

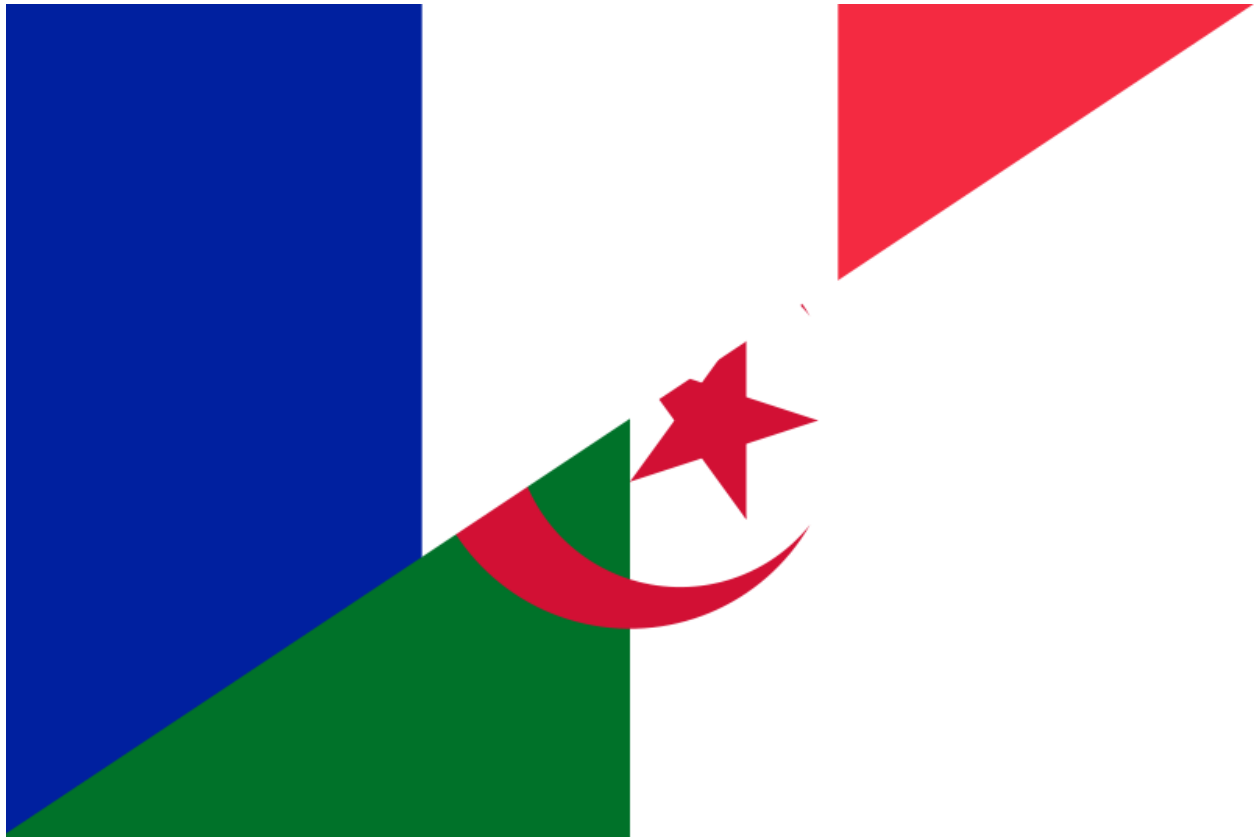
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Research Paper

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Abstract

How did France's legacy of colonization impact Algeria? How significant was the FLN's role in the Algerian War of Independence and the conceptualization of historical problems (immigration and integration) that follows in its memorialization? This paper presents an overarching framework for understanding the complex historical context between France and Algeria and provides an answer to these questions. The first half of the introduction focuses on the complex history between France and Algeria. It further examines Algeria's response to colonization (1830) and decolonization (1962) as facilitated by the FLN. The second part of the paper highlights the traumatic post-colonial consequences through a cinematic lens, by analyzing the intersectionality of immigration, integration, repression, and racism. The final section of the paper critically examines the current political and economic debate around immigrants in France and specifically analyzed President Macron's new immigration policy in response to the influx of migrants.



The History of Algerian Immigrants' Search for Identity in France

An Analysis through French Film:

Historical and Political Context between France and Algeria.

France's Colonial Empire.

What do countries such as Canada, Haiti, Senegal, Guinea, Morocco, and Algeria have in common? France colonized these modern nation-states. History has taught us that several countries in the western world (Europe and the Americas) have attempted or successfully developed an empire by conquering and forcefully imposing imperialist rules on other territories and peoples. Countries such as Spain, Portugal, England, Germany, Sweden, and France justified launching a colonial expedition as a 'peaceful' search for trade relations (gold/diamonds), enhancement for a prestigious image, religious proselytization, enlarged territorial control, and more. However, one may argue that the colonizers' rules were instead based on forced labor, intimidation, co-optation, hubris, and of course violence.

France experienced two historical periods of empire. The first French colonial empire began during the early stages of the 16th century and ended in 1814.¹ During the first colonial empire, the French dominated or controlled territory in the Americas, specifically Canada and islands in the Caribbean. Due in large part to a series of wars, which later became known as the Seven Year War, between the French and British, France lost many of its colonies. Nevertheless, France pursued the acquisition of a second colonial empire during the 1800s (with the annexation of Algeria in 1830) that lasted until the nineteenth century. Instead of the Americas or the Caribbean, the French government diverted its attention and resources towards North Africa.

Why was North Africa named French Africa?

After French colonization ended in the Americas, the country immediately directed much of its resources towards the continent of Africa, specifically western and northern Africa. West

¹ Smith, Blake. The French Colonial Empire, 1500-1800. Furs and a Fortress in New France: The NewBerry. Accessed (9/14/18.)

Africa or 'French West Africa' included eight African nations: Mali, Guinea, Niger, Burkina Faso, Ivory Coast, Senegal, Benin, and Mauritania which were colonized by France from 1850 to 1960.² France's colonization in northern Africa began in 1830 and lasted until 1962. The term French North Africa referred to the annexation of multiple northern African countries, specifically Morocco, Tunisia, and Algeria. France's humiliating defeat by Nazi Germany in 1940 made North Africa a retreat.³ However, France's colonial control of Morocco, Tunisia, and Algeria led to rebellions and nationalist movements, which in some cases included political violence and terrorism.

Algeria before 1830

Before 1830, Algeria was ruled by various Arab dynasties prior to the French war of conquest in 1830. As a country, the "original inhabitants of the Maghreb – the Arab 'west' [consisted] of present-day Morocco, Algeria, and Tunisia – were Berber tribes."⁴ However, the original inhabitants (the Berber tribes) established "individualism, democratic participation in intertribal affairs and fierce opposition to foreign invaders."⁵ In other words, [Algeria](#) was an "Ottoman regency when the French army landed there in 1830. The government was controlled by a dey (governor) and by the Turkish Janissaries who had chosen him. These rulers, supported by the [Koulouglis](#) (people of mixed Turkish and Algerian ancestry) and by certain privileged tribes, [were] aided by the fact that they were of the same [religion](#) as the people, long held

² Ali-Diner, Ali. France in West Africa. (French West Africa): https://www.africa.upenn.edu/K-12/French_16178.html University of Pennsylvania - African Studies Center: (9/13/2018.)

³ Gillespie, Joan. Algeria: Rebellion and Revolution. The Colon (P. 4): Frederick A. Praeger INC, Publishers New York: 1960. Accessed 9/13/2018.

⁴ Ibid. p.7.

⁵ Gillespie, Joan. Algeria: Rebellion and Revolution. The Algerian (P. 17): Frederick A. Praeger INC, Publishers New York: 1960. Accessed 9/14/2018.

Algeria firmly in their grip.”⁶ Despite the self-governmental rules implemented by the Berber tribes, Algeria was a territory occupied by many conquerors who came to the Maghreb. Many of the conquerors, “Phoenicians, Romans, Vandals, Byzantines, Arabs, and the Ottoman Turks,”⁷ had a significant cultural influence on Algeria and its people prior to the French conquests.

France in Algeria.

France’s decision to conquer Algeria was met with resistance by some members of the French government and some French citizens. In fact, French ministries were divided on the issue of colonization. For instance, the Minister of War “Clermont- Tonnere wanted war; [but] the chief of the ministry, Comte de Villele opposed an expedition [in Algeria].”⁸ However, the ultimate decision for France to declare war on Algeria was motivated by money as “Algeria’s Governor, Hüseyin Dey, ignited the fuse for France to begin a war against the Ottoman Empire to take Algeria. He complained that France did not pay its debt to Algeria.”⁹ The French’s decision to launch war or expedition in Algeria began in January 1830, and the territory was entirely conquered by 1852.

French imperialist rulers sought to establish a tactical, material foothold for the colony and entrepreneurial exploitations. France enslaved several Algerians to achieve such a goal. France’s “political motives for this overseas penetration varied from the search for markets, raw materials, investments, and cheap labor to the drive for glory, prestige, strategic advantage, and

⁶ Emerit, Marcel. Abdelkader. Encyclopaedia Britannica: (September 02, 2018) :

<https://www.britannica.com/biography/Abdelkader> (accessed 09/27/2018.)

⁷ Richard and Joan Brace. Ordeal in Algeria: Land, People, And A Little History (P. 1): D. Van Nostrand Company, INC: Princeton, New Jersey; 1960. (9/13/2018.)

⁸ Richard and Joan Brace. Ordeal in Algeria. Introduction (P. 7): D. Van Nostrand Company, INC: Princeton, New Jersey; 1960. (9/13/2018.)

⁹ Renkveren, Deniz. How French Colonization Shaped Algeria’s Future. (June 17, 2016):

<https://www.dailysabah.com/feature/2016/06/18/how-french-colonization-shaped-algerias-future> : Accessed 9/13/18

manpower.”¹⁰ In the case of Algeria, the French discovered the industrial possibilities during the early conquests in 1830 when “Algerian mines yielded iron, phosphates, lead, zinc, antimony, copper, and other necessary industrial raw materials.”¹¹

The abundance of natural resources intensified the mistreatment of the Algerians by the French. In addition to material resources, the French realized how valuable Algerians (mostly men) would be in helping the French fight against the Germans during World War II. Hundreds of thousands of Algerian soldiers gave their lives for France during the war with the promise that France would decolonize Algeria after the war was over. However, France did not deliver on its promise. Ultimately, though, France’s loss of Indochina and defeat in WWII spurred a revolution that resulted in Algeria’s independence.

WWI and WWII

Like many other African colonies, political violence, urban warfare, and terrorism marked the movement for decolonization in Algeria. The process of decolonization began during World War One (WWI) and accelerated during World War Two (WWII). World War I started in July 1914 and lasted until November 1918. The Great War started as a local conflict between the Austria-Hungary and Serbia (as the Serbs were accused of assassinating Archduke Ferdinand of Austria-Hungary) in 1914 that eventually developed into dozens of countries taking sides and declaring war on each other.

At the start of the Great War, France had a strong nation with a very powerful army. Germany declared war on France in 1914, and the French government utilized its military power

¹⁰ Harvey, Donald. French Colonization: Culture, History, Language, Travel, and More. Discover France (Introduction) <http://www.discoverfrance.net/Colonies/> : Accessed (09/14/2018.)

¹¹ Richard and Joan Brace. Ordeal in Algeria: Algeria Between Two World Wars (P. 21): D. Van Nostrand Company, INC: Princeton, New Jersey; 1960. (9/13/2018.)

to stop Germany's advance into Paris, which ultimately led to the German's defeat. "In January 1914 the French Army had 47 divisions (777,000 French and 46,000 colonial troops) ... By the end of the First World War, a total of 8,317,000 men, including 475,000 colonial troops, had been called up to fight in the French Army."¹² And between "1914 and 1918, some 170,000 Algerians, many of them French settlers, took part in the fighting in France. [Over 20,000] of them were killed."¹³ But, with the help of hundreds of thousands of Algerian soldiers, France won the Great War against Germany.

World War Two, however, was a completely different situation for France. The Second World War started in September 1939 and ended in Europe in May 1945. Several historians regarded the war as the most violent war in the history of humankind. After WWI, France had suffered significant casualties, and as WWII arrived, the country was unable to stop the Nazi German invasion of Paris. The quick and unexpected defeat of the French army happened in 1940 as "the Germans launched a major offensive on Paris on 9th June, and by the 13th June Paris was declared an open city, as the French government fled to Bordeaux. The first German troops entered the French capital on 14th June, little more than a month after the campaign began."¹⁴ France's loss to Germany in WWII was a significant turning point for the decolonization movement in Africa and Asia. In fact, France's occupation by Nazi Germany inspired nationalism in French colonies as these nations saw France as a weakened country, both militarily and economically. WWII helped promoted a national decolonization movement in

¹² Primary Sources. French Armed Forces: 1914-18. Spartacus Educational. (2016) <https://spartacus-educational.com/FWWfrenchA.htm> (accessed 09/20/2018.)

¹³ Todd, Tony. Anger as Algerian soldiers confirmed for France's 'Bastille Day' parade. France 24. (July 07, 2014) <https://www.france24.com/en/20140707-anger-algerian-soldiers-confirmed-france-bastille-day-parade> (accessed 09/20/2018.)

¹⁴ Sheffield, Gary. The Fall of France: History. BBC UK. (March 30, 2011) http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/worldwars/wwtwo/fall_france_01.shtml (accessed 09/25/2018.)

French colonies such as Morocco (1912-56) and Tunisia (1881-1960), which France considered as protectorates.

Politically, France's Fourth Republic began to experience instabilities within its government. The French Fourth Republic, which started following the Second World War in 1946, was "notorious for its high level of cabinet instability. [In fact,] the average duration of a cabinet was only about six months, with 24 cabinets forming under 16 prime ministers during the brief twelve-year history of the regime."¹⁵ Additionally, "From 1789 to 1946 France lived under 13 different constitutions, not counting the provisional governments."¹⁶ Such instability in France's Fourth Republic "made it very difficult for politicians to govern effectively, [which resulted in] a transfer of power to the civil service, and ultimately to the demise of the system."¹⁷ The high level of dysfunction in the French government made France appear weak from the perspective of its colonies in Africa and Asia.

In Asia, soon after the end of the Second World War, demands for independence from France's colonies strengthened. For instance, the spectacle of the occupation of France by Germany during WWII was a catalyst for independence in French Indochina. "French Indochina was the collective name for the French colonial regions of Southeast Asia from colonization in 1887 to independence and the subsequent Vietnam Wars of the mid-1900s. During the colonial era, French Indochina was made up of Cochinchina, Annam, Cambodia, Tonkin,

¹⁵ Huber, John. Cabinet Instability and the Accumulation of Experience in the Cabinet: The French Fourth and Fifth Republics in Comparative Perspective* Columbia University. (March 15, 2002). <https://pdfs.semanticscholar.org/860d/9a567196291308ed4753825124ddd457a5f1.pdf> (accessed 09/27/2018)

¹⁶ Goguel, Francois. Political Instability in France. Foreign Affairs: (October 1954): <https://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/france/1954-10-01/political-instability-france> (accessed 09/27/2018.)

¹⁷ Huber, John. Cabinet Instability and the Accumulation of Experience in the Cabinet: The French Fourth and Fifth Republics in Comparative Perspective* Columbia University. (March 15, 2002). <https://pdfs.semanticscholar.org/860d/9a567196291308ed4753825124ddd457a5f1.pdf> (accessed 09/27/2018)

Kwangchow, and Laos. Today, the same region is divided into the nations of Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia.”¹⁸

France’s motivation for colonizing Indochina in 1887 was due to entrepreneurial exploitation as the French government established “high taxes on local consumption of good like salt, opium, and rice... [Furthermore] the French, in the 1930s, begun exploiting the area's natural resources instead. [For example,] what is now Vietnam became a rich source of zinc, tin, and coal as well as cash crops such as rice, rubber, coffee, and tea. Cambodia supplied pepper, rubber, and rice, Laos, however, had no valuable mines and was used only for low-level timber harvesting.”¹⁹

However, the one-sided economic gain for France dramatically changed after WWII as these nations in French Indochina were expecting to be granted independence. These differences of opinion led to the first Indochina war of independence. “In 1954, the Vietnamese under Ho Chi Minh defeated the French army at the decisive Battle of Dien Bien Phu, and the French gave up their claims to the former French Indochina through the Geneva Accord of 1954.”²⁰ This defeat undoubtedly brought an end to the French colonial control in Indochina. France’s downfall in WWII, the battle at Dien Bien Phu in 1954, and the instability of the Fourth Republic signaled a loss of French power in the world which ultimately motivated numerous French colonies in Northern Africa including Morocco, Tunisia, and Algeria to undertake the effort of independence.

¹⁸ Szczepanski, Kallie. What was French Indochina? ThoughtCo. (January 18, 2018) : <https://www.thoughtco.com/what-was-french-indochina-195328> (accessed 09/27/2018)

¹⁹ Ibid.

²⁰ Ibid.

The National Liberation in Algeria

The beginning of the decade of the 1960s was marked by significant decolonization in French African colonies including Ivory Coast (1843-1960), Benin (1883-1960), and Senegal (1677-1960). Several of these decolonization processes were relatively peaceful. However, the fight for an independent Algeria started and ended in a bloody revolution. Algeria's 20th century war of national liberation was different because throughout both world wars Algeria provided colonial France with not just substantial material resources, but also with indigenous soldiers. France had promised full citizenship to the Algerians after the war but did not deliver on that promise. Hence, Algeria's revolution for independence began in 1954 and lasted until 1962.

Although the Algerian resistance took on a new urgency after World War II, resistance against the French imperialists started in the early 1830s. In the countryside of Algeria, many Berber tribes opposed the French's appropriation of indigenous lands. One of the earliest revolutionary leaders was Emir Abdelkader. Abdelkader (1808-1883) is known as one of the first resistance leaders (or rural patriotism hero) in the rural parts of Algeria. under his leadership, Abdelkader, was able to call "upon the Muslims to unite in holy war against the conqueror. He worked with several poorly trained fighters and primitive weapons, but by his extraordinary energy he succeeded in organizing many if not all of the Algerian tribes [against the French.]"²¹ For a brief time, Emir Abdelkader led a successful struggle against the early stage of the French invasion in Algeria from 1832 to 1847.

Abdelkader organized a regular army of approximately 2,000 men, to be supported by either volunteers or [contingents](#) furnished by the tribes. As towns near French territory would have been too [vulnerable](#), he fortified interior sites, such as Sebdou, Saïda, Tiaret, Taza, and Boghar, where he opened arsenals, warehouses,

²¹ Gillespie, p.19-20.

and workshops, and where he stored surplus crops whose sales were to finance his arms purchases, mainly in England. He set up a new administration, with officials on fixed salaries. He taught his people austerity and set a personal example, living without ceremony in a tent. By expanding education, he slowly spread the concepts of independence and nationality to his people.²²

Yet, with such determination, Emir Abdelkader realized that further resistance against the French would only cause more futile suffering for his people as the French army was powerful and substantial. Therefore, Emir Abdelkader, “in 1847, with great dignity, turned himself over to General Christophe de Lamoricière and to Bugeaud’s successor, King Louis-Philippe’s son, the Duc d’Aumale, who promised him transport to the East. Louis-Philippe, however, failed to respect his son’s promise. Abdelkader was held a prisoner in France... [But,] it was the prince-president Louis-Napoléon who, in 1852, authorized his return to Bursa and then to Damascus, where he led an exemplary life.”²³ Even though Emir Abdelkader’s rebel campaign did not achieve its ultimate success, it inspired future revolutionary movements in Algeria.

The early rebellion (led by Emir Abdelkader) was a direct result of France’s brutal treatment of the indigenous peoples, and the illegal transfer of Algerian lands to the Pieds-Noirs (who are Europeans who immigrated to Algeria during French imperialist rules). In fact, it is estimated that by 1954 about “15,000,000 acres of cultivable land, European owners, 25,000 in numbers, owned 6,875,000 acres. This gave each European farmer 275 acres on average.”²⁴ Such an enormous disparity in land distribution and ownership made life very difficult for Algerian farmers. The early rebellion yielded little to no results as the French Army was much more

²² Emerit, Marcel. Abdelkader. Encyclopaedia Britannica: (September 02, 2018): <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Abdelkader> (accessed 09/27/2018.)

²³ Ibid.

²⁴ Gillespie, p.33.

powerful and technologically advanced. However, the second and most sustained Algerian revolution began in 1954 with the creation of the National Liberation Front (FLN).

The FLN 1954 (Creation and Goals)

Under France's domination, it was undoubtedly clear that Algerians resented the French. Their resentment of the invaders played a significant role in the emergent nationalist movement in 1954. This movement for national self-determination led to the creation of the Algeria National Liberation Front or Front de Libération Nationale (FLN.) The FLN was created on the 1st November 1954 by the Comité Révolutionnaire d'Unité et d'Action (CRUA).²⁵ The CRUA first involved a group of nine young and passionate Algerian men including Hussein Ait Ahmed, Ahmed Ben Bella, Mohamed Larbi Ben M'Hidi, Mohamed Boudiaf, Mostefa Ben Boulaid, Rabat Bitat, Mourad Diadouche, Mohamed Khider, and Belkacem Krim.²⁶

These men realized that there was not a compromise solution. Therefore, they sought to “[reconcile](#) the warring factions of the nationalist movement and to wage war against the French colonial presence in Algeria.”²⁷ During the war of independence, several Algerian nationalist organizations such the Algerian Communist Party (PAC), the Union Democratique du Manifeste Algerien (UDMA), and the Movement pour le Triomphe des Libertés Democratiques (MTLD) joined the FLN by mobilizing against the French government. Such mobilization enhanced the overall functionalism of the FLN.

²⁵ The Editors of Encyclopedia Britannica. National Liberation Front. Encyclopedia Britannica, Inc. (March 22, 2016) : <https://www.britannica.com/topic/National-Liberation-Front-political-party-Algeria> (Accessed Oct. 04, 2018.)

²⁶ Gillespie, p.94.

²⁷ The Editors of Encyclopedia Britannica. National Liberation Front.

In the FLN's 1954 proclamation, the organization noted that one of its primary motivations for independence was "solely against colonialism, [which was the] only blind and obstinate enemy, which has always refused to grant the least freedom by peaceful means."²⁸ Also, the FLN had two main goals, which was "political reform by the returning of the National Revolutionary Movement to its true path and by the wiping-out of the vestiges of corruption and reformism. [The other goal involved] the gathering together and organization of all the [youthful] energies of the Algerian people for the liquidation of the colonial system."²⁹ However, their request for independent was met with violent repression which resulted in mass atrocities against both civilians and militants alike.

Leaders' functions

It is important to note that most of the revolutionary leaders involved with the FLN "came from the lower middle or lower classes of Algerian society... [Some of them] had experience in the French Army and the [others] had been in French prisons."³⁰ Most of these leaders have had firsthand experiences with racism, starvation, and endured insufficient economic development in their country. After France's defeat in Indochina, leaders from several nationalist organizations quickly realized France had lost its image of indestructibility. Therefore, in March of 1954, nationalist leaders mobilized to fight against the French colonial regime as it was at its weakest during this period.

²⁸ Abidor, Mitch. Algeria 1954: Front de Liberation Nationale (Proclamation: November 1, 1954) Algeria History Archive. <https://www.marxists.org/history/algeria/1954/proclamation.htm> (accessed Oct. 04, 2018.)

²⁹ Ibid.

³⁰ Gillespie, p. 95.

To become more effective in the revolt against the French, the leaders of FLN assigned responsibilities, articulated objectives, and created a revolutionary structure which resulted in “six military districts, known as *wilaya*. The leaders of these regions became known as the “internals” whose main job was to marshal Arab support for the revolution. Ben Bella, Khider, and Ait Ahmed formed the “external” FLN delegation in Cairo. Their role was to gain foreign support and secure arms and supplies for the *wilaya* commanders. Orders given to operation groups were to “arm, train and prepare” for the outbreak..³¹

1955 Philippeville Massacre.

At the start of the military campaign, it became obvious that the FLN was at a disadvantage as compared to France’s massive army. According to Ben Bella, one of the founders of the FLN, the FLN only had approximately “350 to 400 firearms, most of which were homemade or stolen from the French.”³² Meanwhile, at the very beginning of the revolution, the “French army numbered approximately 50,000 men.”³³ Despite the immense differential in manpower, the FLN was determined to draw international attention to their revolutionary uprising with the goal of escalating the asymmetrical war with the French.

The first attack commenced on “Sunday night, October 31-Monday morning, November 1st, 1954, in Algeria at 1 A.M. [with] an explosion in the studios of Radio Algeria. At 2 A.M. a paper factory at Baba-Ali caught fire [and] telephone wires at Tizi-ouzou and Azazga were

³¹ Katie, Mario, and Ruth. Algerian Revolution: Planning November 1st. <https://sites.google.com/a/oxy.edu/the-algerian-story/algerian-revolution/1954-planning-november-1st> (accessed 10/05/2018.)

³² Ibid.

³³ Richard and Joan Brace. Ordeal in Algeria: Rebellion. (P. 93): D. Van Nostrand Company, INC: Princeton, New Jersey; 1960. (10/05/2018.)

cut.”³⁴ After the attack, the French government reported that only “seven persons lost their lives in the south Constantine, in the Aures region.”³⁵ With fewer casualties, the first attack did not manage to spike fear in the French army as the French Governor General, Roger Leonard, noted that the attack is not a long-term threat and will not create an uprising.

Desperate for attention and mobilization that would transform their uprising into a full-scale revolution against the French, the FLN used extremely violent tactics to mobilize and ignite the uprising. None were more impactful than the 1955 Philippeville massacre. The massacre became the monumental turning point in the campaign against the French. The Philippeville massacre commenced in “Constantine on August 20, 1955 and spread to the town of Philippeville. Some eighty guerillas who entered the village went from house to house mercilessly slaughtering men, women, and children. Houses were found covered in blood, and European mothers were found with their throats slit, and their bellies dashed open by bill-hooks...infants in arms had their brains dashed against the wall. In total thirty-seven Europeans died, including ten children.”³⁶

In response to the massacre against civilians, the French government immediately retaliated “by opening fire at random, killing every Arab in their way. One soldier recounted: for two hours all we heard was automatic rifles spitting fire into the crowd and the next morning there were so many [dead] that they had to be buried with bulldozers.”³⁷ Additionally, with the understanding that the revolution (now a full-scale war) would be difficult to suppress, the French government, in 1956 deployed “250,000 soldiers to halt [the FLN] uprising... [and by

³⁴ Ibid.

³⁵ Ibid.

³⁶ Katie, Mario, and Ruth.

³⁷ Ibid.

1960] a half of million troops were deployed by the French in Algeria.”³⁸ In total, “Between 1,200 and 12,000 Algerian were killed in retaliation by French troops and by *pied-noir vigilante committees*.”³⁹ After the 1955 Philippeville massacre, it become evident that the FLN’s strategy was a success as it prompted or forced the French government to recognize the rebellion, to increase its military forces, and encouraged many Algerians to support the FLN against the French.

Battle of Algiers.

Merciless violence continues after the 1955 Philippeville massacre. By 1956, it became apparent that both sides (The FLN and French) attacked each other relentlessly. Such increasing violence eventually gave rise to the Battle of Algiers which took place from 1956 to early 1957. Battle of Algiers was a month-long violence urban campaign in which the “streets of Algiers ran red with blood. FLN terrorists shot, killed, and maimed innocent noncombatants in a determined effort to make the capital of French Algeria ungovernable”⁴⁰ Battle of Algiers also marked the beginning of an unburn bombing campaign against European settlers.

Abbane Ramdane, one of the leaders of the FLN, was known as the mastermind of the campaign. “With a UN vote on Algeria imminent at the beginning of 1957, he believed that victory was within the FLN’s grasp. He was convinced that France had lost the political will to

³⁸ Brace Richard and Joan, p. 93.

³⁹ Hitchens, Christopher. A Chronology of the Algerian War of Independence. (November 2006) The Atlantic. <https://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2006/11/a-chronology-of-the-algerian-war-of-independence/305277/> (accessed 10/07/2018.)

⁴⁰ Schrepel, Walter A. 2005. “Paras and Centurions: Lessons Learned From the Battle of Algiers.” Peace & Conflict 11 (1): 71–89. doi:10.1207/s15327949pac1101pass:[_]9 (accessed 10/07/2018)

fight. All that was needed, he argued, was one final surge that would force the French into negotiations.”⁴¹

The final surge occurred in towns and cities, most of which involved random shooting of civilians (including Europeans) and planned bomb attacks in public areas that resulted in mass atrocities. The French government responded with violence and added “nearly 400,000 troops by 1956.”⁴² Counter-violence broke out between both sides until the end of the surge which ended on “7th October 1957 when the last FLN leader, Ali Ammar alias Ali la Pointe, was cornered in a safe house near the top of the Casbah. [He refused] to surrender, [and] he was blown up by French paratrooper bomb experts.”⁴³

Female Involvement

It is imperative to understand the role of women in the FLN liberation movement. Women, such as Zohra Drif, Samia Lakhdari, Djamila Bouhired, and Hassiba Ben Bouali, contributed to the success of the Algerian movement for independence, especially during the period of Battle of Algiers. “The ministry for veterans' affairs reported in 1974 that 11,000 Algerian women had fought for the liberation of their country (about 3 percent of all fighters).”⁴⁴ Of the 11,000, 22 percent were urban women, and 78 percent came from rural areas.⁴⁵

⁴¹ Evans, Martin. The Battle of Algiers: Historical Truth and Filmic Representation. (18th December 2012); Open Democracy. <https://www.opendemocracy.net/martin-evans/battle-of-algiers-historical-truth-and-filmic-representation> (Accessed 10/07/2018.)

⁴² Schrepe, Walter.

⁴³ Evans, Martin.

⁴⁴ Turshen, Meredith. “Algerian Women in the Liberation Struggle and the Civil War: From Active Participants to Passive Victims?” *Social Research* 69, no. 3 (Fall 2002): 889–911. <http://taurus.hood.edu:2048/login?url=http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=a9h&AN=7692529&site=ehost-live> (accessed 10/07/2018)

⁴⁵ Ibid.

“Urban educated women joined the *maquis* (the rebel forces operating in the mountains) when arrest in the city was imminent. [While,] living in villages, they taught illiterate peasant women about their social role and explained colonialism, the revolution, and the reasons for the independence struggle.”⁴⁶ In addition, women held several significant roles in the liberation movement; which ranged from serving as active combatants, fundraisers, nurses, cooks or couriers. In fact, in an interview, Saadi Yacef, a former leader of the FLN, discussed the essential role women carried out during the struggle for decolonization. Yacef stated that women’s participation in the revolution “helped us (FLN) in so many ways. [He noted that women] would help the people who had nothing to eat—they would find food for them. They would hide us in their homes when we needed; they would make food, so everyone was fed. They would also look out for soldiers and let us know what was happening; so truly, I have to tell you that women played such an important role that without them we would not have won.”⁴⁷

One of the extraordinary tasks involved women transporting bombs into areas heavily controlled by the French. Notably, Samia Lakhdari, Zohra Drif, and Djamila Bouhired were responsible for the three-separate bombings in European cafes and venues located in the center of Algiers in 1956. To deliver the bombs, these women had to pass through military surveillance checkpoints. And they had to alter their appearance to look like a European woman in order to pass the checkpoints successfully. Of the three bombs, only “two bombs killed three and injured more than fifty. Djamila Bouhired’s bomb failed to explode.”⁴⁸

⁴⁶ Ibid.

⁴⁷ Jao, Charline. Interview: Saadi Yacef on the Role and Representation of Women in The Battle of Algiers – Both Film and Reality. (October 14th, 2016) : The Mary Sue. <https://www.themarysue.com/interview-saadi-yacef/> (accessed 10/07/2018)

⁴⁸ Gannon, James. Military occupations in the Age of Self-determination: The History Neocons Neglected. (2008): Praeger Security International: <https://books.google.com/books?id=1sDgR3KKfBAC&pg=PA49&lpg=PA49&dq=Samia+Lakhdari&source=bl&ots=I6>

Women's involvement in the revolution meant that some of these women experienced extreme punishment and even torture. Some of FLN female freedom fighters were tortured and raped; as Yacef noted in the interview. Additionally, the French military including the police did not "spare women participants who were captured; about 2,200 *mujahidcit* (women combatants) were arrested and tortured. The French killed some women in shootouts, and they condemned six [some] to death."⁴⁹ However, regardless of their pain and humiliation, women's sacrifices for Algerian independence did not go unnoticed.

After Algeria gained its independence from France in 1962, "women secured citizenship, equal rights to coeducation and health services (both free), and entry to the professions... By 1994-95, 46 percent of primary and 50 percent of secondary school students were girls. [About] half of the university graduates were women; 50 percent of doctors (and only 48 percent of nurses), one-third of judges, and 30 percent of lawyers were women."⁵⁰

Mass Atrocities

Algeria was the only French colony to experience such extreme brutality. France's reluctance to grant Algeria its freedom resulted in one of the bloodiest struggles for self-determination in the 20th century. Such reluctance occurred in part because there were more

[BsT9hDse&sig=Jhbiz7yHobvmylBv72d_WERkv0k&hl=en&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwiLzMCJy_fdAhWJ54MKHbxYAaUQ6AEwDHoECAEQAAQ#v=onepage&q=Samia%20Lakhdari&f=false](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/328111111_BsT9hDse&sig=Jhbiz7yHobvmylBv72d_WERkv0k&hl=en&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwiLzMCJy_fdAhWJ54MKHbxYAaUQ6AEwDHoECAEQAAQ#v=onepage&q=Samia%20Lakhdari&f=false) (accessed 10/08/2018)

⁴⁹ Turshen, Meredith. "Algerian Women in the Liberation Struggle and the Civil War: From Active Participants to Passive Victims?" *Social Research* 69, no. 3 (Fall 2002): 889–911.

<http://taurus.hood.edu:2048/login?url=http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=a9h&AN=7692529&site=ehost-live> (10/07/2018)

⁵⁰ Ibid.

French citizens living in Algeria compared to other colonies like Morocco and Tunisia. It is difficult to numerically evaluate the mass atrocities committed by the French and the FLN. The numbers vary according to the source, but “according to historians, between 500,000 and 1,500,000 Algerians perished in the conflict. Over two million in a total population of ten million were forced out of their homes and put in detention camps. French army losses were approximately 28,000 dead and 65,000 wounded. Thousands of European settlers lost their lives.”⁵¹ However, according to some Algerian historians, “the death toll at 1.5 million Algerian victims while French historians [counted] 400,000 people from both sides were killed.”⁵² Another estimate noted that the “minimum estimate of fatalities: 87,788 (90,000). Overall deaths from multiple causes and including combatants is likely around 300,000.”⁵³

Charles De Gaulle and Algeria and Independent

Charles De Gaulle, commonly known as De Gaulle, was born on the 22nd November 1890 in France, Lille. De Gaulle spent most of his adulthood in Paris, where he joined the French military and eventually became a general and statesman. He is best known for his distinctive leadership role during the French Liberation Movement of Paris against Nazi Germany in the 1940s and credited as the father or architect of the Fifth Republic after the collapse of the Fourth Republic. In 1958, De Gaulle was voted in as president of France.⁵⁴ He inherited a country that

⁵¹ Ahmed, Nazeer. The War of Algeria’s Independence – 1954-62. History of Islam: <https://historyofislam.com/contents/the-modern-age/the-war-of-algeria%E2%80%99s-independence-1954-62/> (accessed 10/08/2018)

⁵² France 24. France Remembers the Algerian War, 50 years on. (March 16, 2012): France 24. <https://www.france24.com/en/20120316-commemorations-mark-end-algerian-war-independence-france-evian-accords> (accessed 10/08/2018.)

⁵³ Ibid.

⁵⁴ BBC, Writers. Charles de Gaulle (1890 – 1970): BBC History. http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/historic_figures/gaulle_charles_de.shtml (accessed 10/12/18.)

was experiencing a lot economic and political instability. One of the many difficulties De Gaulle was tasked with was resolving the revolution in Algeria led by the FLN.

De Gaulle also had considered the demands of European Algerian (pieds-noirs) who wanted Algeria to be integrated into France. As violence continued to rise in 1959, De Gaulle concluded that “French control of Algeria is untenable, de Gaulle pronounced that “self-determination was necessary for Algeria.”⁵⁵ This stance of De Gaulle was not accepted by some angry pieds-noir who rebelled against him and urged De Gaulle to stop negotiations with the FLN.

Prior to De Gaulle taking power as French president, the FLN established a provisional government in Algeria. The formation of the Provisional Government included “Ferhat Abbas as Prime Minister, Ben Bella as First Deputy as Prime Minister, Krim as Deputy as Prime Minister and Minister of Defence, and Dr. Lamine as Foreign Minister.”⁵⁶ This Provisional Government was vital to the FLN because it gave legitimacy to the organization. However, upon entering negotiations with the FLN, De Gaulle “ignored the new symbol of the Algerian authority.”⁵⁷ At first, De Gaulle wanted Algeria to become part of France, as part of the Franco—African Community. Within this community, De Gaulle proposal a five years’ plan (Constantine Plan) for the financial development of Algeria.

The plan would include “400,000 new jobs for Algeria’s Muslims... new housing for 1000,000 people... and about 625,000 acres would be turned back to Muslim peasants.”⁵⁸ De

⁵⁵ Hitchens, Christopher.

⁵⁶ Gillespie, Joan. *Algeria: Rebellion and Revolution. Provisional Government* (P. 167): Frederick A. Praeger INC, Publishers New York: 1960. (accessed 10/12/18.)

⁵⁷ Gillespie, Joan. *Algeria: Rebellion and Revolution. Provisional Government* (P. 167): Frederick A. Praeger INC, Publishers New York: 1960. (accessed 10/12/18.)

⁵⁸ Gillespie, Joan. *Algeria: Rebellion and Revolution. Secret Negotiations Fail* (P. 168): Frederick A. Praeger INC, Publishers New York: 1960. (accessed 10/12/18.)

Gaulle's Constantine Plan for Algeria centered, basically, on a settlement for France. The FLN rejected De Gaulle's offer because they preferred a "political settlement"⁵⁹ rather than France's promise to assist with economic development. Such disagreement led to the failure of the first round of negotiations. In 1959, De Gaulle resumed negotiation with the FLN. However, "the army attempted to halt these talks, but only succeeded in turning de Gaulle firmly against the pied-noirs... [Therefore,] On January 8, 1961, France held a referendum on Algerian independence. Some 75 percent of mainland citizens voted for independence, while 69.5 percent of the population in Algeria voted for it."⁶⁰

This was a momentous turning point in the fight for Algerian independence. In addition to the referendum, De Gaulle "granted Muslims the full rights of French citizenship and in 1959 declared publicly that Algerians had the right to determine their own future."⁶¹ After De Gaulle's declaration in 1959, a new spike in violence, led by angry European Algerians called Organisation de l'Armee Secrete (OAS), emerged against civilians for two years. The OAS mounted "terrorist attacks against civilians, [including both] Muslim and French, in the hopes of keeping Algeria under French control."⁶²

Nevertheless, such violence did not stop De Gaulle from negotiation with the FLN-led Provisional Government. Finally, in the 16th March 1962, "a peace agreement was signed at Evian-Les-Bains, France, which promised independence for Algeria pending a national referendum on the issue. [And] On July 1st, 1962, Algerians overwhelmingly approved the

⁵⁹ Gillespie, Joan. *Algeria: Rebellion and Revolution. Secret Negotiations Fail* (P. 168): Frederick A. Praeger INC, Publishers New York: 1960. (accessed 10/12/18.)

⁶⁰ World Peace Foundation. *Algeria: War of Independence*. (August 7, 2015.) World Peace Foundation. <https://sites.tufts.edu/atrocityendings/2015/08/07/algeria-war-of-independence/> (accessed 10/12/18.)

⁶¹ Editors, History. *French-Algerian Truce*. History. (August 21, 2018.): <https://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/french-algerian-truce> (accessed 10/12/18.)

⁶² Hitchens, Christopher.

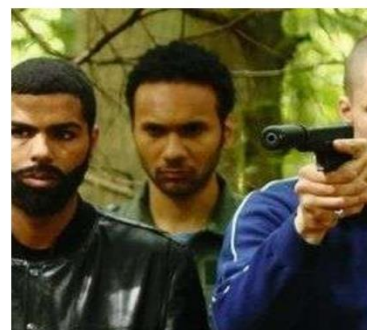
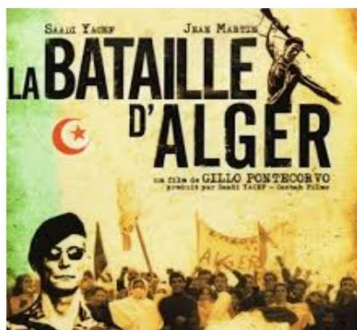
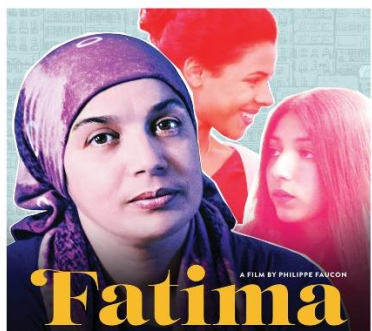
agreement, and most of the one million Europeans in Algeria poured out of the country.”⁶³ At the end of it all, it is estimated that “more than 100,000 Muslim and 10,000 French soldiers were killed in the seven-year Algerian War, along with thousands of Muslim civilians and hundreds of European colonists.”⁶⁴ Colonialism, or the idea of it, is no accident. Colonizers have used imperialism as a rationale to extract the various resources from colonized lands while abusing the people. However, colonizers have idiotically forgotten to factor in the aftermath of colonization, as the results have proven to be devastating, specifically for colonized people, i.e., Algerian.

⁶³ Editors, History. French-Algerian Truce. History.

⁶⁴ Editors, History. French-Algerian Truce. History.

Abraham Kettor

Research Paper 2



Introduction

Film and politics are simultaneously intertwined. Film has a powerfully unique ubiquity that impacts human culture and society, while politics influences power, policy, and people. Film is more than a form of entertainment; it could profoundly change people's perspective. Each of the seven films, *La Bataille d'Alger* (1966 – 2004), *Le Coup de Sirocco* (1979), *Indigènes* (2006), *La Désintégration* (2012), *La Marche* (2013), *Fatima* (2015), and *Divines* (2016), has had an underlying influence on people's beliefs and the way they think specifically regarding the French government role during the period of colonization, and decolonization.

Films, such as *Indigènes* and *La Bataille d'Alger*, examines Algerian struggles for independence during imperialism. While movies like *Le Coup de Sirocco* and *Fatima* portrays the post-colonial consequences of colonization. Lastly, *La Désintégration*, *Divines*, and *Fatima* are films that highlight the struggles of immigrant's integration into France as it relates to suppression and racism. Over the course of the 20th century, each of the seven films has shape cultural perception on the impact of colonization and its consequences as well as influenced the social construction of French identity and impacted the national politics in France.

Indigènes

(*Days of Glory*)

Film Analysis

“*Day of Glory*” or *Indigènes* (Natives) in French is a war, drama and historical movie that tells the stories of four North African soldiers who fought for France during World War II (WWII). The film was directed by Rachid Bouchareb and was released in September 2006. Patrick Blossier does the cinematography, the film editor is Yannick Kergoat, the set decorator is

Dominique Douret, and Khaled, as well as Armand Amar, produced the music for the film. The four main characters are: Saïd (Jamel Debbouze), Yassir (Samy Naceri), Messaoud (Roschdy Zem), and Abdelkader (Sami Bouajila).⁶⁵ *Days of Glory* was nominated for Oscar as the best foreign language film of the year and has won multiple awards at the Cannes Film Festival including the award for Best Actor.

Synopsis

Rachid Bouchareb's film is about the forgotten North African soldiers who fought for France in World War II. The film is also about the commemoration of the sacrifices made by African soldiers to liberate France and further examines France's blatant racial hypocrisy in the treatment of the soldiers. These four men of Algerian and Moroccan nationalities were sent on the battlefield to liberate France from Nazi Germany. Instead of being accepted and embraced for their heroism by their French fighting partners, these men experienced many difficulties integrating into France's army.

Historical Context

The issue of pensions was Rachid's motive for creating the movie, "*Days of Glory*." After several French colonies (including Algeria, Senegal, and Morocco) achieved independence in the 1960s, the French government froze the pensions of some African soldiers who fought for The Republic of France during WWII. However, the native-born white French soldiers received their full pensions benefits. "By 2006, a French veteran was receiving €690 a month; however,

⁶⁵ Allocine. "Indigenes." (2006): http://www.allocine.fr/film/fichefilm_gen_cfilm=58934.html (accessed 11/5/2018.)

an African veteran was still receiving the 1960s level pension of €61 a month.”⁶⁶ Rachid saw this as an ingratitude of France, and that prompted him to make a film about the extraordinary story of these forgotten African soldiers who risked their lives for France. The success of the movie spiked a political debate in France about veterans’ pensions. In fact, when President Jacques Chirac first watched the movie, he was deeply moved and touched.

President Chirac believed that it was "an act of justice and recognition for all those who came from the former French Empire to fight under [France’s] flag.”⁶⁷ Therefore, as a result of the film, in 2006, President Chirac “raised the pensions of Africans and other foreign veterans who served in the country's armed forces to the same level as French soldiers.”⁶⁸ *The president’s decision officially ended the unequal pension payment of African soldiers, sixty-five (65) years later.*

Characters’ Roles

Jamel Debbouze (Saïd) played the role of a young peasant, whose mother does not want him to join the French’s army. She begs him to “be reasonable [as she reminded Saïd that his] grandfather never came back.”⁶⁹ However, Saïd did not listen to his mother and enlisted in the military instead. Inexperienced, Saïd was directly taken under the wing of his fierce but caring sergeant, Bernard Blancan (Martinez). On the contrary, Samy Naceri (Yassir) played the role of a Moroccan Berber who joined the French military with his little brother (Larbi). These two

⁶⁶ Lichfield, John. “After 65 years, France Finally Honours its Colonial Soldiers.” Independent News. (July 14, 2010.) <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/europe/after-65-years-france-finally-honours-its-colonial-soldiers-2025817.html> (accessed 11/07/2018.)

⁶⁷ NewsOK. “France Boost Pensions for Colonial Vets.” Associated Press. (September 28, 2006): <https://newsok.com/article/2854914/france-boosts-pensions-for-colonial-vets> (accessed 11/6/18.)

⁶⁸ VOA News. “France Raised Pension for Foreign Veterans.” VOA News. (October 31, 2009.) <https://www.voanews.com/a/a-13-2006-09-27-voa72/313559.html> (accessed 11/6/18.)

⁶⁹ L.S. “Indigenes” Libre-Streaming. (0:03:29): <http://ls-streaming.com/1451-indigenes.html> (accessed 11/06/2018.)

brothers fought for France even though the French killed their parents during a campaign that Yassir referred to as “pacification.”⁷⁰ Unfortunately, both Yassir and his brother died on the battleground fighting for the liberation of France.

Roschdy Zem (Messaoud) embodies the role of the African soldier who fell in love with a Frenchwoman and daydreams about his future with her after the war. In the film, Sami Bouajila (Abdelkader) plays the role of an educated Algerian corporal with an ambitious goal of becoming a sergeant in the French army. As a corporal, it is an indication that he can read and write, which was a surprise for most of the French soldiers including Sergeant Martinez. All of the African soldiers, including Saïd, Yassir, Messaoud, and Abdelkader were under the impression that France’s government would reward their service, and that they will be equally treated once the war is over. But such promise/goal never came to fruition for several of the African soldiers who risked and gave their lives for France.

Essential themes

The issue of discrimination is one of the significant themes, along with loyalty and sacrifice, highlighted in the film. Nazi Germany’s occupation of France in 1940 was a humiliating defeat for the country. The French government sought help from its colonies in northern Africa to liberate the country from Germany. There were more than “200,000 North African fighters in the French military,”⁷¹ and a considerable number from Algeria and Morocco by 1943. The French enlisted young African men into the French military to liberate France; “we

⁷⁰ L.S. “Indigenes” Libre-Streaming. (0:41:45): <http://ls-streaming.com/1451-indigenes.html> (accessed 11/06/2018.)

⁷¹ Laurier, Joanne. “Indigenes: The French Army’s Exploited North African Soldiers.” WSWS. (April 2, 2007): <https://www.wsws.org/en/articles/2007/04/indi-a02.html> (accessed 11/7/18.)

must wash the French flag with our blood! Come with me! Let's have the men out! We must liberate France.”⁷²

Once enlisted into the military, the African soldiers begin to experience many forms of injustice from their French counterparts. For instance, African soldiers could not eat the same food such as fresh tomatoes as the white French soldiers. Other forms of discriminatory acts include white French soldiers getting a promotion, while the African soldiers do not advance in rank. Additionally, love letters sent by an African soldier to white Frenchwomen were censored, and in most cases did not get delivered.

In sum

Rachid Bouchareb's film, “Days of Glory,” exposed French's hypocrisy towards the enduring themes of the French Revolution – Liberty, Equality, and Fraternity. It is evident that North African soldiers were mistreated even though they paid the ultimate price for France with their lives. “Days of Glory” is a brilliant war film that shines a light on various significant political and social issues as well as creates a dialogue about the heroism of African troops.

⁷² L.S. “Indigenes” Libre-Streaming. (0:02:45): <http://ls-streaming.com/1451-indigenes.html> (accessed 11/06/2018.)

La Bataille d'Alger

About the Film

The movie, “*La Bataille d’Alger*,” is a historical, drama, war, and crime film directed by Gillo Pontecorvo. The film was first released on September 1966 and was later re-released on September 21, 2004 due to the controversy surrounding the movie as the French government viewed it as a propaganda platform against the county. Franco Solinas wrote the script for the film, and Marcello Gatti is credited as the cinematographer. Antonio Musu, Yacef Saadi, and Fred Baker are the producers. Sergio Canevari is the set director. Mario Morra and Mario Serandrei edited the film, while Ennio Morricone and Gillo Pontecorvo produced the music.⁷³

The main characters of the film are Djafar (Saadi Yacef), Ali La Pointe (Brahim Haggiag), Colonel Mathieu (Jean Martin.) and the three female’s bombers - Zohra Drif, Djamila Bouhired, and Samia Lakhdari.⁷⁴ The film has won several awards such as the “*Golden Lion* at the Venice Film Festival in 1966 and eventually earned three Oscar nominations including Best Director and Best Foreign Language film.”⁷⁵

Synopsis

“*La Bataille d’Alger*” is a movie based on significant historical events that occurred during Algerian’s struggle for independence from France between 1954 to 1962 in La Casbah, Algeria. The film specifically focused on the actions of the freedom fighters known as the Front

⁷³ IMDb. “The Battle of Algiers: Full Cast and Crew.” IMDb (1966): <https://www.imdb.com/title/tt0058946/fullcredits> (accessed 11/25/18.)

⁷⁴ IMDb. “The Battle of Algiers: Full Cast and Crew.” IMDb (1966): <https://www.imdb.com/title/tt0058946/fullcredits> (accessed 11/25/18.)

⁷⁵ Qureshi, Bilal. “A Cinematic Classic of Resistance Returns to The Big Screen.” NPR: (October 13, 2016) <https://www.npr.org/2016/10/13/497819083/a-cinematic-classic-of-resistance-returns-to-the-big-screen> (11/25/18.)

de Libération Nationale (FLN). The FLN used specific strategies including violent attacks on police, bombings in popular European's areas, and protests in the streets to force the French to leave their country. In response, the French government sent paratroopers to quash the FLN. The French paratroopers used several tactics such as check-points, curfews in the [Arab parts of the] city, and torture of people identified as a member of the FLN.

Historical Context:

Historically, Algeria was colonized by France from 1830 to 1962. During the colonization period, Algerians were treated as second-class citizens in their home country compared to the Europeans known as the "*pied-noirs*." Algerians were denied many fundamental rights that were granted to the *pied-noirs*. For example, Algerians were not allowed to vote, and some had to pay higher taxes. Furthermore, some were forced to use segregated accommodations, and others had their lands taken away and handed over to the *pied-noirs*. Such ill-treatment by the French towards the Algerian helped increase the fervor for independence and overall support for the FLN.

After years of struggles and multiples deaths, Algerian became a free nation in March 1962. It is with this historical context that the film, "*La Bataille d'Alger*," was produced. After it was released in 1966, the movie was banned in France as many (mostly far-rights) considered *La Bataille d'Alger* to be a political propaganda film dehumanizing the legacy of France's role in Algeria. "*La Bataille d'Alger*" was "based on the memoirs of Saadi Yacef, one of the leaders of

the FLN, who also starred in the film as a character modeled off his real-life role in the opposition movement.”⁷⁶ The film remained censored in France until 2004.

Characters’ Roles

Ali La Pointe (Brahim Haggiag) plays the role as a petty thief who self-radicalized in prison after witnessing the execution of an Algerian peasant. The FLN immediately recruited him after his release from prison. Both Ali La Pointe (Brahim Haggiag) and Djafar (Saadi Yacef) take on the role as revolutionary leaders in the FLN. They are portrayed as leaders who are willing to do anything necessary including the utilization of political violence and terrorism, to ensure Algeria’s independence.⁷⁷ When asked why he was not committed to the FLN at first, Ali responded, “Because we were ordered not to use arms.”⁷⁸ Sadly, Ali La Pointe did not live to see an independent Algeria as the French paratroopers killed him. However, Saadi Yacef did survive the rebellion and wrote his memoir about his experience. Colonel Mathieu (Jean Martin) is the representation of the collective French presence and power of the colonizer. He is portrayed as the commander of the French paratroopers fighting against the FLN rebels and systematically eliminating the leaders of the FLN.

In the film, just like the male FLN leaders, most Algerian women shared the nationalist sentiments for an independence Algeria. The role of the women (Zohra Drif, Djamila Bouhired, and Samia Lakhdari) was pivotal to the success of the FLN terrorist campaign against the French. These women were tasked with hiding weapons and planting bombs at popular European

⁷⁶ Carnegie Council. “Ethics on Film: Discussion of The Battle of Algiers.” Carnegie Council: (May 5, 2009). https://www.carnegiecouncil.org/publications/ethics_onfilm/0005 (11/25/18.)

⁷⁷ Rotten Tomatoes. “Battle of Algiers: Cast” Rotten Tomatoes: (2016) https://www.rottentomatoes.com/m/the_battle_of_algiers/

⁷⁸ Vimeo. “Battle of Algiers” Film Vimeo (1:07:02) <https://vimeo.com/262944870> (Accessed 11/25/18)

spots (cafes or the Air France ticket office) to cause massive casualties. The women's appearance was altered to blend in as French European in order to infiltrate the European quarter.

Essential Themes

Colonization and the legacy of imperialism is the essential theme in the movie. *La Bataille d'Alger* can best be characterized as a political movie with a strong anti-imperialism theme. The film highlights the brutal assassinations of the police, on the streets or at the cafes, and further examines the bombing attacks orchestrated by the FLN that killed innocent people (mostly *pied-noirs*). Furthermore, the movie also highlights the systematic segregation between Algerians and Europeans, as well as the murder and torture of many members of the FLN by the French government.

Essentially, the film leaves the viewer with a conclusion that colonization is not a good policy due to the negative consequences and the lasting impact that follows. In the case of Algeria, French imperialistic sentiments have resulted in the deaths of non-combatants as well as bringing about significant social and economic short and long-term damage for Algeria.

Conclusion

What lesson can be learned from the film, "*La Bataille d'Alger*"? As an indication from the film, the French counterinsurgency campaign, which included torture, as it was effective in dismantling the leadership of the FLN. However, it led to France's failure to maintain its Algeria colony. As for the FLN, when pushed by the French, they resorted to terrorist tactics as their only way of fighting the colonizers. Ultimately, "*La Bataille d'Alger*" is a remarkable film that educates us about France's role in the colonization of Algeria and the FLN's role in the decolonization of Algeria.

Le Coup de Sirocco

About the Film

“*Le Coup de Sirocco*” is a historical, autobiographical film that was directed by Alexandre Arcady. The movie was released in April 1979. The film is based on Arcady’s childhood memories, depicting his journey with his family from Algeria to Marseille and Paris. The editor of the movie is Joële Van Effenterre, the photography is by Jean-François Robin, and the set decorator is Tony Egry. Alexandre Arcady and Jan Saint-Hamont wrote the screenplay. The producers are Serge Laski and Jean-Claude Fleury. The four main characters in the film are Roger Hanin (Albert Narboni), Marthe Villalonga (Marguerite Narboni), Patrick Bruel (Paulo), and Michel Auclair (Lucien Bonheur).⁷⁹

Synopsis

The film centered its attention on a *pied-noir* family who lived in a town called Oran, Algeria. The town is populated with mostly French Europeans (*pied-noirs*). The Narboni’s family (*pied-noir*) owned a small grocery shop prior to Algeria’s independence. However, due to intense events that led to Algeria’s independence in 1962, just like many *pied-noirs*, the Narboni’s family were forced to leave Algeria – a place they refer to as their homeland – for a country, France – where they have never been before. To get to France, the family sold their shop and used the funds to immigrate to Marseille. While there, Albert, along with his wife Marguerite, and son Paulo did their very best to integrate into an unfamiliar country that despises them.

⁷⁹ Allocine. « Le Coup de Sirocco : Cast and Crew. » Allocine (1979) : <http://www.allocine.fr/film/fichefilm-31411/casting/> (accessed 11/25/2018.)

Characters' Roles

There are three main characters in this film portrayed real-life people. The story is told based on the childhood story by the director, Alexandre Arcady. Roger Hanin (Albert Narboni), plays the father and work as a shopkeeper man who owned a grocery store in Algeria. He is a man willing to do anything for his family. When he and his family moved to France, he worked in a supermarket where he sells fruits to provide for them. Marthe Villalonga (Marguerite Narboni) takes on the role of a lovely mother who cared for her family and household. She is also emotionally traumatized as she experienced difficulties adjusting to her new life in France, in part due to racism. Patrick Bruel (Paulo) is the son in the movie and the narrator. He plays an awkward young boy who tried to fit in socially with friends, understand his life with girls, and navigate his new environment in France.

In a particular scene, the Narboni family was referred to as "*Just a Bicot*"⁸⁰ by a French man (the controller of the train) in the metro. This is one of the many blatant racist scenes in the film. By definition "*bicot*"⁸¹ is an abusive and racist term used to denigrate a North African. The controller referring to the Narboni family as "*bicot*" is an indication of racism. The term "*bicot*" is almost equivalence to "*negro*" which is a term used to designate African American living in the United States. The Narboni family symbolizes the racist experiences of several pied-noirs who were forced to leave Algeria after 1962 and migrated to France.

Historical Context

⁸⁰ Planet Streaming. " Le Coup de Sirocco " (1979) : Planet Streaming. <http://ww5.planet-streaming.com/regarder-film/2861-le-coup-de-sirocco-1979.html> (accessed 12/02/2018.)

⁸¹Larousse. "Bicot" Larousse Dictionnaires. <https://www.larousse.fr/dictionnaires/francais/bicot/9111#z3CFIkVKUOYkfGTS.99> (accessed 12/02/2018.)

When France colonized Algeria in 1830, many of its citizens migrated to Algeria. The French favored the newly arrived Europeans during the colonial regime. The French government gave Algerian lands to European (*pied-noirs*) and established settlements in various parts of Algeria. Such a habit was practiced from 1830 up to 1962. Over such a long period, most *pied-noirs* who migrated to Algeria lived there and established new families – many of whom have never been to France. Therefore, after the 1962 war of independence, the Algerian showed strong resentment of dislike towards the *pier-noirs* and forced them to leave their country. “About 1 million of them emigrated to France. Many left in a panic and only took what they could pack into a suitcase.”⁸² The movie, “*Le Coup de Sirocco*”, focused on one of the many *pied-noir* families who migrated to France and struggled to integrate as they were not welcome neither in Algeria or France.

Essential Themes

Immigration and integration are the two most significant themes introduced in the film. Concerning immigration, it was evident that the Narboni’s family firmly believed that Algeria was their native homeland given the historical nature of their arrival. They had no reason leaving a place that they had found happiness and developed a well-established, comfortable, financially suitable lifestyle. There are several factors such as war, hunger, poverty, and famine that contributes to human migration.

In the case of the Narboni’s family, it was due to war that caused them to migrate and successfully integrate into the Algerian’s society. On the contrary, it was also war (the FLN

⁸² Chikhi, Lamine. “France Who Fled Algeria Returns to Roots.” Reuters Lifestyle News (September 10, 2009): <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-algeria-france-piedsnoirs/french-who-fled-algeria-return-to-their-roots-idUSTRE5892OI20090910> (accessed 11/25/18.)

struggle for independent Algeria) that forced the Narboni's family to leave Algeria for France – a nation that once supported them (while in Algeria) but blatantly despised them as they try to re-integrate into France. It is an unfortunate situation that the Narboni family had to endure, but it serves as a reminder as one of the ugly consequences of colonization.

Conclusion

Le Coup de Sirocco is an excellent film that provides a multi-dimensional yet nuanced understanding of the life of a pied-noir family when Algeria gained its independence from France in 1962. The movie also serves as a reminder regarding some of the negative consequences of imperialism. Even though the film fails to explain or address the historical circumstances of the Algeria war, it did a great job highlighting the implications of the war.

Divines:

Film Credits

“Divines” is a film that exposed the truth of France slums and the representation of young immigrants and their determination to succeed. Houda Benyamina directed the film, and it was released on August 2016. Romain Compingt and Malik Rumeau wrote the movie while both Loic Lallemand and Vicent Tricon did the cinematography. Julien Poupard served as the chief editor, and Marion Burger as well as Alice Cambournac are credited for the production and costume designs. The three main characters in the film are Oulaya Amamra (Dounia), Deborah

Lukumuena (Maimouna) and Jisca Kalvanda (Rebecca).⁸³ The film became very successful and won several awards like the Caméra d'Or at the Cannes Film Festival.

Synopsis:

The film, *Divines*, is about two young girls, Oulaya Amamra (Dounia), and Deborah Lukumuena (Maimouna) who live in a suburban slum in France. Their usual routine involves stealing candies from the supermarket and selling it at school during recess. The girls' dream of becoming rich to get their families out of poverty. To achieve such a goal, both girls dropped out of school and focused their attention on making fast money. They decided to work for a well-respected drug dealer, Jisca Kalvanda. (Rebecca). This decision ultimately took the life of Maimouna, the inseparable best friend of Dounia.

Characters' Roles

Oulaya Amamra (Dounia) embodies the role of a young girl, in her teens, who became very obsessed with the idea of becoming wealthy. Her eagerness to earn fast money to get out of poverty motivated her to become a drug dealer and a drug trafficker. Her decision, which resulted in the death of her best friend, ultimately changed her life. Lukumuena, (Maimouna) embodies the supporting role to the main character, Dounia. Maimouna played the role of a faithful best friend who sacrificed her life for Dounia. Her death was symbolic of Dounia's sins and forgiveness for her wrongdoings. Lukumuena's character was very vital to the unique function of the film. Jisca Kalvanda

⁸³ IMDb. "Divines: Full Cast and Crew." IMDb movies (2016): <https://www.imdb.com/title/tt4730986/fullcredits> (accessed 12/06/2018.)

embodies the role of Rebecca, who is the drug dealer in the town. As Dounia and Maimouna reached out Rebecca to work for her, she immediately accepted the girls and imposed her rules on them and asked for the girls' loyalty. Such devotion, however, came at a significant cost.

Essential theme

The film addresses the political and social issues of immigrants living in the suburbs as well as the economic struggles they endure. The two heroines (Maimouna – African decent and Dounia – Arab descent) are a representation of both individual immigrants as common issues endured by the collective immigrant population. Their characters highlight the lack of meaningful assistance or opportunities for immigrants living in the suburbs. The main characters in the film live in a poor suburban town. Because of her poor living condition, and their feeling of a hopeless future, they both dream of earning lots of money in order to provide a luxurious life for their families.

With this determination and eagerness for a better life, both Dounia and Maimouna did whatever they could to escape their misery. "What are you going to do with your life? [Dounia's teacher asked.] Like everyone else. Money, Money, Money [she responded.]"⁸⁴ For Dounia, the only way out of poverty is to do illegal work. Both girls working as drug dealers exemplifies one of many bad decisions that some immigrants have to make to provide economically for themselves and their families.

Historical Context.

⁸⁴ Netflix. "Divines." French Movie Netflix: (10:18): <https://www.netflix.com/title/80115031> (accessed 12/06/2018)

In an interview, the director, Houda discussed the problems immigrants are facing in the suburbs. She noted that “the problem in the *banlieues* isn’t money or drugs. Beliefs and a lack of self-esteem and anger drive my characters. These young people try and overcome the anger and humiliation they live through, but the only tools they have to come out of it is what society offers. [Adding] I am really questioning how we can overcome this – I mean, why do the poor stay poor.”⁸⁵

The French government has a history of ignoring the people living in poor conditions. People living in banlieue are mostly Arab, or African descent, usually poor. For examples, “Sevran is one of France’s poorest places, north-east of the Paris périphérique. The jobless rate is 18%, and over 40% among the young. Three-quarters live in subsidized housing; 36% are below the poverty line, three times the national average.”⁸⁶ With this level of the high unemployment rate, it is easy to assume that the government has never made the suburbs their priority. That is why the movie, *Divine*, is very uniquely important as it calls attention to the economy’s conditions endures by people living in the banlieue.

Conclusion

Sometimes it is easy to forget or take into consideration the living condition, and frightening determinism that young immigrants living in the suburbs must deal with in order to survive. The movie highlights the tragedy that Dounia had to deal with due to her decision to become part of the drug trade. Dounia’s actions and their repercussions are similar to those taken

⁸⁵ Jones, Emma. “Interview: Houda Benyamina On *Divines* and Integrating Social Justice into Her Films.” *Electra*. (11/18/2016) <https://www.electramedia.co/blog/2016/11/16/electra-interview-houda-benyamina-on-divines-social-justice-and-the-quest-for-bling-in-the-parisian-banlieues> (accessed 12/06/2018.)

⁸⁶ The Economist. “Forgotten in the Banlieues.” *The Economist*: Print Edition. (2013): <https://www.economist.com/europe/2013/02/23/forgotten-in-the-banlieues> (accessed 12/06/2018.)

and experienced by many youths living in the *banlieue* as many are forced to take on the financial, social, and emotional responsibility of supporting their families.

La Désintégration

About the film

“La Désintégration,” is a fictional French film, with a realistic approach that examines the story of three young Moroccan immigrants who turn their back on French society they believe has forgotten and betrayed them. The film was directed by Philippe Faucon and was released on February 15th, 2012. Mohammed Sifaoui, Eric Nebot, and Philippe Faucon are credited as the writers of the film. Producers of the film include Fabrice Bigio, Jeremy Burdek, Yves Chanvillard, and Philippe Faucon. The music was created by Benoit Schlosberg, cinematography by Laurent Fenart, film editing by Sophie Mandonnet, casting by David El-Hakim, and makeup by Marilyn Scarseli. The four main characters are Rashid Debbouze (Ali), Ymanol Perset (Hamza), Mohamed Nachit (Nasser), Yassine Azzouz (Djamel).⁸⁷

Characters’ Roles

Rashid Debbouze (Ali), Ymanol Perset (Hamza), and Mohamed Nachit (Nasser) are brothers who have trouble integrating into a French society that is not willing or ready to fully embrace them due to their heritage and immigrant background. Rashid Debbouze (Ali) played the role of a character who wants to integrate and live a normal life in France but was confronted by discriminations and injustice. Therefore, he rejects France and becomes an Islamist. On the

⁸⁷ Allocine. “La Desintegration: Cast and Crew.” Allocine (February 15th, 2012). http://www.allocine.fr/film/fichefilm_gen_cfilm=182301.html (accessed 1/13/19.)

contrary, Ali's older brother (Kamel Laadaili) is an essential part of the story as he symbolizes an example of immigrant success.

Ali's older brother has a good job and a wife who is a white native-born French woman. Kamel expresses empathy for Ali as he too suffered from discrimination but still manages to secure a good job and integrate into French society. He encourages Ali to try harder to integrate into society and cautions him against resorting to radical ideas or actions. Ymanol Perset (Hamza), and Mohamed Nachit (Nasser) are both characters that are entirely lost in the French society. To add meaning and value to their lives, they willfully fall under Djamel's radical influence. Yassine Azzouz (Djamel) takes on the role of the manipulator, and as an evil jihadist ringleader. He preys on the isolation and insecurity of the three young men and recruits them by brainwashing them to further disconnect from French society and to commit violence in the name of Islam.⁸⁸

Synopsis

The film follows three French young men, Ali, Hamza, and Nasser, with immigrant roots in a society that regarded them as outcasts. Disappointed, the three young men found inspiration, belonging, and meaning from Djamel, who is a firm believer in Islam and a very skillful manipulator. Djamel used his manipulative ability to prey on the three young men and steer them towards committing terrorism. Djamel convinces the three young men that terrorism

⁸⁸ IMDb. "The Disintegration: Cast Names" IMDb: (2011): <https://www.imdb.com/title/tt1920984/> (accessed 1/23/19)

is their only options since the French society made it difficult to provide jobs due to pervasive and immutable racism.⁸⁹

Historical Context

In recent years (2015-present), France along with other European nations has experienced dramatic and high fatality terrorist attacks. The terrorist have used several tactics to carry out these attacks including driving vans and trucks into large crowds, suicide bombers, mass shootings, and random street attacks using knives and axes to hurt or behead others. Major cities, such as Paris and Marseille, have experienced many of those attacks. Of even greater salience and concern is that many of the attackers are inhabitants from France who have traveled to join ISIS in one of the caliphate's provinces including Algeria, Mali, Egypt, and even Morocco.⁹⁰

Given the geographical location of many of the jihadists who have committed these attacks, several French people have associated immigrants from ISIS's provinces as a terrorist whose aim is to destroy France. However, this is not the intention of thousands of North African immigrants. That is why "*La Désintégration*" is a unique film that examine the root causes of terrorism as well as what motivates some people to commit such gruesome attacks.

Essential Themes

The fundamental theme in the film is terrorism. However, the bigger picture highlighted throughout the film centers on North African immigrants' difficulties integrating into France. Without oversimplifying the subject of terrorism in France, director Philippe Faucon created a

⁸⁹ Fabre, Clarisse. "La Desintegration: Histoire d'un Film Premonitoire." *Le Monde: Cinema* (19.01.2015): https://www.lemonde.fr/cinema/article/2015/01/19/attentats-histoire-d-un-film-premonitoire-la-desintegration_4559070_3476.html (accessed 1/23/19.)

⁹⁰ Klausen, Jytte. "The Roots of France's Jihadist Problem." *Foreign Affairs*: (September 2017.) <https://www.foreignaffairs.com/reviews/review-essay/2017-08-15/terror-terroir> (accessed 1/22/19.)

compelling storyline that is essentially different from the other immigrants may face when integrating into a new country. For example, in his other movie, “Fatima,” director Faucon gives audiences the standard approach that Soria Zeroual (Fatima) utilized when she integrated into France while experiencing racism and stigmatization from others, just like the three young men in *La Désintégration*. However, unlike the three young men who steer themselves towards extremism justified by their struggles in France, Soria Zeroual (Fatima) choose a different path by working as a cleaning lady while financially supporting her oldest daughter who is enrolled medical school.

Conclusion

The road to radicalization has become too familiar in recent years. The film gives audiences a closer look into the struggles faced by immigrants as well as vital motives that drives some of them towards terrorism. There are crucial lessons the French society needs to learn about the North African community who feels isolated. And the film, *La Désintégration*, serves as a critical component to understanding the immigrants’ struggles in France.

Fatima

About the Film

“*Fatima*” is a loosely based biographical film that examines the real-life story of Fatima Elayoubi. The movie was directed by Philippe Faucon and was released in 2015. Producers of the film include Remi Burah, Nadim Cheikhrouha, Yasmina and Philippe Faucon. The film was written by Philippe Faucon, Aziza Boudjellal, Mustapha Kharmoudi, and Yasmina Nini-Faucon. The music was created Robert-Marcel Lepage and cinematography was by Laurent Fenart.

Sophie Mandonnet was the editor of the film, David El Hakim did the casting, and Nezha Rahile is credited with the costume design. The three main characters are Soria Zeroual (Fatima), Zita Hanrot (Nesrine), and Kenza Noah Aiche (Souad).⁹¹

Characters' Roles

Soria Zeroual (Fatima) assumes the role of a Moroccan immigrant who emigrated to France with her two daughters Zita Hanrot (Nesrine), and Kenza Noah Aiche (Souad). Fatima, a woman in her mid-40s, works long hours as a cleaning lady to provide for her family. She also struggles to adjust to her new environment as she has a poor understanding of the French language and must deal with racism while maintaining her religious and culture identity. Her character is loosely based on a real-life person, Fatima Elayoubi, who is “a North African woman who emigrated to France with her husband and gradually taught herself the language.”⁹²

Meanwhile, Zita Hanrot (Nesrine) plays the role as the oldest daughter of Fatima. Zita (Nesrine) is a medical student, who must work hard to success in medical school. Otherwise, she fears that she will be a disappointment to her mother who shoulders the burdens of the family and sacrifices everything to pay for her schooling. Therefore, failure is not an option. On the other hand, Kenza Noah Aiche (Souad) portrayed the youngest daughter who revolts against her mother (Fatima) because she is ashamed of her occupation as a housecleaner. Kenza (Souad) refuses to conform to her mother's line of work and does not want to establish an affectionate relationship with her.

⁹¹ IMDb. “Fatima: Cast and Crew.” IMDb Movie: (2015):

https://www.imdb.com/title/tt4466544/fullcredits/?ref=tt_ov_st_sm (accessed 1/08/2019.)

⁹² Chang, Justin. “Film Review: Fatima.” Variety: (June 10th 2015.) <https://variety.com/2015/film/festivals/fatima-review-cannes-1201516710/> (accessed 1/8/19.)

Synopsis

Essentially, the film is centered upon Fatima and her two daughters, 15-year-old Souad, and 18-year-old Nesrine. Fatima left Morocco and immigrated to Lyon in search of the best possible future for her girls. Integration becomes very difficult for Fatima as she speaks French poorly, and conversation between her daughters becomes frustrating. As a divorced mother without a college degree, Fatima works very long hours cleaning households to ensure that she and her daughters are financially secure. Unfortunately, while working, Fatima fell on the stairs and got hurt very badly. She was put on leave, and it was during this period that Fatima began to write a journal, in Arabic, about her experiences reflecting on her hardship and sacrifices for her daughters.

Historical Context

The film, “*Fatima*”, highlighted the story of a North African immigrant family struggling to survive financially and to make sense of their lives while navigating their way in France’s society that doesn’t conform to their cultural norms. Historically, France has been an ideal attraction for immigrants, especially those from North Africa. In essence, Fatima’s story is shared by many North African families who have ties to the former colonizer.

Essential Themes

The essential theme highlighted throughout the film is the sacrifices that an immigrant’s family makes to establish a better future for their family. Like many immigrants’ families, Fatima left her home country and followed her husband to France. At 44-year-old, Fatima is a divorced mother with two teenage girls to raise all by herself. With her lack of education, Fatima

realized that she could not have a well-established office job that generates enough income to support her daughters.

However, Fatima understands that she must do whatever she can to make sure that her daughters seek higher education for a brighter future. To feed her family and support her oldest daughter to go to medical school, Fatima took a job as a cleaning lady. “You want to chip in?” [Zita Hanrot (Nesrine) asked Fatima. She continues,] you don’t realize, Mom. Medicine is for seven years. That’s a lot of cleaning. [Fatima responded,] I am not afraid of cleaning... if my daughter is a success, my happiness is complete.”⁹³ In this exchange, it is evident that Fatima is willing to work as a household cleaner until her daughter can graduate from medical school. This is an example of one of many sacrifices' immigrant parents must endure.

Another example of sacrifice is the intense pressure that a child of an immigrant parent experiences to succeed. Zita Hanrot (Nesrine) spent most of her time studying complex medical terminologies with the hope of passing her medical exams. Zita (Nesrine) understands that she will disappoint Fatima if she doesn’t succeed, as Fatima is sacrificing everything to pay for her schooling. The immense pressure to succeed and to get approval from her struggling mother is unimaginable for many people. Until one experience it, they cannot fully comprehend the scope.

On the other hand, Fatima youngest daughter, Kenza (Souad), does not understand nor share Fatima’s struggles and sacrifices. Kenza (Souad) refers to her mother as a “useless she-donkey [and a] living rag”⁹⁴ as she is ashamed of her mother’s work as a housecleaner.

⁹³ Netflix. “Fatima.” Netflix Original (2015): (02:25-03:30) <https://www.netflix.com/title/80060033> (accessed 1/9/19.)

⁹⁴ Holden, Stephen. “Review: Fatima.” New Your Times Critic’s Pick (Aug. 25, 2016): <https://www.nytimes.com/2016/08/26/movies/fatima-review.html> (accessed 1/23/19.)

Nevertheless, in spite of the abuse from her youngest daughter and the pressure put on the oldest daughter, Fatima stand firm as a woman who truly loves her daughters despite her role in society.

Conclusion

“Fatima” is a simple film, and it has a soul touching appeal that reaches all audiences. The film softly, with an emotional touch, tells the story of three immigrant women with a different generational approach to life in France. As a child of immigrant parents, I can certainly relate to the hardships and sacrifices experienced by the three characters: Soria Zeroual (Fatima), Zita Hanrot (Nesrine), and Kenza Noah Aiche (Souad). My parents have done and continue to do everything they can to help support my education. I too also understand the unique and intense pressure to succeed in school and to do whatever necessary to satisfy my parents.

La Marche

About the Film

“La Marche” is a historical film about few underprivileged young men who organized a massive protest from Marseille to Paris with the goal to raise awareness about equality and protest against racism experienced, in varying degrees, by the immigrant population living in France. The film was directed by Nabil Ben Yadir and was released in November 2013. *La Marche* was written by Nabil Ben Yadir, Nadia Lakhdar, and Ahmed Hamidi. The main characters include Tewfic Jallab (Mohamed), Vincent Rottiers (Sylvain), Jamel Debbouze (Hassan), and M'Barek Belkhouk (Farid.)⁹⁵

⁹⁵ Rotten Tomatoes. “La Marche: Cast and Crew.” Rotten Tomatoes (2014): https://www.rottentomatoes.com/m/la_marche/ (accessed 11/26/18.)

Characters' Roles

Tewfic Jallab (Mohamed) takes on the role as one of the main forces behind The Marche. He saw a police dog going after his friend, and when he intervened, he got shot by the police but was not killed. His shooting increased the momentum for the La Marche. Jamel Debbouze (Hassan) plays the role of the young Algerian who was chased by the police dog and was brutally beaten. Vincent Rottiers (Sylvain), and M'Barek Belkhouk (Farid) both helped to lead the non-violent Marche from Lyon to Paris while recruiting others to support their cause. Together, they encounter predictable circumstances, such as bad weather, infighting, and France's version of rednecks, which in turn deepen their bond as friends united by a cause.⁹⁶

Synopsis

Tewfic Jallab (Mohamed), was shot by police but miraculously he survived. His friends encouraged him to use violence against the police as retribution, but Tewfic Jallab (Mohamed) refused. Instead, he proposed a political action to protest unlawful acts of injustice. With help from his friends, the impoverished young men who lived in the suburb of Lyon, launched a massive peaceful Marche to resist racism. On their Marche from Marseille to Paris, they were joined by many people who supported their cause. However, the journey to Paris became increasingly difficult as they encountered hostility and resistance from passersbys and from some people who reside in towns and villages where they stop. In spite of the discouragement, violence, and fatigue, the marchers were about to arrive in the capital of Paris where they were

⁹⁶ Debruge, Peter. "Film Review: La Marche." *Variety*: (December 2nd, 2013).
<https://variety.com/2013/film/reviews/la-marche-review-1200909071/> (accessed 12/30/18.)

welcomed by over 100,000 people who stand in support of their message for equality and against racism.⁹⁷

Historical Context

The film, “*La Marche*”, is based on factual historical events that occurred in France in 1983. La Marche of 1983 has come to be known as the Marche against racism, particularly racism against the immigrant population in France. La Marche was inspired by the tragic death of, Habib Grimzi, who was killed on October 15, 1983. Grimzi was a 26-year-old Algerian who was beaten, stabbed and thrown alive from a speeding train by soldiers. Grimzi’s death stoked outrage and spiked the momentum for the march. The Marche started in “Minguettes, an area of decayed housing projects and high crime near Lyons where battles between the police and the North Africans [are frequent].”⁹⁸ La Marche was organized by young people who were mostly immigrants from Algeria, Morocco, and Tunisia, who were fed up with violent attacks from the police, members of the far-right groups, and a lack of economic opportunities for the immigrant population.

Another event that led to The Marche in 1983 was the shooting of Toumi Djaidja, a young Algerian from Minguettes. “[Toumi] said the idea came to him as he lay in a hospital recovering from gunshot wounds received when he intervened in a fight at his housing project.”⁹⁹ Djaidja’s idea gained momentum and inspired many young people to walk from Lyon to Paris protesting for equality and against racism. It was a March inspired by Martin Luther

⁹⁷ Allocine. “La Marche: Synopsis et Details.” Allocine. (November 27th, 2013):

http://www.allocine.fr/film/fichefilm_gen_cfilm=208743.html (accessed 12/30/18.)

⁹⁸ Prial, Frank. “Parisians March Against Racism.” The New York Times (December 4th, 1983):

<https://www.nytimes.com/1983/12/04/world/parisians-march-against-racism.html> (accessed 11/30/18)

⁹⁹ Prial, Frank. “Parisians March Against Racism.” The New York Times (December 4th, 1983):

<https://www.nytimes.com/1983/12/04/world/parisians-march-against-racism.html> (accessed 11/30/18)

King and Mohammed Gandhi. Once they arrived in Paris, they were received by President Francois Mitterrand. La Marche was a major success as it influenced legislative changes that aimed to promote the safety and security of immigrants living in France.

Essential Themes

The two essentials themes in the film are racism and equality for all. France, as has been the similar case for many nations, has had difficulty addressing the multi-faceted issues of immigration. Most immigrants who live in the country have and, in most cases, continues to experience difficulties integrating into the French's society. Some members of the right-wing groups have come to believe that the influx of immigrants into France has compromised the identity of what it means to be French.

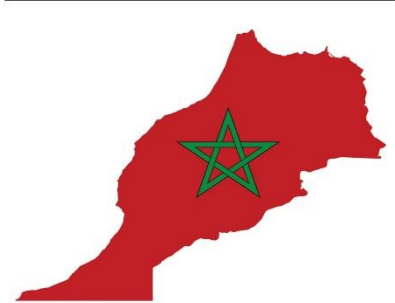
Conclusion

As highlighted in the film, the initial quest to end racial intolerance started with a violent standoff between the police and the protestor. However, it ended with a peaceful Marche that brought in supporters from all backgrounds. The film, La Marche, does a great job of highlighting the racial issues in the country.

Abraham Kettor

Research Part 3

Dr. Eager, Dr. Course, Dr. Wright, Dr. Marcus and Dr. Campion



The New Wave of French Immigrants in Contemporary France

Introduction.

In more ways than one, the 2017 French presidential election set a historical precedent that shocked the world. The presidential election centered on two very unconventional presidential candidates, Emmanuel Macron and Marine Le Pen. Macron was a political neophyte and had no prior public office experience. Le Pen, on the other hand, had some experience campaigning for elected offices. Nevertheless, she had some considerable political liabilities. Both candidates made a series of promises and policies that aimed to take the country into a different direction. There were many controversial policies made by both candidates. But perhaps the most contentious policy/campaign promise made during the election related to their respective immigration policies. In this section, I will analyze both presidential candidates' immigration policies and specifically examine President Macron's policy, including the potential impact of it on the immigrant population in France.

Candidates' Biographies.

Emmanuel Macron was born on the 21st December 1977 in the northern area of France in a city called Amiens. He was raised in a well-established family by both his parents who were doctors. Macron attended the most prestigious schools, such as the La Providence Lycee and Henri IV public Secondary school, and earned his Master's degree in Philosophy at Nanterre University and Public Affairs at Sciences Po.¹⁰⁰ In 2008, Macron worked as an investment banker at Rothschild & Cite Banque. Macron entered politics in 2006 by becoming a member of the Socialist Party (SP) but left the party in 2009 to become an independent politician.

¹⁰⁰ Biography Editors. Emmanuel Macron Biography. (April 26, 2018): A&E Television Networks. <https://www.biography.com/people/emmanuel-macron-050817> (accessed 2/12/19.)

Macron's political career flourished when he accepted the position of Deputy Secretary General of the Elysee in 2012 under Socialist President Hollande's administration. Macron also served as the Minister of Economy and Finance in 2014. By April of 2016, Macron left his government job and created a political party from the ground-up called La Republique En Marche, which is a centrist and socially-liberal party. After the creation of his political party, Macron declared his candidacy for the 2017 French presidential election.¹⁰¹ In April of 2017, Macron shocked the world as he was declared the winner of the 2017 French presidential election, making him the youngest French president in the Fifth Republic. In the first round, Emmanuel Macron came in first place with 24.01% of the vote, but he won 66.1% (20,703,694 votes) of the votes in the second round.

Marine Le Pen was born on August 5, 1968, in the French village of Neuilly-sur-Seine. Le Pen studied at the University of Pantheon-Assas where she earned a law degree and an advanced degree in criminal law by 1992. She worked in Paris from 1992 to 1998 as an attorney.¹⁰² Growing-up, Le Pen life was heavily influenced by her father, Jean-Maria Le Pen, and his's political career.

Jean-Marie is a very controversial public figure in France due in large part to his xenophobic, anti-Semitic, and polarizing comments. He is best known as the founder of the far-right political party. The National Front, a party which Marine later joined. The National Front was "founded in 1972 by François Duprat and François Brigneau but is most commonly associated with [Jean-Marie Le Pen](#), who was its leader from 1972 to 2011. Since its beginnings,

¹⁰¹ Gorman Andree. Meet Emmanuel macron, the 39-year-old Former Investment Banker Tipped to Beat Marine Le Pen in the French Election. Business Insider: <https://www.businessinsider.com/who-is-emmanuel-macron-2017-3> (Accessed 2/12/19.)

¹⁰² Ray, Michael. Marine Le Pen: French Politician. Encyclopaedia Britannica, Inc. (August 01,2018): <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Marine-Le-Pen> (accessed 2/12/19)

the party has strongly supported French [nationalism](#) and controls on immigration, and it often has been accused of fostering [xenophobia](#) and [anti-Semitism](#).”¹⁰³

Marine Le Pen decided to embrace the National Front Party and quickly emerged from her father’s shadow to become a leading voice in the party. “In 1998, [She accepted the] role as a legal adviser to her father's party. She quickly rose through the National Front's ranks -- becoming vice-president, a member of the European Parliament and then a member of Parliament in France. [Finally, she] took over as president in 2011.”¹⁰⁴ Marine Le Pen ran for the 2012 presidential election against “incumbent Nicolas Sarkozy and Socialist candidate François Hollande.”¹⁰⁵ but lost in the second round of the election. She quickly established herself as a serious contender in French’s politics. As growing acceptance of her party and political views spread across France and Europe, Marine Le Pen decided to run again in the 2017 French presidential election. In the first round, Le Pen came in second place with 21.3 % of the total ballots but lost in the second round with just 33.9% (10,637,120) of the total votes.

Candidates’ Immigrant Policies during the 2017 Presidential Election.

Macron and Le Pen made several campaigns promises to the French people during the 2017 presidential election. Some of those promises included: addressing high unemployment, and holding a national referendum on whether to stay or leave the Eurozone, known as “Frexit.” However, there was one main issue that dominated the presidential campaign – immigration. During the time of the election, there was significant public concern about legal and illegal

¹⁰³ Ray, Michael. National Front: Political Party, France. Encyclopedia Britannica, Inc. (January 25, 2017): <https://www.britannica.com/topic/National-Front-political-party-France> (accessed 2/12/19.)

¹⁰⁴ Bell, Melissa. Who is Marine Le Pen? CNN World: (May 5, 2017). <https://www.cnn.com/2017/02/01/europe/marine-le-pen-profile/index.html> (accessed 2/12/19.)

¹⁰⁵ Ray, Michael. Marine Le Pen: French Politician. Encyclopedia Britannica, Inc. (August 01,2018): <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Marine-Le-Pen> (accessed 2/12/19.)

immigrants, especially those from Muslim-majority nations like Algeria, Morocco, and Syria.

This concern was compounded by terrorist attacks in Paris in January and November of 2015 and other attacks in 2016.

To address security concerns, Macron promised to “increase defense spending and hire more police officers.”¹⁰⁶ Macron, a centrist, also articulated a policy that favored the immigrant population. On his website, Macon noted that the “duty of Europe is to offer asylum to those who are persecuted and seek its protection. It is also helping to address the causes of migratory movements — underdevelopment, famines, climatic disorders.”¹⁰⁷ Therefore, during the presidential election, Macron advocated for an open-door refugee policy as he believed that France should be a sanctuary for refugees escaping violence, extremism, and conflict. Additionally, candidate Macron proposed multilateral cooperation with other European nations to address the issue of immigration.¹⁰⁸

Compared to Macron, Marine Le Pen conveyed a completely different view on the issue of immigration and other challenges facing France. For example, Le Pen was very outspoken regarding the limitation of immigration in France. In an interview with Der Spiegel, a German magazine, Le Pen said that she “support putting a stop to immigration. ... [Adding], we have millions of unemployed and cannot afford any more immigration. Where are they supposed to live? It is not viable.”¹⁰⁹ That is why during the election, Le Pen proposed to cut “migration to a

¹⁰⁶ Mckirdy, Euan and Masters, James. Head to Head: How Le Pen and Marcon Compare. Security. CNN World: May 4, 2017. <https://edition.cnn.com/2017/04/24/europe/how-le-pen-and-macron-compare/> (accessed 2/12/19.)

¹⁰⁷ En Marche. Emmanuel Macron’s Program for Europe: A Europe That Protects Europeans. EM Website. (2017): <https://en-marche.fr/emmanuel-macron/le-programme/europe> (accessed 2/12/19.)

¹⁰⁸ Mckirdy, Euan and Masters, James. Head to Head: How Le Pen and Macron Compare. Immigration. CNN World: May 4, 2017. <https://edition.cnn.com/2017/04/24/europe/how-le-pen-and-macron-compare/> (accessed 2/12/19.)

¹⁰⁹ Rohr, Mathieu. Interview with Marine Le Pen. Spiegel. (June 03, 2014): <http://www.spiegel.de/international/europe/interview-with-french-front-national-leader-marine-le-pen-a-972925-2.html> (accessed 2/12/19.)

net 10,000 people a year... [while making it] against the law for illegal migrants to legalize their stay in the country. [In addition, she supported policies that would make] becoming a French citizen a far stricter process.”¹¹⁰ In a debate among the other candidates, Le Pen expressed her views on immigrants from Muslim countries. She spoke to the French people and said, “We’ve got Islamists in our country. The demands are incessant.”¹¹¹

Also at a rally in Marseille, Le Pen noted that “more and more are coming from the third world, taking advantage of our benefits. It’s a choice of civilization. I will be the president of those French who wants to continue living in France as the French do.”¹¹² Therefore, it comes as no surprise that Le Pen pledged to make the deportation of legal and illegal immigrants easier during the 2017 election. She campaigned on a promise to make “obtaining asylum, residency rights, and French nationality, [to become] harder.”¹¹³ With respect to security, Le Pen “promised [to increase] defense spending, hire 15,000 new police officers, [and expel] foreign criminals from the country.”¹¹⁴

An Analysis of President Macron’s New Immigration Law.

Many people who voted for Macron during the 2017 presidential election did so primarily because of his more moderate approach on the issue of immigration compared to his

¹¹⁰ Mckirdy, Euan and Masters, James. Head to Head: How Le Pen and Macron Compare. Security. CNN World: May 4, 2017. <https://edition.cnn.com/2017/04/24/europe/how-le-pen-and-macron-compare/> (accessed 2/12/19.)

¹¹¹ Nossiter, Adam. Marine Le Sharpens Attack on Emmanuel Macron in French Debate. New York Times. (March 21, 2017): <https://www.nytimes.com/2017/03/21/world/europe/france-election-debate.html?module=inline> (accessed 2/12/19.)

¹¹² Nossiter, Adam. Marine Le Pen Leads Far-Right Fight to Make France ‘More French.’ New York Times. (April 10, 2017): <https://www.nytimes.com/2017/04/20/world/europe/france-election-marine-le-pen.html?module=inline> (accessed 2/12/19.)

¹¹³ Sandford, Alasdair. What are Marine Le Pen’s Policies? Euronews: (September 02, 2017.) <https://www.euronews.com/2017/02/09/what-do-we-know-about-marine-le-pen-s-policies> (accessed 2/12/2019.)

¹¹⁴ Mckirdy, Euan and Masters, James. Head to Head: How Le Pen and Macron Compare. Security. CNN World: May 4, 2017. <https://edition.cnn.com/2017/04/24/europe/how-le-pen-and-macron-compare/> (accessed 2/12/19.)

political opponent, Marine Le Pen. However, after becoming the president of France, Macron's government introduced and got passed through the National Assembly controversial asylum and immigration law that alienated some members within his party, the opposition party, and nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) like the Human Right Watch (HRW). Nevertheless, the French lawmakers passed the bill in April 2018 by "228 votes to 139, with 24 abstentions following a marathon debate that lasted 61 hours and attracted around 1,000 amendments."¹¹⁵

President Macron and his supporters defended the law by noting that the new immigration law will help speed up the application process of asylum claimants. In a statement, the Interior Minister Gerard Collomb, who supported the legislation, told parliament that "we [France] are giving ourselves the means of preserving a right to asylum which, had nothing been done, could rapidly have been called into question as one fears may happen in a number of European countries."¹¹⁶ Macron's government believes that the law will provide for more controlled. However, opponents of the law see it differently.

Of note, Human Right Watch has outlined particular concerns. First, the law reduced the asylum application period from 120 days to 90 days after asylum seekers enter into France. If the application is not submitted within 90 days, those asylum seekers will face punishment from the government which would include serving a one-year prison sentence. Critics argue that making the asylum application period shorter increases the chances that asylum seeker will miss the application deadline.

¹¹⁵ Nielsen, Nikolaj. France Tightens Immigration Law, Sparking Division. Euro Observer. (April 23rd, 2018): <https://euobserver.com/migration/141661> (accessed 2/13/19.)

¹¹⁶ Hilliar, Andrew. Macron's Government Passes Controversial Asylum and Immigration Law. France 24. (1/08/2018): <https://www.france24.com/en/20180801-macrons-government-passes-controversial-asylum-immigration-law> (accessed 2/13/19.)

Second, the bill shorted the deadline from one month to 15 days that asylum seekers have to appeal their application rejection. Critics believe that the short-time given to asylum seekers to appeal if their request has been turned down is insufficient as appealing can be a very complicated procedure that requires substantial counsel.

Third, under the new law, those who have asylum claims will be immediately deported back to their home country. Prior to the new law, asylum seekers were allowed to remain in the country as their appeal is being examined. But this new law will have them deported, granted if the French government consider their home country to be safe. Critics pushed back against this provision and noted that asylum claims of persecution will be taken lightly and will not be adjudicated fully. Fourth, the new law increased the maximum detention period for asylum seekers facing deportation from 45 days up to 90. Lastly, migrants' children will be kept in administrative detention centers with their families under the new immigration law.¹¹⁷

In spite of the multiple flaws, some positive aspects of the new immigration law have been acknowledged as well. One of the positives change about the law is that it “extends residence permits from one to four years for persons given ‘subsidiary’ protection, but not full refugee status, and removes from the list of safe countries of origin those whose governments persecute LGBT people. [Furthermore], the law also creates an exception to the crime of helping undocumented migrants when done for a strictly humanitarian objective.”¹¹⁸ Additionally, the law softens the “so-called offense of solidarity,” which criminalized people

¹¹⁷ BBC NEWS. France Approves Controversial Immigration Bill. BBC News. (April 23, 2018): <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-43860880> (accessed 2/12/19.)

¹¹⁸ Marquis, Camille. France Approves Flawed Asylum and Immigration Law. Human Right Watch. (October 28, 2016): <https://www.hrw.org/news/2018/08/04/france-approves-flawed-asylum-and-immigration-law> (accessed 2/13/19.)

who provided aid to illegal immigrants.”¹¹⁹ Despite these attributes, lawmakers from both the Right and Left of France’s political spectrum have opposed the new immigration law.

Jean Michel Clement, one of the members of President Macron’s party, La Republique En Marche (LREM), shocked many people when he publically denounced the immigration law and voted against it. Fourteen members from the LREM party also abstained. In a statement, Mr. Clement said that “I am not sure we [France] are sending to the world citizens the universal message that has always been ours.”¹²⁰ For this reason, Mr. Clement left the LREM party after the bill become a law.

Members of France’s Refugee Protection Office (OFPRA) also expressed concerns about the law. Some representative from OFPRA protested against the law citing that it is “an unequivocal departure from France’s tradition of asylum.”¹²¹ Human Rights Watch highlighted problems faced by asylum seekers who are currently in France. HRW noted, “In France, asylum seekers are [sleeping rough](#), and [flawed procedures](#) often leave unaccompanied migrant children adrift, homeless, and excluded from the care they need. But instead of addressing these challenges or correcting flaws in existing laws, legislators have decided to push through a [problematic new asylum and migration law](#) that could make it harder for people to get needed protection.”¹²²

¹¹⁹ Spingler, Michel. Macron’s France Presents New Immigration Bill as a Centrist Compromise – It’s Nothing of The Sort. The Conversation. (April 28, 2018): <https://theconversation.com/macrons-france-presents-new-immigration-bill-as-a-centrist-compromise-its-nothing-of-the-sort-95550> (accessed 2/13/2019.)

¹²⁰ BBC NEWS. France Approves Controversial Immigration Bill. BBC News. (April 23, 2018): <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-43860880> (accessed 2/13/19.)

¹²¹ Chrisafis, Angelique. Emmanuel Macron Unveils Plans to Crack Down in Immigration.” The Guardian. (February 21st, 2018.): <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2018/feb/21/emmanuel-macron-unveils-plans-to-crack-down-on-immigration-france> (accessed 2/16/19.)

¹²² Marquis, Camille. France Approves Flawed Asylum and Immigration Law. Human Right Watch. (October 28, 2016): <https://www.hrw.org/news/2018/08/04/france-approves-flawed-asylum-and-immigration-law> (accessed 2/13/19.)

Criticism from the moderate as well as far-right of the political spectrum also emerged regarding the new law. Some far-right leaders support the law due to the fact that it aims to make the process of seeking asylum stricter than ever and further denies refugee status for most. Nevertheless, they criticized the law for not demanding a harsher stance on immigrants living in France. Despite the oppositions from both left and right, Macron's new immigration law passed through parliament. But the question remains; Has the new immigration law changed the political dialogue about immigration in France or has it exposed the flaws of France's historical immigration problems?

Potential Impact of Macron's Immigration Law.

What does the new immigration law say about the discourse in France regarding immigration? It is imperative to note that during the presidential campaign, Macron promised his supporters that he would take a very humane approach in respect to asylum and immigration policies. In fact, Macron applauded the German Chancellor, Angela Merkel for her stance on immigration. Macron noted that "[Angela Merkel] saved Europe's 'collective dignity' by opening Germany's doors to refugees in 2015."¹²³ In 2017, Germany received 222,683 applicants for refugee status, and 123,909 were granted with a 36.8% rejection rate.¹²⁴

As Chancellor Angela Merkel opened Germany to more refugees, especially those from Syria, Iraq, and Afghanistan, she received much praise but also experienced backlash from the far-right. Many German politicians believe that Angela Merkel's immigration policies have led

¹²³ Chrisafis, Angelique. "Emmanuel Macron Unveils Plans to Crack Down on Immigration." *The Guardian*. (February 21st, 2018.): <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2018/feb/21/emmanuel-macron-unveils-plans-to-crack-down-on-immigration-france> (accessed 2/16/19.)

¹²⁴ Asylum Information Database. Country Report: Germany. Asylum in Europe. (03/04/2018): file:///C:/Users/ask5/Downloads/aida_de_2017update.pdf (accessed 2/16/2019.)

to the increase of the far-right members in parliament. As a result of the 2017 national elections, the right-wing Alternative for Germany (AFD) party “became the first far-right party to win seats in the Bundestag in more than half a century, becoming the official opposition to Merkel's ruling “grand coalition” of conservatives and social democrats... [Furthermore,] AFD was listed as the country's second most popular party, with 18 percent support, beating the mainstream Social Democratic Party into third place.”¹²⁵

More and more European citizens have become drawn to the populist movement. President Macron has taken notice of this trend and realizes that right-wing parties have grown powerful by focusing on the public’s fear and frustration over economic uncertainty. President Macron’s new immigration policy reflect this growing trend as he does not want to become the Angela Merkel of France.

As a candidate, Macron promised that his immigration policy would be humane, but as president, his new immigration policy is less compassionate as it seeks to make the asylum and immigration process more difficult. In 2017, France received and registered a record number of asylum requests with 100,412 applicants, 13,020 with refugee status and 73.2% rejection rate. Many of the asylum seekers are from Albania (7,630), Afghanistan (5,987), Haiti (4,934), and Syria (3,349).¹²⁶

The New Face of Immigrants in France

Since France’s brutal colonial power ended in Africa during the early 1960s, the majority of immigrants who migrated to France came from North Africa (Maghreb). The first wave of

¹²⁵ Schutz, Simon. Germany’s Far-Right AFD Party Now Polls Second. NPR World. (September 30, 2018): <https://www.npr.org/2018/09/30/652284976/germanys-far-right-afd-party-now-polls-second> (accessed 2/16/19.)

¹²⁶ Asylum Information Database. Country Report: France. Asylum in Europe. (28/02/2018): <https://www.asylumineurope.org/reports/country/france/statistics> (accessed 2/16/2019.)

immigrants originated from Northern African countries, specifically from Algeria, Morocco, and Tunisia. According to The National Institute of Statistics and Economic Studies (NISES), in France, it is estimated that immigrants in 2015 by country of birth came from Algeria (790,717), Morocco (741,343), and Tunisia (269,851).¹²⁷ Such statistics are of no surprise given the historical context between France and its former colonies and dependencies.

Algeria was colonized by France in 1830 and gained its independence in 1962. For more than 100 years, France had a significant influence on the country during its colonization period. After the end of France's colonial rules, many Algerians migrated to France due to the political instability and social insecurity in Algeria. It is estimated that 16% of the immigrant population in France came from Algeria, 11 % are from Morocco, and 4.4 % are from Tunisia.¹²⁸

The massive flow of refugees, specifically from the Middle East (Afghanistan, Syria) and sub-Saharan Africa (Sudan, Guinea, Ivory Coast) has changed the face of immigration in France. Until recently as 2011, the Syrian conflict has caused one of the worst humanitarian crisis of the 21st century. It is estimated that 12 million of the country's population have been killed or forced to leave their homeland to become refugees. Some of the Syrian refugee have sought refuges in neighboring countries (like Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq), while others risk their lives and migrated to Europe (France, Germany, Italy, Greece).

The Syrian refugee crisis has also contributed to France's already volatile immigration debate. The economic and political crises that exist in some sub-Saharan African countries (Somalia, Sudan, DRC) have also contributed to the surge of immigration into France. France is

¹²⁷ INSEE. Distribution of Immigrants by Country of Birth in 2015. INSEE French. (12/07/2018): <https://www.insee.fr/fr/statistiques/2381755> (accessed 3/5/19.)

¹²⁸ World Atlas. Which Countries Do French Immigrants Originate From? World Atlas France. (April 25, 2017): <https://www.worldatlas.com/articles/where-do-french-immigrants-come-from.html> (accessed 3/5/19).

the second country for people seeking asylum with more than 100,000 requests per year. In 2017, Afghanistan became the lead country for people seeking asylum into France with 5,987 applications in total. Syria came in second with 3,249 refugees lodging with asylum request. The influx of refugees seeking refuge from French-speaking West African nations has increased as well. In 2017, 4,486 asylum seekers are Sudanese, 3,780 are Guinean, 3,243 are from Ivory Coast, and 2,941 are from the Democratic Republic of Congo.¹²⁹ The implication of the 2017 presidential election serves as an indication that Algerian have yet to find their identity in France, especially as more and more immigrants from around the world seeking asylum in the country.

¹²⁹ Asylum Information Database. Country Report: France. Asylum in Europe. (28/02/2018): <https://www.asylumineurope.org/reports/country/france/statistics> (accessed 3/5/19.)

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