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Chronology

6430 B.C.		Neolithic Culture.
1200 B.C.		Phoenicians establish colony.
814 B.C.		Carthage is founded.
3rd century B.C.		Kingdoms of Berber tribes rule in the shadow of Carthage. Masinissa (240-148 B.C.).
146 B.C.		Destruction of Carthage. North Africa becomes a Roman Protectorate.
429 A.D.		Vandals defeat Romans and assume dominance.
533		Byzantines succeed Vandals.
647-711		North Africa embraces Islam.
909		Fatimid dynasty.
1042		Almoravid dynasty.
1142		Almohad dynasty.
1518		Algiers becomes an Ottoman Regency.
1830		France colonises Algeria.
1954		FLN launches liberation war.
1962	<i>July</i>	(05) Independence of Algeria.
	<i>September</i>	Ahmed Ben Bella and the external ALN overthrow the Provisional Government presided by Benyoucef Benkhedda.
1965	<i>June</i>	(19) Colonel Houari Boumediène overthrows Ben Bella.
1967	<i>January</i>	(03) Algerian secret services assassinate Mohamed Khider in Madrid, Spain.
	<i>November</i>	Colonel Tahar Zbiri, the Army chief-of-staff, attempts a coup d'état. The air force, loyal to Boumediène, crushes the attempt.
	<i>December</i>	Colonel Zbiri finally fails in his bid.
1970	<i>March</i>	(17) <i>Al Qiyam</i> association is banned throughout Algeria.
	<i>October</i>	(18) Algerian secret services assassinate Krim Belkacem in Dusseldorf, Germany.
1971	<i>February</i>	(24) Nationalisation of oil industry.
1978	<i>December</i>	(27) Death of Houari Boumediène.
1979	<i>January</i>	A conclave of top military officers nominates Colonel Chadli Bendjedid as president of Algeria.

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Chronology

- 1980** *April* (20) Berber Spring: several days of violent demonstrations in the *Kabyle* regions, especially Tizi-Ouzou. Students demand the recognition of the Berber language and culture.
- 1982** *November* Large meeting of Islamists in the Faculty of Algiers. Waves of arrests follow.
- 1984** *April* (13) 20 000 people attend the funerals of Sheikh Abdellatif Soltani.
- 1985** *June* (30) Abdennour Ali-Yahia presides the creation of the Algerian League for the Defence of Human Rights.
- August* (27) An armed group led by Mustapha Bouyali attacks the Soumaa Police Academy.
- 1986** *November* New national constitution.
Violent demonstrations in Constantine and Sétif. Students protest bad living conditions.
- December* Top military officers meet in a conclave to arbitrate a conflict between president Bendjedid and army chief-of-staff Mustafa Belloucif.
- 1987** *March* (1) Bouyali is killed by the Police. His group is arrested thereafter.
- 1988** *October* (05-10) Widespread demonstrations and riots. The army steps in and massacres 500 civilians. Bendjedid promises political and economical reforms to 'democratise' the country.
- November* Army generals meet in a conclave to nominate Bendjedid for a third presidential term.
- 1989** *February* (23) A new constitution allowing a multiparty political system is adopted in a referendum. The army withdraws from the central committee of the FLN.
- September* (14) The FIS, created months earlier, is legalised.
- December* (12) Several hundred thousands women demonstrate in Algiers to denounce 'aggressions against Islam' in response to a call from *Arabita* of Shaikh Ahmed Sahnoun.
- 1990** *June* (12) The FIS wins local elections with 55% of the votes against 28% for the FLN. The FFS and the MDA boycott the poll.
- July* (27) General Khaled Nezzar is nominated defence minister.
- 1991** *May* The FIS calls for a general strike to ask for changes in electoral laws for legislative elections and demands the holding of anticipated presidential elections.
Army generals meet in a conclave and decide to remove prime-minister Mouloud Hamrouche from power and to arrest FIS leaders.
- June* (04) FIS general strike is crushed by security forces.

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Chronology

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- (05) After bloody confrontations between security forces and FIS followers, president Bendjedid postpones legislative elections, accepts the resignation of the government of Mouloud Hamrouche and declares a state of siege.
- (30) FIS leaders Abbassi Madani and Ali Benhadj are arrested.
- December* The FIS wins the first round of the general elections with 47.3% of the votes (3.2 million votes, 188 of the 430 provided seats). The FLN comes second with 23.4% (1.6 million votes, 16 seats). The FFS obtains 7.4% (more than 0.5 million votes, 25 seats). The abstention rate is 48% of the registered voters.
- 1992** *January* (02) FFS leader Hocine Ait-Ahmed calls on Algerians to 'save democracy'. About 300,000 people demonstrate in Algiers.
- (04) Army generals meet in a conclave and agree to overthrow the president.
- (11) President Bendjedid is forced to resign in a military coup.
- (12) The military High Security Council (HCS) cancels legislative elections.
- (14) A High State Committee (HCE), headed by Mohamed Boudiaf, is appointed to assume power. Troubles break out throughout the country.
- (22) Interim FIS leader Abdelkader Hachani and most party leaders in the FIS provisional executive bureau are arrested.
- February* FIS militants are sent to concentration camps in the desert.
- (04-08) Violent confrontations between FIS militants and security forces.
- (09) State of emergency is declared by the HCE. FIS protests cancellation of national elections.
- March* (04) Court outlaws FIS at the request of Interior Ministry.
- April* Municipal assemblies under FIS control are dissolved.
- June* (29) Mohamed Boudiaf, HCE president, is assassinated by a member of his presidential guard during a visit to Annaba.
- July* (02) Ali Kafi is appointed president of the HCE.
- (15) A military court sentences FIS leaders, Abbassi Madani and Ali Benhadj, to 12 years imprisonment. Protests flare up.
- August* (26) A bomb explodes in Algiers airport. Ten civilians are killed and 128 wounded.
- October* The Groupe Islamique Armé (GIA) emerges as an insurgent group led by Abdelhak Layada.
- December* 123 municipalities and more than 200 councils controlled by the FIS are banned.

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Chronology

- 1993** *February* (13) 'Eradicator' General Khaled Nezzar escapes an assassination attempt.
- March* Amnesty International denounces the use of torture in Algeria.
- July* (10) General Liamine Zeroual is appointed minister of defence to replace general Nezzar. Zeroual pledges to increase dialogue with rebel groups.
- August* Sid-Ahmed Mourad becomes leader of the GIA after Layada's arrest.
- (21) Assassination of Kasdi Merbah, former prime-minister and ex-head of the secret services.
- (31) First state executions of Islamists (seven deaths).
- September* A National Dialogue Commission is created with the task of preparing a 'National Reconciliation Conference' for the choice of a successor to the HCE.
- October* FIS opens a representation in Europe. GIA warns all foreigners to leave Algeria.
- November* HCE declares its willingness to open dialogue with political movements.
- (09) 88 Islamists are arrested in France. The Algerian government expresses satisfaction to French interior minister, Charles Pasqua.
- December* A conclave of generals nominates general Liamine Zeroual for the presidency.
- 1994** *January* A National Reconciliation Conference is held. FIS is not invited. The main opposition parties boycott the event.
- (30) General Liamine Zeroual is appointed president of the state for a three-year period. The HCE is dissolved.
- February* Cherif Gousmi becomes GIA leader after Sid-Ahmed Mourad is killed by security forces.
- March* About 1000 prisoners escape from the Tazoult prison at the end of Ramadhan (mid-March).
- Eradicator generals impose their total war policy and launch a large offensive in cities and rural *maquis*.
- April* An agreement for the restructuring of Algeria's debt (about 26 billion US Dollars) is signed with the IMF.
- May* (04) 173 persons are killed in a massacre in Tenès.
- (13) Insurgents groups (GIA, FIDA, MEI, independent groups and some leading figures of FIS) unite under the GIA.
- An acting-parliament (CNT) is set up.
- July* The Armée Islamique du Salut (AIS) is created.
- FIS deputy leader Benhadj writes to Zeroual for dialogue.
- Zeroual announces a new dialogue initiative.

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Chronology

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- August* FIS leader Madani exchanges letters on dialogue with Zeroual.
- September* (13) FIS leaders Madani and Benhadj are moved from prison to house arrest as dialogue with authorities makes progress.
(26) Mahfoud Tadjine becomes GIA leader as Gousmi is killed by security forces.
- October* (29) Zeroual announces failure of dialogue with FIS leaders.
Djamel Zitouni overthrows Tadjine and takes over control of the GIA.
- November* (07) 513 persons are killed in Berrouagouia prison massacre.
Main Algerian opposition parties meet in Saint' Egidio, Italy.
Zitouni initiates a campaign of assassinations of insurgents of the Algerianist tendency within the GIA.
- December* (24) An Air France plane is hijacked in Algiers airport allegedly by a four-member GIA commando.
- 1995** *January* (13) Leaders of the main opposition parties (FIS, FLN, FFS, MDA, PT and MN) sign a peace platform (National Contract) under the aegis of the Saint' Egidio Catholic community.
(30) Bomb attack against Algiers Central Police Station: 42 dead, 286 injured. Most casualties are civilian passers-by.
- February* (20) Serkadji prison massacre. 109 dead Islamist prisoners are killed. Most victims are selected political prisoners.
- July* A wave of bomb attacks attributed to the GIA hits France.
(11) Imam Abdelbaki Sahraoui is shot dead in a mosque in Paris. The office of president Zeroual announces the failure of a new secret dialogue with the FIS leaders in prison.
- September* Hundreds of insurgents of the Algerianist tendency are assassinated by the GIA. Victims include leading FIS figures Mohamed Said and Abderezaq Redjam. This intense assassination campaign lasted till November.
- November* (16) General Liamine Zeroual elected president with 61% of the votes. Mahfoud Nahnah (HMS) gets 25.5% and Said Saadi (RCD) 9.6%. Signatories of the Rome Peace Platform (FIS, FLN, FFS) boycott elections.
(27) Conciliator general Mohamed Boutighane is assassinated.
- December* GIA explodes as insurgent groups leave and denounce Zitouni and his leadership as DRS agents.
- 1996** *March* (27) 6 French monks are abducted by a GIA commando.
- June* (07) Conciliator general Fodhil Saidi is assassinated.
- July* Zitouni is shot dead by a FIDA unit. Zouabri takes over the leadership of the residual GIA.

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Chronology

- The Mouvement Islamique de la Dawa et du Djihad (MIDD) is created.
- November* A gas pipeline linking Algeria and Spain is inaugurated.
(28) A new constitution giving wide powers to the head of state is adopted. Reforms include proportional representation, a two-chamber parliament and a ban on religious or ethnic political parties.
- December* Arrest of FIS representative Anwar Haddam in the USA.
- 1997** *January* Legalisation of militias (GAD and Patriots).
An assassination attempt on Zeroual fails.
(15) FFS leader Ait-Ahmed calls on Clinton to appoint a special mediator to help stop the violence in Algeria.
(19) Bomb attack in Algiers: 42 dead and over 100 injured.
- February* The RND, the president's party, is created.
LIDD is created
- March* (13) FIS asks the European Parliament to open an international inquiry into the violence in Algeria.
- June* (05) RND wins the majority of seats in the National Assembly. Results are contested by the opposition.
- July* Eradicator general Abbas Ghezail is replaced by conciliator Tayeb Derradji at the head of the Gendarmerie Nationale.
(18) FIS leaders Madani and Hachani are released from prison.
- August* (29) Massacre of Raïs: 200 to 400 dead, hundred of injured.
- September* Army generals meet in a conclave and wrangle about negotiations with FIS and militia control.
A military coup against Zeroual is aborted.
(03) UN general secretary, Kofi Annan, calls for 'tolerance and dialogue' and for 'an urgent solution' to the conflict in Algeria. Madani responds by offering to 'launch a call for immediate end to the bloodshed'. Authorities threaten to put him back in prison. Madani is put under house arrest later in September.
(05) Beni-Messous massacre: 151 persons are killed.
(22) Massacre of Bentalha and Baraki: 300 persons are killed.
(23) AIS declares a unilateral truce on all its military operations from 1 October.
(24) US foreign secretary, Madeleine Albright, discusses the Algerian issue with French foreign minister Hubert Vedrine.
- October* The FFS asks the UN to put pressure on the regime to stop human rights abuses and open political dialogue.

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Chronology

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Eradicator general Said Bey is replaced by conciliator general Rabah Boughaba at the command of the 1st Military District where most massacres occur.

The RND takes a majority of seats in the local elections. FLN comes second, and HMS third. All parties except the RND denounce massive riggings of the polls.

MIDD, LIDD and FIDA join the truce declared by AIS.

- December* (25) Elections for the Senate. RND takes 80 out of 96 seats.
 (30) Relizane massacres: 529 persons are killed.
- 1998** *January* (04) Another wave of massacres in Relizane: over 500 are killed in Dhamnia, Kalaa, Soumara, Benimoussa, Sidi Maamar.
 (05-06) The US calls for an international inquiry into the Algerian massacres. US State Department declares there are no plans to limit imports of Algerian oil and natural gas to pressure the Algerian government.
 (11) Massacre of Sidi-Hamed: over 300 are killed.
 (12) FIS calls on Zeroual to set up a commission of inquiry into the massacres.
 (15) The UN discusses sending humanitarian aid to Algeria. Mrs Mary Robinson, the UN Human Rights High-Commissioner, declares that the victims of massacres need humanitarian assistance.
 (19) A European Union delegation visits Algeria on a two-day mission.
 (22) Prime minister Ouyahia announces 26,563 were killed and 21,500 injured from 1992 to December 1997.
- February* (08) A delegation of 9 European Members of Parliament visits Algeria on a five-day mission.
- June* Eradicator media initiate a campaign of attacks on Zeroual and conciliator general Mohamed Betchine.
- July* (22) A UN delegation visits Algeria on a 'mission of information' lasting 12 days.
- August* Attacks in the media on Zeroual and Betchine intensify.
- September* (04) Generals meet in a conclave and decide to remove Zeroual from power.
 (11) Liamine Zeroual is forced to 'shorten his term of office'. Zeroual announces early presidential elections in February 1999 and, later in October, the date is changed to April 1999.
- October* General Betchine is forced to resign as advisor to Zeroual.
- November* Mass graves discovered in Hafiz farm, Meftah, in Blida. More than 200 bodies are found in wells.
- 1999** *January* (01 – 02) A 22 member family of nomads is massacred in Oued el-Atchane, near El Bayadh.

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Chronology

- February* (01) 20 young men including shepherds are slaughtered a massacre in Sidi Abderrahmane, in the district of Chlef.
- April* (14) Six of the seven presidential candidates protest electoral fraud and withdraw from the race.
(15) Abdelaziz Bouteflika, widely believed to be the army candidate, is elected as new president of the country.
- June* (4 – 5) 22 members of the Hadj Mokhtar family, including 4 women, 7 children and a baby are massacred in Sidi Ahmed Drouni, in the district of Mascara.
(10 – 11) A 14 member family is massacred in Sidi Naâmane, in the district of Médéa.
- August* (14 – 15) 29 people are randomly massacred and ten women are abducted in a roadblock in Bouaich, Beni Ounif, in the district of Bechar.
(20 – 21) 17 people, including 5 women and 14 children, are massacred in Ouezra, in the district of Médéa.
- September* (16) Referendum on the law of civil concord.

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