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Anu Thakrar, '01
Illinois Wesleyan University

Michael Weis, Faculty Advisor
Illinois Wesleyan University

William Munro, Faculty Advisor
Illinois Wesleyan University

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**FRENCH - ALGERIAN AID RELATIONS:
THE REALITY OF GOVERNMENT VS. NON-GOVERNMENT EFFORTS**

Anu Thakrar and Michael Weis* and William Munro*
International Studies Department, Illinois Wesleyan University

This article gives a brief historical overview of the France and Algerian colonial relationship in order to assess the need for aid in Algeria due to internal post-colonial trauma and recent political strife, as well as economic and political relations with its former colonizer. It explores further the aid relations between the two countries, concluding that much of this aid was and still is economically motivated and carries with it several advantages to the donor country/institution. The paper cites specific problems regarding French government aid policy and effectiveness with regards to Algeria, which results in less efficient and effective development programs than otherwise possible.

Illustrating several problems caused by government-sponsored aid, it becomes necessary to investigate alternative methods of providing aid. One such alternative that has gained momentum in recent years is the emerging role played by Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in Algeria. The Nobel Prize Winning French-based NGO, Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF/Doctors Without Borders) that works in Algeria to aid in health and human rights is used as an example to assess the performance and accountability, sustainability, autonomy, democratization and participation of this sector of civil society as a whole. Finally, the article also takes into account public opinion of French foreign aid, illustrating the popular view that aid should be placed outside the hands of the government due to corruption and ineffectiveness, along with lack of knowledge of local needs.