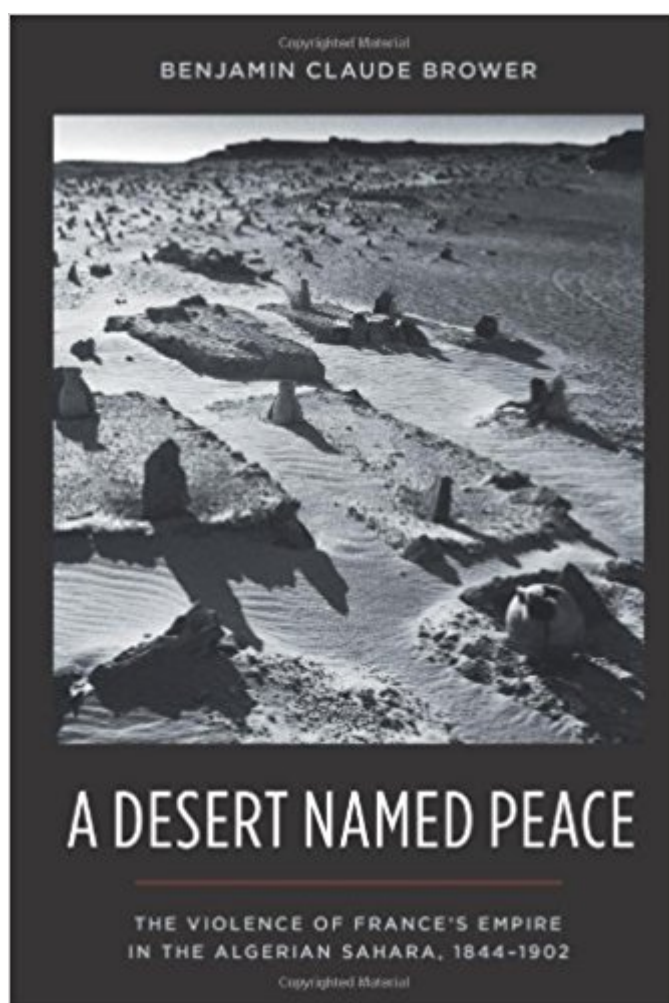


The book was found

# A Desert Named Peace: The Violence Of France's Empire In The Algerian Sahara, 1844-1902 (History And Society Of The Modern Middle East)



## Synopsis

In the mid-nineteenth century, French colonial leaders in Algeria started southward into the Sahara, beginning a fifty-year period of violence. Lying in the shadow of the colonization of northern Algeria, which claimed the lives of over a million people, French empire in the Sahara sought power through physical force as it had elsewhere; yet violence in the Algerian Sahara followed a more complicated logic than the old argument that it was simply a way to get empire on the cheap. *A Desert Named Peace* examines colonial violence through multiple stories and across several fields of research. It presents four cases: the military conquests of the French army in the oases and officers' predisposition to use extreme violence in colonial conflicts; a spontaneous nighttime attack made by Algerian pastoralists on a French village, as notable for its brutality as for its obscure causes; the violence of indigenous forms of slavery and the colonial accommodations that preserved it during the era of abolition; and the struggles of French Romantics whose debates about art and politics arrived from Paris with disastrous consequences. Benjamin Claude Brower uses these different perspectives to reveal the unexpected causes of colonial violence, such as France's troubled revolutionary past and its influence on the military's institutional culture, the aesthetics of the sublime and its impact on colonial thinking, the ecological crises suffered by Saharan pastoralists under colonial rule, and the conflicting paths to authority inherent in Algerian Sufism. Directly engaging a controversial history, *A Desert Named Peace* offers an important backdrop to understanding the Algerian war for independence (1954-1962) and Algeria's ongoing internal war, begun in 1992, between the government and armed groups that claim to fight for an Islamist revolution.

## Book Information

Series: History and Society of the Modern Middle East

Paperback: 480 pages

Publisher: Columbia University Press; Reprint edition (September 27, 2011)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0231154933

ISBN-13: 978-0231154932

Product Dimensions: 6.1 x 0.9 x 8.9 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.2 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars 2 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #1,467,778 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #78 in Books > History > Africa

> Algeria #405 inÂ Books > History > Africa > North Africa #733 inÂ Books > History > World > Slavery & Emancipation

## Customer Reviews

A Desert Named Peace is a very impressive book. Clearly and, at times, very beautifully written, the volume brings together a staggering amount of archival and primary evidence and equally draws effectively on a mountain of secondary studies. On the subject of French involvement in Algeria, Benjamin Claude Brower comes across as exceptionally learned—a term not used too much any more, but which perhaps describes Brower best. This is sure to be a subject of interest to a wide variety of scholars. (J. P. Daughton, Stanford University, and author of *An Empire Divided: Religion, Republicanism, and the Making of French Colonialism, 1880-1914*) In this rich and troubling story of the French conquest of Algeria, Benjamin Claude Brower takes up the question of violence, its sources, and its history. As the French pursued a project of 'pacification' in the name of civilization, they at once practiced and provoked horrific violence. Brower delves deeply into the many justifications developed for this violence. His remarkable book moves quite literally from the banalities of economic, political, and military reasoning to Romantic idealizations of the sublime (embodied especially by the Sahara desert). He offers no single causal explanation for the violence that occurred on both sides of the colonial relationship, but we leave the book with a deeper understanding of how and why it came about. (Joan W. Scott, author of *The Politics of the Veil*) The conquest of the Sahara offered French enterprise no potential for profit, but it fascinated the French military and a romantic band of explorers. The story of the conquest is one of violence and brutality masked by extravagant delusion. Benjamin Claude Brower tells this story well. Brower's discussion of French policy toward slavery and the slave trade is particularly valuable. It is a tale of laws proclaimed but rarely enforced, and of compromises that left few tracks, for Saharan administrators did not wish to compromise themselves. Brower uncovers those tracks with a detective's skill. (Martin Klein, professor emeritus, University of Toronto) A very engaging and rich study of the French conquest of the Algerian Sahara (Amal Ghazal H-Levant) This ambitious book makes a major contribution to the study of empire. (Clifford Rosenberg H-France) A well written revisionist look at the dark side of colonialism. (A.A. Nofi StrategyPage)...a fascinating and well-researched book... (Matthew Lauzon H-Empire)

In the mid-nineteenth century French colonial leaders in Algeria descended southward into the Sahara, initiating a fifty-year period of violence. The French Empire in the Sahara sought power

through physical force as it had elsewhere, yet this did not yield empire on the cheap, and violence in colonial Algeria followed a shifting political logic. *A Desert Named Peace* presents four cases: the military conquests of the French army in the oases and officers' predisposition to use extreme violence in colonial conflicts; a spontaneous nighttime attack made by Algerian pastoralists on a French village, as notable for its brutality as for its obscure causes; the violence of indigenous forms of slavery and the colonial accommodations that preserved it during the era of abolition; and the struggles of French Romantics whose debates about art and politics arrived from Paris with disastrous consequences. These different perspectives reveal the unexpected causes of colonial violence, such as France's troubled revolutionary past and its influence on the military's institutional culture, the aesthetics of the sublime and its impact on colonial thinking, the ecological crises suffered by Saharan pastoralists under colonial rule, and the conflicting paths to authority inherent in Algerian Sufism.

exhaustive, well documented' one of the best books about the French colonial history in north africa

An excerpt from the review on StrategyPage.Com: 'A Desert Named Peace takes a look behind the benign façade of the French "mission civilisatrice" and finds it wanting. After a brief look at the initial French invasion and occupation of northern Algeria, partially to help suppress piracy but mostly to garner martial glory for the Bourbons, Prof. Brower (UT) examines the French invasion and conquest of the desert areas further inland. A series of case studies provide examples of the often extreme violence of military action against local peoples, their sometimes brutal responses, the nature of slavery in the region, and French adaptations of it, and the ways in which a veil of romanticism helped make palatable what was clearly a gross violation of their national principles. A well written revisionist look at the dark side of colonialism which still influences international relations.' For the full review, see StrategyPage.Com

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

*A Desert Named Peace: The Violence of France's Empire in the Algerian Sahara, 1844-1902* (History and Society of the Modern Middle East) *A Peace to End All Peace: The Fall of the Ottoman Empire and the Creation of the Modern Middle East* Power and Policy in Syria: Intelligence Services, Foreign Relations and Democracy in the Modern Middle East (Library of Modern Middle East Studies) *History of Empires: Rise and Fall of the Greatest "Empires" in History! Understanding The: Roman Empire, American Empire, British Empire, & Much More. ... Mesopotamia, Byzantine Empire Book 1*) *Between Sea and Sahara: An Algerian Journal* Democracy and Youth in the Middle

East: Islam, Tribalism and the Rentier State in Oman (Library of Modern Middle East Studies) Syria and Iran: Diplomatic Alliance and Power Politics in the Middle East (Library of Modern Middle East Studies) British & Empire Campaign Medals - Volume 1: 1793 to 1902 (British & Irish/Empire Campaign Medals) France: France Travel Guide: 101 Coolest Things to Do in France (Paris, Marseilles, Lyon, Nice, Provence, Bordeaux, Normandy, Budget Travel France) France: A Traveler's Guide to the Must-See Cities in France! (Paris, Strasbourg, Nice, Dijon, Lyon, Lille, Marseille, Toulouse, Bordeaux, Nantes, France Travel Guide, France) Off-road in Eastern Morocco - Cycling the Moroccan Sahara: A real adventure along the Algerian border Algerian Memories; a bicycle tour over the Atlas to the Sahara Burton Holmes Travelogues, Vol. 2: Cities of the Barbary Coast, Oases of the Algerian Sahara, Southern Spain Online Activism in the Middle East: Political Power and Authoritarian Governments from Egypt to Kuwait (Library of Modern Middle East Studies) Westward Bound: Sex, Violence, the Law, and the Making of a Settler Society (Law and Society Series Published in association with the Osgoode Society for Canadian Legal History) Children of the New World: A Novel of the Algerian War (Women Writing the Middle East) Forgotten Peace: Reform, Violence, and the Making of Contemporary Colombia (Violence in Latin American History) A Girl Named Hillary: The True Story of Hillary Clinton (American Girl: A Girl Named) A Horse Named Bob (I Can Read! / A Horse Named Bob) A Girl Named Rosa: The True Story of Rosa Parks (American Girl: A Girl Named)

[Contact Us](#)

[DMCA](#)

[Privacy](#)

[FAQ & Help](#)