

Algeria

CONSTITUTIONS OF THE COUNTRIES OF THE WORLD

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THE PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF ALGERIA

Commentary

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COMMENTARY**

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THE PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF ALGERIA
Editor's Note

The Introductory Note sets out Algeria's constitutional history since its colonial past and independence from France in 1962 under an authoritarian regime. It describes Algeria's transition from a socialist state and one-party system to the first and authentic democratic experience in the Arab world. It covers the upheavals of 1988, the referendum to adopt the 1989 Constitution that introduced a multi-party system, the first experience of pluralist parliamentary elections in 1991, the failure of the democratic process in the early 1990s, and the constitutional review of 1996 that gave birth to a Parliament composed of two chambers and a semi-presidential regime with a 'restricted parliament'. It describes the constitutional revisions of 2002 and 2008, that were aimed at reinforcing general freedom and equality, especially that of gender, and the revisions of Constitutional Act No. 16-01 of March 6, 2016.

The Note explains that the general principles governing Algerian society affirmed by the Constitution in its current form are the republican system, popular sovereignty (thus, the people are the source of power), democratic representation, the political representation of women, popular participation, lawfulness, separation of powers, Islam as the state religion, and respect for citizens' rights and fundamental freedoms. It details the social character of the Algerian State and the relationship between Islam and the State, the particular significance paid to those principles related to religion and freedom of conscience and equality, and the 2008 revision that gave the right to women to participate in political life.

It also includes text on the separation of powers, constitutional adjudication, and international law and regional integration in the African, Arab, and Mediterranean regional area.

THE PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF ALGERIA
Introductory Note

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