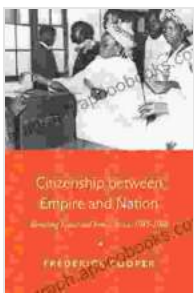


Remaking France and French Africa, 1945–1960: Delusions of Empire and Dreams of Decolonization

In the aftermath of World War II, France faced a profound choice: to maintain its vast colonial empire or to embark on a path of decolonization. This book explores the complex and turbulent period in French history from 1945 to 1960, shedding light on the nation's post-war aspirations, its colonial policies, and the ultimate collapse of its empire in Africa.



Citizenship between Empire and Nation: Remaking France and French Africa, 1945–1960 by Frederick Cooper

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

Language : English
File size : 4606 KB
Text-to-Speech : Enabled
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
Print length : 504 pages
Screen Reader : Supported



The book begins with an examination of the immediate post-war period, when France was determined to rebuild its shattered economy and reassert its global power. The government of Charles de Gaulle initially pursued a policy of "assimilation," seeking to integrate the colonies into the French Republic. However, this policy proved unsustainable as nationalist movements gained momentum across Africa.

The book then explores the Fourth Republic's efforts to manage the growing pressure for decolonization. The government attempted to balance the demands of the colonies for independence with the interests of the French settlers and the military. However, this delicate balancing act proved increasingly difficult to maintain.

In 1958, General de Gaulle returned to power, promising to resolve the Algerian crisis and to lead France into a new era. De Gaulle's policies were more conciliatory towards the colonies, and he ultimately granted independence to most of French Africa.

The book concludes with an assessment of the legacy of French colonialism in Africa. It argues that the colonial experience had a profound impact on both the colonizers and the colonized. The book also explores the challenges that France and Africa have faced in the post-colonial era.

This book is a major contribution to the study of French history and the history of colonialism. It is a must-read for anyone interested in understanding the complex and often tragic relationship between France and its former colonies in Africa.

Review

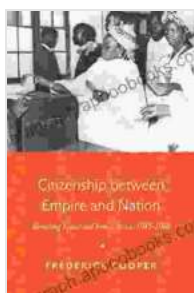
"This book is a tour de force. It is the most comprehensive and insightful account of the end of the French empire in Africa that I have read. The author has a deep understanding of the complex forces that shaped this period, and he writes with clarity and passion. This book is essential reading for anyone who wants to understand the history of France and Africa." - Professor John Merriman, Yale University

About the Author

Thomas Pakenham is a British historian and journalist. He is the author of several books on French history, including *The Scramble for Africa* and *The Boer War*.

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