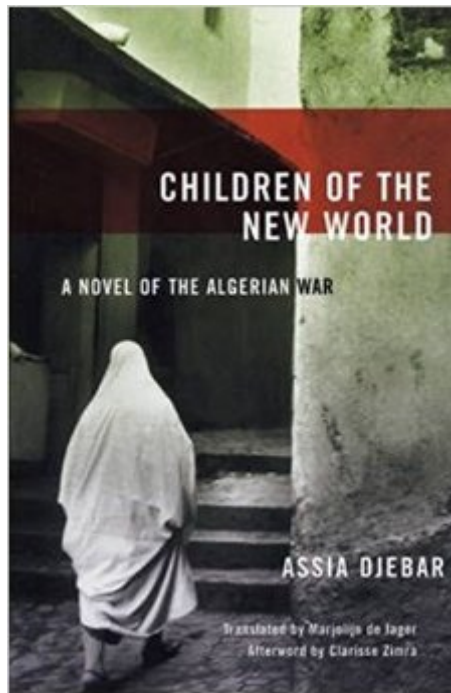


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Children Of The New World: A Novel Of The Algerian War (Women Writing The Middle East)



Synopsis

Assia Djebar, one of the most distinguished woman writers to emerge from the Arab world, wrote *Children of the New World* following her own involvement in the Algerian resistance to colonial French rule. Like the classic film *The Battle of Algiers*; enjoying renewed interest in the face of world events; Djebar's novel sheds light on current world conflicts as it reveals a determined Arab insurgency against foreign occupation, from the inside out. However, Djebar focuses on the experiences of women drawn into the politics of resistance. Her novel recounts the interlocking lives of women in a rural Algerian town who find themselves joined in solidarity and empower each other to engage in the fight for independence. Narrating the resistance movement from a variety of perspectives; from those of traditional wives to liberated students to political organizers; Djebar powerfully depicts the circumstances that drive oppressed communities to violence and at the same time movingly reveals the tragic costs of war.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

More than a half-century after it was published, when its extraordinary author was only 26 years-old, this novel is as urgent and as timely as if it were written yesterday. Portraying the Algerian

resistance to the French occupiers from a woman's perspective and from the ground up, this novel shines a harsh light on both the past and present sources of the Arab conflict with the West. Particularly in light of the Algerian roots of the Charlie Hebdo attackers in Paris.

Very interesting book. Sometimes incoherent, but overall an enlightening experience. This book gives great insight into what it was like to live in Algeria during the revolution there. The cultural aspects are also quite fascinating. It's not a "quick, fun read," but it does make you think as it challenges your perceptions.

Assia Djebar's third novel is a transition to a work that served the Algerian nationalist cause but retained her romantic tone. The Afterward by Clarisse Zimra including interview with Djebar is invaluable. Ruth Roded

I honestly found the storyline confusing and difficult to follow. This is probably because Djebar's method of characterisation is so different from that used in modern English literature - a combination of the elliptical and straightforwardly descriptive; and that combines with unfamiliar names and a general lack of dialogue, and frequently action, to demand a lot of the English reader. Indeed, the novel is shot through with the spirit of "tell don't show". Where this novel works is not so much in its form as a novel, but rather in its vignettes and incidents which reveal the characters' inner lives and motivations. The "tell don't show" format works well, and speaks directly to the reader unfamiliar with the society of 1947 Algeria.

Fantastic book!

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