

by 1848 the whole of the populated area in the North had been occupied. Since the Berbers South of this area continued occasional raids against the colonists and the natives to their North, the French progressively occupied more and more of the country, until in the early twentieth century nearly the whole of the country was pacified.

Colonization was fairly rapid, there being 25,000 Europeans in Algeria by 1839. At first there was large-scale exploitation and financial speculation, raising land values to such an extent that natives abandoned their lands without regard to tribal rights and economic necessity. Gradually, however, certain lands were made by law inalienable, in order that Europeans should not indiscriminately dispossess the natives. Under this new policy, the European population increased to 107,000 in 1847, and has increased steadily since then.

ADMINISTRATION

"Unlike Tunisia and Morocco, which are protectorates administered by the French Foreign Office, Algeria is an integral part of France administered by the Ministry of the Interior, and sends representatives to the French Parliament. In the past there has been considerable conflict between the civil and military authorities. Civil rule, supported by the colonists, was associated with a policy of close attachment to France in contrast to military rule, which favoured greater autonomy, coupled with greater respect for the rights of the native and less encouragement for colonization. It was very largely the desire of the colonists to be administered by the home government rather than by the military authorities in Algeria that led to the present connection of Algeria with France."

The above quotation is an excellent synthesis of the trends of thought which led to the present status of Algeria, but it can hardly be held to reflect the present attitude of the French inhabitant. The reasons will be explained in the following paragraphs, and some additional comments will be made in the general discussion which follows in Chapter Five.

The populated area of Algeria, as has been previously stated, is along the coast. This area has been divided into three Departments, similar in structure to those in France itself, and all of them sending representatives and Senators to the French parliament. The remainder of the country, the desert area, is still under military administration, and might be compared to the politically-amorphous stage of development of the Canadian North-West Territories. It is to be noted that the military administrators themselves are subject to the will of the civil authorities, through the Governor-General and thence upwards to the Ministry of the Interior in Paris.