

France's Colonial Legacies

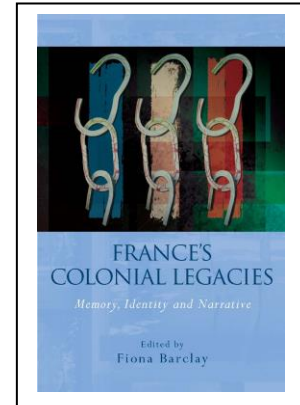
Memory, Identity and Narrative

Edited by Fiona Barclay

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In an era of commemoration, *France's Colonial Legacies* contributes to the debates taking place in France about the place of empire in the contemporary life of the nation, debates that have been underway since the 1990s and that now reach across public life and society with manifestations in the French parliament, media and universities. France's empire and the gradual process of its loss is one of the defining narratives of the contemporary nation, contributing to the construction of its image both on the international stage and at home. While certain intellectuals present the imperial period as an historical irrelevance that ended in the years following the Second World War, the contested legacies of France's colonies continue to influence the development of French society in the view of scholars of the postcolonial. This volume surveys the memorial practices and discourses that are played out in a range of arenas, drawing on the expertise of researchers working in the fields of politics, media, cultural studies, literature and film to offer a wide-ranging picture of remembrance in contemporary France.

Fiona Barclay is lecturer in French and postcolonial studies at the University of Stirling, UK. She is the author of *Writing Postcolonial France: Haunting, Literature and the Maghreb* (Lexington, 2011).



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