

Tobacco and smoking in Algeria (a historical and economic study)

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Abstract:

The phenomenon of tobacco and smoking is one of the negative phenomena known to various peoples and affecting various groups and ages, as its origins go back to ancient times. It included various regions of the world, and spread after the tobacco herb was discovered in South America, and moved to Europe, Asia, and Africa. Despite its drawbacks and effects, tobacco cultivation has witnessed great development and spread, due to its income and profits, to the point that it replaced currency in some historical periods in some regions.

Algeria is among the countries in which the phenomenon of smoking and tobacco cultivation has spread, as some inhabitants have been eating this plant since the Ottoman era, and then it witnessed development, expansion and spread during the colonial period within the framework of the policy of directing the Algerian economy to serve France. After Algeria's independence, despite the decline in tobacco production and cultivation, its consumption has increased significantly and continuously, which will negatively affect the economy, the individual, and society.

key words: Tobacco, smoking, Algeria, industrial agriculture, the Ottoman era, the colonial period.

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Introduction:

The use of tobacco is one of the ancient customs known to man, and this phenomenon has spread widely in various regions of the world after its discovery and knowledge of its uses, including many Islamic countries, which have known it for about four centuries, despite the position of many Muslim religious scholars who forbade smoking and consuming tobacco. This phenomenon spread in Algerian society in a terrible way during the sixteenth century, that is, since the period of the Ottoman presence.

During the period of the French occupation -and considering tobacco as an industrial and commercial plant that generates profits due to its high prices- the French authority in Algeria allocated large areas to it, and this was often at the expense of cultivating subsistence crops, despite its negative repercussions and effects on the economy, the environment, individuals, and

society; But France's policy, based on economic exploitation, made it interested in expanding the agricultural area for tobacco and developing this agriculture in order to raise production and improve its quality. Its production even became part of associations and cooperatives, such as the "Tabaco" cooperative in Annaba, which played a role in improving production and introducing some modern technologies as well as marketing.

This study came to address the problem of the origins of the spread of the phenomenon of tobacco consumption and cultivation in Algeria, starting from the Ottoman period, and how France made it one of its priorities after its occupation of Algeria, and the most important developments that this cultivation witnessed after independence.

First: The concept of tobacco:

It is a plant with large cone-shaped leaves, which are used after drying in the manufacture of cigarettes, cigars, and snuff, where they are smoked by burning or by chewing. It is an American plant from the poisonous nightshade family, and its leaves are used in the tobacco industry.

The origin of its name is taken from the word "Tabago", which is the name of an island in the Gulf of Mexico. The name tobacco is given to smoked tobacco, such as cigarettes and tobacco, which is intended to wrap tobacco leaves in leaves before manufacturing it, and to non-smoked tobacco, such as saffah, saut, and tobacco. Tobacco is ingested by blowing, sniffing, chewing or smoking, and tobacco is often called smoke¹.

Second: The history of tobacco and its origins:

The habit of smoking has been known since ancient times and BC. It is reported that Roman soldiers used to have fun after battles by smoking lettuce leaves, because they contain substances that soothe the nerves. It was also said that some antiquities were found in America dating back to 6000 BC, including a pottery smoking pipe. On the other hand, some ancient civilizations knew the use of these materials in some rituals, as magicians and priests used them claiming that it was a heavenly means and a hidden method that helped reveal what was hidden in the chests, reveal hidden matters, and predict events and destinies. It was used in a perforated reed, and among those who used it were the ancient Egyptians and Native Americans in America approximately 5,000 years ago, by burning herbs to practice magic and some religious rituals. The phenomenon of smoke inhalation has also spread among people after burning medicinal plants to disconnect from the reality in which they live².

The Native Americans in America are considered the first to use tobacco for smoking, and after Christopher Columbus's expedition to Central America in 1492, the tobacco plant was transported to Spain, then it spread in France, Portugal, most European countries, Turkey, Persia, India, Russia, and Japan, and then in most regions of the world.

The rich people of Spain used to grow it in their gardens for decoration, and its leaves were used to treat some diseases such as migraines, especially in France, where it spread and became expensive after the Queen (Marie de Medici 1575/1642 AD) used it, and people became creative in using it³. There are those who indicate that tobacco entered Europe through the French sailor Nicot, so the main substance in smoking was called nicotine. In 1881, places were created to roll cigarettes in addition to the use of sulfur, which facilitated the spread of this scourge⁴.

Although smoking has many harmful effects, its history shows that its uses in ancient times were linked to sanctification, and it was considered sacred by some peoples in previous historical periods. The inhabitants of the Americas, for example, used it in practicing certain religious rituals to communicate with spirits, after the belief that the tobacco herb was a gift from God became widespread.

It was also linked to medicine, because the ancient inhabitants of Venezuela, Cuba, Haiti, and other Latin American countries believed that tobacco helped in treating many diseases, as its leaves were used to treat bad breath after chewing them, and it was used as toothpaste by mixing it with other materials, and it was also prescribed. It is considered by doctors to be one of the best medicinal plants, and it has been used to treat ulcers and wounds, and even to treat cancer. From the beginning of the seventeenth century until the end of the eighteenth century, tobacco was a major crop in Virginia, Maryland, and North Carolina. During this period, it was used as a substitute for currency in some commercial transactions through what is known as barter, which indicates its importance and economic value⁵.

Tobacco cultivation has spread in most regions of the world, especially those that have the potential for its production, such as China, India, Brazil, and some developing countries, while developed countries are witnessing a decline in the area cultivated with tobacco. Despite the negative effects of tobacco, its global production has doubled significantly, moving from 6.13 million tons in 2000 to 7.7 million tons in 2014⁶, and it was concentrated in the countries of China, India, and Brazil, while the countries of the European Union combined do not exceed 05% of global production, and this may be due to the measures taken by these countries to limit its cultivation on their lands. However, the consumption of this substance is still increasing.

Third: The history of tobacco and smoking in Algeria:

Islamic countries were not spared from the scourge of tobacco smoking, which spread in several regions such as Morocco, Egypt, Sudan, Hijaz, Yemen, and others, where smokers deluded themselves that tobacco had many benefits.

In Algeria, this phenomenon spread terribly in society during the sixteenth century during the period of the Ottoman presence, as it is mentioned that the Ottomans brought some tools used in smoking, including what is known as the “narguila” and the sabsi that were commonly used,

and what indicates that the phenomenon was widespread in Algerian society in the Ottoman era is the book “Determinants of the teeth in the necks of the brothers of smoke” by Ibn Elfakoun - in the year 1025 AH / 1616 AD - who experienced this phenomenon⁷; The subject of this book is to explain the legal ruling on smoking, as Ibn al-Fakun’s position on this issue was to prohibit it.

Al-Fakun opened his book with the motivation that he edited the book, and said that smoking has become widespread among the public and the private, and that the public is imitating the country’s pride in doing so, and that some scholars issued fatwas permitting it and did not consider it intoxicating or harmful, so people accepted it because of the euphoria and comfort they found in it. Also, the writings of some authors on the subject and the muftis on it prompted him to write down his opinion and respond to those who made smoking permissible, as most of the scholars who permitted smoking in their fatwas were, in his view, lenient in religion, or servants of those in power, and did not take into account the provisions of Sharia law and the interest of the nation. He mentioned among them, as examples, the Mufti of Kairouan and Sheikh Ali ElAjlouri Elmasry.

Among what was stated in the introduction of Ibn Elfakoun in his book about smoke is his saying: “A calamity has befallen the country, and its poison has spread throughout the cities and the desert, and it has been inherited from its evil ancestors, and it was used as an excuse for committing it at the oldest ages, when they imagined it was permissible, for it does not blindsight, but it blinds insight.” He explained that avoiding smoking is based on three topics: the first is avoiding it in terms of its essence, the second is prohibiting it in terms of its characteristics, and the third is prohibiting it in terms of its symptoms⁸.

Through his book, Ibn Elfakoun gave a picture describing smoking sessions, when people would gather with a smoking machine or tool in their midst, taking turns inhaling its smoke, which is known to the Levant as the shisha. He mentioned the name of the plant used in the smoking process, which is nutmeg, and added naffa or snuff, as well as paper smoke⁹.

Ibn Elfakoun explains that the phrase “brothers of smoke” that came in the title refers to the pipe used for smoking, which young people talk about sucking in in their gatherings, which is equivalent to breastfeeding, and he called them “brothers of smoke” about their breastfeeding that pipe, and he described those gatherings, saying that they used to use a vessel for themselves to throw away any phlegmatic or other mucus in the throat¹⁰.

Ibn Elfakoun was not the only one who spoke about smoking and its ruling, as many scholars addressed this issue, such as Ahmed El-Mukri and Abd Elkader Errashidi, who called his treatise “the Brotherhood’s masterpiece on the prohibition of smoking.” Errashidi ElKsantini died in 1194 AH / 1780 AD, meaning that he came much after the period in which Elfakoun lived, and this means that the phenomenon of smoking continued in Algerian society until this period¹¹.

Ibn Elfakoun 's hadith about smoking and his devoting a book to it indicates the spread of smoking in Algeria in his time, as this was considered an affliction, a dilemma, and a poison¹². During French colonialism and the period of resistance, Emir Abdelkader ordered burning smoke wherever it was found and forbade its sale¹³.

1- The development of tobacco cultivation in Algeria:

Tobacco cultivation existed in Algeria during the Ottoman period, and among the regions that were famous for it, we mention the homeland of Beni Moussa, as the tobacco in this region is of good quality and in high demand. Chebli tobacco (referring to the region of Ouled Chebl - Mitidja) was one of the finest and finest types, and the demand for it increased in the Arab Levant, Tunisia, and Tripoli¹⁴.

In the Algerian desert, the inhabitants used to grow a plant that they smoked in abundance. The Turks also smoked it, called kief, which is similar to cannabis. This plant is smoked after it is prepared using a thin straw. Tobacco cultivation was also concentrated in the Oued Sof region and was characterized by significant production. It was mixed with agael and truna plants to dilute it¹⁵, and with natural grasses that fragrant its flavour, which increased smokers' demand for it, to the point that some go to extremes in searching for and acquiring it, regardless of its value.

Sijilmasi mentions on his trip that one of the Bedouins whom he met between Qasr al-Ghasul and Ain Madi bought the leaves of the herb called (tabghi) by its people for a sheep, and they asked the tribe to buy a donkey from them with it. There are those who mention that tobacco became necessary for the inhabitants of the desert, with the exception of the Almoravids, to the point that there were those who offered themselves to a caravan to be a slave in exchange for giving them tobacco.

In Constantine, people used to sit in cafés in circles and move on the same straw, one after the other, to inhale the smoke. They would not blow it out until the second round had reached it, and with two pipes of this type, all members of the group would be drunk and fall into a deep sleep¹⁶.

1- Tobacco cultivation during the French colonial period:

After the French occupation of Algeria, the French settlers focused their attention on the agricultural sector, and among the crops they were interested in were tropical and tropical commercial crops that serve their economy, and they worked to develop them, and this was offset by neglect of subsistence crops, especially grains. There are even those who said that as soon as they talked about France's colonization of Algeria, it closed its markets to foreign crops, and proposals were made to produce them in Algeria, including tobacco¹⁷. The first experiment in growing tobacco was in 1844 AD, by planting seeds brought from Havana, the Philippines,

America, and Germany, in addition to Tobacco known in France. After experimenting with Algerian tobacco, especially called Chebli, I decided to expand its cultivation due to its quality and quality, as Algerian tobacco was distinguished by its quality compared to the rest of the varieties grown by the colonizers, which were distinguished by their high productivity¹⁸.

Vast areas were allocated for the cultivation of this material, which was considered a source of income for France and a support for its economy, and approximately 7,000 hectares were grown annually, with a production of about four million kilograms¹⁹. The goal of the French occupation government in this cultivation, along with the rest of the other tropical and tropical products, was to try to compensate for the lack of this. The materials she lost due to the loss of her colonies that produced them, she saw the need to pay attention to the cultivation of tobacco, cotton, indigo, coffee, sugar cane, cocoa, and other tropical products²⁰, to avoid importing them and bringing them from abroad. The climate of Algeria was not known to the French at the beginning of the occupation, and after seizing most of the agricultural lands and learning about the nature of Algeria, they became convinced that growing tropical crops would succeed and support the French economy²¹.

Since the French colonial policy in the economic field was based on exploitation, Algeria was a field for this economic exploitation, as France saw that Algeria would be an alternative to what it lost in the Pacific Islands and other regions producing these materials, including tobacco, due to its great economic importance. In fact, tobacco cultivation existed in Algeria before the French occupation, and its varieties belong to the *Nicotiana Tabacum* species, and its cultivation was concentrated in the Kabylie region, Mitidja, and the Annaba region²². After the occupation, the colonial administration took an interest in it after it occupied parts of the northern coastal regions of Algeria, and thus it witnessed continuous development thanks to the facilities of the colonial administration and the increase in tobacco revenues resulting from its export. In fact, this policy was reflected in the areas of the people allocated to tobacco, which also witnessed great development as a result of their experience in this field, so tobacco production in 1843 reached 3000 quintals²³.

When the colonial administration became clear about the extreme importance of tobacco, it gave it great priority and great financial and political support, and the agricultural area allocated to it began to expand, which we will notice in this table:

Year	Area/Hectare	Nbr of Farmers
1851	446	537
1852	1041	917

1853	2287	1688
1854	2818	2328

Source: M. Théophile Guérin, *L'Algérie au point de vue de l'agriculture*, Rochefort, Imprimerie CH. Thèze, 1856, p 49.

It appears from these numbers that the area allocated to tobacco cultivation in Algeria has increased very significantly in a short period of time (three years from 1851 to 1854), and this expansion was inevitably at the expense of the area allocated to other agricultural products, especially subsistence products.

As the agricultural area increases, it will naturally be accompanied by an increase in the number of farmers interested in producing this type, as the number rose from 537 farmers in 1851 to 2,328 farmers in 1854, that is, a four-fold increase in less than three years. In addition to the facilities provided by the colonial administration and the capabilities and technologies it provided to farmers and investors to encourage them, as well as the facilities to market their tobacco production; The year 1854 is considered the beginning of the expansion of tobacco areas to many regions such as Annaba, Constantine, Bejaia, Mitija, Chlef, Tlemcen and Mascara. Production began to support French factories to the point that it surpassed cotton, as settlers and Algerians took an interest in this agriculture, and it achieved good results for many European farmers and enabled them to achieve large profits²⁴, as tobacco prices witnessed a continuous rise to reach one hundred francs per quintal in 1850, that is, an increase of fifty. franc than it was before the occupation of Algeria; Prices continued to rise, with net profits reaching between 1,000 and 1,300 francs per hectare naturally irrigated, and ranging between 2,000 and 2,400 francs per hectare in regularly irrigated areas²⁵.

The French interest in tobacco cultivation in Algeria was reflected in the agricultural area, which more than doubled in one year, moving to 7,000 hectares in 1855 from 2,818 hectares in 1854²⁶. The increase in agricultural area, in turn, contributed to an increase in the number of farmers in this area to reach 3,799 farmers who exploit 6615 hectares in 1859, especially in the northern regions of Algeria, Mitidja, Oran, Mostaganem, Skikda and Annaba, according to what is stated in the following table:

Region	Nbr of Farmers	Area/Hectare
Algeria	2367	6994
Oran	451	565
Mostaganem	246	323

Annaba	358	403
Skikda	288	428
Total	3799	6615

Source: Duranton .M, culture du tabac en Algérie, revue algérienne et coloniale, Librairie de L. Hachette, paris, 1859, p 82.

These figures show that the efforts of the French colonial administration continued to encourage the expansion of the agricultural area allocated to tobacco in Algeria, due to the profits made from tobacco revenues, so that the area reached 4,728 hectares in 1862, and a production of 4,755,570 kg²⁷ with a financial value that reached 4,077,857 francs, high More than 54.5% of what it was in 1854, and an increase in area that reached 1,910 hectares²⁸. However, this development and growth was occasionally subject to climate fluctuations. The drought that Algeria witnessed in the 1866-1867 season led to a decline in the area to less than 800 hectares, and was inevitably accompanied by a decline in production.

Due to the results achieved in the field of tobacco cultivation, the diversity of its types, the high incomes, and the increasing demand for it, the French administration's interest in this commercial type continued, and the number of female investors increased to 1,000; The people also played a major role in this agriculture by contributing to the production of large quantities between 1872 and 1884, as shown in the following table:

Year	Europeans		Local people		the total	
	Area/H	Production/kg	Area/H	Production/kg	Area/H	Production/kg
1872	1496	1.508.787	3513	2.546.553	5009	4.025.340
1873	2450	2.843.264	3422	1.944.033	5872	4.787.297
1874	2802	2.690.509	3658	2.007.253	6460	4.697.762
1875	2931	3.675.588	3689	2.046.742	6620	5.622.330
1876	2720	3.050.676	4421	2.055.253	7141	5.105.929
1877	2460	2.782.497	4158	1.889.124	6618	4.671.621
1878	2524	2.669.330	3795	1.825.605	6319	4.494.935
1879	3180	1.226.181	6584	1.384.802	9764	2.610.983

1880	1699	2.432.318	6113	3.318.234	7812	5.750.552
1881	1893	2.120.260	6437	2.193.338	8330	4.313.598
1882	2371	2.239.025	6292	3.260.029	8663	5.499.054
1883	2278	2.250.671	6416	2.977.067	8694	5.227.738

Source: Statistique générale de l'Algérie Années 1882 a 1884, imprimerie de l'association ouvrière, Alger, 1885, p 154.

It is noted that during this period, tobacco cultivation was in the hands of the local people due to their experience in this field, because the colonists, in return, increased their interest in vine cultivation, but the people's interest in this agriculture remained, which allowed for an increase in the agricultural area allocated to this product.

Tobacco cultivation in Algeria at this stage was affected by natural factors and climatic conditions. Seasons that witness large amounts of rainfall expand the cultivated area, and production is abundant. Conversely, the area may decline and production decreases in seasons of lack of rain, as happened in 1888, when the area decreased by half and was estimated at 1699 hectares. In the following years, as the climate situation improved, the agricultural area was restored, and this shows that the people, despite their experience in growing tobacco, depend primarily on rainwater for irrigation.

On the other hand, the colonial area continued to increase between 1871 and 1877 and maintained its position in terms of area and quantity of production until 1884. This suggests that the colonial areas were dependent on regular irrigation, especially in the plains of Annaba, Constantine and Mitidja.

The results achieved were offset by the increased demand for Algerian tobacco in the French market, which increased farmers' profits and increased the French administration's interest in this agricultural activity by creating all conditions, providing and developing irrigation requirements and techniques, and expanding the agricultural area to raise production quantities.

Although the people controlled most of the area allocated for tobacco, the yield of a hectare declined significantly compared to the yield of colonial investments, thanks to the introduction of modern technologies.

In 1889, the area of tobacco cultivation in Algeria reached 9,841 hectares, and its production was estimated at 3,846,757 kg²⁹. Thanks to the quality and quality of Algerian manufactured tobacco (tobacco smoke and cigarettes), the demand for it increased and its exports rose continuously between 1889 and 1897, moving from 91 thousand kilograms to 742 thousand kilograms, that is, an increase of 651 thousand kilograms, which is shown in the following table:

Year	Quantity/kg	Year	Quantity/kg
1889	91000	1894	414000
1890	240000	1895	874000
1891	308000	1896	714000
1892	396000	1897	742000
1893	494000		

Source: Rivière Ch, H.Lecq, Manuel pratique de l'agriculteur algérien, Librairie Maritime et coloniale, paris,1900, p 310.

The following are numerical data showing the leap witnessed by tobacco cultivation in the provinces of Algeria, Oran, and Constantine, and showing the number of farmers, area, and quantity of production for the years 1880-1912:

year	Prefecture	Number of farmers		Area (ha)	Production (in leaves) kg
1800	Algiers	Europeans	758	1371	2.180.508
		Local people	6795	4358	2.953.792
		Total	7553	5720	5.134.300
	Oran	Europeans	//	//	//
		Local people	56	40	13.260
		Total	56	40	13.260
	Constantine	Europeans	326	328	251.810
		Local people	2568	1715	351.182
		Total	2894	2043	602.992
	Algiers	Europeans	1084	1699	2.432.318
		Local people	9419	6113	3.318.234
		Total	10.503	7812	5.750.552

Source: Ministère du Commerce, Annuaire statistique de la France, sixième année 1883, Imprimerie Nationale, Paris, 1983, p 587.

Year	Prefecture	Area (ha)	Production (in leaves) kg
1912	Algiers	6465	76788
	Oran	16	218
	Constantine	2685	19072
	Total	9166	96078

Source: Ministère du travail et de la prévoyance sociale, statistiques générale de la France, Annuaire statistique, Vol 33- 1913, Imprimerie Nationale, Paris, 1913, p 310.

From these data contained in the two tables, it appears that tobacco cultivation in these prefectures has increased in terms of area and quantity of production, and this will inevitably be accompanied by an increase in the number of farmers practicing this activity. We find that the cultivated area moved from 7,812 hectares in 1800 to 9,166 hectares in 1912, an increase of 1,354 hectares; The production quantity increased from 5,750,552 kg to 9,607,800 kg, an increase of 3,857,248 kg.

It is also noted that the provinces of Algeria (Mitija, Yasser, and the Kabylie region) recorded the largest amount of tobacco production, with an increase of 25,445 quintals in 1912 compared to what it was in 1880, while the area allocated to this agriculture increased by about 736 hectares in the same period. It appears that this agriculture was concentrated in the center and the east in the prefecture of Constantine (Annaba and El-Kala), which also recorded an increase in area and an increase in production compared to the prefecture of Oran, where this agriculture is almost non-existent despite the large presence of colonizers there, This may be since the region is mainly concentrated in viticulture.

At the beginning of the twentieth century, the area allocated for tobacco declined to 7,000 hectares, despite the number of female investors rising to twenty thousand, but some indicated that the area had reached record limits of 22,000 hectares. Production has reached about six million kilograms, and thus tobacco cultivation in Algeria has become one of the pillars of France's agricultural and commercial policy.

The period between 1907 - 1918, during which tobacco cultivation defined a remarkable development and a significant increase in space, production, and export, as the area reached 21750 AH in 1918 after it was 5605 AH in 1907, and the amount of production of 24017200 after it was 5056000, while exporting jumped from 3870000 in 1907 to 14244,000 years 1918.

After World War I, efforts continued to develop tobacco cultivation in order to improve quality and increase production, as the French colonial administration brought new varieties from

Germany and Paraguay, and also paid attention to fertilization, irrigation methods, etc., which actually contributed to increasing production and its diversity, increasing exports, and also increasing the number of tobacco cultivation. Farmers: There were 19,472 farmers in 1924, exploiting an area of 22,335 hectares, most of them in the city of Annaba³⁰.

In addition to the efforts of farmers in the field of tobacco, collective efforts also played a role in increasing tobacco production and development, such as the “Annaba Tobacco Producers Cooperative - Tabacoop,” which was established in 1921 and made a significant contribution to the development of the sector³¹, which witnessed growth after the First World War, with Creating cooperation between the colonialists and the local people and introducing new technologies resulted in an expansion of the area and an increase in production, with an increase in the percentage of exports, which in 1929 reached 94.84% of the estimated production of 202,150 quintals, which made Algeria one of the most important producers and exporters of tobacco in the world³².

Some settlers who were members of the Tabacoop cooperative had farmers who cultivated approximately 150 hectares of tobacco annually, while local residents cultivated smaller areas, often less than a hectare; During the production season, the cooperative received approximately 200,000 kg of tobacco daily, and between 5 and 7 million kg annually, except in years when production was minimal due to climatic conditions. It was reported that in 1927 the number of members of the Tobago Cooperative (Bonn Cooperative) reached 5,585, of whom 620 were of European origin, while the rest (4,965) were Algerians³³.

1- Tobacco in Algeria after independence:

Tobacco cultivation and production in Algeria after independence fluctuated due to climatic conditions on the one hand and the priority given to subsistence crops such as grains on the other hand. However, Algeria ranked 46th globally with an area of 5,055 hectares, according to the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) for the year 2021. The following is a table showing the development of tobacco production in Algeria between 2000-2005:

year	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Cultivated area/ha	3600	5410	5360	5498	4897	5092
Production quantity / quintal	71530	77760	58470	56740	76000	65005
Yield (quintals/ha)	12	11	10.5	14	13	13.5

Source: Zanaki Ibrahim, The Algerian agricultural sector and the challenges of globalization, Master's thesis, Ben Youssef Ben Khadda University, Algeria, 2009, p. 81.

During this period, and through the numbers contained in the table, it appears that tobacco production in Algeria fluctuates and remains limited, and this is due to the area allocated for its cultivation, and perhaps also due to the natural and climatic conditions, as we mentioned above, and this fluctuation continued until after the year 2006, and this is what we will notice through Next table:

year	Production (quintals)	year	Production (quintals)
2006	68890	2010	76039
2007	60430	2011	82808
2008	63740	2012	76295
2009	76677	2013	79102

Source: Ben Talha Saliha and Hamdani Mousa, op. cit., pp. 56-57.

These numbers in the table show that the fluctuation witnessed in tobacco production in Algeria has been offset by a significant and continuous increase in consumption. In recent years, we find that the percentage reached 43.8%, compared to 07.7% in 1978, and Algerians now consume more than thirty billion cigarettes a year. Thus, the tobacco market witnessed significant growth, estimated at 3.4% in 2014, with a value of \$2.345 billion. The National Tobacco and Sulfur Company has a monopoly on the import of tobacco, with national production covering only 05%, while the remaining 95% comes from imports of about 210,000 quintals, which shows that there is a large dependence on imports to meet and cover internal demand, and statistics indicate that there are approximately one million Algerians addicted to tobacco. Smoking, in the year 2010, 70% of whom were not more than forty years old³⁴.

Conclusion:

From what was stated in this study, we conclude the following:

- The phenomenon of smoking and its cultivation in Algeria was widespread in the modern era during the Ottoman period, and during the colonial period, the French authorities paid attention to it and worked to expand and develop it to achieve the greatest amount of production and the greatest value of revenues through the export of this material, which was distinguished by its quality.
- Despite the amount of production that was achieved in Algeria through the various stages, this agriculture was greatly and often affected by natural and climatic conditions, and witnessed a decline in production due to drought, because the irrigated areas are few compared to those that rely on rain.

- The French administration's interest in Algeria in commercial crops, including tobacco, often had a negative impact on subsistence crops.
- The French interest in growing tobacco in Algeria did not prevent the local population from controlling most of the area allocated to it, although the yield per hectare declined significantly compared to the yield of colonial investments due to the introduction of modern technologies.
- Tobacco cultivation was concentrated in the center and the east in the Constantine prefecture (Annaba and El-Kala), while in the west in the Oran prefecture, this cultivation was almost non-existent despite the heavy presence of colonialists there, this may be because the region is mainly concentrated in viticulture.
- After the independence of Algeria, despite the decline in tobacco production and cultivation, its consumption continued to increase, affecting various age groups, which led to dependence on imports to provide it, despite the existence of laws, decrees, and procedures intended to limit this phenomenon.
- Despite the negative effects of tobacco, its global production has doubled and is concentrated in China, India, Brazil, and some developing countries, while the countries of the European Union and developed countries have little production due to the measures they have taken to limit its cultivation on their lands, in addition to the laws it has enacted that prohibit smoking in public and closed places, and other measures; However, the consumption of this substance is still increasing.

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