



Accession: French citizenship

In the colonies French citizenship was granted by Decree (see the *J.O de la République Française* [Official Journal of the French Republic]; see the official journals of each colony).

In **Algeria**, French citizenship was granted before 1958:

- by **Decree** taken in the Council of State:

(see the *Bulletin des lois* [Bulletin of Laws] additional section (BIB AOM 50010), the JORF (from 1933), the BO of the GGA (50191), particularly from 1900 the *Liste alphabétique des personnes ayant obtenu la nationalité française* [Alphabetical list of people having obtained French Nationality] (BIB AOM 21980)

- by **judgement** by the Court of the First Instance, 1919 law (the procedure by decree remains possible):

a) the judgements have remained in Algeria (**no copy** in France)

b) a very incomplete list exists for the Prefecture of Oran (in the inventory room, see the named directory of boxes Oran 5473, 5510-5511).

These two procedures involved changes in legal status (from Muslim status to French civil law status). Few Algerian Muslims made the demand (compulsory) for accession to French citizenship, so as not to change status (inheritance, marriage, etc.).

Note:

- Algerian Muslims had French identity cards, French passports, etc. These documents did not mean that they had obtained French **citizenship** but that they were French **nationals**.
- The military or civil servants (Quids, etc.) were not necessarily French citizens; few of the files on civil servants kept at the ANOM mention the status of citizens. Similarly the electors of the "First House" (citizens) did not necessarily have French legal status.

- The service number registers for military recruitment from the offices of Algiers, Oran and Constantine (Series RM) provide indications on the nationality of Conscripts (see the nominative database, Spahi, for Muslims).
- Notices of accession to French citizenship may figure in the civil status registers (see the Agatha civil status database).
- The collections from the Prefectures of Algiers, Oran and Constantine contain files of requests for naturalisation or accession to citizenship, *not **the decrees*** (for the decrees, see the Archives nationales [National Archives] / Paris site (until 1931) and the Archives Nationales Contemporaines [Contemporary National Archives] in Fontainebleau).
- At the ANOM, see the « Liste des personnes ayant obtenu la nationalité française de 1830 à 1920 en Algérie et en Tunisie » [List of people who obtained French nationality from 1830 to 1920 in Algeria and Tunisia] drawn up by the Amicale Généalogie Méditerranée. It only concerns **Europeans**.
- The majority of European immigrants to Algeria did not request naturalisation. Their children were automatically naturalised in accordance with the law of 1889 (so no file in this case).
- In 1870 the Jewish population of Northern Algeria collectively obtained French citizenship. The ANOM does not have lists of names or documents.
- For the **declarations recognising** French nationality passed from 1962 to 1967 by the old "French by local law status": see the Sous-direction des naturalisations, 93 bis rue de la Commune, 44400 Rezé. There is nothing at the Archives Nationales d'Outre-Mer.

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The current administration departments processing requests for reintegration into French citizenship only take into account accessions to citizenship by decree or judgement and not accessions by virtue of orders in 1944 or 1958 because these did not involve changes in legal status (from local Muslim status to French civil law status). |
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