

Predominance Of English Cotton Fabrics In Tunisia And Morocco In The Context Of The Protectorate 1912-1922

Abdelmajid DJEMEL

University of Sfax-Tunisia

Ali ELLOUMI

Laboratory : Mediterranean and international studies

University of Manouba -Tunisia

ABSTRACT

According to French and British sources, the English cotton fabrics, dominated in many years in the French protectorate, in Tunisia and Morocco, mainly between 1912-1922. This situation can be explained by several factors, Such us the continuity of capitulation régime for many years, after the fall of Tunisia and Morocco under the French dominance.

Keywords: Cotton, fabrics, protectorate, Tunisia, Morocco

INTRODUCTION

Contrary to popular belief and French historian, (**Deschanel 1936, p.259**), the Fall of Tunisia in 1881 and Morocco in 1912 under French dominance did not end European rivalry in the two countries, especially in the economic and strategic (**Marsden 1971, p.56**) fields. However, the commercial presence of several countries and especially of Great Britain has not diminished. For dozens of years, this presence has grown considerably, especially in the field of cotton fabrics. Indeed, Great Britain continued to flood the Tunisian and Moroccan market with its Manchester and Yorkshire cottons (Djemel, **2019, p.296**), while taking advantage of the continuity of some of these capitulations, dating mainly from the 18th and 19th centuries (**Djemel, 2007, 207**).

What is striking is that, contrary to what was happening in Algeria, the English presence in the field of cotton fabrics, between 1912 and 1922, in the two King ships far exceeded that of France. Strong protest from the French chambers of commerce. However, the unfavorable international context and the refusal of Great Britain to give up these economic privileges, contributed to the continuity of Anglo-French rivalries for decades in the field of cotton fabrics.

Taking these considerations into account, and by referring to the statistics of the archive of the French protectorate in Tunisia and Morocco, we will address the following problematic:

- Predominance of English cotton fabrics in Tunisia and Morocco, 1912-1922
- Factors of continuity of English predominance.

METHODOLOGY

To analyze and comment these issues, we followed the quantitative method, (Olivier, 2020, p, 76) referring to the statistics from the archive of the French protectorate in Morocco and Tunisia (institution of the protectorate), in comparison with Algeria (annexing régime).

In addition, we followed the comparative method in contemporary history (Werner, 2004, p, 156), which facilitates us the continuity of the antagonism between Great Britain and France in Morocco and Tunisia, 1881-1922

RESULTS

The economic rivalry between Great Britain and France, in the context of the protectorate, in Tunisia and Morocco was a reality. For example, importation of English cotton fabrics from England to Tunisia, 1881 -1922, know an evolution of 600%, and the Morocco know similar situation. Remains its importations from France very low, however Algeria, the majority, of these importations of cotton fabrics come from French market.

We arrived at these results, according to statistical sources of the archive of French protectorate in Tunisia and Morocco, 1881-1922.

After the analysis of the manifestation of the predominance of English cotton fabrics, we explain the factors of this phenomenon

Predominance of English cotton fabrics in Tunisia and Morocco 1912-192

Development Of Commercial Presence

We note, according to the statistics of the French protectorate and the FO that the presence of England in the Tunisian and Moroccan market has not been affecting by the stranglehold of France on Tunisia and Morocco. According to sources from the French Protectorate and the British Ministry of Foreign Affairs, imports from Tunisia and Morocco have grown considerably during this period.

However, the value of imports from Tunisia and Great Britain rose from 14,544,200 francs in 1912 to 60,894,200 francs in 1918 (A. Quai, d'Orsay, 1917-1929). This growth was not cyclical, as did the surge in growth recorded in 1922 a considerable development and reached 102,772.944 francs (A, Quai d'Orsay, 1917). This means that the growth index was 606% between 1912 and 1924.

The situation in Morocco resembles that of Tunisia. On the other hand, that of Algeria was quite different. In fact, the value of Moroccan imports from the Great Britain market in 1913 was 31,675,650 francs and reached in 1917 69,192.489(F.O, 37,7081) francs, recording during this period a growth index of around 118.4%. Import growth also rose dramatically in 1925, reaching 203,292.110f, and the growth index during this period was 541%.

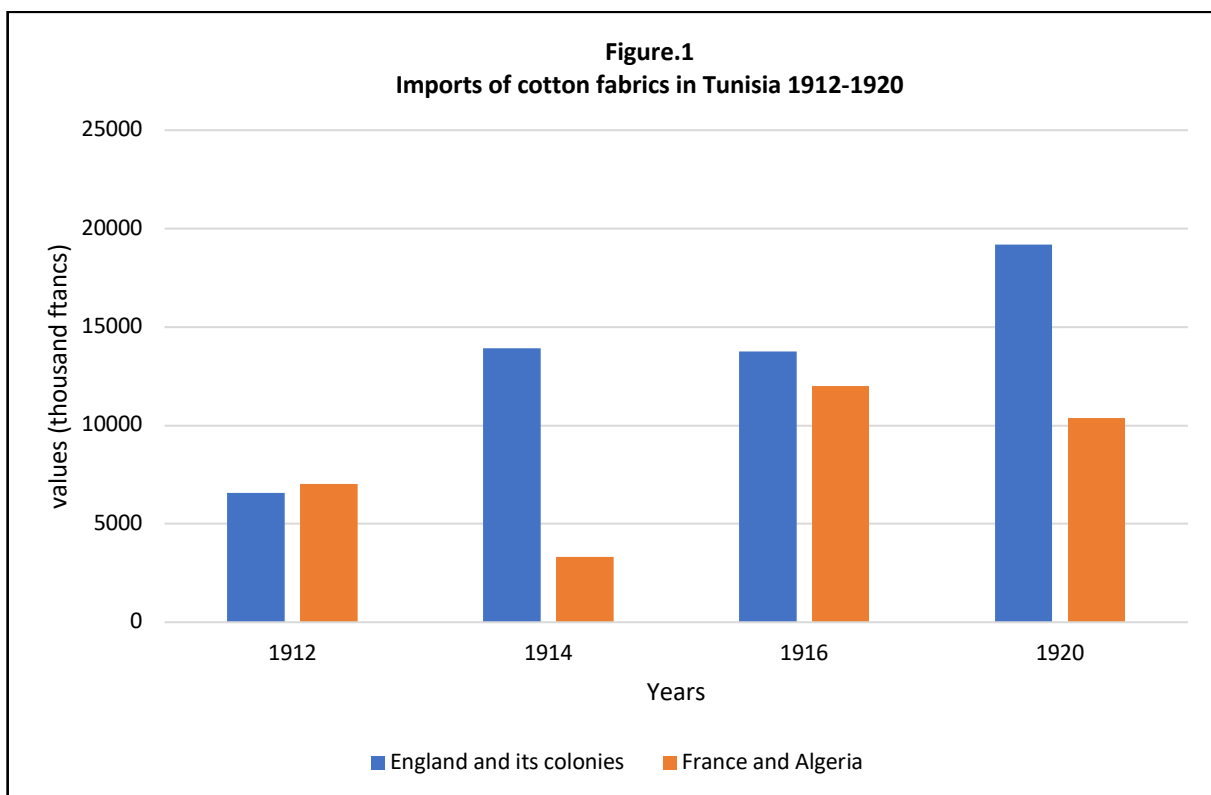
The evolution of the English commercial presence prevented the clear predominance of France in the Tunisian and Moroccan market, compared to what was happening in Algeria (Djemel, 2019, p, 367). In 1921 the percentage of Moroccan imports from the French market was 49.4 %, (Renseignements, 1922) and the Tunisian market did not exceed 30.8%, in 1918, and reached 48% in 1922 (Goldstein, 1990). On the other hand, the percentage of Algerian imports on the French

market reached 76% (Girault,1936). This competition hampered the French capitalists and traders, especially in the field of cotton fabrics

Table .1- Imports of cotton fabrics in Tunisia 1912-1920

Country	1912	1914	1916	1920
England and its colonies	6577.732	13922.933	13745.136	19203.266
France and Alegria	7022.244	3308.956	12002.903	10381.205

Source: Quai d'Orsay Archive; Ministry of External Relations: N.S Series, Tunis 1917-1929; Coil 170; File n ° 1; File title: Regulations and organization of trade in Tunisia



- We note, from the statistics and the graph above the following deductions:

- The predominance of English cotton fabrics in the Tunisian market during this period was important and deserves to be studied.
- Contrary to the situation in Algeria where the supremacy during this period was completely French (**QUAI d'Orsay,1900-1916**) in Tunisia this supremacy was clearly English, and it varies according to the periods.
- At the start of the First World War, the importation of English cotton from Tunisia experienced an unprecedented surge. Between 1912 and 1914 the growth index was 110%. In addition, the importation of cotton from the same market had experienced a spectacular increase, between 1912 and 1920, in value and quantity.

The value of these imports represented roughly 60% of the total value of cotton imports into Tunisia. This is how the growth index was during this period of 200%.

On the other hand, the importation of French cotton fabrics experienced a marked decline, especially between 1912 and 1914, so the growth index during this period was -52.87%

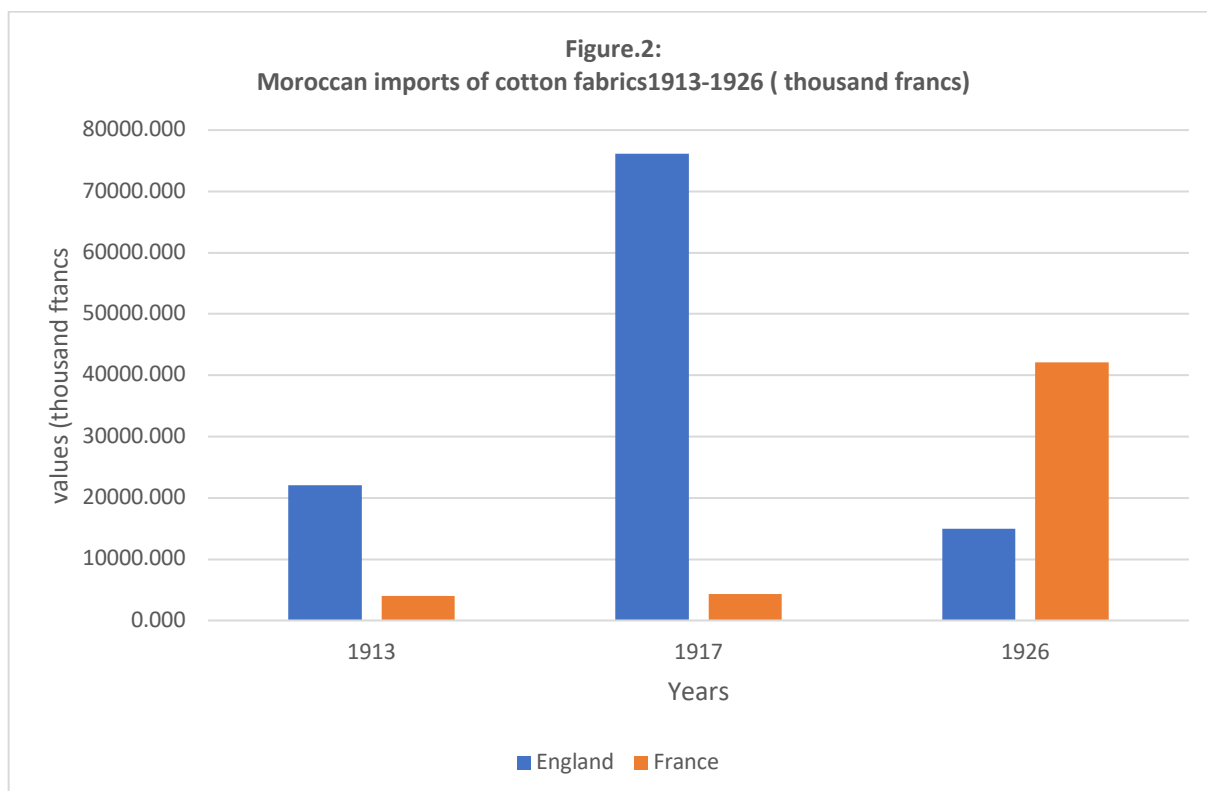
- We also note that France, in the month after the beginning of the First World War, was content simply to expand its presence, but the predominance remained English. For example, the value of Tunisia's imports of English cotton goods was almost double that of France. This alarming situation prompted the government to take several measures to put an end to this competition and for the first time Tunisian imports of cotton goods from the French market exceeded that of England in 1922. (Quai d'Orsay, 1917-1929).

The situation in Morocco was largely extent, comparable to that of Tunisia, despite some differences.

Table .2- Moroccan imports of cotton fabrics 1913-1926 (thousand francs)

Country	1913	1917	1926
England	22110.000	76110.113	15000.430
France	4015.612	4290.000	42062.116

Source : François Bernard ; *Economic and Agricultural Morocco*, Paris 1917 Henry Dugard; *Economic Morocco*, 1919, Paris 1919 Colonial Information No. 1



Wherefrom the protectorate statistics, and also from the graph above, that the Moroccan cotton market was under the monopoly of England and its colonies.

This presence of English cotton fabrics in the Moroccan market, far exceeded that of France, and was reinforced between 1913 and the beginning of the twenties, the proof, in 1914 the total value of the imports of the cotton fabrics in Morocco was equivalent, to 25 million francs, 84% of which comes from the English market (**Reuliere, 1917, p.12**). This predominance remained flagrant at the beginning of the Twenties and also represented in 1921 84% of the total value of imports of cotton goods in Morocco, while the share of France did not exceed 15% of the total value of Moroccan imports (Renseignements,1922).

This situation in Morocco was not temporary, which is why the growth index of Moroccan imports in the field of cotton, between 1917 and 1926 was equal to 110%.

The Moroccan import of French cotton fabrics was very low, and could only slowly strengthen its presence as early as 1926.

Contrary to what happened in Tunisia, this predominance of English cotton fabrics on the Moroccan market remained dizzying between 1920 and 1930.

This monopoly of English cotton on the Tunisian and Moroccan market dates from the second half of the 19th century and is explained by several factors which we will focus on.

Factors of the predominance of English cotton fabrics

Particularity Of The Customs Procedure

This simulation between the situation in Morocco and Tunisia, can be explained by several factors such as the customs regime. Indeed, in 1912, Morocco found itself in a situation similar to that of Tunisian 1881 (**Danon, 1950, p.130**). In fact, the regency of Tunisia, at the beginning of the Protectorate, was linked to the various powers by more or less old treaties, which all stipulated the most-favored-nation clause, and prohibited France to levy prices of customs higher the 8%. Ad valorem (i.e., must not exceed 8% of final price). In addition, its, also interesting to note, that the situation of Great Britain was quite special, because it was the only power, which did not renounce its commercial and strategic capitulatory privileges until 1897 (Djemel, 2019, p.123).

At the start of France's expedition to Tunisia, Great Britain made its recognition of the French Protectorate in Tunisia dependent on the maintenance of its privileges (Marsden, 1971, p, 93). However, France and to avoid any complications on an international scale, agreed to give him assurances. This is how the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Barthelemy Saint Hilaire, when he received the British Ambassador to France in Paris on May 10, 1881, told him that his government had no intention of creating a military port in Bizerte, and that all treaties between the regency and the other European powers will be maintained and respected. And by article 4 of the Treaty of Bardo of May 12, 1881, the government of the French Republic vouched for "... the treaties currently existing between the government of the regency, and the various European powers..." (**Djemel, 2019, p. 157**). England continued to benefit from the privileges, of the Anglo-Tunisian treaty of July 19, 1875, article 7 commits the Bey of Tunis not to prohibit the import of the regency of any natural or manufactured product, from the States of his Majesty.

British, regardless of where it comes from, and sets customs taxes as follows: “. These products pay a maximum of 8% of their landed value, after which no tax is levied, on the Tunisian or European buyer (**Archive, 1881, p. 224**). As a result, the products imported by Tunisia from England continued to benefit from this privilege between 1881 and September 18, 1897, the date of the cancellation of the capitulatory privileges in Tunisia, which the French capitalists consider as a step. Decisive in the liberation of Tunisia from the capitulation regime. However, in reality, the treaty of September 18, 1897 granted Great Britain other privileges, particularly in the field of cotton fabrics. Indeed, according to Article 22 of this treaty, France undertook not to impose an entry duty on English cotton goods exceeding 5% of their value at the port of unloading. In this regard, it's would be noted that England, in order to renounce these capitulatory privileges in Tunisia, obtained other privileges for cotton fabrics, because there was a difference of 3% between the previous customs tariff; and that fixed the 1897 convention. These latter privileges largely explain the factors behind the predominance of English cotton fabrics in the Tunisian market between 1912 and 1919. Since Great Britain did not renounce these privileges in this area until 1919 (**Martin, 1993, p. 50**).

With regard to Morocco, the customs regime was largely similar to that of Tunisia (**Journal, 1919, p.19**). Indeed, the signatory nations of the Treaty of Algeciras in 1906 retained their capitulars privileges in matters of legislation and taxation. In addition, its would-be remembered that this treaty establishes without limit the duration of economic equality for the benefit of the countries, represented in the conference of Algeciras. But these "Moroccan mortgages ..." already real and heavy for France, were increased, by the various diplomatic acts, which mark the stages of the establishment of the French protectorate in Morocco, such as the Franco-British treaty of 1904, which stipulates for the benefit of English products, for thirty years, equality with French goods on the Moroccan market (**Lucien,1917, p.63**).

The Franco-German Treaty 1911, which extended concessions in an abusive manner, and of which England took note, confirmed this open-door regime.

These conditions, either in Tunisia or in Morocco, had contributed to the emergence of a customs regime favorable to English economic rivalry, especially in the field of cotton fabrics. It is necessary to remember that there are nuances between the two countries (**Twel, 1981, p. 27**): When Great Britain renounced these capitulars privileges in Tunisian 1919, she kept them in Morocco until 1937(Charles, 1988, p, 103). Was not the only one responsible for the preponderance of English cotton fabrics, in Tunisia and Morocco, 1881-1922.

English quality supremacy

Among the other factors which explain the predominance of English cotton fabrics in the Tunisian and Moroccan market between 1912 and 1922, we must mention the increased competitive capacity of products made in England, Mare produced at a low price. Which does not allow competition from French production, and from other countries especially in the Moroccan market, where all the signatory countries of the Treaty of Algeciras, benefit from the principle of the open door.

The reason for these special prices is easy to explain. England is first a cotton producing country, it has on the other hand an immense outlet for its cottons within its colonies, and this is why it

manufactures continuously, in enormous quantities, which hallow to sell at a ridiculous price. In addition, the English quality adapts better to the demands of the natives (**Goldstein, 1978, p.73**).

In this regard, Mr. Lucien Herbert, President of the Supreme Colonial Council, announced. ,“it’s not unfortunate, that the natives of some of our African territories do not manage to provide themselves with cotton fabrics from us, because, they wish certain dimensions that our manufacturers do not produce, for lack of wanting to make some modifications to the tools, (**Bulleitein, 1926**) for this purpose ”.

It is certain that this situation contributes to the predominance of English cotton fabrics in the Tunisian and Moroccan market. But there are other factors, which push Moroccans and Tunisians to import from England products that they could get from France such as:

- Commercial credits granted by Manchester exporters to Moroccan and Tunisian customers, which are much more flexible than, those granted by French exporters (**Djemel, 2019, p367**).
- French manufacturers are ill-disposed towards Moroccan and Tunisian customers, whom they consider "bad from a credit point of view. "As a result, a tiny over drafts granted to the trader from Morocco and Tunisia.
- The manufacturing and transport times for French cotton fabrics are often too long (three weeks or even a month and a half at least), because the English transport was very developed in comparison with French transport, which was destroyed in the first word war (**Bernard,1917, p.76**).

In the end, according to the trade statistics of Morocco and Tunisia, between 1881-1922an, we confirm that the continuous rivalry between France and England is a realty.

DISCUSSION

The quantitative method makes easier for us to understand the reality of Franco –British rivalry, in Morocco and Tunisia, in the field of cotton fabrics 1881-1922.

The transformation of statistics into graphics shows the reality of the predominance of English cotton fabrics, in Tunisia and Morocco.

In addition to comparing this situation in Tunisia and Morocco with Algeria in the same period, we can confirm, the protectorate is an institution of imperialist period (Sammut, 1983, 1983)

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, it is necessary to recall, that the phenomenon of this predominance of English cotton in the context of the French protectorate in Tunisia and Morocco, is a phenomenon linked to the protectorate, which is a method of colonization linked to imperialism. Indeed, to ensure the supremacy of French capitalism in Morocco and Tunisia, France followed a method of colonization, which largely adapted to the international context. By making concessions to England and Italy. France sometimes called into question its commercial preponderance, in Tunisia and Morocco in particular in the field of cotton. This rivalry provoked enormous protests, especially from French traders and industrialists, but the complexity of the international situation and the refusal of Great Britain to renounce these capitulatory privileges contributed to the continuity of the predominance of English cotton fabrics for decades in Tunisia and Morocco.

Bibliographie

Archive de Qu'ai d'Orsay, Ministère des Relations extérieures, Tunisie 1917-1929, bobine 170, commerce extérieur de la Tunisie.

Archive du Quai d'Orsay, Ministère des Relations extérieures : Série, Tunisie, 1900-1916, Dossier n°1, dates, 1913-1912

Archive du Quai d'Orsay, Ministère des Relations extérieures : Série, N.S ,Tunis 1919-1929

Archive nationale, Répertoire des archives historiques de la Tunisie.Dossier,403-carton224.

Bulletin de l'Afrique n°8,1926

DJEMEL Abdelmajid (2019) La Grande Bretagne et le Maghreb : 1881-1939, Publications de la Faculté des Lettrés et des Arts et Sciences Humaines, Manouba, Tunis, 2019. (En Arabe)

DJEMEL Abdelmajid, (2011), La crise en Tunisie et au Maroc pendant la deuxième moitié du XIXème siècle et les réactions de la Grande -Bretagne. In, La crise dans l'histoire du Grand Maghreb, Actes du colloque international tenu à Sfax les 25-27, octobre 2007, texte réunis et présentés par Mabrouk Elbahi, Faculté des Lettres et des Sciences Humaines de Sfax, Tunis.

DANON Jean (1950), Le régime douanier du Maroc et le développement du commerce marocain, Emile la Rose, Paris ,1950.

DESCHANEL Pierre, (1986) Histoire de la politique de la France, Paris.

F.O, 37/7081: French Zone, imports and exports, 1914-1922

FRANCOIS, Bernard (1917), Le Maroc économique et agricole, Paris, 1917

GOLDSTEIN, Daniel (1992), Libération ou Annexion 1914-1922, Maison Tunisienne de l'Edition.

GIRAULT Arthur (1936), Principes de la colonisation, Librairie de Recueil, Paris.

HENRY, Dugard (1919), Le Maroc en 1919, Paris. Editions Payot.

MARSDEN, Arthur (1971), British Diplomacy and Tunis 1875-1912: A case study in Mediterranean policy, Scootsh press, Edinburgh and London.

MARTIN, Jean-François (1993), Histoire de la Tunisie contemporaine, de Ferry a Bourguiba,1881-1956, le Harmattan, Paris.

MARTIN, Olivier, (2020), L'analyse quantitative des données statistiques, Paris, Editions Armand Colin Journal Officiel 20 Décembre, 1919.

Renseignements coloniaux, n°, 10,1922.

JULIEN, Charles (1978), Le Maroc face aux impérialismes,1415-1956, Editions, J.A, Paris.

WERNER Michael et ZIMMERMAN, Bénédicte (2004), De la comparaison à l'histoire croisée, seuil.

SAMMUT, Carmel(1983), Impérialisme capitaliste farçais et le nationalisme tunisien, Publisud, Paris.

TWEL, Wedelc (1981), Two Protectorate relationships in the international community ,France and Tunisia, France and Morocco ,Colombia University