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A MISSION TO CIVILIZE

*The Republican Idea of Empire in France
and West Africa, 1895-1930*

Alice L. Conklin

This book addresses a central but often ignored question in the history of modern France and modern colonialism: How did the Third Republic, highly regarded for its professed democratic values, allow itself to be seduced by the insidious and persistent appeal of a "civilizing" ideology with distinct racist overtones?

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—*Choice*

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