

Italian Libyan Relations 1951 – 1969 Economic Study

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ABSTRACT

This study explores the economic dimensions of Italian-Libyan relations from 1951 to 1969, a period marked by the shifting sands of post-colonial geopolitics and economic development. After Libya's independence in 1951, Italy, as a former colonial power, sought to maintain and reshape its economic ties with the newly sovereign nation. This period witnessed significant Italian investment in Libyan infrastructure, oil exploration, and trade, reflecting both countries' evolving economic priorities and strategies. The study examines key agreements, economic aid, and the impact of the oil boom on bilateral relations. By analyzing trade data, investment flows, and political agreements, the research highlights how economic considerations influenced diplomatic interactions and contributed to the broader geopolitical landscape of the region. The findings provide insights into the complexities of post-colonial economic relationships and the strategic maneuvers of a former colonial power seeking to secure its interests in a rapidly changing world.

1. Introduction

After Italy achieved its unity in 1870, it began to become an expansionist colonial state in some lands, and what helped it to expand was its internal conditions, and also after it lost its hopes of occupying Tunisia, which had been occupied by France, Italy began to look to the Mediterranean basin, which is the one that... It is considered the vital area through which Libya is controlled, and the Italians began to look to the northern coast of the African continent in general to control it, and so they began to have colonial expansionist ambitions in order to enable them to expand their lands to compensate for what they lost during their wars in order to obtain their unity.

The subject of the research entitled (The Italian role in the Libyan economy 1919 - 1969) falls within the topic. The importance of the subject comes from the period to be studied, which revealed the various activities carried out by Italy in Libya, and through these activities that brought about major changes in Libya, which transformed Libya from an agricultural country into a Advanced industrial and commercial, and they have all the services that provide ease of living for the Libyan citizen, and also how Italy was able to open its bank branches in Libya, through which its currency was disbursed in cash to Libya.

The research was divided into an introduction into four sections and a conclusion. The first section included the title: The Italian Orientation towards Libya, while the second section was entitled: Economic Activity 1911-1919, while the third section was entitled: Economic Activity 1919-1939, while the fourth section was entitled : Economic activity 1939-1945. The first section: the Italian approach towards Libya

Italy was looking forward to occupying Libya when the countries of North Africa became under the control of the French occupation. What helped it achieve that ambition was the international circumstances and circumstances that it was suffering from at that time, and Italy took it as arguments and justifications for controlling Libya (1), which prompted Italy to occupy Libya. Because of the presence of the British in Egypt, India, and France in Algeria, in addition to its ambitions in Tunisia (2).

The other reason for the Italian invasion of Libya is Libya's important geographical location, due to its proximity to the Italian coast, as it is the closest coast of the Maghreb to it. It also represents a vital bridge linking it to the interior of the African continent, separated from each other only by the Mediterranean Sea. It became a link between Egypt and Tunisia so that it could Italy was unable to stop the expansion of Britain and France in the region, in addition to the climate of Libya being close to that of Italy (3), and the Italian desire to occupy Libya was to compensate for its defeat against Abyssinia in the Battle of Adwa in 1896, and that Italy was suffering from economic and social crises,

most notably unemployment (4).

The Italian invasion of Libya began on September 29, 1911. The campaign consisted of (34) thousand men, (1050) transport vehicles, (48) field guns, and (24) mountain guns. The Italian naval forces in the Red Sea were equipped, as were the forces in the colonies. Eritrea and Somalia. The Ottoman forces were responsible for Libya, consisting of five thousand soldiers in the western city of Tripoli and two thousand soldiers in Cyrenaica. The majority were armed with old weapons that were not qualified to fight the Italian landing (5).

The Tripolitan War began in its worst circumstances. The army in the state was few in number and equipment. Meanwhile, the government thought of seeking to form a fighting force from the people of the state itself. Although the Ottoman government remained unable to send military supplies due to the naval blockade imposed by Italy, many of The Ottoman and Egyptian officers were able to cross into Libyan territory and joined the joint Ottoman-Libyan forces (6).

The Italian invasion began by bombing Derna on September 30, 1911, and Tripoli on October 3. In that month, the Italians occupied Western Tripoli, Derna, and Benghazi, and the Mujahideen launched their first attacks on the invaders' positions on October 27, 1911. Then, fierce battles continued, and those battles took place at the sites. The main battle that was invaded is the Battle of Julian, which was the first battle that took place against the invaders (7).

The Battle of Al-Hani, Al-Shatt Street, took place on October 23, 1911, and it is considered one of the largest battles in the history of the Libyan jihad around Benghazi. The Battle of Al-Kufiya took place on November 28, 1911. The Battle of Ain Zara took place, in which the Italian expansion attempt was thwarted. Several important battles took place on the coast. Libyan (8).

Italy realized its inability to complete the occupation of the rest of the state, due to the intensification of resistance there, and so it decided to attack the weakest center of the Ottoman Empire, which is the group of islands in the Aegean Sea, and occupy it on April 23, 1912. This situation became more dangerous due to the weakness of the Ottoman Empire, and on October 15, 1912, a year later. As a result of the wars between Italy and Turkey, the Ottoman Empire was forced to sign the Treaty of Auchi-Lausanne, a peace treaty between Turkey and Italy in Switzerland. According to that treaty, the Ottomans acknowledged their renunciation of sovereignty in Cyrenaica and Tripolitania in the West and that Italy would replace it. The Ottoman Sultan, as caliph, only retained the right to appoint There are religious officials in Libya, led by the Chief Justice, who is paid a salary as a spiritual leader. According to that treaty, Libya became Italian (9).

The second section: Italian economic activity in Libya 1911-1919

After Italy achieved its unity, it suffered a lot, especially in the economic aspect, and successive governments tried to find solutions to address the economic problems appropriate to it, and among those problems was the rise in Italian public debt to a very high level, which led to the disruption of many major industrial projects, and thus considered colonial expansion One of the most important solutions presented to the Italian government in order to obtain wealth and stimulate the economy and commercial activity (10).

Thus, the employment of large numbers of unemployed workers in the lands that will be seized, and from that time this policy began to represent a group of initiatives, projects, and industrial, commercial, and service activities that were officially adopted by the Italian government, including purchasing land, establishing agricultural projects, and monopolizing maritime transport between Tripoli and Cyrenaica. And Europe, and opened Italian schools there as well. This aims to achieve Italian hegemony there, first, and implement the stages of the occupation with the least amount of reactions to the Italian presence, secondly (11).

Italian activities increased during the period 1882-1896 in the western city of Tripoli, especially in the field of education, the spread of which was concentrated in recent years due to the facilities provided by Italy in that field. Italy sent scientific missions to Libya, and these missions were in fact charged

with colonial activity and opened Schools made education free for both males and females, unlike the Ottoman schools, which expelled some students, either due to a lack of study places or their inability to pay the fees. The number of Italian schools in the western city of Tripoli was five (12).

Other expeditions were sent to search for minerals, and large quantities of sulfur were discovered and iron in northern Libya, and lead, tin, zinc, silver and gold were discovered in the places leading to the Fezzan District (13).

In order for Italy to invest its capital in Libya, it tried to put the country under its economic control by opening a branch of the Bank of Rome in Tripoli, west of Tripoli and another in Cyrenaica in 1905. The bank began providing aid to farmers to improve their economic conditions, but with unfair benefits and conditions, and they bought agricultural lands from the people at cheap prices. The Italians opened branches for the Bank of Rome in Benghazi, and its activities included all economic, commercial and industrial fields (14).

They established some settlement buildings on the lands they bought from the people, such as hospitals and shelters for the sick and the poor, and they established a movie theater on the seashore and some other institutions, all of which aimed to stabilize the population. This bank was a financial institution at its beginning and quickly began to grow and expand by carrying out its economic activity locally. In the first twenty years of his life, he began his interest in financing the public services sector in Rome, such as water, gas, mills, and transportation companies such as: the electric train and buses in the cities. At the end of the nineteenth century, these services were considered services with a good economic resource, and that bank began to compete with banks. And in 1900, he expanded his activity significantly, first in Italy and then abroad (15).

That bank was able to create economic bases for Italy in Libya and provide it with justifications to protect its interests and enter into a series of separate conflicts and false protests with the Turkish authorities for following the political plans directed by the Italian government, through which a colonial leadership was obtained to make the occupation a success and achieve the invasion through peaceful penetration (16) .

Through the establishment of that bank, Italy obtained concessions in both Tripoli, Cyrenaica, and Ibdāa, with its actual activity in Libya on April 15, 1907, in the year in which the crisis of overproduction occurred to such an extent that it affected the Italian economic situation, especially in the metals and cotton sector. He established commercial agencies in every country. From Benghazi, Al-Khoms, Misurata, Derna, and some inland cities (17).

This bank was able to gain economic hegemony over Libya, as it had direct and complete control over the entire economy, and its circle of activity began to expand and included industry, trade, agriculture, and transportation, as well as exploration and exploitation of mineral resources in the country, especially phosphate and sulfur. Among the economic activities of that bank was the establishment in 1907 of the Oil Corporation. Italian in Tripoli, and established facilities in Al-Khoms, Zliten, and Misurata. He also opened in 1910 a large factory for pressing oils in Tripoli, and on August 16, 1910, he used a large mill in Tripoli that worked on supplying the Italians with flour (18).

He established an agricultural facility in Benghazi that included thousands of hectares and fifteen thousand heads of livestock. The bank was able to establish an ice factory and manufacture sponges and ostrich feathers. It was also able to establish a printing press. In addition to these activities, the bank was providing loans against mortgages in Tripoli and purchasing lands after they obtained them. On facilities from the Ottoman Empire (19).

The huge oil expansion program is proceeding apace in Africa, despite the political turmoil on the continent. However, it is developing a rapid refinery in Deir Bahn, South Africa, which is one of a growing number of such factories on the continent, economically with more energy crisis (20).

To accelerate this economic progress, the industry is working at full capacity to develop new reserves, refining and expanding the demand for oil in some of the most developed countries such as: Japan and

European countries at a faster rate than African countries, but the belief is that the market for petroleum products is in African countries with a large population and important mineral resources. It will continue to grow for a longer period of time in industrial and agricultural development, which economists believe will be faster once new governments are established. Petroleum products are expected to be the main source of energy in Africa (21).

Before the discovery of oil, agriculture was more important in Libya. About 80% of people still work in agriculture, but they are limited to the narrow edge of the land along the Mediterranean Sea. The many oases near the Mediterranean Sea are the richest in North Africa. Dates, olives, and oranges are grown there, as well as almonds, apricots, and figs. The western region of the coastal fringe is called the city of Tripoli in the West. Here cereal crops are grown, mainly barley, which forms a large part of the Arab diet, and wheat, along with cotton, tobacco, and some citrus fruits (22).

As for the eastern region of the coastal edge, it is called Cyrenaica, but there are no dates and olives at all, and some barley is grown using dry farming and irrigation methods if there is water, as is the case in most Middle Eastern countries. Water shortage is a problem throughout Libya. The average annual rainfall in the western city of Tripoli is over For example, it is only 13 inches (33 cm), and there are years of severe drought (23).

There are presses in Libya for extracting oils, and then the drying and sterilization process takes place, then canning and marketing. Likewise, hides are tanned due to the abundance of raw hides. Likewise, salt is extracted from the salt pans in very large quantities from the salt pans spread along the coast in Benghazi, Tripoli West, and Misurata, and thus it is marketed, exported, and used. Salt has many uses, including food, leather tanning, ice making, and the fish canning industry. There is also a sponge located near the Libyan coast that is processed using several industrial processes to clean it, change its color, and soften it (24).

The industrial centers established by the Italians relied mainly on the exploitation of agriculture on the one hand and the exploitation of sea products on the other hand. The Italians added to their focus and interest at the same time on vital facilities in the country, including generating electric power, constructing buildings, pumping water, opening streets, and building railways and ports. (25).

Given the scarcity of non-oil industrial raw materials and human skills, almost everyone agrees that agriculture offers the best hope. Libya is very good for olives, peanuts, tomatoes, and other crops, but with the oil boom, no one wants agriculture, and the Arabs understand very well that raising oil and sheep is not a satisfactory way to make money, such as... : Watching oil coming out of the ground (26).

The government just has to teach them how to grow things more efficiently and profitably but convince them to return to the land to start with instead of wandering around the city. What officials also fear is that the plan's focus on urban development will attract more Bedouins to the city looking for jobs than there are. , but no one sees any self-sufficient economic activity thriving from government investment. Meanwhile, money continues to accumulate and Arabs may soon receive free education, free medical care, and the like (27).

Italian trade with Tripoli, which included flour, cotton threads, cotton and silk textiles, coffee, ropes, matches, furniture, petroleum, ceramic ware, and paper, led to an increase in Italian imports from (300,000) in 1901 to (2,223,000) in 1905. It entered production. Animal trade is represented by sheep, goats, and camels. It appears that trade was greatly affected as a result of European intervention, and through this, trade routes shifted to Western ports (28).

The Italian government was able to stabilize the Italian communities and establish influence through commercial and industrial institutions, media and craft centers, and schools, and that those Italian communities in the western city of Tripoli go back to very distant origins that date back historically to the Middle Ages during the era of great trade with the Maritime Republic, and conditions were not prosperous. For those communities when they came to the western city of Tripoli, the number of members of the Italian community in 1911 residing in the state of Tripoli was (818), of whom were

(6), in Misrata (800), and in Tripoli (12), a fifth. As for Benghazi, their number may have reached about (100). Derna (12) and they were all practicing various professions and crafts, whether in Benghazi or the western city of Tripoli (29).

The Italian communities are considered the most important in the region, whether from a cultural or economic perspective, and they are the only ones that owned a number of schools and charitable institutes. As for the economic field, they were present in first-class commercial and economic institutions, and the business circles that were in the hands of the Italians were It became difficult for them and was not the same as it was in 1900, but that did not make them abandon maintaining the main threads of the commercial movement (30).

The banking system in Libya during the Italian era included a central bank (the Bank of Italy), three branches of large commercial banks in Italy (the Bank of Rome, Naples, Sicilia), and two local banks, the Savings Bank and the Bank of Tripoli (31).

These banks took over all banking operations, which included short-term loans to the commercial sector, and the Savings Bank focused its activity on agricultural credit on a large scale. This bank played a major role in the field of settler colonial policy, which was to install at least 300 One thousand Italians in Libya during a quarter of a century. As for the Savings Bank, it focused its activity on granting real estate loans (32).

The Bank of Italy decided, in accordance with Law No. (511) issued on May 23, 1912, that it opened a branch in Tripoli, and it took an approach that differed in some cases from the basic law to carry out some tasks appropriate to the needs of the colony. As for the decision issued on May 5, 1913, it granted the bank the right Working as Treasurer of the Italian Government in Libya (33).

The center's management later decided to open a branch in Benghazi. Initially, it took the form of an agency, but it later developed to the level of a branch after seven years. Through the law issued, the branch of the Bank of Italy in the western city of Tripoli allocated an amount of money amounting to four million liras, for its use. In ongoing business, at the same time, it was recognized that withdrawal from extraordinary reserve funds should be gradual according to commercial requirements (34).

Despite this, the branch of the Bank of Italy in the western city of Tripoli used the funds generated from all assets and from savings and current accounts, as well as discounting bills of exchange at the Bank of Italy in Palermo, as well as advances with guarantees for stored goods in line with the basic law, granted to the branch of the Bank of Italy. Lending against goods deposited at customs and in the bank's warehouses themselves. Other regular work carried out by the bank is exchanging silver and gold, issuing interest-bearing documents, and also receiving savings deposits (35).

Count the Checilian Bank. Bank Chechelian is the second bank after the Bank of Rome, which was mentioned previously. It opened branches in Libya. That bank began its activity in April 1912, in the first year of the bank. Due to the unusual circumstances resulting from the wars, the bank limited its operations to bringing in deposits and current accounts, in order to Facilitating the transfer of funds from Libya to Italy and other countries. The Cician Bank worked at the same time as an agent for the treasury until May 29, 1913, when the Italian Royal Decree was issued, authorizing the Bank of Italy to assume the tasks of the Italian treasury, as well as banking services. That bank contributed to granting agricultural loans. He began, along with Egypt and Italy, to liquidate the Ottoman Agricultural Bank (36).

The Bank of Naples was opened on December 1, 1913 in the western city of Tripoli, and its results were satisfactory, due to the difficulties encountered at the beginning of its opening. After World War II, credit facilities began to expand significantly in terms of deposits, and this was due to the need for funds to develop... Trade, construction and industry, and that the bank was able to increase the volume of deposits, and this encouraged the expansion of banking operations, and that these credit facilities were in exchange for valuable items among the work that the bank was carrying out, and the Bank of Naples is the only bank that carried out this type of services. To help the Libyans (37).

As for agricultural credit in Libya before the Italian occupation, which was carried out through the Ottoman Agricultural Bank, and on the basis of that, that bank liquidated those operations related to agricultural credit, and at that time it relied in Cyrenaica on the Bank of Rome with the readiness of the Bank of Italy as for the city of Tripoli. West to the Bank of Sicily and also with assistance from the Bank of Italy (38).

In the period between 1911-1917, the Italian government followed a strict policy in the field of culture and education and used Italian teachers and a number of military officers and non-commissioned officers in teaching and education in Libya. A law was issued to organize schools in Tripoli and Cyrenaica in 1914, during the era of (Bertolini). Birutolini, Minister of the Colonies from November 20, 1912 to March 19, 1914, explained that education is for citizens (39).

During the Bertolini era, attention was paid to the Italian Arab schools, which worked to obliterate religious identity since the beginning of World War I 1914-1917. Italy was able to reduce the political and offensive pressure on it from the Libyans, and it recognized the Senussi Emirate of Cyrenaica and the Tripolitan Republic. Thus, it issued the 1919 law and it was confirmed. It stipulates freedom of private education, limited compulsory primary education must be provided to Libyans, the Arabic language must be used in primary and secondary school education, and the Italian language must be taught at all levels (40).

With regard to religious education in the Italian era, it concerned the schools, Sanusi zawiyas, mosques, and some schools and institutes, and Italian policy was moving along two equal lines towards that education. The first was to protect and respect Islamic institutions, including legal and religious, and the second was to approve reforms in order to integrate these social institutions, including the classes to serve... Italian politics(41).

Royal Decree No. (469) was issued on March 11, 1917, which included two laws for Tripolitania and Cyrenaica, which stipulated guaranteeing the freedom of primary education for Libyans and committing it to boys' students. It must be in the Arabic language, and that the Italian language was taught in the third year of primary school, and also the isolation of the Education Administration in Libya from the Ministry of Colonies. War and the Italian Ministry of Education, as well as the establishment of a local administration for it that has the right to give directions for education. An educational advisory committee is formed and must be composed of Arab figures whom the Italian administration trusts (42).

In the field of currency control, no legislation was issued until 1917, as a result of the financial inflation resulting from World War I. Through this, Italy felt the importance of establishing a body that would be specialized in buying and selling foreign currencies, bonds, and gold. The National Institution was actually established for the first time in 1917. To exchange with the outside (43).

Since Libya became subject to the Italian monetary systems, Decree Law No. (793) was issued on June 6, 1918, which stipulates extending the application of the texts that join the institution directed to Tripoli, the West and Cyrenaica. Royal Decree No. 1674, issued on September 11, 1919, was considered one of the first Monetary legislation that was issued (44).

A royal decree was issued in Tripoli as the first agricultural land legislation in July 1914, authorizing the colonial authorities to grant princely lands to Italians who wished to obtain agricultural lands for the purpose of cultivation. In 1919, these privileges were granted for a period of ninety years and then returned to the state (45).

The third section: Italian economic activity in Libya 1919-1939

The industries that began their work between 1911-1939, including the industries related to Libyan sea products, are considered a group of these marine industries, and they represent one of the important sectors in their activity in Libya. Fishing ranks first, and in 1919 the first institution for tuna fishing was established. (6,300) tuna fish were caught in one year. After that year, significant improvements were made to these industries, and in 1924, the first successful tuna fishing company was established

in the state of Cyrenaica, which was 8 kilometers away from the city of Benghazi. 46).

The sponge extraction industry is of great importance to the Libyan economy, and the history of its prosperity goes back to the Ottoman era, in addition to the work done by Greek fishermen. Sponge was extracted by three ships in Benghazi in the year 1919, as the number of ships reached (26) ships. In 1926, their total number reached (36) ships in 1931, and all of these ships were equipped with modern equipment, including pumps (47).

Later, that project turned into a commercial company for marketing and extracting sponge. Work is carried out in the sponge extraction field in the western city of Tripoli by specialized businessmen. The total annual production of sponge has reached (60) tons in Libya, and its value is equivalent to about (6) Millions of Italian liras, in addition to tuna fishing and the sponge extraction process, were very active as they developed in 1927 in the state of Tripoli and then in Cyrenaica (48).

The operations of exploiting and extracting salt from seawater were practiced in Libya since the Turkish era by primitive means, and then they developed and became of an industrial nature when the state monopoly became available starting in 1923. This led to an increase in navigation production, which now produced (500) per year. tons, while it reached four thousand tons in 1927 and (30) thousand tons in 1930. The annual rate of production now ranged between (15) thousand tons and (20) tons, and the salt pans were subject to the supervision of the monopoly institution for salt exploitation in In the western regions of Libya, this institution employs (50) workers who are always counted, and (60) workers are added to them during the salt extraction season (49).

Navigation in Benghazi began its activity using modern foundations and automatic organization from the beginning, and after that, its capacity and production efficiency were distinct from the navigation of the western city of Tripoli in terms of quantity and quality. As a result, annual production there increased rapidly and rose from ten thousand tons in 1928 to (30) thousand tons in 1932, after which the annual rate was settled at (20) thousand tons, and ten thousand tons were used for export. The number of permanent workers in the Benghazi Navigation reached (35) workers (50).

A small experimental factory was established in 1924, for the purposes of extracting and exploiting manganese and potash salts. The positive results led to the encouragement and establishment of the Italian Potash Company to manufacture agricultural materials. Its work relied on industrial investment of potash and manganese salts in the Psida region (51).

As for industries related to agricultural production, olive factories produced during the period 1911-1920. The quantity produced was sufficient for the limited needs of local consumption, although its presence was almost rare in terms of quantity and quality. The equipment developed and became of a truly industrial character, and at the end of 1939 There were more than (60) industrial and technical equipment in Libya to refine olive oil, in addition to the many local presses. The annual average olive production became about (2200) tons (52).

A castor oil distillation factory was established in 1937, which is located in western Libya. Thus, the Agricultural Cooperative Society gave its attention to the city of Tripoli, west, and purchased the necessary equipment to extract seeds from castor trees in order for them to be ready for manufacturing. In the state of Cyrenaica, castor seed crops are almost very limited. In other years, it made every effort to expand the cultivation of castor trees and its crops (53).

The tobacco factory was not successful at the beginning of its establishment, and its inefficiency led to the construction of another large tobacco factory in 1923. This factory was made up of modern equipment that was able to manufacture about (650) tons of tobacco, and one-sixth of the amount of tobacco used in the factory. It was imported from Italy, and the remaining quantity was produced by the local private sector, and through this, that company was allocated for settlement purposes an area of land amounting to one hundred hectares in which (50) families of Italian farmers could be settled, and each family would have two hectares to grow tobacco and other crops. Winter gardening (54).

There were three companies that manufactured leather, including a company in West Tripoli, a

company in Benghazi, and another company in Derna. A shoe factory was established in the city of Benghazi in 1928, and its production capacity was estimated at more than one hundred pieces per day. Shoe factories located in the western city of Tripoli that manufacture military shoes (55).

The process of exploiting pottery and building stone was of indirect and direct importance in the structure of the Libyan industrial economy. Modern centers that manufactured building materials appeared in 1925, and among those centers was the Flint Stone Manufacturing Company and the Joint Stock Company for Stone Cutting and Kiln Production in Al-Aziziya (56).

In the state of Cyrenaica, the construction industry was of secondary importance and focused on a large base that was built in Benghazi in Al-Baraka in 1927, by the participating company for the manufacture of red bricks, and the production was sufficient to meet the requirements of the construction sector, and there were a number of workers specialized in manufacturing quarry and stone works. Including the Barka factory and others, in addition to three factories for the manufacture of bricks from compressed cement, which have been operating since 1927. Among these industries, the most prominent are the ones located in the city of Derna in the Al-Hajar District, and the lime and brick factory, and these factories had people who managed and supervised them (57).

There are industries for various foodstuffs as well, and these sectors include private establishments of flour and soda water mills established in the states of Tripoli, Gharb and Cyrenaica. There are also automated factories that produce biscuits and bread, and the presence of these flour mills led to the cessation of importing flour from Italy. A pasta factory was established in 1934, in addition to other small factories. In the city of Benghazi, a pasta factory was established in 1930. It was reorganized and expanded in 1933, in order to be integrated with the rest of the factories (58).

There are the most important general textile industries in Libya, including the Burqa Textile Factory. It was established in 1930 in the city of Benghazi. The number of workers in that factory is (250) and it produces various types of textiles such as cotton, silk, wool, and the rest of the other necessary clothing for the needs of local consumption. There are A large surplus in production and exports it abroad (59).

There is another factory in the city of Benghazi that converts wool, and in the western city of Tripoli there are two textile factories, the first for the clothing industry and the number of employees in it (200) workers, while the second converts wool. As for the other industries existing in Libya during the Italian era, including various chemical industries. Which includes an institution for the production of bitumen, the preparation and production of gunpowder, the manufacture of soap, wax and fatty materials, the medical oxygen gas factory and industries (60).

As for the industries related to printing, hotels, and theaters, this item includes approximately (20) printing presses, the most famous of which is the Plinio Magi Press, located in Tripoli West, and the companies contributing to Benghazi Publishing and Printing. These include the collection of three previous printing presses, and with regard to the field of hotels and theaters, through which several projects have been implemented. During the period between 1920-1940, he was able to build hotels under the supervision and management of the Libyan Tourism Corporation, and cinema halls and various theaters were also built (61).

With regard to the services necessary for the maintenance and repair of ships and means of transportation, the tasks of which were undertaken by the mechanical industries and also by metal tool manufacturing factories, there were also public works institutions such as construction, road construction, electricity and water, and among those companies were the Italian Road Company in Africa, the Colonial Works Company in Africa, and the Catroni Company. Carton Contracting Company in Tripoli West and Benghazi and the Italian Colonial Construction Company (62).

The areas of land that were granted to the concessionaires in 1922 are estimated at approximately (3612) hectares. These lands are located in different parts of the western suburbs of the city of Tripoli, and the focus therein is on the cultivation of almond, fruit and olive trees. A state decree was issued in

1923 according to which a declaration was made... The state owns all vacant lands in western Tripoli, including from the sea to the mountains. The Real Estate Office has been assigned to register lands belonging to the state as a result of the decree that was issued (63).

The state now owns areas of land amounting to one hundred thousand hectares, some of which was confiscated from the local population for a very small price, and those lands were granted to concessionaires who own capital. This decree regulated the relationship between the state and people and companies. Which grants them agricultural lands, and the concessionaire is obligated to work on developing the lands granted to him within a limited period by cultivating part of them using irrigation (64).

During the period of agricultural colonialism, which lasted until 1927, several studies were conducted to confirm the nature of agricultural land. A study and exploitation of groundwater in the second layer was also conducted. A savings fund was also established and agricultural credit was organized. During the period of capitalist colonialism, That period was characterized by land exploitation by the private sector (65).

These lands were often granted to people who had great ability to work but without any financial reward, and they were also granted to capitalists who may have good financial ability, but they lack the technical knowledge to use those lands, and the plots of land that were granted to one person amounted to Thousands of hectares, which led to the emergence of large feudalism (66).

During World War I, all operations to exchange paper currency for gold currency were stopped, and this possibility was restored in 1927, but on March 26, 1928, a royal decree was issued regulating these exchanges and placing them within certain limits, and on September 29, 1931, a royal decree was issued to that effect. In Law No. (1207), which assigns the Ministry of Finance to issue the rules governing exchanges and important provisions related to them (67).

Since the Italian occupation until 1922, agricultural credit was very limited. It was provided in a very simple way and there were not sufficient guarantees. It was granting Libyans to plant barley in Cyrenaica and to cultivate orchards in Tripoli, west. During that period, the total loans amounted to five million liras, excluding... During World War II, agricultural credit was halted (68).

The issue of agricultural credit was addressed at the beginning, and on its basis, the Tripoli Savings Fund was established in 1923, and another savings fund in Cyrenaica in 1925. The mission of these two main banks was based on using the financial resources they possessed with the intention of granting them for the benefit of real estate and agricultural credit, especially Supporting projects for the prosperity of the construction sector and land cultivation, and that these two banks have taken the form of legal bodies under the supervision of the government, and that their organization has been carried out in accordance with the laws that govern banks in Italy (69).

A number of appropriate amendments were added to these laws in order to meet the needs of the colony, and most of the capital of these two banks came from the central government's contribution, through contributions and various gifts, in accordance with the decree issued on April 18, 1926. Agricultural credit included the following three categories: loans To finance ongoing agricultural operations, loans to improve agriculture and long-term loans for agricultural land development (70).

On the basis of the unification of the regions of Western Tripoli and Cyrenaica in 1934, the idea of merging the Tripolitania and Cyrenaica Savings Funds emerged, and in 1935 that idea was realized and in accordance with Royal Decree No. (1138) issued on April 18, 1935, then the Libya Savings Fund was established, and that fund began its work in December 1, 1936 (71).

The new institution took all the assets and liabilities of the Cyrenaica and Tripolitania Funds of the West, and the Libyan Fund worked as an independent body in accordance with the statute of legislation and the bank, which joined the work of savings funds and institutions with credit against mortgages, which had two headquarters in both Benghazi and Tripoli of the West, and also branches in Derna. Misurata and agencies in small areas, and the bank had a headquarters located in Tripoli, west (72).

Italy wanted to turn Libya into an integral part of it, so it focused its efforts on achieving its goals in Libya. It invested huge sums of money in its agricultural and industrial fields and even Libya's infrastructure. Its Italian agricultural program was going through two independent stages in Libya, namely private settlement and agricultural settlement. The Italian government's desire was to encourage agricultural settlement in Libya, especially in the early stages of the occupation, and it granted the wealthy Italians large amounts of land to reform it for agriculture, as those lands were either owned by the government or expropriated from their original owners (73).

The Italians took control of an area of 58,087 hectares until 1929, and some of the lands were rented to Italian farmers for ninety years during a previous period. The government asked these tenants to share with them another group of Italian farmers. This measure led to a heavy burden. On it and on itself, and that government aid amounted to (62) million British pounds from the settlers' private base, and also loans amounted to (158) million Australian pounds from the Savings Fund, and the Italian government has begun implementing its new settlement plan, which aims to accelerate the process of settling Italians. In the country, but it was not able to implement any of those programs that it had established for development before ending the national resistance in 1932 (74).

The Italian government was able to put down the national resistance, but it implemented the development plan it had drawn up that included some Libyan regions, especially Jabal Akhdar. Its goal was to settle about (300,000) Italian people over a period of (35) years, and it entrusted that task to semi-public institutions and private institutions. Together, it gathered these institutions with all the resources it had from the private and public sectors, and it directed them to give them a new development plan, and among those institutions were the National Institute for Social Welfare, the Italian Tobacco Foundation, and the Enti Foundation for the Colonization of Libya, and that those plans included preparing the lands, providing them with water, and building all The facilities and buildings needed by the farmer, then giving the farmer livestock and agricultural machinery for the settler to settle in (75).

In order for the settler farmers to pay their expenses, they hand over half of the products of their farms to those institutions that add their value to their account, and after a period of time has passed, they are able to pay what they owe and own their farms. This continued until 1936, and the cost of this project was very high, and only a few Italian settlers succeeded in it. (76).

The funds of the Fund, which began its work in 1936, consist of donated financial resources consisting of assets that had been allocated to the Tripoli West and Benghazi Savings Fund, and other funds that can be collected as a result of contributions from the central government in Italy and the local government in Libya, as well as from various bodies. And any other source of funds obtained by the Libyan Savings Fund and the reserve balance, as well as the special funds that were created to confront the possibilities coming from them to confront various losses (77).

In order to confront the differences in the value of bonds and also for the benefit of charitable works and the public interest, the management of the Libyan Fund is by the Board of Directors, which consists of the president, two vice-presidents, and eight advisory members. These presidents and two vice-presidents were appointed pursuant to a decision from the Italian Ministry of Africa, and this was done in agreement with the Ministry. Its financial outcome was based on a proposal from the Governor-General of Libya, and the rest of the other members are also appointed by the Governor-General (78).

Based on the provisions of Royal Decree No. (1530) issued on May 13, 1937, agricultural credit operations were based on two categories: agricultural loans for current purposes. These include loans for the management of productive farms, in whole or in part, and for the use, transformation, and installation of agricultural products, and loans that include the purchase of livestock. And agricultural machinery and equipment, and there are facilities in exchange for mortgages on agricultural crops stored in public stores, especially loans for the benefit of agricultural bodies and organizations to purchase materials necessary to run the work of the partners' farm through the sale of their agricultural crops belonging to the group, and the repayment of these loans shall be within a period ranging from

(6) Months and (5) years through agricultural bills are discounted against guarantees (79).

There are loans aimed at improving agriculture and achieving the following operations: tree growth and crop development, establishing agricultural roads, consolidating agricultural lands, digging water wells, places for watering livestock, and creating agricultural barriers, as well as building and repairing rural facilities for housing farmers, places for protecting livestock and storing agricultural crops, and carrying out work. To provide farms with drinking water and irrigation and to organize and dry the lands, as well as the use of electricity in agriculture, afforestation of areas, and all works aimed at improvement. There are loans that are considered among the loans that improve lands, which are the establishment of works to complete and maintain grape farms and trees planted during the tide that precedes production, and purchasing lands to achieve ownership. Small farmer or to make improvements therein (80).

Loans that work to improve agriculture come through promissory notes that are repaid in the form of annual installments over a period of no less than five years. As for the farmer owned through the private sector, the interest rate for agricultural credit is determined annually by a decree, which is issued by the Governor-General. This is according to the recommendations of the Board of Directors of the Savings Fund. The total amount of long-term loans granted through the Tripolitania and Cyrenaica Funds, followed by the Libya Savings Fund, in the period between 1924-1939, amounted to a total of (171) million liras (81).

During World War II, monetary inflation spread in Libya, and it lasted for several years. After that phase of relative stability, Libya entered the famous period of depression during the period 1929-1934, a phenomenon that is considered the opposite of inflation, and that period was characterized by a decline in prices, as a result of the decline in income, and this led to a decline in the purchasing power of the population, and also led to a contraction in demand for local and imported goods, and despite this, agricultural production was excellent in 1933, and the economic recession that affected some elements, including the contraction in the consumption of some materials, and the lack of Flexibility in facilities and lack of confidence, and that this recession did not affect the government's agricultural growth program (82).

The fourth section: Italian economic activity 1939-1945

There are industries related to natural resources that are underground, and the presence of sulfur, iron, copper, oil and zinc has been proven. They were exploited in various regions of Libya, but they did not take successful steps to be exploited until the beginning of 1940, but with the exception of some small deposits. Of sulfur, which is found in the Jabrit area, which is located in the state of Cyrenaica, and there are small experimental industries, but the conditions of those industries were different, and this led to the failure of that project to come into existence until the beginning of the year 1940, when (Eli)ayli completed, completed and installed the necessary equipment and devices, and the production rate of that project became about 25 thousand tons of potash in the first year of its activity (83).

During 25 years of agricultural colonization, in which construction institutions, the state, and Italian capitalists, who are considered affiliated with the private sector, contributed, the total area of the lands that were reclaimed until 1940, which is located in the western city of Tripoli, reached (148) thousand hectares, including (100) One thousand hectares were allocated for tree planting, and (84) thousand hectares were allocated for semi-irrigated agriculture. The number of trees that were planted reached (42) million trees, and they were distributed among all types of trees (84).

As for the city of Cyrenaica, the areas of land that had been developed and reclaimed until the beginning of 1940 amounted to about (80) thousand hectares, including (10) thousand hectares in which trees were planted. In addition, nearly two-thirds of the area in western Tripoli, which was included in the plan, was It was allocated for planting trees, while the rest was for plants. In Cyrenaica (25%) was for trees, while the remaining 75% of the land was allocated for growing plants and grains (85).

As for the settlement programs, in 1940, about 70,000 immigrants were displaced to Tripoli in the

West, and approximately 15,000 immigrants were displaced to Cyrenaica, and the sums spent on settlement programs amounted to a total of agricultural loans until 1939. Granted by the Savings Fund to the Construction Institutions, (232) million liras and expenses were spent by the state for agricultural development during the period 1917-1940, and (464) million liras and the expenses of the Construction Foundation for land reform and construction of facilities amounting to (159) million liras and expenses faced by the private sector amounting to (100) million liras (86).

In Rome, in 1941, a draft law was published guaranteeing agricultural settlement in Libya. At that time, the fascist authorities intended to implement it after the end of World War II. When preparing the draft, they took away all the defects, mistakes, and problems that agrarian reform was facing at that time (89).

The outbreak of World War II in 1939 led to the application of other restrictions, in order to reduce transactions abroad. On October 30, 1939, a ministerial decree was issued regarding reducing travel allocations from (300) liras to (200) liras, while the remaining fifty liras in metal were to be paid. To retain it, Italy entered World War II in June 1940, alongside Hitler's Germany, in order to distribute the world into Nazi and fascist areas of influence, and that war led Italy to lose all the colonies that it owned (90).

The Italians came up with new technical methods in agriculture, but the system that was introduced in terms of building agricultural colonies could not survive until now without external assistance, but it is subject to dissolution and there are many economic and technical studies in order for it to be able to provide specific recommendations regarding the future. The Italians have more From the cultivation of olives, vines, vegetables, castor trees, and almonds, they also introduced the cultivation of peanuts, although its cultivation succeeded in some areas. The Italians made great efforts to stop the movement of sand dunes on agricultural lands. They created forests in them, and until the beginning of 1940, they had finished moving (300) hectares of Sand dunes (91).

Italian educational policy had followed the same path from the beginning of colonialism until its end, but it sometimes tried to know the internal situation in order to be able to establish its presence in the region, and also to provide it with an outlet for a period of time (92).

One policy (Rodolfo Mikachi)rodolfo mikakis, which was applied from the beginning, and its goal was to create mysterious chaos for the citizens, through education, which is meant by colonial education, and that policy was used in the fascist era, openly in the form of fascism in the souls of the students in order to spread terror in them, which leads to Many students left education and their numbers decreased in the primary schools that were available at that time. The Italian schools were fully equipped in terms of desks and education at the highest level. As for the Libyan schools, they were the opposite. There was only the school building, despite From the policy that was applying itself, and when World War II occurred in 1939, the region became a battlefield, which led to the closing of schools and the educational process was stopped, even though it was fundamentally weak, and British administration of the region was resumed (93).

Italian politics during that period was largely characterized by Italian racism. It worked in every way to transform the implementation of Italian education, but it was unable to do so and must follow some policies through which it would achieve stability for the Italians. This occurred during the period of the war and after it. There were differences between the application of the indirect Italian principle, which means Italian-Arab schools, as well as the move away from the Arabic language and religion, and it met with rejection from the Libyan population to the policy of interest in religious education (94), because the population did not contain them in a way that was compatible with their cultural, religious and linguistic needs, and that This policy resulted in the complete elimination of all types of education in the country, which led to negative effects on the development of society in economic, political and social terms. In 1943, there was not a single secondary school in the country, and in addition to that, there were no schools that specialized in technical education. And the professional (95).

During World War II, Italy lost all of its colonies in Libya, which led to its withdrawal. In 1943, Libya was occupied for the third and final time, and three administrations were established in it: the Administration of Tripolitania of the West, the Administration of Cyrenaica, and the Administration of Fezzan. Britain took over the administration of the first two regions, namely Cyrenaica and Tripolitania of the West, while the third was the Administration of Al-Fazzan to France, and there were problems facing the British administration in Cyrenaica in 1943 (96).

As for the issue of internal security, which must provide supplies to Libya, it has been exhausted by wars, and many of its homes have been demolished, as well as the promotion of commercial activity after it has suffered a lot of devastation, due to the war, opening schools, establishing a kind of health foundations, and paying attention to agriculture and taking care of the properties left by its Italian owners (97).

Among the administrative work that Britain carried out in Cyrenaica in 1943, stimulating the commercial movement was not easy. Despite this, some stores began to come from Egypt and Tripoli, and the difficulty that he faced was paying the price for those goods in a very poor region. As for hospitals, pharmacies, and clinics The public hospital, which was run by the Italians, was neglected after they left. There was no one left to take care of it except for 370 nurses from the nuns, who remained in Cyrenaica. However, the administration was able to open three hospitals and (31) general clinics in the countryside (98).

The administration paid attention to three agricultural areas during that period, the first in the Al-Marah region and its plain, and the second in the Green Mountain region. The third was agricultural testing sites in Benghazi, Derna, Al-Marj, and others. In the Al-Marj region and its plain, agricultural machinery and seeds were used. The administration was able to save the crop that had been planted. The Italians, before their departure, also stopped plowing less than ten thousand acres and preparing them for agriculture, and prepared a project for twenty thousand acres for the next two years. In the Green Mountain region, the administration rented small farms to Arab farmers while providing them with technical assistance, and directly supervised the Agricultural testing centers, in order to provide farmers or provide them with what they need of seeds, cuttings, etc. As for the amounts spent by the British during that period, they amounted to about one million and three quarters of a million pounds sterling, while the Italian lira lost the rest of the basic currency in dealing during that period (99).

As for the responsible employees in Cyrenaica, all of them were British at that time. They were assisted on many occasions and also in small jobs by a number of Arab Cyrenaica. The administration used to seek the assistance of a number of employees from abroad, coming from Sudan and Palestine. The British administration followed the same approach in Tripoli. West in principle, and there were a number of Italian employees who were working in the administration, and at the beginning of 1944 in the administration of Tripoli there were (263) Britons who were considered army men, (688) Arabs who were considered natives of the country, and (873) Italians and (93) They brought them from abroad (100).

The British placed the Italian financial institutions under guard, and their activities were halted. They opened a branch of Barclays Bank, which manages the financial affairs of the region. Barclays Bank also opened a branch in Benghazi. The main problem facing the western city of Tripoli is unemployment resulting from reduced expenses. Due to the end of the war in that region, the foreign trade that was there, which was exclusive to Italy, also stopped, and the Italian lira remained valid for dealing with the military pound sterling (101).

The British administration in Tripoli remained in charge of the affairs of the region, and in 1944-1945 the administration took care of the social affairs of the population. All Italian schools were opened and the number of Arab schools also increased. Thirty new schools were opened. Despite this, there was a demand to open schools for Arabs. The administration was suffering from an inability to carry out its work due to the lack of financial allocations, as well as the lack of trained teachers (102).

The agricultural season was good in 1944-1945. Despite this, the surplus, especially barley, could not be exported as there were no means of transportation, and also because the war was still ongoing and the administration began to encourage local industries, including textiles, leather, wool, and tuna canning, and Barclays Bank took over. He agreed with the administration to give factory owners short-term loans in order to improve their condition and production, and trade was enhanced with the countries of the Maghreb. The western city of Tripoli exported approximately (11,000) grains in 1944 (103).

2. Conclusion and future scope

1 - There were several reasons for Italy's occupation of Libya, including the Italian-European competition for control of North African countries, including Libya, given the international conditions that Italy was suffering from. The other reason was the important geographical location of Libya and its proximity to the Italian coast, and also the desire of the Italians to occupy Libya to compensate for its defeat against Abyssinia. In the battle of Adwa.

2- Italy was suffering from many crises, including unemployment, as well as high public debt, which made it move to occupy Libya in order to improve the economic level by exploiting agricultural lands and establishing many schools to teach and exploit their economic activities in all agricultural, industrial and commercial fields.

3- Italian-Libyan relations are of remarkable importance in supporting the Libyan national economy, as the amount of production provided by Italian farms cannot be ignored, and during the period the administration provided them with many subsidies due to the importance of these products, and this aid remained in place during the era of independence, as it provided the Libyan government. Italian colonizers received agricultural loans in order to improve their farms, and established agricultural institutions for the purpose of encouraging economic development and carrying out work that leads to stability in the national economy.

4- Libya took advantage of the distinguished economic relations with some Western European countries, led by Italy, in order to obtain preferential advantages and access to the European market, by establishing joint companies in the field of petrochemicals and other important industries for which there is no market other than Europe, and linking high-value commercial deals. Implementing strategic projects in Libya, to obtain marketing advantages for national products, especially petrochemicals and agricultural commodities, and since the total Libyan foreign trade is with European market countries, including Italy.

5- Trade, as well as Italian subsidiaries, contributed to reviving national trade after it deteriorated following the departure of the Italian government, and the British administration is reconsidering the decision it took regarding the issue of trade relations with Britain, out of its desire to find a trade balance between Libyan exports and imports, and also the government's desire. Italy continues to expand its economic relationship with Libya after independence.

6 - Italian banks in Libya before the Italian invasion were almost non-existent, as there was one bank in Libya, and after Italy occupied Libya, it opened the first bank, the Bank of Rome, and began opening many Italian banks, and each institution had its own banking institution, which is an institution Agriculture, trade and industry. Italy imposed a tax levy on some institutions, and through those banks it exported the Libyan currency, as well as providing commercial and banking services to citizens. The banks worked to create a large commercial movement in Libya with neighboring European countries, including Italy.

7- The Italian-Libyan relations have important economic dimensions, due to the Italian economy's dependence on Libyan oil, and that most of the Libyan imports come from Italy, and that they have developed to a great degree, for reasons including the geographical proximity of Libya to Italy, and that the two countries belong to the Mediterranean. It led to more cooperation between the two countries.

8- The discovery of oil in Libya led to a radical economic change in it, which led many countries to turn to it, because it became an oil land, and the appearance of many oil wells that were drilled by the Italians, which led to the conclusion of many treaties and agreements. Italy continued to maintain its relationship with Libya, because the discovery of oil in Libya brought it enormous economic advantages, and its oil wealth became more than its consumption needs, which made it use it in the field of investment with the rest of the foreign countries, as Libya's economy became suffering from a constant deficit. To a strategic economy, through which it has achieved the greatest means of development due to Libyan investments in general and Italian investments in particular.

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