

THE ARABS OF ALGERIA

Location: Algeria is the second largest country in Africa and the largest of the three countries (including Morocco and Tunisia) which form the region of western North Africa known traditionally as Al Maghrib ("the West"). Algeria has a population of 28,581,000, a large number of which also reside in France and other European countries.

History: Algerian Arabs are derived from the Arabs who came during the seventh century Islamic expansion westward across North Africa. Over the centuries since the advent of Islam, various Arab and Ottoman dynasties have ruled. There has never been a large number of Christians among the Algerian Arabs.

Language: Algerian Arabic belongs to the Semitic language family, as it is a dialect of the larger branch of (Classical) Arabic. Algerian is an unwritten language, as are other dialects of Arabic. French is widely used, especially in the north.

Political Situation: Algeria has been ruled by many empires throughout history: Phoenician, Roman, Vandal, Byzantine, Islamic, Ottoman, and French. Algeria gained its independence from France in 1962 after a long and bloody civil war. Then, Algeria has set up its own government, a presidential political system. Since 1992, after the government cancelled elections, the political process has been in turmoil. Almost 100,000 people have been murdered in the struggle between the secular government and Islamic factions.



A man praying in a mosque

Religion: Though nearly all Algerian Arabs are Sunni Muslims; many are secular or practice a pseudo-orthodox/ folk Islam.

Christianity: Once known as the home of "uncompromising Christianity," Algeria has become one of the most unreached peoples on the earth. Augustine, the great early Church father, was a native of Algeria. The church was once strong in this region. However, Islam has replaced the once strong faith in Christ.

	<p>Population 30,281,000 (1998) 32,693,000 (2000 est.)</p> <p>Religion Muslims 100% (Nominal Sunni)</p> <p>Christianity Less than 100 believers</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Overview Arabs of Algeria</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Status of evangelization of Algerian Arab Individuals (Awareness of Christianity, Christ and the Gospel)</p>
	<p><i>The Algerian Arabs have historically been one of the most unresponsive people to the Gospel because of their Islamic tradition and general apathy toward spiritual matters.</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">World A 99% World B 1% World C 0%</p> <p>World A: unevangelized non-Christians World B: evangelized non-Christians World C: Christians</p>