The study of francophone North African literature has witnessed something of a surge in popularity over the last twenty years. Although many of the richest and best-known literary works in French by North African writers were published in the lead-up to and aftermath of decolonization, criticism in this area has exploded in recent decades, in particular with the rise of postcolonial studies in the US and the UK. If, moreover, the end of the French presence in the North African colonies of Algeria, Morocco, and Tunisia, and in particular the Algerian War of Independence, were subjects that received little critical attention in France in the years after decolonization — as if testifying to a difficulty in coming to terms with the trauma of colonial loss...

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