

Comprehension**Read the text then do the following activities.**

On 29 April 1827 the *dey* of Algiers, *Husain*, struck the French consul Pierre Devala on the face with a fly-swatter. This insult to the representative of France in the regency started a crisis in relations between the two countries as a result of which the French government stumbled upon one of its most important colonial ventures.

The background of the insult meted out to Deval might perhaps have justified the action. *Husain Dey* inherited when he came to power in 1818 a financial problem in the relations between the regency of Algiers and France dating back to the Napoleonic era. Between 1793 and 1798 Algerian wheat was bought for the French army through two Algerian Jewish merchant families, *Bakri* and *Bushnaq*. The arrears in the payment for this wheat amounted in 1798 to about eight million francs. The dey became entangled in this affair because the Jewish merchants were in debt to the Algerian government and claimed inability to repay their debts until reimbursed by the French. Deval, appointed consul in Algiers in 1815, did not seem capable of or interested in bringing the diplomatic wrangle over the debts to a speedy and amicable conclusion, especially since the *dey* suspected him of collaborating with *Jacob Bakri* to the detriment of his interests. The *dey's* suspicions were confirmed when no provision was made for his debts in a settlement adopted by the French government in 1820, although he made formal claims on the money owing to *Jacob Bakri*. The *dey's* hostility to Deval was confirmed as a result of the activities of the latter's nephew Alexander Deval, the French vice-consul in Bona since 1825. Contrary to the agreements under which the French merchants operated in the regency, Alexander Deval had the French factories in Bona and *La Calle* fortified and provided with cannons. The discussion between the *dey* and Pierre Deval on 29 April 1827 was thus the culmination of a long period of friction. On that occasion the *dey* was especially angered by the consul's statement that his government would not deign to reply to his letters dealing with the debts.

Jamil M. Abun-Nasr, **A History of the maghrib**, Cambridge University Press, 1975, p.236.

1) Give a suitable title for the text:

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2) What field does the text belong to? :

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3) Why worsened Algerian French relations?:

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4) What was the financial problem (French – Algerian) that faced by the Dey?.

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5)How much was the French debt owed to Algiers regency?

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6)Why was Duval unable to solve the problem between France and Algeria?

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7)What was the danger of Alexander to Algeria? :

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Write an paragraph about the history of the Ottoman pirates (The sea fighter) in the western Mediterranean,

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