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The Politics of Frenchness in Colonial Algeria, 1930-1954 (Hardback)

By Jonathan Gosnell

Boydell Brewer Ltd, United Kingdom, 2002. Hardback. Book Condition: New. New.. 235 x 163 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book. In recent years, a multicultural society and changing conceptions of French identity have been the source of considerable debate in scholarship, literature and the media in France. This book examines equally contested definitions of French identity from the past, but not those forged within the borders of the French Hexagon, as French geographic space is sometimes called. It is the study of French sentiment in colonial Algeria of the 1930s, 1940s, and 1950s, during the last quarter century of colonial rule in North Africa. It seeks to uncover elements of French identity that were generated past the Pyrenees and the Alps, beyond the bordering Atlantic Ocean, English Channel and Mediterranean Sea, outside the physical space so central to Frenchness. It asks whether far-reaching state institutions could transform indigenous and settler populations in colonial Algeria -- Europeans, Jews and Muslims -- into French men and women. It examines what these individuals wrote of French sentiment in colonial Algeria. Did they articulate alternative definitions of French identity? The colonial periphery is clearly quite central to France's evolving postcolonial sense of...



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