

Parallel between: The 'Islands Habibas' (Algeria) and 'Islands Dokdo' (Korea) and the phenomenon of belonging and possession

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The Habibas Islands, described by Jacques Cousteau as one of "one lost last 100 stones of the Mediterranean", are a group of Algerian islands. They are located near to the coast around Oran, about ten kilometers offshore.



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The only permanent human presence is the lighthouse keeper.

These islands are a real curiosity for both Algerians and tourists.

Each summer, the 'Islands Habibas' or 'Kheira Islands' are visited by many tourists, but for lack of adequate transportation, the crowd remains modest. The crossing takes less than an hour.

These islands were at all times under Algerian sovereignty and are not subject to any conflict with any neighboring country



UNLIKE THE DOKDO ISLANDS

- Double name: Korean and Japanese
- Claimed by both countries.
- limited public access

Comparison of Dokdo Islands and those called Habibas or Kheira Islands is purely sentimental order: in fact, Algerian just as Korean devotes a great emotional attachment to these bits of uninhabited rocks lost in the middle of the sea.

Practically almost all Algerian know these islands but the name speaks for experiencing a strong sense, besides unexplained, pride and belonging.

This sense of belonging and ownership that I would describe as exaggerated, could be explained by the fact that it is the only major island in Algeria.



Exhibition of the Algerian flag, as if to confirm the membership of these Islands to Algeria, although they are not claimed by any other country!

Unlike the people's attachment to the Korean Dokdo Islands which is explained by the affection the people have for these islands with a controversial history, accentuated by the fact of the questioning of its sovereignty by Japan which also claims these islands.

Some examples recently recorded confirm this hypothesis.

EXAMPLE: CASE OF MOROCCO AND SPAIN AND ALSO THE CASE OF EGYPT.

Morocco and Spain example

Leila Islands or parsley



For Morocco these are called 'Leila' and for Spain it is 'Persil' and are claimed by both countries and are currently occupied by Spain.

Every people claiming strongly that piece of rock, uninhabited, uninhabitable and without any economic value if it is this sense of attachment and belonging!



Example Egypt

The Administrative Court of Cairo, under pressure from civil society and associations, decided that the Tiran and Sanafir islands were Egyptian and canceled the plot maritime border agreement signed in April between the Egyptian and Saudi governments and ceded these islands so far administered by Egypt.

Many states make of Boundary corrections but without that engages all this passion registered in the case of the islands

Is there another factor to explain this sense of ownership and belonging especially to the islands? Are they in a conflict situation or not? Is it is the distance from the coast, Centre, which would explain this feeling of claim and the statement, at every opportunity, possession and ownership of these islands to the rest of the country?

Are the islands a representation, a consolidation factor of national unity?

Perhaps in further research, based on a much larger scale, we can provide other explanatory material.

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