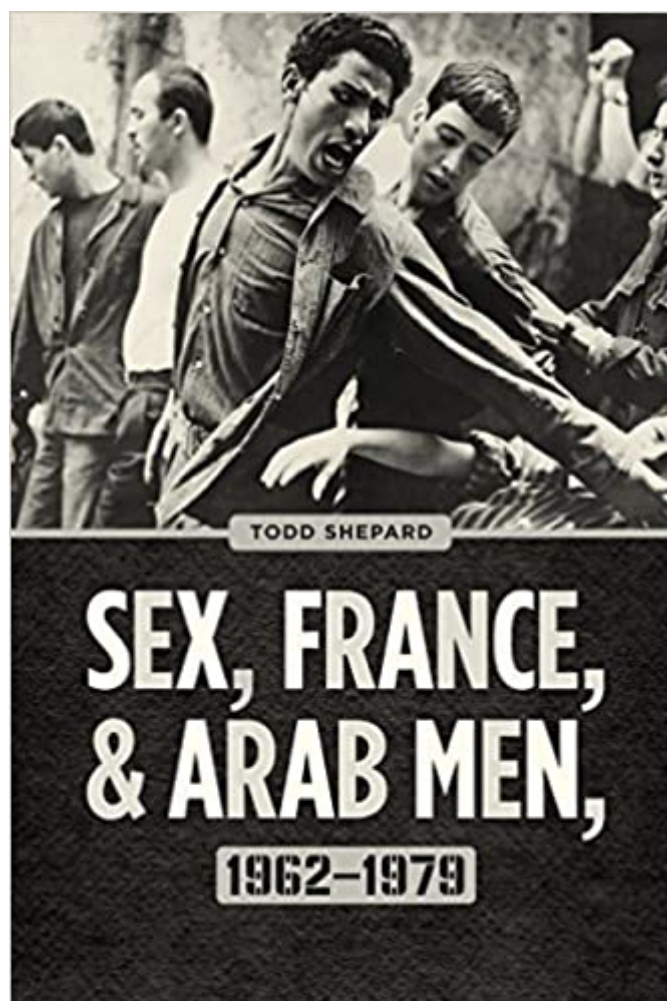


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Sex, France, And Arab Men, 1962-1979



Synopsis

The aftermath of Algeria's revolutionary war for independence coincided with the sexual revolution in France, and in this book Todd Shepard argues that these two movements are inextricably linked. *Sex, France, and Arab Men* is a history of how and why—from the upheavals of French Algeria in 1962 through the 1970s—highly sexualized claims about Arabs were omnipresent in important public French discussions, both those that dealt with sex and those that spoke of Arabs. Shepard explores how the so-called sexual revolution took shape in a France profoundly influenced by the ongoing effects of the Algerian revolution. Shepard's analysis of both events alongside one another provides a frame that renders visible the ways that the fight for sexual liberation, usually explained as an American and European invention, developed out of the worldwide anticolonial movement of the mid-twentieth century.

Book Information

Hardcover: 336 pages

Publisher: University Of Chicago Press (December 22, 2017)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 022649327X

ISBN-13: 978-0226493275

Product Dimensions: 5.9 x 0.6 x 9.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.5 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

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Best Sellers Rank: #1,240,160 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #54 in [Books > History > Africa > Algeria](#) #339 in [Books > History > Africa > North Africa](#) #644 in [Books > Gay & Lesbian > History](#)

Customer Reviews

"Shepard's *Sex, France, and Arab Men, 1962–1979* is particularly exciting because it challenges long-standing assumptions about the relationship between colony and metropole but also about the history of sexuality in France. As Shepard argues, the so-called French sexual revolution of the 1960s and 1970s was intimately tied to the war in Algeria, to decolonization, and to immigration. Shepard's thorough commitment to critique shines through in his systematic questioning and denaturalization of long-standing assumptions in the fields of postcolonial criticism, French history, queer theory, and sexuality studies. This book's theoretical ambitions, its interdisciplinary focus, and its elegance will make this a

must-read in all of these fields. (Camille Robcis, Cornell University) “Shepard’s book offers a radical and radically new account of the intimately entwined histories of the Algerian and Sexual Revolutions in France. Historians frequently view the two decades following the war without a name as a period in which French memory of the brutal conflict was occulted, if not completely forgotten. In this deeply researched and convincingly argued book, Shepard shows instead that figures associated with the war, and especially the Arab man as both social fact and rhetorical trope, were culturally and politically omnipresent in literature, journalism, and film, as well as governmental, police, and academic discourse and policy. Indeed, by combining insights of feminist, queer, critical race, and post-colonial theory, this work does not simply offer a new understanding of these pivotal two decades in French and global history. It just as importantly provides critical historical insight into the moment out of which so much of that theory emerged. (Judith Surkis, Rutgers University)

Todd Shepard is the Arthur O. Lovejoy Professor of History at Johns Hopkins University. He is the author of *Voices of Decolonization: A Brief History with Documents* and *The Invention of Decolonization: The Algerian War and the Remaking of France*.

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