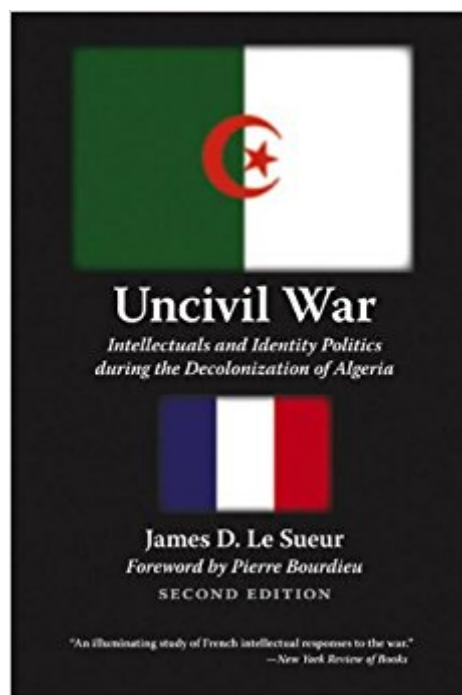




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# Uncivil War: Intellectuals And Identity Politics During The Decolonization Of Algeria, Second Edition



## Synopsis

*Uncivil War* is a provocative study of the intellectuals who confronted the loss of France's most prized overseas possession: colonial Algeria. Tracing the intellectual history of one of the most violent and pivotal wars of European decolonization, James D. Le Sueur illustrates how key figures such as Albert Camus, Jean-Paul Sartre, Simone de Beauvoir, Germaine Tillon, Jacques Soustelle, Raymond Aron, Claude Lévi-Strauss, Albert Memmi, Frantz Fanon, Mouloud Feraoun, Jean Amrouche, and Pierre Bourdieu agonized over the "Algerian question." As Le Sueur argues, these individuals and others forged new notions of the nation and nationalism, giving rise to a politics of identity that continues to influence debate around the world. This edition features an important new chapter on the intellectual responses to the recent torture debates in France, the civil war in Algeria, and terrorism since September 11.

## Book Information

Paperback: 430 pages

Publisher: University of Nebraska Press; 2 edition (December 2005)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0803280289

ISBN-13: 978-0803280281

Product Dimensions: 6 x 1 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.4 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars 1 customer review

Best Sellers Rank: #1,636,352 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #83 in Books > History > Africa > Algeria #855 in Books > Textbooks > Humanities > History > Africa #3652 in Books > History > Europe > France

## Customer Reviews

It is the most important recent contribution to English-language scholarship on the Algerian Revolution. -- Todd Shepard, *Journal of Colonialism and Colonial History*  
New York Review of Books : "An illuminating study of French intellectual responses to the war."-Adam Shatz, *New York Review of Books*  
*Journal of Imperial and Commonwealth History* : "Le Sueur's great achievement is to reveal the complexity of the political and moral choices faced by intellectuals and, by extension, by the wider populations of Algeria and France."-*Journal of Imperial and Commonwealth History*  
*American Historical Review* : "Le Sueur has provided an insightful and lively interpretation of an ongoing moral, sociological, political, and intellectual struggle taking place on both sides of the

Mediterranean Sea."-American Historical Review Islam and Christian-Muslim Relations : "Uncivil War is indispensable reading for re-assessing the greater historical significance of the Algerian War."-Islam and Christian-Muslim Relations "This book is beautifully researched. Le Sueur has not just based his work on the huge amount of published material; he also found rich archival sources that I don't think anyone imagined would be available. Some telling personal interviews with the major actors gives the book an added sense of their anguish during the war. The chapter on Camus alone is worth the price of the book."---William B. Cohen, Indiana University

Pierre Bourdieu, from the Foreword "To tell the role played by French and Algerian intellectuals in Algeria's war of liberation, one of the longest and most terrible in history, needed a historian who was both meticulous and rigorous, one not only capable of interpreting archives and questioning witnesses but sensitive and understanding enough to feel deeply and communicate the tragic experiences of this 'uncivil war.'" *Uncivil War* is a provocative study of the intellectuals who confronted the loss of France's most prized overseas possession, colonial Algeria. Tracing the intellectual history of one of the most violent wars of European decolonization, James D. Le Sueur illustrates how such key figures as Albert Camus, Jean-Paul Sartre, Simone de Beauvoir, Germaine Tillon, Jacques Soustelle, Raymond Aron, Claude Lévi-Strauss, Albert Memmi, Frantz Fanon, Mouloud Feraoun, Jean Amrouche, and Pierre Bourdieu agonized over the "Algerian question." --This text refers to an alternate Paperback edition.

This book is based, in large part, on private and never before seen archives of key public intellectuals during the decolonization of Algeria. Scholars who focus on decolonization and post-colonial studies will find this work provocative and enlightening, with far-reaching implications for today's world. Some notable characteristics of the book include the following: this is the first book to really look at conversations between French and Algerian intellectuals during decolonization; also, Pierre Bourdieu wrote a very moving foreword about his relationship with Mouloud Feraoun before Feraoun was assassinated by the OAS; the chapter on Camus is fascinating and relies largely on his private papers; Le Sueur's critical analysis of the concept of the "Other" and its use by various intellectuals provides a refreshing and critical perspective. This book makes a unique contribution to fields of study such as history, anthropology, sociology, post-colonial studies, education, cultural studies, decolonization studies, and African studies. It's definitely a great read!

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