

Background Guide

A Drop of Sun Under the Earth: Revolution and Decolonization in Algeria



JACKRABBIT MUN VII

L.B. POLY - MAY 24th, 2025

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CO-HEAD CHAIR LETTERS

Hello Delegates!

My name is Sophie Nishikawa and I have the privilege of serving as one of your head chairs for Jackrabbit MUN VII's Algerian Revolution Crisis Room. I am currently a junior and the Vice President of our Model United Nations Club, although I also participate in many other activities around Poly. Besides MUN, I am the President of the Poly UNICEF Club, Varsity Captain of the tennis team, and a member of the Female Leadership Academy, Book Club, and Chess Club. On the rare occasion that I have time to spare, I enjoy a range of hobbies including reading (my most recent read is *Giovanni's Room*; I highly recommend), illustrating, writing, baking, cooking, and most recently, knitting.

I can't wait to see where your research takes you and I trust that you will all have mature and interesting ways of delegating your way through such a complex topic. There's so much nuance and intrigue to the Algerian Revolution, and I'm very much looking forward to seeing how all of you balance your character, their political beliefs, and the fate of Algeria. I sincerely hope that you enjoy participating in this committee, and if you have any questions in the meantime, please don't hesitate to email me or my co-chair.

Sincerely,

Sophie Nishikawa

Revolution and Decolonization in Algeria | Co-Head Chair

sophiemnishikawa@icloud.com



CO-HEAD CHAIR LETTERS

Hello delegates!

My name is Corina Frank and I will be your other Co-Chair for this immaculate crisis room. This is my fourth time being a Chair for a MUN room so you could say I am pretty experienced and I ultimately want to give you guys the best experience. I love soccer, I am a big foodie and cooking is my favorite thing to do in the entire world. My hobbies include playing soccer, going to the gym and playing video games.

The Algerian revolution is a fascinating topic, I cannot wait to see what effort and debate you guys put into this room. Please do not be afraid to ask questions regarding this room, I check my email frequently!

Sincerely,

Corina Frank

Revolution and Decolonization in Algeria | Co-Head Chair

corinafranko7@gmail.com



CRISIS LEAD LETTER

Hello delegates!

My name is Don Tran and I've been granted the honor to be this room's Crisis Lead.

I'm currently a sophomore in Polytechnic's PACE pathway. This will be my second year in MUN and first time as a Crisis Lead so I beg you to bear with me. I'm known to hold the very objective opinion that crisis is the best type of room there is and hope that you also hold the correct opinions in choosing this room. Aside from MUN my hobbies include singing, cooking (not baking), theater arts, and whatever nerdy STEM stuff I get fixated on.

I look forward to witnessing the efforts you've taken in preparation for this room and the interactions that will ensue. I trust that you all will navigate this complex topic with grace and dignity and look forward to watching your debate unfold in a way that won't cost me my job. Should you have any questions regarding the room, you are always welcome to email my chairs.

Sincerely,

Don Tran

Revolution and Decolonization in Algeria | Crisis Lead

dont2987@gmail.com



VICE CHAIR LETTER

Hello delegates!

My name is Annali Bojorquez, and I am so excited to be serving as your vice chair for Jackrabbit MUN's Algerian Revolution crisis committee. I'm a sophomore and I have been involved in MUN since my freshman year. I am really excited to be involved in this year's Jackrabbit and hope you all have the best experience. Besides MUN I play soccer, run track and cross country, and am a cabinet member of Poly's UNICEF club and Female Leadership Academy. I love reading and yoga, and want to be a diplomat (hence my involvement in MUN). My favorite books are the Cruel Prince and The Picture of Dorian Gray, and my favorite singer is Ariana Grande.

I am so excited to meet all of you and help you through this awesome experience. I can't wait to see what you make of this room and if you ever need any help don't hesitate to email me or the co-head chairs. This room is a really interesting one I think you will all love. Don't forget to be creative and keep it interesting. Good luck and have an amazing time!

Sincerely,

Annali Bojorquez

Revolution and Decolonization in Algeria | Vice Chair

amariebojorqz@gmail.com



POSITION PAPER GUIDELINES

- Position Papers are due at 11:59 PM on **Sunday, May 18th**.
- Delegates **must** submit position papers to be eligible for **research AND committee awards**.
- Position Papers will be submitted through a google form:
 - <https://forms.gle/jkenWafGEAL6hJay9>
- At the top of each paper, include your character/country name, first and last name, school name, and appropriate committee.

Rabah Bitat
First Last
School Name
Algerian Revolution
- Papers should be submitted as a PDF file
 - Please name the file [Committee_Country]
 - Ex. **Algerian Revolution_Rabah Bitat**
- Papers should be minimum 1-2 pages in length with an additional Works Cited page in MLA format
- Papers should be single-spaced in Times New Roman 12 pt. font and include no pictures or graphics
- Please include the following sections for each committee topic:
 - Background
 - Position of your Character
 - Possible Solutions

If you have any questions or concerns, please email one of your chairs.



COMMITTEE DESCRIPTION

The committee will begin on **October 31, 1954**, one day before the revolution officially starts, and will begin with an update from our staffers. The committee will then continue as usual, with periodic updates from the crisis staff depending on the directives received in both the front room and back room.

At the beginning of debate, the committee will begin with a round robin with a time voted upon by delegates. We would strongly encourage a few moderated caucuses before going into an unmoderated caucus, so please keep that in mind. In committee, please refer to other delegates by their last names. Additionally, please note that at Jackrabbit, we do not allow delegates to kill one another, and no delegate can be rendered completely unable to participate.

We at Jackrabbit MUN are aware that the Algerian Revolution is an extremely sensitive topic where many atrocities were committed. We do not condone any of these events, but we encourage engaging and nuanced debate and decision-making to further the goals of your character. **However, actions such as genocide, ethnic cleansing, the use of nuclear weapons, the creation of concentration camps, and hate speech are forbidden under any circumstance, even if they are accurate to the real events of the war.** We are approaching the Algerian Revolution with 21st-century values, and failure to recognize this will result in penalties ranging from verbal reprimands to bans from JackrabbitMUN.



TOPIC SYNOPSIS

The day is October 31, 1954. Algeria is under French control, but tensions are bubbling. Many countries were liberated from their colonizers after WWI, and similarly, France made a promise before WWII that Algeria would have increased autonomy if they helped fight the Nazis.

However, when the time rolled around for the French to keep their word, they instead kept their control over Algeria because (in their minds) the Algerians were not ready for self-government. The discontent this caused came to a head in the Sétif and Guelma Massacre in 1945: 6,000 to 45,000 Algerians were killed by French soldiers after a riot. Nothing so violent has happened since, but rumors are spreading about a budding revolutionary organization—a nationalist group that aims to take on France and liberate Algeria. This gossip is all unfounded, of course, but no one would be surprised if it were true, considering that Franco-Algerian relations have turned so bitter. Still, France is keen on retaining Algeria, not only because of their history ruling them starting in 1834 (it would be quite the international embarrassment to lose Algeria at this point!), but also because of the numerous French transplants, also known as *pieds-noirs* (pronounced *pyey-nwar*), and the region's close proximity.

Most delegates will be allied with France or Algeria, and have to balance dealing with political turmoil and achieving their own goals as they navigate what may soon become an all-out war. Both sides have powerful and charismatic players who are under intense pressure to tip the scales in their own favor and are willing to do whatever it takes in order to ensure their success. Delegates working under France will need to use France's international allegiances and military might to snuff out any rebellion. Delegates working for Algeria are fighting on their home turf, and even



though they are working against a major world power, they can still band together for the best shot at gaining their independence. Yet both sides must take care, as traitors may be in your midst. In any case, the battle ahead will not be easy, and delegates should have their wits about them to ensure their preferred outcome.



BACKGROUND

HISTORY OF FRENCH COLONIZATION IN ALGERIA

French colonization in Algeria began as early as 1830 and France has retained the colony since, despite the cost. With the fall of the regime of King Louis-Philippe in



1848, French settlers in Algeria declared the territory for France and the nation converted into a French colony. France's Second Empire was established in 1852, with an emperor (Napoleon III) who was sympathetic to Algerians. His declaration that the nation was “not a French province but an Arab country, a European colony, and a French camp,” gave hope to Algerians of potential self-governance. However, those hopes fell in 1870, when the French exerted

full power over Algeria after the fall of Napoleon III and the start of the Third Republic. Before this, the territory had been mainly under military governance, a system in which Algerians were given more freedom than they were under the democratic government. This new takeover allowed the repossession of native land through the *sénatus-consulate* in 1863, a law that allowed settlers to take land formerly protected by tribal law.

During the First World War, many Algerians fought for France and sustained heavy losses. This was the beginning of a general Algerian disillusionment with French rule. Nationalism, a desire for independence, and active resistance began to gain

popularity in Algeria in the early 20th century. After World War II, with much of European control over Africa beginning to crumble and French promises for increased Algerian autonomy repeatedly broken, the call for change in Algeria became ever-louder. Algerian nationalists began protests that led to massacres of up to 45,000 Algerians in 1945. These violent conflicts would lay the groundwork for the Algerian revolution.

DECOLONIZATION IN OTHER FRENCH TERRITORIES

Before Algeria had started its journey towards revolution, other French colonies had already fought for and won their independence. The first and most famous of these revolutions took place in early 19th-century Haiti. Haiti declared its independence in 1803, drove the French out in 1804, and became the first (and only) successful uprising of enslaved people in history.



Although this was the first French colony to gain their freedom, Haiti's struggles did not end when the French had left as they were saddled with 150 million francs of debt to France as reparations for the cost of the war. This crippled the Haitian economy and made it impossible for them to begin amassing the wealth necessary to support a new nation. Colonial extortion continued beyond Haiti's technical time as a colony, and the scars of this remain over a century later.

In the early to mid 20th century, many French colonies had begun their journeys towards independence. Along with Algeria, Senegal and Vietnam were



experiencing rising nationalist movements, as a response to the weakening of French control after World Wars I and II and the harsh conditions colonized peoples faced under French colonial rule. Economic exploitation and repression of traditional culture, paired with brutal enforcement, began the wave of decolonization that would sweep across colonies worldwide. In Indochina, Vietnamese resistance under Ho Chi Minh began challenging French rule after World War II, leading to the first Indochina War. This would be the first—but certainly not the last—of the disgruntled French colonies to rise and take up arms against their oppressors.

DECOLONIZATION AS A GLOBAL MOVEMENT

Decolonization as a major movement started with the American Revolution, which began in 1775, and the subsequent wave of revolutions that followed included the French, Haitian, and Latin American revolutions. A second wave began in the aftermath of World War I because many European countries—notably Austria, Hungary, and Latvia—gained independence following the collapse of the Ottoman Empire.

The third wave of decolonization began immediately following World War II. Because the Second World War was so brutal, many European colonial nations lost a significant portion of their military and their economy and were subsequently unable to control their colonies. Additionally, fighting in the war gave colonial residents a sense of nationalistic pride and a greater willingness and ability to achieve independence and liberation through whatever means necessary. The creation of global platforms, such as the United Nations, also helped colonized peoples vocalize their opposition to their colonial oppressors and gain support for their independence.

Colonized people began to revolt worldwide, and because of the colonial nations' weakened states, they were unable to suppress them. Some, like the British



Empire, decided to simply let go of many of their colonies after encountering mass protests. Violence was sometimes minimal and independence was achieved gradually, but for others, intense and bloody revolutions—even wars—were necessary. One such conflict was the 1948 Malagasy Uprising in Madagascar, where an estimated 15,000–30,000 died fighting French forces. This route of armed struggle was the most common route that needed to be taken to end colonization.

SUPPORT AND OPPOSITION FOR ALGERIAN INDEPENDENCE

Algeria is one of the last colonies still controlled by the French Empire, which is expected, considering that France has been in control for over a century. The bonds tying France to Algeria run deep, and there is even a prominent community of French-Algerians, the *pieds-noirs*.



They are in near-unanimous support of Algeria staying under French control and view Algeria as a part of French history and culture. However, as tensions mount, more and more *pieds-noirs* have begun to feel uneasy about their situation within Algeria, as they fear what hostility towards the French would do to them and their livelihoods.

They have already faced violence from the Algerians who saw them as a symbol of French rule, such as in the Sétif and Guelma Massacre, but are not seen as true French people in France because most were born in Algeria. Therefore, the pieds-noirs see continued French rule over Algeria to be the best situation for them, as they could continue living in Algeria relatively safely and would not need to return to France.

The United States and the Soviet Union are currently at the height of the Cold War—the US is gently, and not-so-gently, nudging its smaller allies to stop the spread of communism and the Soviets are urging their allies to spread communism across the globe. To encourage rebelling colonies to join the Western and Eastern blocs respectively, Americans and Soviets have deployed aid packages, money, supplies, and sometimes even troops to help various colonies win their independence. To both countries, Algeria is yet another potential ally—or foe.

ALGERIAN NATIONALISM

When Algeria was first colonized in the 19th century, there was intense bloodshed. Death toll estimates vary widely, as most deaths were from disease and starvation as opposed to direct warfare. The most reliable estimate is that about $\frac{1}{3}$ of the Algerian population perished during this time. This caused most remaining Algerians to despise French rule, and this hatred was only furthered by the rapid political changes and steady spread of decolonization at the start of the 20th century. Many Algerians regained their desire for independence and the flame of Algerian nationalism burned ever brighter. Several groups aided in bringing about this movement, although they each had different motivations and theories on liberating themselves from French rule.

One of the first groups—the Young Algerians—was formed even before World War I, and has since continued to advocate for a gradual end to colonialism. This group contains highly educated writers, activists, and intellectuals, many of whom received a French education. They are more willing to compromise with the French than other groups and they frown on illegal actions taken by radical groups. This has led to critics calling them assimilationists and moderates, but they still seek to reclaim Algeria's cultural identity from France and demand the political rights that are denied to them as a colony.

Another early group was the North African Star (ENA; French: Étoile Nord-Africaine), a peaceful nationalist group formed in 1926. They had no weapons and maintained relations with the French Communist Party, but the group was dissolved in 1929 after calling for a revolt against the French. The ENA was revitalized in 1933 under the leadership of Ahmed Messali Hadj, but broke apart again in just four years. Although it didn't last long, it brought together several of the brightest Algerian revolutionary thinkers, laying the groundwork for more organizations to form.

Outside of ENA, Ahmed Messali Hadj was involved with multiple other anti-colonialist and pro-Algerian groups. He, along with Algerian workers in the late 1920s, created the Algerian People's Party in the 1930s, which ended in 1946 due to the riots at Sétif. Its successor, the Movement for the Triumph of Democratic Liberties (MTLD; French: Mouvement pour le Triomphe des Libertés Démocratiques) was later founded with a secret military sector, called the Special Organisation (OS; French: *Organisation spéciale*). This subsection was meant to prepare Algeria for an armed struggle against France. However, in 1950, the colonial police discovered the OS, and arrested many of its leaders, effectively ending its work. All of these groups tended to

be radical and inspired greater urgency within the Algerian people to seek out their independence no matter the cost.

A different group, the Association of Algerian Muslim Ulamā (AUMA; French: Association des Uléma Musulmans Algériens), focused less on politics and more on religion because it was created by Muslim reformers. They were inspired by the Salafi movement, which aimed to emulate the lives of the first generations of Muslims who existed during or near Muhammad's lifetime. The AUMA created a religious dimension to Algerian nationalism, decrying colonization as an erasure of the Arabic and Islamic traditions of Algeria, which is further helped by the fact that Algeria has an overwhelming Sunni majority, uniting. As such, they have become a major provider of education throughout Algeria, promoting the Arabic language as opposed to French, while fending off foreign cultural influences.

THE SÉTIF AND GUELMA MASSACRE

On May 8, 1945, thousands of Algerians gathered in the city of Sétif to celebrate Germany's surrender and the end of World War II. However, Algerian nationalism had risen greatly up to this point, and some people in the crowd carried anti-colonial banners, which the French soldiers attempted to confiscate. In the resulting tug-of-war for the banners, gunshots were fired on both sides, and protestors and soldiers alike were shot. The next few days were chaotic as guerilla warfare ensued, and even a peaceful protest in the nearby town of Guelma was violently suppressed by the military.

The following days saw extreme violence as French troops marched through Algerian villages and killed those suspected of colluding with the nationalists. Rural villages that were inaccessible by land and suspected of harboring anti-imperialists



were bombed, and at the end of the massacre, several thousand Algerians and around 100 Europeans were dead.

The results of the massacre upset both the French and the Algerians, and tensions have increased tenfold. The French see the bloodshed as just another reason to keep the Algerians at bay, as they are a threat to France's already unstable political environment after the collapse of the Vichy-run government. In contrast, Algerians see the massacre as a personal affront to their existence, and it has strengthened their resentment towards colonial rule.

FRENCH POLITICAL CLIMATE

In World War II, France was defeated by the Germans and became what is officially known as État Français, but more commonly called Vichy France. The northern region was under German military control, and the south was under French control, but only in name. The entire government was anti-republican and functioned as a German puppet state that furthered Nazi influence in Western Europe as the war progressed. This rule continued until 1944, when French Resistance forces faced off against the Gestapo and Vichy militia in a civil war. The Resistance proved victorious, took back Paris, and abolished the Vichy regime.

However, the end of the Vichy regime did not spell the end of France's troubles, and as they entered the Fourth Republic, the French political elite was divided on how to reshape France. This led to a period of political instability. Communists argued for a strong one-house legislature, but others wanted political power to be concentrated in a president. There was even further conflict as the acting president, Charles de Gaulle, stepped down in 1946, leading to a power vacuum that the French officials were scrambling to fill. In the same year, the French government proposed a constitution

for the new republic, but it was rejected by the public, forcing them to draft a new one that only narrowly passed the vote. All of this contributed to a shaky government that is currently barely held together by its leaders.

By this time, the French public had seen crisis after crisis since the 1930s, and had become disillusioned with complacency, and more willing to act. The new generation of France went into business, politics, and bureaucracy, all looking for an upheaval of their unstable government. Although they wanted change, they looked to the past to find it, attaching themselves to the glory days of France and seeking for a way to return to it. As Algeria has been a part of France for close to a century at this point, many French citizens are against Algerian independence, or at least against any further instability that a war would cause.

COLONIAL THEORY

France first began its colonial endeavors over 400 years ago, and its empire has expanded far beyond its European borders. Like many other colonial nations, France's aspirations started for a multitude of reasons, such as the desire for greater territorial control and to extract exotic resources such as gold, furs, and ivory. However, as the French colonial empire expanded and its political influence grew to match, other justifications beyond just economics emerged.

One of the most notorious French colonialists is Jules Ferry, a statesman who served during the Third Republic and, alongside his supporters, is largely responsible for the French acquisition of the Vietnamese, Tunisina, and Congolese territories. Ferry claims that French colonialism is for the good of the world, as he believes that France has a superior culture, and thus had a responsibility to spread it as far as possible. This justification is now known as the "white man's burden." It is a point of

national pride for the French to have spread their influence across the world. The French expect the nations that they colonize to assimilate into the French way of life, including adopting the French language, dress, and customs, even if assimilation comes at the cost of native culture. With France, the “white man’s burden” propagates the idea that the French way of life is superior, and an improvement upon whatever pre-existing culture existed in colonized lands.

Algeria in particular is a special case as it is geographically close to France. Given the location, many French people felt more comfortable with moving to Algeria, and thus a large European settler population formed. These Algerian-born French, called the *pieds-noirs*, have existed for multiple generations within the country, and a non-insignificant number have never visited France. Because of the large population of ethnically French people within Algeria, the French government is even more reluctant to relinquish control of the colony, fearing for the safety of the *pieds-noirs*.

COMMITTEE STRUCTURE

This committee will begin on October 31, 1954. As delegates, you will receive various crisis updates throughout committee, where our dais or crisis staff will deliver new information pertinent to the events of committee. Time jumps may occur. **Since this committee begins on October 31, 1954, we understand that critical events within several character's lives may not yet have occurred, and some information has not yet been revealed to the public. Nonetheless, please abide by your character's original historical timeline. Also, this committee is set in an alternate timeline, and any character actions may diverge from the historical timeline.** We recommend making a basic timeline for your character that you can refer to during debate.

When it comes to directives, we allow group (also known as joint private), personal, and committee directives, as well as communiques and press releases.

At JackrabbitMUN, we use a digital directive system, so you will submit your directives via a Google Form and get responses from Crisis Staff in a digital crisis notebook (a Google Doc). This decreases response time, allowing delegates to submit far more directives—at previous JackrabbitMUN editions we've averaged a response time of less than ten minutes. Committee directives should be written on a Google Doc and shared with the Chair, who will send them to the Crisis Staff.

In addition, on the day of the conference, you will be given a folder with a portfolio power. These portfolio powers are secret—only you will know what your portfolio power is—and include two major things: plots and powers. Plots are secret objectives a delegate is trying to accomplish or secret information that only one delegate or a group of delegates would be privy to. For instance, an example of a plot is



how in our past “Red Scare” room, multiple delegates were Communists and plotted with each other to overthrow the United States. Powers are special actions that delegates can take. These can range from the ability to “OBJECT!” to another delegate’s speech to a secret task force of spies and analysts that a delegate can command to gather intelligence on their adversaries to the ability to call a general strike and cripple key infrastructure.

Please be advised that at JackrabbitMUN we have a policy of not killing your fellow delegates. Therefore, please do not submit directives attempting to assassinate one another. We also will not entertain directives that involve genocide or nuclear weapons. Thank you so much for signing up and we look forward to meeting you on the 24th!



CHARACTER DESCRIPTIONS

Mostefa Ben Boulaïd

Mostefa Ben Boulaïd is a radical revolutionary who has worked under multiple groups to further Algerian independence. After fighting under the French in WWII, during which he was awarded a Croix de Guerre bravery award, he returned to Algeria and joined the Movement for the Triumph of Democratic Liberties. Although the French government tried to limit his political participation, he currently serves as a member of the Central Committee. Boulaïd has no issue engaging in the militant side of protest and is known for buying and distributing arms to his allies. He is a charismatic man well-known amongst Algerians, and his involvement in both colonial politics and the military makes him one of the most informed, and therefore dangerous, leaders.

Larbi Ben M'hidi

Larbi Ben M'hidi became personally disillusioned with the French at a young age after witnessing colonial forces destroy his grandfather's mosque. This led him to resist French imperialism and fight for the preservation and promotion of Algeria's Islamic culture. He was responsible for organizing riots during the Sétif massacre and was arrested and sentenced to prison in 1950. He has yet to serve time, instead utilizing his freedom to form the Revolutionary Committee of Unity and Action. M'hidi's expertise lies in grassroots militancy and strategic planning, and he is willing to do whatever it takes to free Algeria.

Rabah Bitat

Rabah Bitat was born and raised in the poor village of Aïn Kerma. He was one of the few people in his village to attend school and receive a proper education, and he has used this privilege to fight for Algeria. Although initially opposed to violent revolt, the brutality of the Sétif massacre changed his mind. In 1950, the colonial government identified him as a conspirator- before sentencing, he escaped to France and returned at an undetermined time. Bitat is an open-minded man willing to hear multiple perspectives, known for his effectiveness at recruiting new freedom fighters. With his leadership abilities and confident demeanor, Bitat can convince people to come together to effect change.

Mohamed Boudiaf

Although Mohamed Boudiaf's education was cut short because of his pro-Algerian activism during his youth, he still managed to secure a job as a civil servant as an adult. Boudiaf first became involved with the Algerian independence movement when he joined the Nationalist Messali Hadj Party of the Algerian People and its secretive OS planning against the French. After the OS was dissolved in 1950, he had a falling-out with the Messali political party because Boudiaf found him too authoritarian, and was sent on the run from the French authorities seeking to capture him and send him to prison. His current location is unknown, but there are rumors that he's been seen around Constantine gathering like-minded individuals.

Mourad Didouche

After completing his education in Algiers, Mourad Didouche joined the General Confederation of Labor (CGT), being appointed as the head of the neighborhoods of El

Mouradia, El Madania, and Bir Mourad Rais. Didouche was a founder and one of the most active members of the OS (Special Organization) until it was dismantled and he was arrested. Didouche was recently freed and returned to the revolutionary movement, founding the Revolutionary Committee of Unity and Action. Didouche's role as a founding member of Algeria's most influential revolutionary organizations has afforded him undeniable respect among his peers.

Ferhat Abbas

Almost seven years have passed since Abbas, disillusioned with French rule, organized the Union Populaire Algérienne, to fight for equal rights for Algerians. In 1943, he published the 'Manifesto of the Algerian People,' calling for a constitution and self-determination for the Algerian people. Later that year, he and his colleagues presented the manifesto to the French, where it was promptly rejected. In 1946, he formed the Union Démocratique du Manifeste Algérien and was named the editor of the revolutionary publication *Egalité*, whose title appropriates the French national motto. Abbas prefers not to be involved in the more militant side of the revolution, instead preferring to use his intelligence and philosophical knowledge to draft Algeria's future political landscape.

Nikita Khrushchev

It's been about a year since Nikita Khrushchev became the First Secretary of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union. He has worked for the party for quite some time, having joined the Bolsheviks at the start of the Russian Civil War, and taken charge as the commissar in charge of political indoctrination. Few are as dedicated to expanding

communism as he, and he sees the nations that are gradually throwing off their colonizers as opportunities to push communism even further.

Kliment Voroshilov

A Bolshevik activist since 1903, Kliment Voroshilov fought in the Russian Civil War of 1917. After the war's end, his close association with Joseph Stalin gained him the position of Commissar of Defense. The year after, he became a member of the Politburo of the Central Committee. Currently, Voroshilov is the Chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet, or the head of the USSR's highest body. He works closely with Nikita Khrushchev, spearheading major criminal appeals, and assisting him in spreading communism worldwide. He is well known amongst his colleagues for maintaining a level head during times of crisis, preferring to follow procedure and act rationally.

Georgy Malenkov

Georgy Malenkov is the current Premier of the Soviet Union. He joined the Red Army in 1919, swiftly rising in the Communist Party ranks. He served on the State Defense Committee during World War II, after which he was appointed Second Secretary of the Central Committee, followed by Deputy Premier of the Soviet Union. Malenkov sees Algeria as a potential stronghold for communism in North Africa, a vital pathway to spreading the ideology across Europe. He believes that the Algerians, desperate to escape the clutches of France's capitalistic abuses, will be more than happy to accept the Soviet Union's support.

Ali La Pointe

Born in 1930 to a lower-class Algerian family, Ali la Pointe grew up experiencing the pains of French rule. Unable to attend school because of his family's finances, he instead worked the French settlers' fields, which he believed were rightfully Algerian. In search of work, his family moved to Algiers, where he was imprisoned for petty theft. This was the first of many brushes with the law. At 24, he began to collaborate with Algerian nationalists, and recently escaped prison for attempted murder. As a man familiar with the ins and outs of law enforcement, la Pointe's experience with illicit affairs will undoubtedly aid Algerian fighters.

Albert Camus

One of the most influential philosophers and authors of the 20th century, Albert Camus has established great influence as a key absurdist philosopher. Though the absurdist philosophy sees the universe as meaningless, that does not necessarily mean he sees this conflict as pointless. Camus and his works praise the search for meaning in an otherwise meaningless world. He has visited Algeria several times since the start of the conflict, reporting on Algerian conditions and the beauty of its multiethnic culture. Though he is French, in line with his philosophy, he will live according to his true self and will side with whoever he believes most just.

Frantz Fanon

Frantz Fanon grew up on the French island colony Martinique. He joined the Free French Forces after Martiniquais proletariat forces overthrew Vichy rule, first sent to Morocco. During his time in the FFL, he was further convinced that the French must go, specifically the pieds-noirs, witnessing first-hand not only their racism but

antisemitism and Islamophobia. In 1952, he published his first major work, *Black Skin, White Masks*, where he sought to understand the roots of global anti-blackness. Fanon is currently chief de service at the Blida-Joinville Psychiatric Hospital, where many of his patients are Algerians who are traumatized or even tortured by the French. Fanon believes colonialism to be inherently racist and anti-black, and after his move to Algeria, his view expanded to understand the parallels between anti-black oppression and the French oppression of Algerians.

Mohammed Dib

Mohammed Dib has worked many jobs in his life, ranging from teacher to carpet weaver to accountant, and through those experiences, he has gained one of the most realistic views of how Algerians are treated under French control. Because of this, Dib holds the French in contempt for their management of Algeria. In fact, his first novel, *La Grande Maison*, was recently published, and describes the living conditions of impoverished Algerians, and the hunger and squalor that they face. Focusing on the poor working man of Algeria, Dib uses his literary voice to both criticize the current state of colonial Algeria, and as a call for change.

Messali Hadj

Messali Hadj has long worked for the freedom of Algeria, even being dubbed the “father of Algerian Nationalism,” for his dedication to Algerian decolonization. He grew up with a strong education, and attended a French primary school with additional religious studies. After serving in WWI, he left to find work in Paris, and while working he spent his free time taking university courses. It was during this time that he became involved with the French Communist Party, and a year later formed the ENA. From

there, he repeatedly started new Algerian nationalist movements only to be shut down by the French government. For this reason in 1941 he was sentenced to 16 years of hard labor, but he was given amnesty after the end of WWII and the downfall of the Vichy government. He has fallen out of favor with many other revolutionaries for his demanding ways, but he will doubtlessly continue the fight for independence.

Houari Boumedienne

Having grown up in Guelma, Algeria, Houari Boumedienne is no stranger to French oppression, having lived through the massacres that took place during 1945. In 1952, Boumedienne fled to Tunis, and later moved to Cairo, in order to avoid conscription into the French Colonial Army. Originally named Mohammed Ben Brahim Bou Kharouba, he adopted Hourri Boumedienne as a nom de guerre when he became involved with Algerian nationalist groups. When in Cairo, Boumediene began studies at al-Azhar University, but stopped once the Algerian revolution began.

Ahmed Ben Bella

A decorated war veteran, Ahmed Ben Bella has played a role leading the Algerian resistance since 1945. Ben Bella joined the French Army in 1936, serving throughout WWII, and received both the Croix de Guerre and the Médaille militaire—the former of which came directly from French leader Charles de Gaulle. In 1947, Ben Bella played a role in the formation of the Organisation spéciale, or Special Organization, but was caught and imprisoned in 1950. After 2 years, Ben Bella escaped prison and fled to Cairo, where he has remained since, playing a leading role in the organization of foreign arms shipments.

Krim Belkacem

Krim Belkacem has been a member of anti-colonial resistance within Algeria for a decade. Following his demobilization from the French army at the end of World War II, Belkman joined the Algerian People's Party, establishing 12 clandestine cells in douars around Draâ El Mizan. He joined the Mouvement pour le Triomphe des Libertés Démocratiques when it replaced the Algerian People's Party in 1946, then became responsible for the Organisation Spéciale within Kabylia—a region of Algeria—from 1947 until it was dissolved in 1950. By the 1950s, Belkacem had been sentenced to death by French tribunals on two separate occasions, but escaped both times and currently continues to plan for Algerian independence.

Hocine Aït-Ahmed

Hocine Aït-Ahmed joined the Algerian People's Party at the age of 16, quickly becoming a prominent leader within. Following the dissolution of the PPA, Aït-Ahmed was a founding member of the OS, for which he established national political and military training. In 1949, one year before the dissolution of the OS, Aït-Ahmed was dismissed and replaced by Ahmed Ben Bella due to disagreement between party activists and leadership. Like many other former PPA, MTLN, and OS leaders, Aït-Ahmed moved to Cairo in order to escape arrest by the French. Aït-Ahmed prioritized international diplomacy in order to bring global attention to the French oppression within Algeria, attending the first Conference of Asian Socialist Parties in 1953.

Mohamed Khider

As a leading member of the Algerian People's Party from 1937 up until its dissolution by the French, Mohamed Khider has been campaigning for Algerian independence for



over a decade. From the years 1941 to 1946, Khider was imprisoned twice, once for “endangering the state” and again during the chaos of the Setif Massacre. Upon his release, Khider played a role in the formation of the Mouvement pour le Triomphe des Libertés Démocratiques Political Party, and was appointed as a deputy for Algiers in the French National Assembly. Khider became involved with the OS in 1949, and in 1951 fled to Cairo at the same time as Ahmed Ben Bella to escape arrest by the French government for his involvement with the OS.

Ahmed Tewfik Al-Madani

Born in Tunisia to Algerian parents, Ahmed Tewfik Al-Madani spent his early life studying religion. He was a founding member of the nationalist Destour party, which included many politicians of Algerian origin, with the goal of freeing Tunisia from French colonization. Tewfik Al-Madani was exiled from Algeria in 1925, and in 1931 participated in the formation of the Association of Algerian Muslim Ulemas, where he published writing advocating for the liberation of Algeria. In 1951, Tewfik Al-Madani was appointed permanent secretary of the Algerian Front for the Defense and Respect of Freedom, which advocated for personal freedoms for Algerians under French oppression.

Habib Bourguiba

Born into a poor family in French-controlled Tunisia, Habib Bourguiba has felt some of the worst conditions pushed upon colonies by the French. Still, he was able to get an education and graduated from the University of Paris with a degree in political science. Following his graduation, he became involved with anti-colonial circles, seeking freedom for Tunisia. Because of his involvement with decolonization, he was exiled to

Marseille during WWII. Nevertheless, he remained committed to peaceful negotiation, until 1952 where he began an armed uprising after failed pacifist attempts at decolonization. For this, he was imprisoned, but is currently undergoing negotiations with the French Prime Minister for not only his release, but also the end to civil unrest in exchange for Tunisian autonomy. As Tunisia draws closer to freedom, Bourguiba has begun to look towards other French colonies, and as a powerful politician, could prove effective as an aid to Algerian independence.

Mohammed V

Upon the death of his father, Mohammed the V rose to power as the sultan of Morocco in 1927. In his early years, he was more malleable to the rule of France in Morocco, even signing the controversial Berber Dahir, which changed the legal system in Berber-majority areas. However, he grew to become increasingly disillusioned with French control, and actively opposed Vichy France during WWII. In fact, he became so supportive of the Moroccan nationalists that in 1953, French rulers deposed him and exiled him to Corsica and later Madagascar. However, the Moroccan people haven't taken kindly to this overthrow, and are rioting for his return. With the weakened French government, it shouldn't be long until negotiations will mark his return. But it isn't just Morocco that should be free of France, the rest of North Africa should too, and alleviating Algeria's struggle seems to be the next step.

Benyoucef Benkhedda

Benyoucef Benkhedda was born to the son of a Sharia court judge, and was consequently given a high education, becoming a nationalist during his later teenage years, and attending pharmacy school after that. In 1942, he joined the Algerian

People's Party (PPA) and was detained for eight months due to his campaigns against France's conscriptions of Algerians to fight in WWII. He has long been a part of the PPA-MTLD, and served in their central committee during 1947, and later advanced to become their current secretary general. He is a skilled and experienced politician and is strictly committed to the cause of Algerian independence.

Hocine Mezali

Hocine Mezali was raised in a deeply divided French-controlled Algeria, and grew up under the influence of many Algerian nationalists that had grown to prominence during his childhood. Currently, he is a student, but he has shown particular promise in terms of his writing and support for the cause of Algerian independence. He and many of his fellow students are more than willing to join the cause, and are likely to do so if they are presented with an ample opportunity.

M'hamed Yala

M'hamed Yala was born in Northern Algeria to a Berber family, and joined the Algerian Muslim Scouts in the early 1950s. It was there that he began his political involvement as the leaders of the organization were strongly nationalist and carried a large amount of Algerian pride. As he moved up in the scout ranks, he gained the skills necessary to delegate and negotiate with different people, and campaigned against the French with his compatriots. Currently, he continues to resist French control working alongside the scouts and waits for the day that Algeria will be freed.

Chadli Bendjedid

Chadli Bendjedid was born in a rural town in Northeast Algeria, and later moved to France to serve in the French Army. It was there that he became a high ranking soldier, and worked as a non-commissioned officer during the French-Indochina war against the Việt Minh. However, he still holds loyalty to his home country, and in particular respects Houari Boumediene and the work that he has done for Algeria. He currently works for the French army, but that may not be the case if push comes to shove.

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

1. How does your character see the future of Algeria post-revolution?
2. Should the French remain in Algeria? To what lengths should the Republic go to maintain possession of its colonial subject?
3. What system of government does your character endorse? How does this influence their goals for the future of Algeria?
4. What should become of the French population living in Algeria?
5. Is a lengthy, violent conflict truly a necessary part of decolonization?
6. What steps and compromises are necessary for either side to end up in control of Algeria?
7. Will fighting between the French and Algerians create a real solution or only continue a cycle of violence?
8. What organizations are working beyond the visible sphere?

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