

*Writing French Algeria* is a groundbreaking study of the French literary discourse on Algeria between the conquest of 1830 and the outbreak of the Algerian War in 1954. For the first time in English, this intertextual reading reveals the debate conducted within Algeria and between colony and metropole that aimed to forge an independent cultural identity for the European settlers. Through astute discussion of a wide range of texts, Peter Dunwoodie maps the representation of Algeria in the dominant nineteenth-century discourse of Orientalism, via the *littérature d'escale* of writers such as Gautier or Fromentin, the exotic novels of Pierre Loti, and the colonial writing of Louis Bertrand, Robert Randau, and the Algerianists who played a critical role in the construction of the new Algerian. Dunwoodie shows how this construction relied on an extremely selective process which marginalized the indigenous people of the Maghreb by foregrounding the country's Latin roots. The book also focuses on the dialogism operative in the works of *Ecole d'Alger* writers like Gabriel Audisio, Albert Camus, and Emmanuel Roblès, interrogating the way in which their voices countered the closure of those earlier strategies and yet still articulated the unresolvable dilemma of an inherently unstable and impermanent minority whose identity remained grounded in otherness.

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