

The Legacy of Nuclear Testing in Algeria

OBJECTIVES

1. Learn about the legacy of nuclear testing in Algeria
2. Gain an overview of France's perception of Algeria and the underlying tones of racism, especially towards victims
3. Gain an understanding about the accidents and the dangers posed by nuclear weapons

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Why did France select Algeria as place to test its nuclear weapons? How does its decision reflect France's perception about Algeria. Discuss the intersectionality between nuclear weapons and racism
2. Why does France ignore the majority of victims and victims assistance/advocacy groups in France?
3. Should Algeria ratify the TPNW? How can the positive obligations provisions in the TPNW assist victims in Algeria?

ACTIVITIES

Conduct a role playing game in which one group represents France and the other group represents Algeria. Utilize resources to engage in a debate on compensation. Prepare briefings to share with students. Further, students should have a discussion about colonial powers, and nuclear weapons. The groups should discuss why Algeria should ratify the TPNW and how that decision would impact Algerian-French relations. It would also be important to invite either a specialist or an Algeria to have a dialogue with students about nuclear weapons.

OTHER RESOURCES

<https://www.dw.com/en/algeria-60-years-on-french-nuclear-tests-leave-bitter-fallout/a-52354351>

<https://www.ctbto.org/specials/testing-times/13-february-1960-the-first-french-nuclear-test>

<https://www.reuters.com/article/ozatp-algeria-france-nuclear-20100304-idAFJOE6230HA20100304>