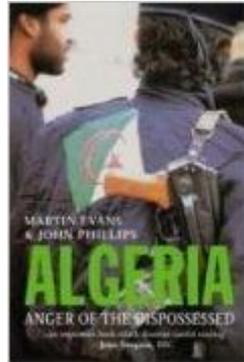


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Algeria: Anger Of The Dispossessed



Synopsis

After liberating itself from French colonial rule in one of the twentieth century's most brutal wars of independence, Algeria became a standard-bearer for the non-aligned movement. By the 1990s, however, its revolutionary political model had collapsed, degenerating into a savage conflict between the military and Islamist guerillas that killed some 200,000 citizens. In this lucid and gripping account, Martin Evans and John Phillips explore Algeria's recent and very bloody history, demonstrating how the high hopes of independence turned into anger as young Algerians grew increasingly alienated. Unemployed, frustrated by the corrupt military regime, and excluded by the West, the post-independence generation needed new heroes, and some found them in Osama bin Laden and the rising Islamist movement. Evans and Phillips trace the complex roots of this alienation, arguing that Algeria's predicament—political instability, pressing economic and social problems, bad governance, a disenfranchised youth—is emblematic of an arc of insecurity stretching from Morocco to Indonesia. Looking back at the pre-colonial and colonial periods, they place Algeria's complex present into historical context, demonstrating how successive governments have manipulated the past for their own ends. The result is a fractured society with a complicated and bitter relationship with the Western powers—and an increasing tendency to export terrorism to France, America, and beyond.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The book is worthy to stand next to Alistair Horne's classic "A Savage War of Peace" in the bibliography of books about this fascinating country with a tragic history. Not only does it clearly

describe the war for independence in the 50's and 60's, but it also provides a very readable account of the extreme violence the country witnessed in the 1990's. It also provides some interesting lessons that we could apply to our involvement in Iraq. Very readable and highly recommended for anyone with an interest in the region or Algeria specifically.

* Three maps* Seventeen plates* Helpful Arabic glossary* Twenty two pages of footnotes* Seven page bibliography Chapters four to eight focus on post-1988 Algeria. Bite-sized chapters; longest is 41 pages.

Great Thanks to John Philips and Martin Evans for the quality of this study. They succeeded to give a global vision of a complicated conflict which has deep roots in the regional history.

Furthermore, they kept an ability to go into the more important details. We find a lot of anecdote along the study that helps a non native to understand the subtleties of the local character and visions. I didn't find such a synthesis, even in the french literature. Grand merci aux auteurs pour leur analyse perspicace et leur honnêteté intellectuelle. Ils ont su donner une vision globale du conflit actuel et mettre en évidence des causes qui plongent leurs racines dans l'histoire de la région, tout en gardant un souci du détail remarquable; le récit est jalonné d'anecdotes instructives et parlantes. Il n'y a pas, à ma connaissance, d'équivalent à cet ouvrage dans la bibliographie francophone.

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