

A new European population was born on the Algerian soil during the nineteenth century. Migrants came from a large number of European countries, most of them from France, Spain, Italy and Malta.

In the east part of the country most of the migrants came from France, but a large number of inhabitants of the cities of Bône and Philippeville came from different regions of Italy. In the west part of the territory, in the cities of Oran and Arzew, migrants from Spain were more numerous than French. And in the central part of the territory migrants from various origins were mixed.

During the first decades, the sex ration was very unbalanced: while men outnumbered women among French migrants it was the contrary among Spanish migrants.

In this paper we will use a database containing more than 11,000 marriage certificates concerning twelve of the most important cities of the Algerian territory: Alger, Blida and Médéa in the central region, Oran, Mascara, Tlemcen and Arzew in the east region, and Constantine, Philippeville, Bougie, Sétif and Batna in the east region. These marriage certificates were recorded between 1833 and 1894, i.e. during the first decades of the presence of Europeans in Algeria.

Migrants presented differences in culture, language, professional skills, wealth, but they had to live together as migrants on this African soil. In this paper we will focus on exogamous marriages. How did access to marriage occur for these migrants, then for their sons and daughters ? What was the importance of exogamy in this particular context ? What were the characteristics of these men and women who married a foreigner, and why did they marry this way ? Finally, can we consider that at the end of the nineteenth century these migrants from different country had become an united people, or did it widely remain the juxtaposition of separated communities ?

We cannot present a finalized paper since the analysis still is in progress. So we will give some results from a preliminary work on the marriages recorded in Alger between 1840 and 1852

Table 1 – Marriages according to the country of birth of the groom and of the bride, Alger 1840-1842 and 1852-1852

Bride Groom	Algeria	Spain	France	Italy	Malta	Others	All
Algeria	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Spain	1	36	6	1	-	-	384
France	13	78	459	16	3	30	599
Italy	2	20	14	31	3	2	80
Malta	3	9	1	-	50	-	63
Others	-	13	28	-	1	18	60
All	19	504	509	48	57	50	1187

Table 2 – Exogamous marriages. Country of birth of the bride according to the country of birth of the groom

	Algeria	Spain	France	Italy	Malta	Others	All
Spain	0.3%	17.9%	1.6%	0.5%			100%
France	2.2%	13.0%	76.6%	2.7%	0.5%	4.8%	100%
Italy	2.5%	35.0%	17.5%	36.9%	3.8%	2.5%	100%

Table 3 – Exogamous marriages. Country of birth of the groom according to the country of birth of the bride

	Spain	France	Italy
Algeria	-	0.2%	-
Spain	74.6%	1.2%	2.1%
France	15.5%	90.2%	33.3%
Italy	5.6%	2.8%	64.6%
Malta	1.8%	0.2%	-
Others	2.6%	5.5%	-
All	100%	100%	100%