Mustapha ARIHIR

GRECCAP-Groupement de Recherches Comparatives en Droit Constitutionnel, Administratif et Politique(E.A.4192), Université de Bordeaux., Université Montesquieu Bordeaux IV, Bordeaux.

"The stake of recognition in the French-Algerian external relations", work paper for the annual meeting of the Northeastern Political Science Association, Crowne Plaza Hotel, Philadelphia, PA, USA, Nov 19, 2009.

Abstract:

Since of 1988, traces of the Algerian war reappeared and influence the Algerian-French external relations. The revival of memory in political arena and media was enormous: some political parties have raised the issue, the evocation of Algerian war images was considerable. This return on the colonial period took a new dimension which has never existed before, the request for recognition of the past wrongs , considered as formal request from the makers of foreign policy in Algeria. On the other shore of the Mediterranean, the French National Assembly has promulgated two laws, one by which it has recognized the Algerian War in 1999, the other in February 2005 in which it acknowledged the positive aspect of colonization.

In fact, the evocation of memory oscillated between, enhanced memory of the confrontation and the concealment of the event in the attitudes of foreign policies of Algeria and France, since the independence. The possibility of recognizing the events is envisaged

only recently. It lacks clarity and demonstration in the Algerian French external relations, in particular, and interstate relations, in general.

The recognition and establishment of truth are seen as an effective means of reconciliation in many internal conflicts (civil war), nevertheless, it faces the uncertainty and ambiguity with regard to interstate wars.

We believe, that the failure or absence of this mechanism in the resolution of some inter-sates conflicts resulting from postcolonial period, does not mean the ineffectiveness of it. Indeed, the reality of international relations incurred a considerable evolution. Over the past decade has seen a willingness of States to return to their past which is a significant part of their identity. Thus, if the first half of the twentieth century is characterized by bloody clashes, the second shows an early rejection of the war machine, but also the increasing gestures of recognition. West Germany admitted what it had inflicted on the Jewish people, and only after the declaration of Konrad Adenauer that German-Jewish relations, began to take another turn of reconciliation and peace.

Similarly, Germany has acknowledged its wrongs to the French people. Recently, Italy has signed an agreement with Libya in which it acknowledged the wrongs inflicted on its former colony and has provided compensation.