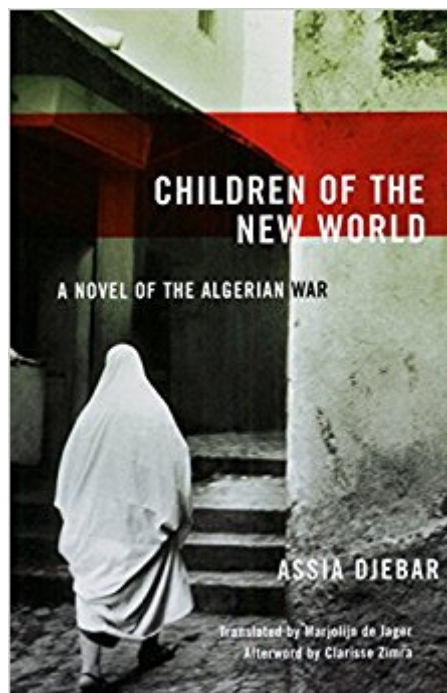




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# Children Of The New World: A Novel Of The Algerian War (Women Writing The Middle East)



## Synopsis

Assia Djébar, 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, Djébar's novel sheds light on current world conflicts as it reveals a determined Arab insurgency against foreign occupation, from the inside out. However, Djébar 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, Djébar 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

Death begins and ends Djébar's moving, mesmerizing account of the Algerian war of independence. Using the interaction of several characters over the course of a single day in a small mountain town, Djébar shows how the fight against French colonialism pitted woman against man and "brother against brother." "Overt violence is the only policy that pays off in this country," one character muses; another moves in and out of consciousness after 14 days of police torture.

Emotional violence proves just as shocking as physical brutality, as when 29-year-old Cherifa must overcome Islamic tradition in order to protect her husband, Youssef, from their neighbor, the policeman Hakim. But as Hakim conducts his investigation into Youssef's participation in a "secret organization," he starts to question the way his job has alienated him from the Arab community and from his wife. Djébar (*So Vast the Prison*) broadens the stories of "the revolution, the liberation struggle" to honor the "many drowning women whose destiny had been taken away forever" and to critique blind adherence to any ideology. The anticolonial, feminist novel, published in France in 1961 but only recently translated into English, loudly reverberates in today's politically charged social climate. (Dec.) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

A long-exiled Algerian writer of conscience, Djébar is revered for her lyrical, psychologically illuminating, and politically courageous fiction, poetry, and essays about Muslim women forced to live cruelly circumscribed lives, Algeria's brutal war for independence from France, and questions of autonomy and freedom both personal and political. Djébar was 26 when this novel, her third, was published in French in 1962. Now translated, and beautifully so, for the first time into English, it embodies Djébar's refined literary sensibility, empathy for people caught in times of violent change, and penetrating insights into the complex and painful difficulties between men and women. Set in the besieged Algerian town of Blida and presenting the divergent points of view of a constellation of men and women connected to a woman killed by a bomb, it charts the rise of the resistance movement as interrogations lead to torture and relationships of all kinds are put to the severest of tests. Sadly, all the conflicts, injustice, and bloodshed that Djébar so acutely depicted 40 years ago continue to destroy spirits and lives. Donna Seaman Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

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.

Fantastic book!

Excellent!!

Great!

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.

I honestly found the storyline confusing and difficult to follow. This is probably because Djébar'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.

Very confusing for someone who is unfamiliar with Algerian colonization. I had to read it for class. I would not recommend it.

Much of the language in this novel beautiful, but other parts of the book failed to hold my attention. I appreciated the handy chart of characters at the beginning of the book, showing how they relate to one another. I found that I referenced this often. But shouldn't the text of the novel itself do a sufficient job of explaining the relationships of characters to one another? I felt as if I was taking a peak into someone else's world, and as quickly as I was invited in, I was cast out again, without any real resolution or deeper understanding. The most redeeming qualities of this novel were style of the language and the emphasis put on the struggles and burdens on women in Algeria in the mid 1900s.

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