

The exploits of the Barbarossa brothers and the founding of the regency of Algiers: 1516-1533

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.Reçu le: 28.04.2017 -.Expertisé le: 30.06.2018 -.Accepté et publié le: 18.02.2019

Abstract

After the fall of Granada in 1492, Spain began the colonization of America on the one hand, and continued its Reconquista by taking over multiple ports of the Algerian coast forcing the cities of Ténès, Mostaganem and Cherchell to pay tribute, on the other hand. Spain also annexed several coastal towns: Mers El Kebir in 1505, Oran in 1509 and Béjaïa in 1510. The residents of Algiers appealed to the Barbarossa brothers to stop this expansion. Arudj Barbarossa had already rescued thousands of Muslims fleeing the Spanish inquisition by transporting them to North Africa between 1504 and 1510.

Our article aims to identify the achievements of the Barbarossa brothers from the foundation of the Regency of Algiers in 1516 to the end of power of Kheir-Eddin in Algiers in 1533. The Quincentenary of the creation of the Regency of Algiers is an opportunity to put the spotlight on the military contribution of the Barbarossa brothers, which reinforced the Regency facing the Spanish Reconquista projects. The small town of Algiers was propelled to the rank of capital of the Regency and military stronghold of the Sublime Porte facing the hegemony of the Spanish Empire. Thanks to the port it was provided, its fleet and its army, Algiers could then engage in its own defense against the European pillage of its coastal regions. Between 1516 and 1830, Algiers which was called al Mahrūssa "well-guarded", remained impregnable by the sea and gained a formidable international reputation that would last three centuries.

Keywords

Barbarossa brothers- Arudj- Kheir-Eddin- Foundation of the Regency of Algiers-

Introduction

The fall of Granada on January 2, 1492, was a turning point in history. It symbolized the end of Muslim rule in the Iberian Peninsula and the beginning of the Spanish inquisition and Moorish expulsions. In 1499, the inquisition interdicted Islam in Granada and burned Arab manuscripts. The Moors had either to convert to Christianity or leave Spain. This is how they began their diaspora to North Africa. Most of

them fled to today's Algeria where they settled in different parts of the country.

At the beginning of the 16th century, the Spaniards continued their Reconquista through their military operations in North Africa by appropriating numerous possessions in Algeria. Mers el Kebir was taken by Pedro Navarro and Cardinal Ximenes, in October 1505. The latter also took Oran to the Kings of the dynasty of the Zianides of Tlemcen in may 1509. Bejaia was seized a year later. In 1510, the Spaniards occupied the fort of the Peñón of Algiers by the Sea, today's Admiralty. In 1512, they even compelled the Zianides of the Kingdom of Tlemcen, the cities of Ténès, Mostaganem and Cherchell to accept their sovereignty and to pay a tribute. The residents of Algiers decided to call the Barbarossa brothers, who had been installed in Tunis as privateers several years earlier, to the rescue against the Spanish expansion.

Who were the Barbarossa brothers? Why did the inhabitants of Algiers appeal for their help? What were their main achievements? This article aims to highlight the Barbarossa brothers' exploits from the foundation of the Algiers Regency in 1516 by Arudj to the end of rule of Kheir-Eddine in Algiers seventeen years later.

Their Family Background

Baba Aroudj (1474-1518) and Kheir-Eddin, (1478-1546) both known to Europeans as 'Red Beared,' were born in Mola in Metelin island (now Greece). Their father, Yacoub Ağa, a former *Spahi*,¹ was a converted Turk of Albanian lineage from Giannitsa (today Greece). Their mother, Katarina, a widow of a Greek Orthodox priest, was a Greek from Mytilene (Lesbos).

Katarina had two daughters and four sons: Ishak, Arudj, Kheir-Eddin and Ilyas. After he had participated in the Ottoman conquest of Lesbos in 1462, Yacoub was accorded the fief of the Bonova village. He became a preeminent potter and acquired a boat to trade his products. His sons became seamen committed to naval transactions and foreign maritime commerce. Arudj was the first to be engaged in shipping then, he was accompanied by Ilyas. Kheir-Eddin also began a career at sea. As for Ishak, he preferred to take care of the family business. Arudj, Kheir-Eddin and Ilyas turned from sailors to privateers in the Mediterranean to countervail the privateering of the Knights Hospitaller of the island of Rhodes.²

¹ a Turkish feudal cavalry knight.

² Idem.

Their Early Career

Arudj was an accomplished seaman.³ As he was coming back from a trading expedition with his brother Ilyas, they were attacked by a galley of the Knights Hospitaller. Ilyas lost his life in the fight and Arudj was imprisoned for about three years. He then, made a successful escape with the help of his brother.

Subsequently, Şehzade Korkut, the Ottoman viceroy of the city of Antalya granted Arudj eighteen vessels and assigned him with assailing the Knights of St. John, to counteract the outstanding scathe they were imposing and where Arudj was kept prisoner⁴ on Ottoman shipping trade. A few years later, Arudj was given a fleet of twenty-four galleys by Korkut, then governor of Manisa, to take part in the Ottoman naval expedition to Apulia in Italy. There, Arudj captured two ships and another one on his way back to Lesbos along with three galleons.⁵

In 1503, Arudj established a privateering base at Djerba.⁶ The following year, he was joined by his brother Kheir-Eddin. The Ottoman privateer brothers, adopted Tunis as a home port that provided them with a supply base, a safe wintering center and a good market for the sale of their catches. Before the arrival of the Barbarossa brothers to deliver the inhabitants of Algiers from Spanish expansion, the major ports of the country had been colonized. By acting so, Spain targeted the isolation of Algeria from the rest of Europe to destroy its economy and plunge it in a social anarchy.

In 1502, the king Ferdinand II of Aragon, transgressed the 1492 Alhambra Decree by disregarding the vouched religious freedom for *Mudéjar*⁷ Muslims. In Castille and Aragon, all Muslims were compelled to convert or be expelled.⁸ Between 1504 and 1510, Arudj rescued thousands of Muslims fleeing the Spanish inquisition by

³ He was able to speak five languages in the early years of his career: Italian, Spanish, French, Greek and Arabic.

⁴ *Hayreddin Barbarossa*, *Wikipedia* in <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hayreddin_Barbarossa> Retrieved [September, 2016].

⁵ *Oruç Reis*, *Wikipedia*, in <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oruç_Reis> consulted [October, 2016].

⁶ *Pirates and Privateers*, in <<http://www.cindyvallar.com/dates.html#Sixteen>> consulted [September 2016].

⁷ It was the name given to Moors or Muslims of *Al-Andalus* who rested in Iberia after the Spanish *Reconquista* but were not converted to Christianity.

⁸ Just in Granada, Ferdinand burnt over ten thousand Arabic manuscripts.

transporting them to North Africa. This assistance to Muslims earned him the honorific name Baba Arudj.

In 1504, the two brothers requested from Abu Abdullah Mohammed Hamis, the Sultan of Tunisia belonging to the Beni Hafs dynasty his approval to employ the port of La Goulette for their operations. The king approved with the condition of granting him one-third of their profits. The Barbarossa brothers seized Papal galleys close to the island of Elba. They also captured near Lipari, the *Cavalleria*, a warship from Sicily. The latter had 380 Spanish soldiers and about 60 Spanish knights on board. In 1508 they attacked the shores of Liguria, peculiarly Diano Marina. These performances increased their celebrity and made many renowned Muslim corsairs join them. Their brother Ishak also went with them at La Goulette a year later.

The Barbarossa Brothers And The Regency Of Algiers

In 1506, the Spaniards of Castille seized the city of Mostaganem. That was a precious addition to the kingdom's late possessions as Mers-el-Kebir in 1505. Five years later, the Spanish set up on a small island named Peñón of Algiers located in the waters outside Algiers. Selim al-Toumi at-Thaalibi,⁹ the Sultan of Algiers, was constrained to give his consent to the Spanish presence by signing a treaty and paying tribute. In addition, he was compelled to journey to Spain to swear obeisance to Ferdinand II.¹⁰ In May 1509, the city of Oran was taken by Pedro Navarro and Cardinal Ximenes to the kings of the dynasty of the Zianides of Tlemcen. Bejaia was also placed under the rule of the Spanish the following year.

In the sixteenth century, Three million among the Moors and Andalusians expelled from Spain would have been drowned in the Strait of Gibraltar. To come to their rescue, the Sublime Porte sent ships to transport them to Bejaia and Jijel.¹¹ Between 1504 and 1510, Arudj saved thousands of Muslims escaping from the Spanish inquisition by moving them to North Africa. This undertaking allowed him to be hailed in the whole Muslim world. In August 1512, the king of Bejaia called the Barbarossa brothers for assistance to chase away

⁹ He was related to the Zayyanid ruler, Abu Abdallah Muhammad VIII.

¹⁰ *African Kingdoms North Africa*, in
<<http://www.historyfiles.co.uk/KingListsAfrica/AfricaAlgeria.htm>> consulted [September, 2016].

¹¹ Chenntouf Tayeb, *Une légitimation de l'Etat en Algérie (16e-19e siècles) Le "Miroir" de Hamdan Khodja*, in
<<http://www.tasamafrika.org/pdf/yayinlar/14-chentouf-FR.pdf>> [Septembre, 2016].

the Spaniards. During the battle, Arudj was seriously hurt and lost his left arm. After an afflictive amputation, Arudj had to move to Tunis to take care of his injury. During Arudj's inactivity, Admiral André Doria disembarked at la Goulette and devastated all the ships of the Barbarossa brothers. In Djerba, the two privateers built a new fleet that let them resume their marine activities.¹²

However, their failure in the second expedition against the city of Bejaia made Aroudj focus all his efforts against the town of Jijel he was able to take to the Genoese in 1514. This town became the nerve center of his operations he mostly directed against Spain and Italy. To testify to their gratitude towards the outstanding booty brought by the two privateers, the inhabitants of Jijel offered the Barbarossa brothers the sovereignty of their town and its neighboring territories.

The death of King Ferdinand on January 22nd 1516, nourished the residents of Algiers with the hope to free themselves from the Spanish yoke. Algiers, more than any other city on the coast, was eager to conquer this independence. In that very year, Baba Arudj was invited by Selim al-Toumi to help him in his troubles with the Spanish. He responded forthwith to this appeal.¹³ Arudj entered Algiers in 1516 at the head of 1 300 Turks and a fleet of 16 galliots. The Turks debarked as allies, and Arudj became King of Algiers where he moved his base of operations.

As soon as the Spanish knew about Arudj's acquisition of Algiers, they became conscious of the harm that the proximity of such a privateer could do the trade of the Peninsula. So, they conceived of an expedition against Algiers to kill his nascent power. As Algiers had no fortification, the achievement of such an undertaking seemed unequivocal. On September 30, 1516, Francisco Vero went out of Cartagena heading a fleet of eighty ships and eight thousand troops. The mission of this squadron was to expel Arudj from Algiers. But the joint efforts of the Turks, residents of Algiers and Arudj made this expedition a humiliating failure. The Spanish had no resort but flee to their ships. As they embarked, a terrible storm struck the fleet, breaking

¹² The same year, the Barbarossa brothers succeeded in seizing twenty-three ships in less than a month, then, they sailed to La Goulette. They made a foray into the coasts of Andalusia in Spain, seizing a galliot of the Lomellini family of Genoa. Later, they landed on Minorca and caught a coastal castle and then continued towards Liguria, where they captured four Genoese galleys near Genoa.

¹³ *Les Frères Barberousse, L'ALGERIE ANCIENNE ET MODERNE Turque durant 315 ans Première époque de 1500 à 1541* by M. Léon Galibert in <<https://www.algerie-ancienne.com/Salon/Turque/013.htm> > consulted [September, 2016].

the ships against each other. Only a quarter of the expeditionary army returned to Spain. Francisco de Vero was killed by the mob who accused him of letting himself be beaten by a one-armed man.¹⁴

Arudj's Exploits And Death

Aroudj realized that the best way to counteract Spanish rivalry was to put Algiers under the eegis of the Ottoman Empire. In 1517, he then renounced to the title of Sultan of Algiers and offered the latter to the Ottoman Sultan Selim I who accepted it as an Ottoman *sanjak*.¹⁵ Aroudj was appointed as the governor of Algiers, Chief Sea Governor of the West Mediterranean and supported by janissaries and galleys. As a governor of the city of Algiers, Arudj started to organize the political institutions of the Regency. He founded the Odjack and also sought to expand his territory. He entered Ténès and declared it as part of the state of Algiers. Previously, the King of Ténés, Maulay Abu Abdallah, had attempted in vain to take Algiers away from the Barbarossa brothers. Arudj also took Miliana and Médéa and their residents acknowledged his sovereignty.

Then, Baba-Aroudj spent the year 1517 at Tlemcen, leaving to Kheir-Eddine the governance of Algiers. The inhabitants of Tlemcen had solicited him to liberate them from the usurper King Abu Zeyyan who removed his nephew Abou Hamou from the throne of Tlemcen. Arudj left his brother Ishak in the little town of Kalaâ with a strong garrison to assure his retreat in case of danger. He vanquished Abu Zeyyan, entered Tlemcen and prohibited its inhabitants to uphold any relationship with the Spanish established in Oran. Until then, Tlemcen had exclusively supplied Oran. Abou Hamou requested the backing of the new King of Spain Charles V. In 1518, he granted through Don Diego Hernández de Córdoba, titled "the marquis de Gomares", Oran Spanish commander, an army of 10,000 soldiers as military support to Tlemcen. Aware of the precarious situation Spain would face after the rupture of relations between the two cities, Abou Hamou suggested to the governor of Oran, to help him recover his kingdom in exchange of furnishing the city with the necessary provisions. The governor put a garrison at the disposal of Abou Hamou who added another troop and

¹⁴ *L'expédition Espagnole de 1516, L'ALGERIE ANCIENNE ET MODERNE Turque durant 315 ans Première époque de 1500 à 1541* by M. Léon Galibert in <<https://www.algerie-ancienne.com/Salon/Turque/013.htm>> consulted [September, 2016].

¹⁵ A term that stands for province.

headed towards Tlemcen.¹⁶ The attackers invested the place and the besieging lasted twenty-six days.

Arudj was determined to withstand this army. The latter instead of entering Tlemcen, pursued Aroudj and tightened him closely. The privateer formed his troop in a square and engaged in the struggle. That was a terrible carnage. Aroudj tried in vain to flee to the West where he hoped to find reinforcements expected from the Emperor of Morocco. Due to the fact that the arrival of allied reinforcements was delayed and that he was sieged in the city of Tlemcen by the army of Oran, Aroudj thought of fleeing to the East. But he was caught by the Spanish troops in the vicinity of Rio Salado, currently Oued El Mellah. The lieutenant Don Garcia de Tineo, pierced his heart and that was a deadly hit for Arudj. His head was sent to Oran, and his caftan served as a screed to a Church.¹⁷ His brother Ishak, appointed King of Tenes with residence in El Kalaa, was treacherously assassinated in 1518 when he left the capital that he had just delivered after a capitulation to the Spanish army commanded by Dom Martin of Argote.

In 1518, Aroudj, the founder of the Regency of Algiers died, at the age of 44. Even though he was one-armed, Aroudj was endowed with prodigious strength, inexhaustible boldness and perished with arms in hand. Abou Hamou was reestablished King of Tlemcen. He declared allegiance to Spain and pledged to pay an annual tribute.

Kheir-Eddin's Triumphs

The only survivor of the four Barbarossa brothers was Kheir-Eddin who took over from his older brother. Kheir-Eddin became the military commander of Algiers. His first political act was to declare his allegiance to the Ottoman Sultan. He made an agreement with the latter that in exchange for the assistance of the Ottomans in contending the Spanish, his territories would be recognized as being under Ottoman dominance. The sultan was offered the sovereignty of the Kingdom of Algiers. Thus, he named Kheir-Eddin Beylerbey, (King of Kings), provided him with 2000

soldiers armed with muskets and artillery. He also allowed him to raise volunteers in Turkey.¹⁸

¹⁶ *La mort D'Aroudj, L'ALGERIE ANCIENNE ET MODERNE Turque durant 315 ans Première époque de 1500 à 1541* by M. Léon Galibert in <<https://www.algerie-ancienne.com/Salon/Turque/013.htm> > retrieved [September, 2016].

¹⁷ Idem.

¹⁸ *A Brief History of the Ottoman Empire in Algeria*, in

Khair-Eddin strengthened his new power and organized his means of resistance. But, on May 15, 1518, Charles V resolved to definitively chase the Turks from Northern Africa. He appointed the marquis of Moncade, Viceroy of Sicily, to implement this project. On 17 August, of the same year, seven thousand five hundred men constituted an expedition that arrived at the Bay of Algiers. The following day, the Spaniards prehended a height located between El-Harrach and Algiers where they settled with about fifteen hundred men. Since the king of Tlemcen had promised assistance to the emperor, the Spanish waited seven days the arrival of his troops. The Spanish divided into two army corps and Algiers was surrounded by land and sea.

The troops of Kheir-Eddin were split into three corps that fell upon the Spaniards with a fearlessness that they did not even suspect. Fleeing to their ships, the Spaniards were pursued and it was a genuine carnage. In addition, the Spanish were struck by a dreadful storm; Twenty-six ships were demolished, and four thousand men passed away. The marquis de Moncade gave up his camp equipment and sailed for Ivice, one of the Balearic Islands.¹⁹ Khair-eddin and his loyal troops made a triumphant entrance in the city hailed by all its inhabitants. The Spanish defeat persuaded the Algerians and the Turks that subsequent victories could follow.

Few days after this event, Kheir-Eddin, realizing that he had completed the task for which he had come to Algiers, took the resolution to go to Constantinople, at the service of the Ottoman Emperor Selim Khan, the conqueror of Egypt. To announce the news of his departure, he gathered the main inhabitants of Algiers, including the imams, Mohammed Benali, governor of the West, Ibn Abbas Ahmed Ibn Al-Qadi, Governor of the East.²⁰ He declared:

Now there is nothing for me to do to the happiness and safety of your city, I resolved to leave you and go to pay tribute to our sovereign Lord and master the sultan of the Ottomans, so gloriously occupying the throne of his ancestors; I leave with you a troop with sufficient brave warriors who will

<<http://www.algeria.com/blog/a-brief-history-of-the-ottoman-empire-in-algeria>> [September, 2016].

¹⁹ *L'Expédition Espagnole de 1518, L'ALGERIE ANCIENNE ET MODERNE Turque durant 315 ans Première époque de 1500 à 1541* by M. Léon Galibert in <<https://www.algerie-ancienne.com/Salon/Turque/013.htm>> retrieved [September, 2016].

²⁰ He was the King and governor of the city of Koukou situated at 10 km from Aïn Al-Hammam, South of Tizi-Ouzou in the Djurdjura in Kabylie mountains.

uphold the name of the Algerian people. Your population is increased by a considerable number of Andalusian, experienced in the art of war. You have weapons, ships, munitions of war, to undertake new enterprises. The infidels, those implacable enemies of our faith, have been too mistreated in their last expedition to decide soon to come back to your land; It takes centuries to repair the damage they have suffered, and to forget such an ignominious defeat. When I arrived home, there was not a single gun in defense of the city; now, thanks to God, you have more than four hundred, that your enemies have themselves brought you, and that they were forced to abandon. I invite you to choose among you someone that you believe most worthy to command. Establish your emir, and then swear him faith and obedience.²¹

One of the main inhabitants of Algiers rose and affirmed:

Lord, the announcement of your departure afflicts us, or to word it better it appalls us and we concede that we will not consent unless against our will to let you pursue a plan that is so contrary to our wishes, and our own interests. We have defeated our enemies, only thanks to the bravery and your wisdom that we owe this triumph. Your glorious exploits have instilled the fear and terror in the hearts of Christians, your name alone is our shield and our bulwark. As long as you are among us, we have nothing to fear from infidels; But if you forsake us, their raging fury may come to shed the blood of the true believers, and our Lord Prophet Mohammed will make you responsible before God on the day of judgment.²²

Some inhabitants of Algiers, the mufti,²³ the people belonging to the body of law added their thoughts to supplicate Kheir-Eddin to give up his trip arguing that his presence will be more useful in Algiers than

²¹ Sander Rang & Ferdinand Denis, *Fondation de la Régence d'Alger, histoire des Barberousse* (Paris, 1837), pp. 128-129. Own translation.

²² Ibid . ; pp. 129-130. Own translation.

²³ He is an Imam. A man of religion.

in Constantinople and that it would be disloyal if he left Algiers. To such arguments Kheir-Eddin replied:

I am in your country as a simple stranger who has the greatest desire to serve you, but who has for protection and support, only the creator of heaven and Earth. You know what we should expect from the Sultan of Tlemcen; he aroused against us the infidel peoples, and it was not up to him that Algiers was not now in their power. Fortunately the Almighty came to our rescue; our victorious weapons struck our enemies, they have confounded the odious projects of this profane sultan of the Muslim name.; they forced him to hide his shame and his ignominy in the walls of his capital. The sultan of Tunis is not as guilty towards us, but his sentiments are at least equivocal, and, under the critical circumstances that the vicissitudes of time could bring, I speak from experience, that it is not from there that we have to expect help. However, what means do I have in my power to repel the formidable forces that day by day we can see grow over us? These means are those that my brother Aroudj possessed (...)These two neighboring States, which should join us to fight the common enemy of our holy religion, seem to exist only to multiply our embarrassment and increase our concerns. In this state of things, I only see one way to take: this city must be put under the protection of God, and then under the special protection of my sovereign Lord and master, the powerful and formidable emperor of the Ottomans, whose victory everywhere directs the steps. We will not only find with him the relief cash, but also men and munitions of war, that will allow us to complete glorious undertakings, and to finally play a role in this universe. Therefore, starting from today, to deserve this world, we have to start the *khouthe* ²⁴ in all mosques in honor of the sultan. We will then ask

²⁴ This is a public prayer in favor of the sovereign.

him his approval, to strike coins in the name of the emperor.¹

The attendees responded positively to this request. Kheir-Eddin immediately engaged the inhabitants of Algiers to send a letter to the Great Lord to express their wishes. Hadj-Hussein was responsible for transmitting their desires to the Ottoman sultan. In Constantinople where he was welcomed in great style, the Algerian Envoy received on the part of the bailiff who resided in Constantinople, on the part of the Republic of Venice, a passport that had to serve to protect the Algerian division from all enemy ships that could meet her. On his return in Algiers, Hadj-Hussein handed to Kheir-Eddin a banner and a firman of the Great sovereign. Kheir-Ed-din gathered the troops and the main inhabitants of the city, and made them part of the contents of the firman of his Imperial Highness, who declared that he had approved the faith and the tribute of the inhabitants of Algiers; that he allowed them to make the khoutbé on his behalf and to strike coins in his name; and that he established Kheir-Eddin as his lieutenant, with the title of Bey.² This is how the official Foundation of the Regency of Algiers began in 1518.

Kheir-Eddin then thought to expand the territory of Algiers. Thanks to the Turkish troops sent by the Ottoman sultan, he recaptured Tlemcen in December 1518. He also captured Ténès, Mazouna and Mostaganem. By proceeding to bring

Mudéjars³ from Spain to North Africa, Kheir-Eddin guaranteed the loyalty of Muslims. He captured Collo, Constantine and Bone (today Annaba). In 1519, he overcame a Spanish-Italian army that attempted to retake Algiers. Having then increased his control over most of the Algerian coast, he consecrated all his care to the administration of his States and organized extensive maritime expeditions.

Kheir-Eddin left Algiers and went to Jijel for three years. After his return to Algiers in 1529, he conceived the project to attack the Spanish fort on the island of Peñón de Vélez de la Gomera that controlled the north Algerian coast. Kheir-Eddin

requested that the Spanish surrender. But, the commander of the fort, Don Martin de Vargas replied that as long as there was a breath of life, the flag of Castile would float on the Peñón. The island was surrounded

¹ Sander Rang & Ferdinand Denis, *Fondation de la Régence d'Alger, histoire des Barberousse* (Paris, 1837), pp. 131-133. Own translation.

² Ibid. ; p. 137.

³ It was the name given to the Moors or Muslims of Al-Andalus who stayed in Iberia after the Reconquista without being converted to Christianity.

on May 6, 1530 after three weeks of bombing. With a fleet of thirty galleys, Kheir-Eddin succeeded to capture this fortress that hampered his ambition and constituted an obstacle to his plans. After the demolition of the fort, the port of Algiers was created. It became the base of operations of Kheir-Eddin. By its geographical position, it controlled communications in the Western basin of the Mediterranean. The corsairs of Algiers were the most feared of seagoing ships between Spain and Italy. For three centuries, this very port would allow Algiers to defy Europe and even the United States.

After the taking of the Peñón, Kheir-Eddin went to Valencia and Barcelona to provide assistance to the Moriscos at their request. In seven consecutive journeys, he succeeded to save from captivity about 70,000 Muslims who came to settle in Algiers. Leading the eighth naval expedition, Ali Karamane managed to save others, a decree of the Emperor had to expel from Spain. The arrival of the Moriscos of Al-Andalus at the beginning of the XVI century contributed to the improvement of the situation of the Regency in economic, social, and technical fields, as well as in the arts and sciences.¹

Kheir-Eddin continued to conduct incursions on a large scale on Christian shipping and land on the side of Mediterranean Europe, prehending a lot of wealth and taking many prisoners. He gained several naval battles and became famous. He established the military basis of the Regency of Algiers and was provided with an outstanding garrison of Turkish troops. In 1533, Kheir-Eddin was called to Constantinople. He proceeded to Istanbul where he was received by the Sultan Souleiman at Topkapi Palace. The Ottoman Sultan made him Pasha and Admiral *Kapudan - i Derya* "Grand Admiral" of the Ottoman Navy, and *Beylerbey* "Chief Governor" of North Africa. Kheir-Eddin then retired. The Regency was under the command of Hassan Agha from 1533 to 1545. He was succeeded by Hassan Pasha, the son of Kheir-Eddin.

Conclusion

The idea behind the creation of the Regency was mainly to get the assistance and protection of Constantinople, in case of need. It was also to increase the power of defense of Algiers and the population of the coastline from the attacks of the Kings of Spain. In addition, it was meant to strengthen its legitimacy and administrative authority as well as extend its influence within the country to bring about internal

¹ *Hayreddin Barbarossa*, Wikipedia in
<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hayreddin_Barbarossa> Retrieved [September, 2016].

change. In 1518, Kheir-Eddin established the affiliation of the Regency of Algiers to Constantinople under the Ottoman King Selim I. Eleven years later, the King Souleiman confirmed this alliance. The fact that Algiers was vassal of the Ottoman Empire was sufficient to hold in respect Western countries.

Kheir-Eddin undertook a scheme of reform that embodied the social and regional cohesion of tribes and the improvement of the economic situation. The economic crisis has been overcome by developing irrigation and assigning lands fairly to the inhabitants of the Regency under a contract. He also worked for the enlargement of his governance in the country progressively. He tried to expand his influence inland respecting the traditions of the Aboriginal people. He started to unite small states and consolidate his influence in the ports. After the Death of Kheir-Eddin, the Regency of Algiers would survive for three centuries thanks to two pillars necessary to its defense: its fleet and Janissaries.

Colonial propaganda assimilates Turkish presence in Algeria to colonialism. This is a distortion of what really occurred. The people of Algeria appealed for the assistance of the Barbarossa Brothers. Their landing at Jijel, Bejaia, Algiers and Tlemcen, was not a conquest. We owe them so much. The Ottoman presence in Algiers had helped further strengthen the Muslim religion in the South of the Mediterranean, defending it against Spanish incursions. It is mere fallacy to sustain that there was no administration during the Ottoman period. In fact, all acts of trade, land issues, justice and even marital status were transcribed and preserved by the Turkish administration of the time. This time was materialized by the establishment of a State, with its administration, tracing the borders of East and WEST, the choice of a capital Algiers and its endowment with a Navy that controlled the Mediterranean.

Thanks to the Barbarossa brothers the Regency of Algiers was founded. They attempted to stop the Spanish conquest of Algeria. They saved several thousands of Muslims from the Spanish inquisition. They established a navy and an army which helped the Regency be impregnable for three centuries. Arudj lost his arm and life for Algiers. In fact, two of the Barbarossa brothers died for Algiers. This is why the Algerian-Turkish history and common heritage should be promoted. Furthermore, the legacy of the Barbarossa brothers has to be hailed not only in celebrations and anniversaries, but it also needs to be engraved with golden letters in the chapter of the incredible history of the foundation of the Algiers Regency.

¹ a Turkish feudal cavalry knight.

¹ Idem.

¹ He was able to speak five languages in the early years of his career: Italian, Spanish, French, Greek and Arabic.

¹ *Hayreddin Barbarossa*, *Wikipedia* in

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hayreddin_Barbarossa> Retrieved [September, 2016].

¹ *Oruç Reis*, *Wikipedia*, in <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oruç_Reis> consulted [October, 2016].

¹ *Pirates and Privateers*, in <<http://www.cindyvallar.com/dates.html#Sixteen>> consulted [September 2016].

¹ It was the name given to Moors or Muslims of *Al-Andalus* who rested in Iberia after the Spanish *Reconquista* but were not converted to Christianity.

¹ Just in Granada, Ferdinand burnt over ten thousand Arabic manuscripts.

¹ He was related to the Zayyanid ruler, Abu Abdallah Muhammad VIII.

¹ *African Kingdoms North Africa*, in

<<http://www.historyfiles.co.uk/KingListsAfrica/AfricaAlgeria.htm>> consulted [September, 2016].

¹ Chenntouf Tayeb, *Une légitimation de l'Etat en Algérie (16e-19e siècles) Le "Miroir" de Hamdan Khodja*, in

<<http://www.tasamafrika.org/pdf/yayinlar/14-chentouf-FR.pdf>> [Septembre, 2016].

¹ The same year, the Barbarossa brothers succeeded in seizing twenty-three ships in less than a month, then, they sailed to La Goulette. They made a foray into the coasts of Andalusia in Spain, seizing a galliot of the Lomellini family of Genoa. Later, they landed on Minorca and caught a coastal castle and then continued towards Liguria, where they captured four Genoese galleys near Genoa.

¹ *Les Frères Barberousse, L'ALGERIE ANCIENNE ET MODERNE Turquie durant 315 ans Première époque de 1500 à 1541* by M. Léon Galibert in <<https://www.algerie-ancienne.com/Salon/Turque/013.htm>> consulted [September, 2016].

¹ *L'expédition Espagnole de 1516, L'ALGERIE ANCIENNE ET MODERNE Turquie durant 315 ans Première époque de 1500 à 1541* by M. Léon Galibert in <<https://www.algerie-ancienne.com/Salon/Turque/013.htm>> consulted [September, 2016].

¹ A term that stands for province.

¹ *La mort D'Aroudj, L'ALGERIE ANCIENNE ET MODERNE Turquie durant 315 ans Première époque de 1500 à 1541* by M. Léon Galibert in <<https://www.algerie-ancienne.com/Salon/Turque/013.htm>> retrieved [September, 2016].

¹ Idem.

¹ *A Brief History of the Ottoman Empire in Algeria*, in

<<http://www.algeria.com/blog/a-brief-history-of-the-ottoman-empire-in-algeria>> [September, 2016].

¹ *L'Expédition Espagnole de 1518, L'ALGERIE ANCIENNE ET MODERNE Turque durant 315 ans Première époque de 1500 à 1541* by M. Léon Galibert in <<https://www.algerie-ancienne.com/Salon/Turque/013.htm> > retrieved [September, 2016].

¹ He was the King and governor of the city of Koukou situated at 10 km from Aïn Al-Hammam, South of Tizi-Ouzou in the Djurdjura in Kabylie mountains.

¹ Sander Rang & Ferdinand Denis, *Fondation de la Régence d'Alger, histoire des Barberousse* (Paris, 1837), pp. 128-129. Own translation.

¹ Ibid. ; pp. 129-130. Own translation.

¹ He is an Imam. A man of religion.

¹ This is a public prayer in favor of the sovereign.

¹ Sander Rang & Ferdinand Denis, *Fondation de la Régence d'Alger, histoire des Barberousse* (Paris, 1837), pp. 131-133. Own translation.

¹ Ibid. ; p. 137.

¹ It was the name given to the Moors or Muslims of Al-Andalus who stayed in Iberia after the Reconquista without being converted to Christianity.

¹ *Hayreddin Barbarossa*, *Wikipedia* in

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hayreddin_Barbarossa > Retrieved [September, 2016].

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