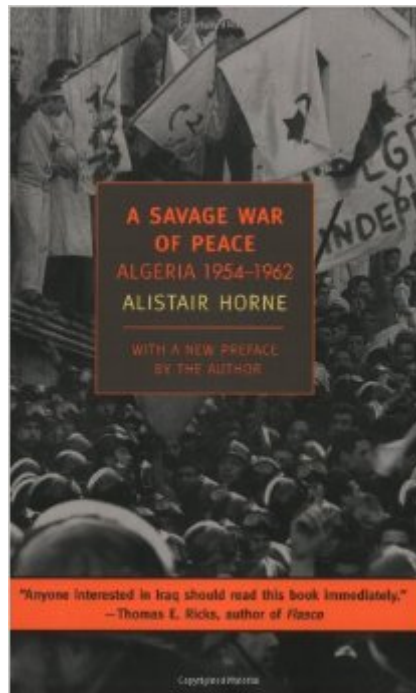


The book was found

A Savage War Of Peace: Algeria 1954-1962 (New York Review Books Classics)



Synopsis

The Algerian War lasted from 1954 to 1962. It brought down six French governments, led to the collapse of the Fourth Republic, returned de Gaulle to power, and came close to provoking a civil war on French soil. More than a million Muslim Algerians died in the conflict and as many European settlers were driven into exile. Above all, the war was marked by an unholy marriage of revolutionary terror and repressive torture. Nearly a half century has passed since this savagely fought war ended in Algeria's independence, and yet "as Alistair Horne argues in his new preface to his now-classic work of history" its repercussions continue to be felt not only in Algeria and France, but throughout the world. Indeed from today's vantage point the Algerian War looks like a full-dress rehearsal for the sort of amorphous struggle that convulsed the Balkans in the 1990s and that now ravages the Middle East, from Beirut to Baghdad "struggles in which questions of religion, nationalism, imperialism, and terrorism take on a new and increasingly lethal intensity. A Savage War of Peace is the definitive history of the Algerian War, a book that brings that terrible and complicated struggle to life with intelligence, assurance, and unflagging momentum. It is essential reading for our own violent times as well as a lasting monument to the historian's art.

Book Information

Series: New York Review Books Classics

Paperback: 624 pages

Publisher: NYRB Classics (October 10, 2006)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1590172183

ISBN-13: 978-1590172186

Product Dimensions: 5.3 x 1.3 x 8 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.5 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (102 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #55,445 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #2 in [Books > History > Africa > Algeria](#) #68 in [Books > History > Europe > France](#) #1337 in [Books > History > Military](#)

Customer Reviews

Alistair Horne's "A Savage War of Peace" -- a narrative of the Algerian death struggle with France in the 1950s and early 1960s -- is history at its finest. Clearly written, passionate and authoritative, this book is a shining example that objective and powerful history can be written on "current events" (the book was first published barely a decade after the French pulled out of Algeria). As the US-led

coalition in Iraq struggles to impose order, comparisons with France's ultimately unsuccessful attempt at holding on to Algeria in the face of Islamic insurgents have become fashionable. Such analogies, however, should be used cautiously. There are a number of salient differences in the two cases. None looms larger than the relatively large and vocal pied noir community in Algeria that Paris had to contend with, first politically and then militarily. In some Algerian cities in the 1950s, such as Constantine, a majority of the residents were of European extraction (although not necessarily French). These pied noirs had roots in Algeria for generations and had a powerful lobby in Paris. A simple political withdrawal from Algeria in 1955 was thus (in my opinion) a political impossibility. The ugly war that erupted was, in the end, tragically unavoidable. Horne would certainly disagree with this assessment. Myopic intransigence by the French and pied noir leaders is a leitmotif of the narrative. Yet, the author just as consistently praises the FLN leadership for laying out their aims at the 1956 Soummam Conferences and never wavering from them. Algerian inflexibility, it seems, was a virtue; for the French/pied noir community it was a sin.

One of the things that perplexed and, frankly, disgusted me, throughout this book was the posturing of many key figures on the French side about "honour" and "grandeur". In pursuit of their honour, many of these people behaved in the most disgraceful and dishonourable manner. They preened themselves on their honour and spoke volubly about "restoring the glory of France", but when the going got difficult, they mostly resigned their positions or simply abandoned their responsibilities - often to return later to repeat the whole disreputable process - or intrigue among themselves. Perhaps a psychologist could shed more light on this cesspit of misplaced values than an historian. But what of the other side - the Algerian independence movement? The alphabet soup of factions (FLN, CRUA, MTLA, UDMA etc etc) was liberally peopled by thugs, assassins, torturers and thieves. They squabbled among themselves, intrigued for office, occasionally betrayed each other, and terrorised their own people - all in the cause of Algerian independence. Even after independence, members of the ruling clique continued to wage war upon each other and upon the Algerian people. The struggle continues to this day. Ordinary Algerians on both sides were the victims of the war - as is ever the case. At its end, within months, almost all the "pied noir" population had fled the country in one of the great mass migrations of the post war era. Muslims who had worked and fought for the French and who were unable (or chose not) to flee were mercilessly hunted down. I finished the book with a sense of disgust, of having been soiled by the mostly contemptible people shaping events on both sides.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

A Savage War of Peace: Algeria 1954-1962 (New York Review Books Classics) A Savage War of Peace: Algeria 1954-1962 Inner Peace: Stepping into Serenity to Find Peace of Mind (Inner Peace and Happiness, Peace of Mind Book 1) The Memory of Resistance: French Opposition to the Algerian War (1954-1962) (Berg French Studies Series) The New York Times Monday Through Friday Easy to Tough Crossword Puzzles: 50 Puzzles from the Pages of The New York Times (New York Times Crossword Puzzles) The New York Times Acrostic Puzzles Volume 9: 50 Challenging Acrostics from the Pages of The New York Times (New York Times Acrostic Crosswords) Vietnam War: The Vietnam War in 50 Events: From the First Indochina War to the Fall of Saigon (War Books, Vietnam War Books, War History) (History in 50 Events Series Book 6) World War 2 History's 10 Most Incredible Women: World War II True Accounts Of Remarkable Women Heroes (WWII history, WW2, War books, world war 2 books, war history, World war 2 women) Aden Insurgency: The Savage War in Yemen 1962-67 Aden Insurgency: The Savage War in Yeman 1962-67 The Architecture of Memory: A Jewish-Muslim Household in Colonial Algeria, 1937-1962 (Cambridge Studies in Social and Cultural Anthropology) World War 1: World War I in 50 Events: From the Very Beginning to the Fall of the Central Powers (War Books, World War 1 Books, War History) (History in 50 Events Series) World War 2: World War II in 50 Events: From the Very Beginning to the Fall of the Axis Powers (War Books, World War 2 Books, War History) (History in 50 Events Series Book 4) A Book of Mediterranean Food (New York Review Books Classics) The Anatomy of Melancholy (New York Review Books Classics) Cassandra at the Wedding (New York Review Books Classics) Poems of the Late T'ang (New York Review Books Classics) The Selected Poems of Osip Mandelstam (New York Review Books Classics) The Peach Blossom Fan (New York Review Books Classics) All About H. Hatterr (New York Review Books Classics)

[Dmca](#)