



# **Children of the New World: A Novel of the Algerian War (Women Writing the Middle East)**

*Assia Djebar*

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Assia Djébar, the most distinguished woman writer to emerge from the Arab world—and a top candidate for the Nobel Prize in Literature—wrote *Children of the New World* following her own involvement in the Algerian resistance to colonial French rule. This long-overdue first English translation coincides with the 50th anniversary of the start of the Algerian war and with the growing insurgency in Iraq and other parts of the Middle East.

Like the classic film *The Battle of Algiers*—enjoying renewed interest in the face of world events—Djébar’s novel sheds light on current world conflicts as it reveals a determined Arab insurgency against foreign occupation, from the inside out.

However, Djébar focuses on the experiences of women drawn into the politics of resistance. Her novel recounts the interlocking lives of women in a rural Algerian town who find themselves joined in solidarity and empower each other to engage in the fight for independence. Narrating the resistance movement from a variety of perspectives—from those of traditional wives to liberated students to political organizers—Djébar powerfully depicts the circumstances that drive oppressed communities to violence and at the same time movingly reveals the tragic costs of war.

Renowned writer and filmmaker **Assia Djébar** has authored several novels, including the critically lauded *So Vast the Prison* and *Algerian White*. She has won several awards for her work, including the prestigious International Neustadt Prize for Literature. Born and raised in Algeria, Djébar is currently the Silver Chair of French at New York University.

**Marjolijn de Jager**, PhD, is the translator of Djébar’s *Algerian White* and *Women of Algiers in Their Apartment*, which was honored by the American Literary Translators Association. She teaches at the Center for Foreign Languages and Translation at New York University.

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