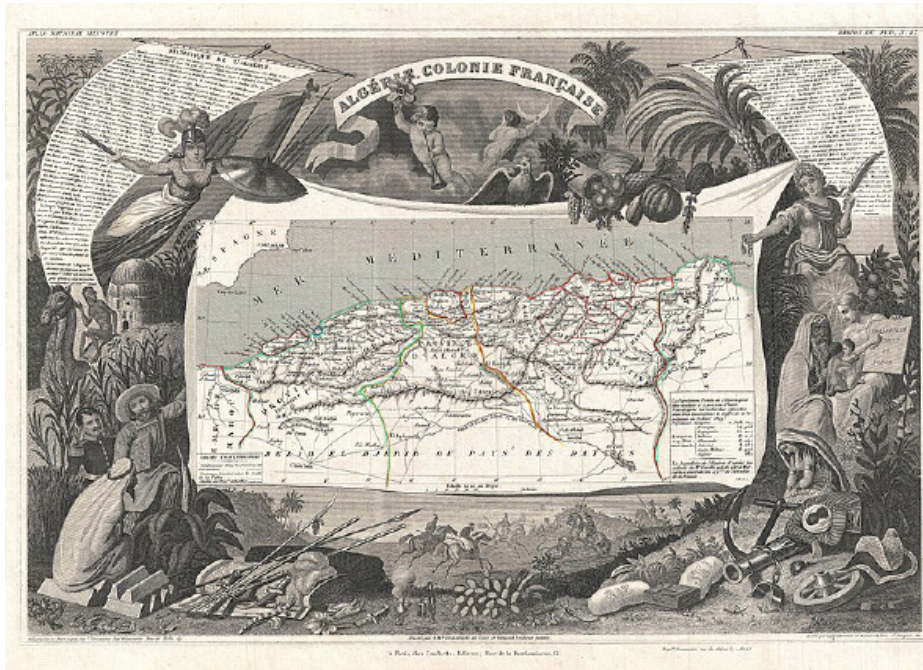


Primary Source: The Indigénat



Primary Source

Introduction

General Statut on
the Infractions of
the Indigénat
(Prefecture of
Algiers, February 9,
1875)

Introduction

Below is a document called the Indigénat. It was applied to native Algerians and was used to keep them in a special legal category. Algerians could be punished for breaking any of these rules outlined in the Indigénat. French citizens did not have to follow these rules.

As you read, ask yourself: What does this document reveal about life in French Algeria at the time the Indigénat was in place?

Source: Olivier Le Cour Grandmaison, *De l'indigénat: Anatomie d'un «monstre» juridique: le droit colonial en Algérie et dans l'Empire français*. Zones, 2010. Original text is in the French legislative records.

General Statut on the Infractions of the Indigénat (Prefecture of Algiers, February 9, 1875)



French settlers in the town of Prévost-Paradol (now Mechera Sfa), c. 1900-1903

[These are] considered as special infractions of the Indigénat, and, as such, subject to penalties governed by articles 465 and 466 of the penal code:

1. Omission or delay of more than 8 days in declaring a birth or death....
2. Negligence on the part of indigenous agents... (adjoints, guards, etc.) to inform the judge... of a crime committed in an area under their authority.
3. Failure to furnish information about a crime...
4. Failure to appear when invited to come before the judge to furnish information.
5. Failure to present oneself before the administrator or mayor of the commune, after convocation [i.e. called to assemble] by an agent of the administrative authority.
6. Disrespectful act or offensive speech towards a representative or agent of authority... even when this act or speech is not a crime and does not cause injury.
7. Public speech intended to undermine respect for authority.
8. Refusal or failure to complete duties as guard, patrol, or vigil, [when] ordered by the authority. Abandonment of one's post or negligence in the same services.
9. Refusal to pay for transport and camp guards authorized for investigators charged with the application of [the 1873 property] laws.
10. Refusal to furnish food, transportation, or agents (guardians, guides) to authorized functionaries.
11. Lack of compliance when assisting as witnesses or as interested parties in the application of the aforesaid law.



An Algerian and European man speak in front of a Kabyle home, 1889

12. Refusal to furnish statistical, topographical, or other information, requested by the agents of French authority while on a mission, or lying when providing said information.
13. Habitual negligence in the payment of taxes and in the execution of required work, lack of compliance with collectors when they make the rounds in order to calculate contributions
14. Dissimulation [i.e. concealment] and conspiring to dissimulate with regards to the inventory of animals and taxable objects.
15. Infractions of the rules regarding the registration of weapons.
16. Isolated living, without authorization, outside of the [village], camping in prohibited places.
17. Departure from local territory without having paid all taxes and without a travel permit.
18. Infractions of the rules concerning the mode of nomadic emigration.
19. Asylum given, without notifying the chief of the douar [village], to vagabonds, untrustworthy people or strangers without papers.
20. Unauthorized meetings for... religious holidays; shots fired during parties without authorization.
21. Maintaining unregistered roads or paths that have been formed through habitual use.
22. Infractions of the rules concerning water and its local use as assigned to fountains.
23. Detentions, for more than 24 hours, of stray animals, without informing the authority.
24. Slaughter of cattle and disposal of filth outside of designated spaces, slaughter of pregnant cows or ewes, non-burial of animals (domestic or savage dead or killed) at least 500 meters from a road or habitation.
25. Human burial outside of designated spaces, or at an insufficient depth.
26. Movement beyond one's village, even for the sick and the infirm, without authorization.
27. Making a knowingly inexact complaint, or renewing the complaint more than once.

Image Citations

Page 1:

Victor Jules Levasseur “Algeria, Colonie Francaise,” in V, Atlas National Illustre des 86 Departements et des Possessions de La France Divise par Arrondissements, Cantons et Communes avec La Trace de Toutes Les Routes, Chemins, de fer et Canaux., 1852, Public Domain, https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:1852_Levasseur_Map_of_Algeria_-_Geographicus_-_Algeria-levasseur-1852.jpg

Page 2:

European settlers in the town of Prévost-Paradol, Algeria, c. 1900-1903, Public Domain, https://fr.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fichier:Pr%C3%A9vost-Paradol,_Alg%C3%A9rie.jpg

Page 3:

Hippolyte Bancard, Arabe parlant à un Européen devant une maison Kabyle, 1889, Public Domain, <https://gallica.bnf.fr/ark:/12148/btv1b116002060.r=Kabylie%20Algeria?rk=193134;0>