Modern Algeria: the origins and development of a nation

Praise for the first edition:

[E]ssential reading for Maghreb specialists as well as for anyone interested in issues of nation-building and political culture in Africa.” —Africa Today

[T]he best and most comprehensive history of modern Algeria in English.” —Digest of Middle East Studies

[A] thoughtful and much-needed introductory historical analysis of Algeria.” —Choice

The second edition of Modern Algeria brings readers up to date with the outcome of the 2004 Algerian elections. Providing thorough coverage of the 1990s and the end of the Algerian Civil War, it addresses issues such as secularist struggles against fundamentalist Islam, ethnic and regional distinctions, gender, language, the evolution of popular culture, and political and economic relationships with France and the expatriate community. Updated information on resources enhances the usefulness of this popular textbook that has become a standard in the field.
The publication of the present work, the second edition of Modern Algeria: The Origins and Development of a Nation (originally published in 1992) appears to be directed at a similar readership (despite the author's more modest claims); but it also responds specifically to a growing concern about the post-1992 Islamist insurgency in Algeria. For certain observers, this insurrection appeared to be, at the same time, part of a worldwide Islamic war against the West and a continuation of the War of Independence that the Front de Liberation Nationale (FLN) had fought against the French Army by John Ruedy's Modern Algeria fills that void admirably. A professor at Georgetown University, Ruedy has drawn on a vast body of literature, as well as decades of his own research, to assemble an informative and entertaining narrative of historical events and an overview of important issues in Algerian historiography. As Ruedy himself writes, he has "not attempted a major recasting of Algerian history," but rather a solid introduction to Algeria and its past. The challenge presented by such an effort should not be underestimated, since Algerian history is seldom neat and rarely si Academic journal article The International Journal of African Historical Studies. Modern Algeria: The Origins and Development of a Nation. By Naylor, Phillip C. Read preview. The pioneering "first generation" of American historians studying Algeria’s modern period prominently included, among others, Alf Andrew Heggoy, David C. Gordon, and Richard and Joan Brace. John Ruedy, professor emeritus of Georgetown University, bridged that generation with an emerging generation of historians through his teaching and books, notably Land Policy in Algeria (1967) and especially Modern Algeria (1991). His comprehension, contribution, and, above all, his clarity are most appreciated in a relatively understudied field.