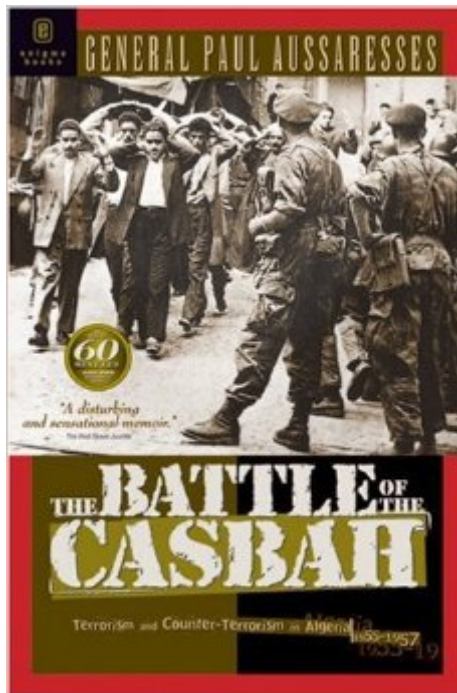


The book was found

The Battle Of The Casbah: Terrorism And Counter-terrorism In Algeria, 1955-1957



Synopsis

This memoir by the infamous "torturer of Algiers" is now relevant to the new realities of America in Iraq and the treatment of terrorists as prisoners. A book that has caused a furor in Europe and that is being read by the US military. Exerpts to be published by Amnesty International.

Book Information

Hardcover: 185 pages

Publisher: Enigma Books; 1st English Language Ed edition (August 2002)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 192963112X

ISBN-13: 978-1929631124

Product Dimensions: 6.5 x 0.8 x 9.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.1 pounds

Average Customer Review: 4.1 out of 5 starsÂ Â See all reviewsÂ (33 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #1,107,904 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #61 inÂ Books > History > Africa > Algeria #996 inÂ Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Politics & Government > International & World Politics > African #2523 inÂ Books > History > Europe > France

Customer Reviews

This is a fascinating but brutal account of a desperate period in history: France's effort to preserve its overseas "departement" from takeover by the main Algerian revolutionary organization, the ultra-violent FLN. The author, then a captain, was the secret counter-insurgency commander in the then-regional capital, Algiers. Essentially, he met terrorism with terror, and justifies his brutal absolutism with grim historical facts that are excluded from Pontecorvo's historically-inaccurate propaganda film, "The Battle of Algiers." Although France was ultimately to lose the war, Aussaresses (as confirmed even by his opponents) won the battle!It puzzles me that so many reviewers refer to Aussaresses as cold-blooded and unfeeling. The book owes its many stylistic faults to the passion and obvious defensiveness of a very emotional man. This gives the brutal story moments of unintentional humour, as in the bizarre anecdote of the Franco-Algerian farmer, his head "split in half" by a radicalized Moslem, who goes home to bed to die, first relating his experience to the local police chief!!!The claim has been made that Aussaresses' methods had a major political impact on the war's outcome, but I doubt it. As in America's war in Vietnam, France's war was chiefly fought by draftees in the countryside, and it was the growing bodycount among the children of native Frenchmen, fighting for the privileges of a colonial population that was not

ethnically French, that lost the war politically. Likewise the issue for the local native population was the cruel reality both of second-class citizenship and of FLN terrorism, as anyone whose political stance was not in accord with theirs was murdered, often with unspeakable brutality.

This book is an important contribution to the English language literature on the French-Algerian War. However, the book's importance goes beyond adding to the historical record of France's occupation of Algeria. The subject of terrorism and how to deal with it became immeasurably more important for Americans after 9/11. This book provides a glimpse of one possible way to deal with terrorism - the fight fire with fire way. Aussaresses recounts how he helped set up and execute an anti-terrorist operation in Algiers. He unapologetically tells how he used nightly raids, torture, imprisonment and summary executions to break the back of the FLN in Algiers during 1955-57 (The movie "Battle of Algiers" is a riveting account of this struggle). In short, this is a good soldier's account of the war. As valuable as this perspective is (and it is very valuable), it is narrow and demands some responses. First, the book fails to provide a context for the war (For context, I recommend reading Alistair Horne's "A Savage War of Peace"). Aussaresses begins with the massacre at Philippeville but there were atrocities on all sides. This war was an [mass] of violence and hatred. Second, there is a number of moral responses I have to Aussaresses's statements in the book. The one I find most appalling is that Aussaresses believes that he and his intelligence officers were restoring "law and order". I guess as an attorney I find this claim most alarming. I might be more accurate to say that Aussaresses was restoring a kind of order but it was hardly lawful. Suspects were picked up in nightly raids, tortured and summarily executed if they were believed to be terrorists. In most thinkers idea of law, there is the concept of equity: fairness and accountability.

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

The Battle of the Casbah: Terrorism and Counter-terrorism in Algeria, 1955-1957 The Battle of the Casbah: Terrorism and Counterterrorism in Algeria 1955-1957 Corinne T. Netzer Carbohydrate and Fiber Counter: The Most Comprehensive Collection of Carbohydrate and Fiber Data Available (Corinne T. Netzer Carbohydrate & Fiber Counter) Mass-Mediated Terrorism: Mainstream and Digital Media in Terrorism and Counterterrorism Red and Black in Haiti: Radicalism, Conflict, and Political Change, 1934-1957 VINTAGE AUTOMOBILE ADVERTISING 5: 1957-1959: OVER 420 FULL SIZE VINTAGE AUTOMOBILE ADS FROM MAGAZINES AND NEWSPAPERS - LARGE ONE-AD-PER-PAGE FORMAT Tuning In The Great Gildersleeve: The Episodes and Cast of Radio's First Spinoff Show, 1941-1957 The Beat Hotel: Ginsberg, Burroughs and Corso in Paris, 1957-1963 Nuclear Chemical Engineering (1957) (McGraw-Hill Series in Nuclear Engineering) Kwa

Heri Means Goodbye: Memories of Kenya 1957-1959 The Tragedy of Liberation: A History of the Chinese Revolution 1945-1957 The M1 Garand, 1936-1957 The Collected Poems of Octavio Paz: 1957-1987 (Bilingual Edition) Jack Kerouac: Road Novels 1957-1960: On the Road / The Dharma Bums / The Subterraneans / Tristessa / Lonesome Traveler / Journal Selections (Library of America) The Beat Hotel: Ginsberg, Burroughs & Corso in Paris, 1957-1963 VINTAGE AUTOMOBILE ADVERTISING 4: 1955-1956: OVER 375 FULL SIZE VINTAGE AUTOMOBILE ADS FROM MAGAZINES AND NEWSPAPERS - LARGE ONE-AD-PER-PAGE FORMAT The Bubble Gum Card War: The Great Bowman and Topps Sets from 1948 to 1955 King Hussein and the Challenge of Arab Radicalism: Jordan, 1955-1967 (Studies in Middle Eastern History) BATMAN COLLECTOR'S GUIDE VOL. 1: THE GOLDEN AGE: Every Comic Book Cover 1940-1955 (BATMAN COLLECTOR'S GUIDES) DETECTIVE COMICS (BATMAN) COLLECTOR'S GUIDE VOL. 1: THE GOLDEN AGE: Every Cover 1937-1955 Including BATMAN'S First Appearance (DETECTIVE COMICS COLLECTOR'S GUIDES)

[Dmca](#)