

Matthew Connelly. *A Diplomatic Revolution: Algeria's Fight for Independence and the Origins of the Post-Cold War Era*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2002. Pp. 400. Paper \$35.00.

From 1830-1962, Algeria remained a colony of France. It was not until the Algerian War of Independence, (1954-1962) that the decolonization of the North African country began. This conflict is critical to understanding the history of decolonization because it opened the floodgates of independence for all of French Africa. The study of past Franco-Algerian relations is a burgeoning field as the French are only now coming to terms with the humiliation of losing their colonies. Matthew Connelly is among the few scholars in the United States who has extensively researched this war. He argues that the history of the Algerian War of Independence transcended the era of decolonization. Through extensive use of a numerous archives in Britain, Algeria and Tunisia, the author ambitiously shows that the Algerian War was very much a conflict of world opinion rather than just a battle for independence. FLN (The National Liberation Front) fighters made extensive use of press conferences and human rights reports. Through the use of the media, Connelly argues that nation-state sovereignty was transformed into a global issue. In addition, the Algerian war tactic of releasing human rights reports about French violence towards Algerian civilians revealed that besides fighting for independence, this was also a struggle over international opinion.

Divided into four parts, Connelly's work explains Algerian history from the outside in. Part one focuses on the failure of French and American modernization in Algeria and North Africa as well as North African ambivalence to French rule. Part two explains how Algerian rebels internally fought for independence. The most critical part is the third section where Connelly shows France, the United States, Algeria and Tunisia coming together in hopes of diplomatically ending the war. The Battle of Algiers moved from Algeria to New York City when FLN leaders made their way to the United Nations to wage a public opinion war against France. Within the UN building, the United States, Tunisia, Britain, Algeria and France squabbled over U.S. military aid and public opinion. The last part focuses on how the decolonization of Algeria impacted Cold War policy across the globe.

Connelly constantly shifts his study across continents and attempts to make connections between Algeria and the rest of the world because historical events do not occur in isolation. To better illustrate Algeria's relationship to other nations, the book includes a map of Algeria and its neighbors illustrating how the war not only spread across the country, but how the conflict extended to neighboring Tunisia and Morocco. In addition, Algeria's geographic location was of strategic importance for Western Europe and the United States during the Cold War. Connelly's study is foundational for understanding the history of European decolonization as well as the global dimensions of the Algerian War of Independence. Students and scholars researching and teaching World History will find his book invaluable.

Lucy Tambara

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Gilbert G. Gonzalez. *Culture of Empire: American Writers, Mexico, & Mexican immigrants, 1880-1930*. Austin: University of Texas Press, 2004. Pp. 245. Paper \$22.95.

Culture of Empire is an insightful analysis of the United States as an imperial power in Mexico. Gonzalez, a Chicano/Latino Studies professor at the University of California, Irvine, focuses on three specific areas: the economic conquest of Mexico by the United States, American literature illustrating the mysterious land south of the border, and Mexican immigration. Gonzalez notes that the economic colonization of Mexico was the first U.S. attempt at imperialism, which was executed in the late nineteenth century virtually without public knowledge or protest from anti-imperialist groups, because it was a peaceful conquest. Mexico was seen as a nation with abundant and profitable mineral resources, as well as other raw materials and American businesses did not hesitate to exploit the land and take advantage of the cheap labor. Their justification for crossing the border was an American variation of the white man's burden to civilize an inferior people through the promotion of democracy and capitalism. Gonzalez further argues that ethnic Mexican communities in the United States today are a result of American imperialism in the nineteenth century, when Mexicans began to migrate to the U.S. sent north by American businessmen as inexpensive workers.