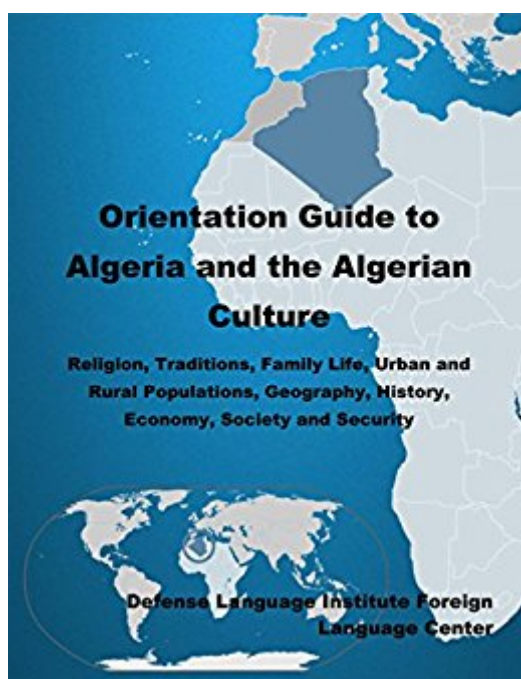


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# Orientation Guide To Algeria And The Algerian Culture: Religion, Traditions, Family Life, Urban And Rural Populations, Geography, History, Economy, Society And Security



## Synopsis

Algeria is a North African Mediterranean country populated almost entirely by Sunni Muslims of mixed Berber and Arab heritage. The population speaks several Arabic and Berber dialects and has been heavily influenced by French imperialism. Unlike some of its North African neighbors, Algeria lacks a firm, unique cultural identity and foundation. Algeria did not exist separately until it became an Ottoman-governed district. Prior to the Ottomans, different sections of the modern borders fell under a variety of regional authorities at various times. Even after the Ottomans left, Algeria was not a unique place driven by indigenous influences; rather, it was a subject of French occupation. More than a century of French colonial rule changed Algeria. It became not only a part of the Francophone world as a whole, but also a part of France. When anti-colonial sentiment spread in the middle of the 20th century, so did violence and unrest. The Algerian rebellion against the French eventually gave the country sovereignty, but cost hundreds of thousands of lives along the way. Since independence, Algeria has been attempting to define itself and its cultural identity, and has largely done so by promoting a policy of Arabization. The government has liberalized the economy and begun opening the political sphere. Islamist success at the ballot box in the early 1990s prompted the military to cancel elections, and the country eventually fell into a decade of violent civil war. Today the Algerian government seeks not only to sustain the recent ebb in violence and insecurity but also to promote greater unity within the country. This book, produced by Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center (DLIFLC), provides comprehensive information about Algeria and the Algerian culture. Chapter topics include religion, traditions, family life and differences in the lifestyles of urban and rural populations as well as detailed discussion of geography, history and their economy, form of government, society and security. 76 pages; dozens of photos, illustration and charts in full color.

## Book Information

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