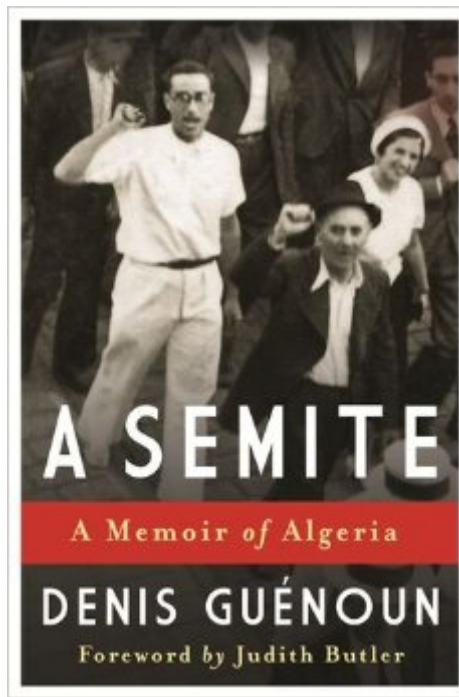


The book was found

A Semite: A Memoir Of Algeria



Synopsis

In this vivid memoir, Denis Gu  noun excavates his family's past and progressively fills out a portrait of an imposing, enigmatic father. Ren   Gu  noun was a teacher and a pioneer, and his secret support for Algerian independence was just one of the many things he did not discuss with his teenaged son. To be Algerian, pro-independence, a French citizen, a Jew, and a Communist were not, to Ren  's mind, dissonant allegiances. He believed Jews and Arabs were bound by an authentic fraternity and could only realize a free future together. Ren   Gu  noun called himself a Semite, a word that he felt united Jewish and Arab worlds and best reflected a shared origin. He also believed that Algerians had the same political rights as Frenchmen. Although his Jewish family was rooted in Algeria, he inherited French citizenship and revered the principles of the French Revolution. He taught science in a French lyc  e in Oran and belonged to the French Communist Party. His steadfast belief in liberty, equality, and fraternity led him into trouble, including prison and exile, yet his failures as an activist never shook his faith in a rational, generous future. Ren   Gu  noun was drafted to defend Vichy France's colonies in the Middle East during World War II. At the same time, Vichy barred him and his wife from teaching because they were Jewish. When the British conquered Syria, he was sent home to Oran, and in 1943, after the Allies captured Algeria, he joined the Free French Army and fought in Europe. After the war, both parents did their best to reconcile militant unionism and clandestine party activity with the demands of work and family. The Gu  nouns had little interest in Israel and considered themselves at home in Algeria; yet because he supported Algerian independence, Ren   Gu  noun outraged his French neighbors and was expelled from Algeria by the French paramilitary Organisation Arm  e Secr  te. He spent his final years in Marseille. Gracefully weaving together youthful memories with research into his father's life and times, Denis Gu  noun re-creates an Algerian past that proved lovely, intellectually provocative, and dangerous.

Book Information

Hardcover: 176 pages

Publisher: Columbia University Press (May 6, 2014)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0231164025

ISBN-13: 978-0231164023

Product Dimensions: 0.8 x 6 x 8.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 13.3 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: Be the first to review this item

Best Sellers Rank: #388,344 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #21 in Books > History > Africa > Algeria #70 in Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Philosophy > Movements > Deconstruction #174 in Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Politics & Government > Specific Topics > Colonialism & Post-Colonialism

[Download to continue reading...](#)

A Semite: A Memoir of Algeria Fault Lines: A Memoir (2nd Edition) (The Cross-Cultural Memoir Series) The Tagine Dream: Classical and Contemporary Tagines from Morocco, Tunisia, and Algeria (Tagine Recipes, Tagine Cookbook, Algerian Recipes, Moroccan Recipes, Tunisian Recipes Book 1) A Savage War of Peace: Algeria 1954-1962 (New York Review Books Classics) Pacification in Algeria, 1956-1958 Historical Dictionary of Algeria Algeria: France's Undeclared War (Making of the Modern World) States and Women's Rights: The Making of Postcolonial Tunisia, Algeria, and Morocco A Savage War of Peace: Algeria 1954-1962 Mecca of Revolution: Algeria, Decolonization, and the Third World Order (Oxford Studies in International History) By Sword and Plow: France and the Conquest of Algeria Algeria: Anger of the Dispossessed Modern Algeria, Second Edition: The Origins and Development of a Nation The Architecture of Memory: A Jewish-Muslim Household in Colonial Algeria, 1937-1962 (Cambridge Studies in Social and Cultural Anthropology) Modern Algeria: A History from 1830 to the Present Politics and Power in the Maghreb: Algeria, Tunisia and Morocco from Independence to the Arab Spring The Battle of the Casbah: Terrorism and Counter-terrorism in Algeria, 1955-1957 Historical Dictionary of Algeria (Historical Dictionaries of Africa) The Battle of the Casbah: Terrorism and Counterterrorism in Algeria 1955-1957 Operations in North Africa and the Middle East 1942-1944: El Alamein, Tunisia, Algeria and Operation Torch (Despatches from the Front)

[Dmca](#)