algeria and China concluded two important agreements in September 2017. One is related to cooperation in the areas of animal health and quarantine, and the second is concerned the collaboration in the areas of plant protection and agricultural quarantine. This allows providing conditions of trade interchange of agricultural products between the two countries. (web .ibid.)

As for higher education and scientific research, the two sides are working within the framework of an executive program concluded between them. This program aims to afford university scholarships to students of the other country, where 30 Algerian students benefit from a grant to prepare their doctorate in different domains like Mathematics, computer science, and pharmacy in the Chinese Universities. In return, 30 Chinese students benefit from training in Arabic at Algerian universities. The Chinese government provides university scholarships to foreign students outside the bilateral program, which encourages Algerian students to benefit from it given the level of higher education in China, reflected in the international rankings.

It should be noted that the Chinese side has sent six Chinese professors to offer Chinese language classes at several Algerian universities in the capital, Oran, Constantine and Annaba. This is what should be commended for due to the status that Chinese language possesses in today's world.

On the other hand, the fruitful partnership established by the Ministry of Interior and local communities and the preparation of the region with the Chinese Academy of Government ,especially in the field of executives' formation and exchange of experiences.

In general, human resource valuation is of a particular interest in the Algerian-Chinese cooperation, since dozens of Algerian executives annually benefit from long and short-term training courses in China.

These are just examples we wanted to present to illustrate that Algeria-China relations have become comprehensive and diverse; the fact which will undoubtedly be strengthened in the context of the preparation and implementation of the five-year plan of the comprehensive strategic partnership for the years 2019-2023.

- **What about cultural cooperation?**(web. ibid.)

The culture's sector has always been one of the priorities of Algerian-Chinese cooperation in view of what it can offer to consolidate friendship and to promote rapprochement between the Algerian and Chinese peoples. Perhaps, the most striking example of this is the "Opera House of Algeria", which was accomplished with a donation from the Chinese side, thus it has become a bond to the traditional friendship between the two sides. In recent years, the two sides have carried out many cultural activities in implementation of the Algerian-Chinese program in the cultural field for

2015-2019, especially those related to exchanging artistic groups and participating in cultural events which the other party will organize.

China participated as an honored guest in the last year's edition of the Algiers International Book Fair coinciding with the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Algeria and China. The Chinese delegation included more than 150 people, including a publisher and writer, among them the writer Moyan, who won the Noble Prize in literature.

III.METHOD AND PROCEDURES:

The aim of the study is to examine the viewpoint of a sample of university teachers in various Algerian universities on the Silk Road Project, the Sino-Algerian relations, and the harmonization's extent in economic, political, educational agreements, and so on to achieve the objectives of the Silk Road Project. Addressing the opinion of sociology professors in Algeria would provide a forward-looking view of this relationship, diagnose it and provide suggestions and solutions.

1. Study sample:

The sample of the study consisted of an intentional sample of some universities in Algeria. A category of sociology departments' teachers was selected to know their perspectives about

The sample was: 1 for the University of Chlef, 2 for the University of Bordj Bou Arreridj, 3 for the University of M'sila, 4 for the University of Tiaret, 5 for the University of Setif, 6 for the University of Blida, 7 for the University of Bouira, 8 for the University of Algiers, 9 for the University of Annaba and 10 for the University of Constantine.

2. Sample selection method:

50% of each sociology department is representative. The final number of the sample reached 300 Algerian university teachers.

We relied on the electronic form to gather data from various universities during the second semester of 2019.

Table(5) :illustrates the view of the sociology professors of the Algerian universities on the Silk Road project and the Algerian-Chinese relations.

Nr	Statement	Yes	No
01	The Silk Road and Sino-Algerian relations serve both Chinese and Algerian interests	100%	00%
02	Algerian investment institutions need this cooperation	91%	09%
03	This partnership contributes in the qualification of the Algerian labor force according to international quality standards	98%	02%
04	This partnership contributes to reducing unemployment and increasing investment	70%	30%
05	The popular movement contributed to the consolidation and facilitation of the Algerian-Chinese partnership via the demarcation and adoption of cooperative relations through agreements between the two countries.	96%	04%
06	This partnership contributes to the development of alternative sectors out of the hydrocarbon sector in Algeria	89%	11%
07	Algeria needs this partnership in light of the current economic, social,	100%	00%

	and political crisis		
08	The University and research laboratories contribute to the strengthening of this partnership through field studies and research on the implications of this partnership on Algerian society.	75%	25%
09	University scientific research on bilateral Algerian-Chinese relations contributes to foreseeing the future of the relationship and increasing its value	80%	20%
10	Scientific conferences and seminars about the future of the Sino-Algerian partnership contribute to early identification, diagnosis of obstacles, and finding solutions	88%	22%
11	The political, intellectual, economic, and sociological elite contribute to the formation of this partnership in various sectors by expanding it, presenting research results ,and exchanging views.	63%	37%
12	The establishment of research and bilateral studies centers between China and Algeria facilitates visions, consolidates ideas, embodies them, and monitors their development over time.	92%	08%
13	Inthe field of education and research and higher education,partnership between Algeria and China contributes to the development and embodiment of various bilateral agreements .This would be through deepening thought and culture and developing joint scientific research between the two countries.	76%	24%
14	The partnership with China contributes in the long term in linking the various sectors and thus pushing the development of the two countries forward and beyond them. This reduces the economic, political, even educational and cultural dependence in Algeria.	95%	05%

IV.STUDY RESULTS (ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION) :

100% of the professors of the Algerian universities replied that the Silk Road and the Sino-Algerian relations serve both Chinese and Algerian interests. China is the only country in the world that provides production, commodities, or investments of the highest international standards and at the lowest cost. The main reason is that the cost of production is lower in China, whether from labor or production machinery.

Chinese goods accounted for 18% of Algeria's imports in 2017; this makes China in the first place before France (9%) and before 3 other European countries. China imported only 2% of Algeria's exports.The low proportion of Algerian exports is due at this time to the dominance of some French and Western markets on the largest exports. However, at present, Algerian sociologists expect to improve the investment climate and exchange of benefits between the two countries because of the measures that followed the Algerian people's movement in February 2019, as it necessitates the change at various levels, the preference to work with China at first place, and the need to get rid of the economic and political dependence of the privileged countries that had previously colonized Algeria.

91% of the views of Algerian university teachers on the phrase: Algerian investment institutions need this cooperation.It is a representative percentage that shows the response of the sample to the

decision of the need for Algerian investment institutions for this cooperation. The following percentages show that Algeria ranked 13th among the countries that China imports from. China is the Africa's top trading partner as she is investing several billion dollars in infrastructure projects such as roads, railways, ports or factories. While African countries welcome these projects, the West countries criticize them for the fear of the consequences of Chinese debt, which will burden these countries as they claim.

Chinese enterprises have contributed to the implementation of Algeria's extensive development programs of more than 10 billion US dollars annually (BinKhalid,n.d).

This generous initiative will enable Algeria to weave a network of road that links her with the continent as Algeria is counting on a comprehensive economic renaissance; while it will help Beijing to facilitate her investments in the African continent. Algeria will be her gateway to enter the continent where Africa ranks as the first partner. In 2017, the value of trade exchange was more than \$ 170 billion after it was not more than \$ 10 billion in 2000. Algerian-Chinese relations are excellent through various historical stages and have flourished during the last two decades since investments are at a high of \$ 6.2 billion in oil, gas, and mines, while China is looking for new projects in other sectors such as tourism, electronics, and automotive installation. This area has been developing in Algeria since 2015, and Beijing is looking for a place in the Algerian market which is being invaded by the French, Germans, and Koreans. Algeria considers China an important market in the field of car installation, and she is seeking to make her a starting point for exportation to other countries in the region. This will be facilitated through her accession to the new Silk Initiative.

98% of the opinions of teachers about the phrase: This partnership contributes to the rehabilitation of Algerian labor in accordance with international quality standards, since we find that the Chinese National Company for Construction CSCEC is the most crucial strike force for Beijing in Algeria, where it is carrying out many projects, headed by the new port of Algeria which China will finance under a long-term lending agreement of about \$ 3 billion, along with infrastructure projects that include the expansion of the Algiers International Airport.

Chinese investments and activities in Algeria help in creating 50,000 jobs since the beginning of 2000 and in financial flows of more than \$ 1.5 billion in the first six years; these flows rise continuously. Chinese companies are interested in making Algeria one of the focal points of its two-digit expansion in Africa.

70% of the respondents believe that this partnership contributes to reducing unemployment and increasing the volume of investment. This confirms that China's initiative for partnership with Algeria has a role in decreasing joblessness.

Algeria has stepped up its bet on Chinese economic solutions by officially joining the Belt and New Road initiative to alleviate its accumulated economic crises by boosting growth rates, developing growth, developing infrastructure, and attracting more foreign investment.

As for 96% of the opinions of the research sample on the phrase: the popular movement contributed to the strengthening and facilitation of the Algerian-Chinese partnership through the demarcation and adoption of cooperation through agreements between the two countries, the President Abdelkader Bensalah signed a decree on Algeria's agreement to formally join the new Silk Road. According to the presidential statement, five presidential decrees were signed; they include

ratifying agreements and memorandums of understanding on cooperation with a number of countries.(Algeria puts its crises on the Chinese Silk Road and aspires to the flow of foreign investment through the Silk Road to become a starting point towards the African continent 8/6/2019)

The statement showed that the third decree concerns the memorandum of understanding between Algeria and China on cooperation within the initiative of the Economic Belt of the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road, where the protests that erupted in late February 2019 forced the need for fundamental changes that are about frozen international cooperation agreements

The percentage of the research sample is 100% on the phrase: Algeria needs this partnership in light of the economic, social and political crisis that it is currently experiencing. 89% of the respondents supported the statement that this partnership contributes to the development of alternative sectors outside the hydrocarbons sector.

80% supported the phrase: University scientific research, made in the field of bilateral Algerian-Chinese relations, contribute to the prospect of the future of the relationship and to the increase of its valuation.

88% supported the phrase: Scientific conferences and forums on the future of the Sino-Algerian partnership contribute to early identification, diagnosis of obstacles, and finding solutions.

We conclude that the university has a prominent role in the consolidation of intellectual, educational, and research relations between China and Algeria; this is through conferences and field research; It is also via presenting results, diagnosing obstacles, foreseeing the future, providing solutions, and sharing ideas.

As for the major study centers, they can provide advice and make plans to proceed to the future based on the present potentials.

It can be pointed out that the Belt and Road Initiative should be the property of all the peoples that are located on the Belt and Road; they propose and participate in the implementation to benefit from the results on the basis of contribution and not on the basis of becoming parasitic organisms who only took part in the project. When the latter becomes the dream for all, everyone will work on achieving its expected results.

where the results of the study in the remaining expressions were 63%.The political and intellectual elite, economists, and social scientists contribute in the mapping of this partnership in various sectors by expanding and presenting the results of research and exchanging views, because there is a lack of dealing with this proposal and this project, i.e., The Silk Road, between the two countries in Algerian universities. There is a need for joint research centers between the two countries that contribute to achieving the horizons and objectives of the Silk Road Project.

The research sample supported the necessity of the Sino-Algerian research and study centers with 92% and the statement: The establishment of research and bilateral studies centers between China and Algeria facilitates visions, consolidates ideas, embodies them, and monitors their development over time.

Percentage of 86% in the expression: In the field of education and university education, the partnership between China and Algeria helps to develop and embody the various bilateral

agreements through deepening thought and culture and through the development of joint scientific research between the two countries.

Percentage of 95% in the statement: The partnership with China contributes, in the long term, in linking various sectors with each other and then pushing the development wheel between the two countries and even beyond them. This will reduce the economic, political, and even educational and cultural dependence in Algeria. What China has done in the development of facilities and infrastructure especially land, sea, and air transport, is a natural step for the country to play a distinguished economic and political role globally. The establishment of the Silk Fund also constitutes the composition of the executive arm of the dream of the reconstruction of the Silk Road (Ria,n.d).

With the accession of Algeria, China confirms that 90 countries have so far joined the huge project promoted as a new way to support global development, where she has invested more than one trillion dollars for it.

According to official data, the volume of Chinese companies' investment in Algeria is about \$ 10 billion. In November 2018, Algeria signed a partnership agreement with China to build a phosphate plant in the east of the country.

V.CONCLUSION:

1.Theoverall result of the study: There is a clear response to the views of sociology professors in various Algerian universities on the positivity of this relationship ,i.e., the Silk Road as a project in the process of completion through the agreements underlined between the two countries, because Algeria, in the light of the popular movement that she experienced , she wants strongly to rebuild her economy and provide a decent life for her people, especially in light of the crisis that she lives in.

2. Suggestions: We can present some appropriate suggestions like:

1 - Establishing centers of forward-looking researches which include many university teachers of various specializations. They would provide areas to invest in, strengthen the ministries of research that are related to higher education or education and teaching by adopting successful economic models and study them, and study the ability to negotiate with them and achieve goals for the benefit the two countries and even neighboring ones.

2- Including Chinese culture in the curriculum as a means to link and serve people through the curriculum.

3-Establishing joint international scientific journals between China and Algeria .The journals include researches and studies that achieve sustainable development and human development. They help too in the mutual benefit between Algerian and Chinese research centers and even between other countries that are concerned with improving the quality of their people's life

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