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Review of The Algeria Hotel: France, Memory, and the second World War

Michael F. Russo

Louisiana State University and Agricultural & Mechanical College, mrusso1@lsu.edu

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Author or editor of the book: Adam Nossiter

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Review

Nossiter, Adam

The Algeria Hotel: France, Memory, and the Second World War

Houghton Mifflin. July 2001. 288 pages. Photographs. Bibliography. ISBN 0-395-902452. \$26.00.

It should surprise no one that the four years of fascist rule in France, anathemized with the humble disyllable “Vichy,” spark memories so painful and humiliating for those who lived through them that they were better relegated to oblivion. Employing journalistic persistence and scholarly fastidiousness, reporter and author Adam Nossiter (*Of Long Memory: Mississippi and the Murder of Medgar Evers*, *LJ* 6/1/94), explores the peculiar relationship between truth and memory via interviews with some who witnessed that time, many of whom wished never to recall what they had seen and some who simply denied it altogether. This book ponders the function of memory and the willingness of the French to come to terms with their history. It is an excellent complement to the work of Robert O. Paxton (*Vichy France: Old Guard and New Order, 1940-1944*, *LJ* 8/72) and is recommended for both public and academic libraries.

Michael F. Russo

Louisiana State University Libraries

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