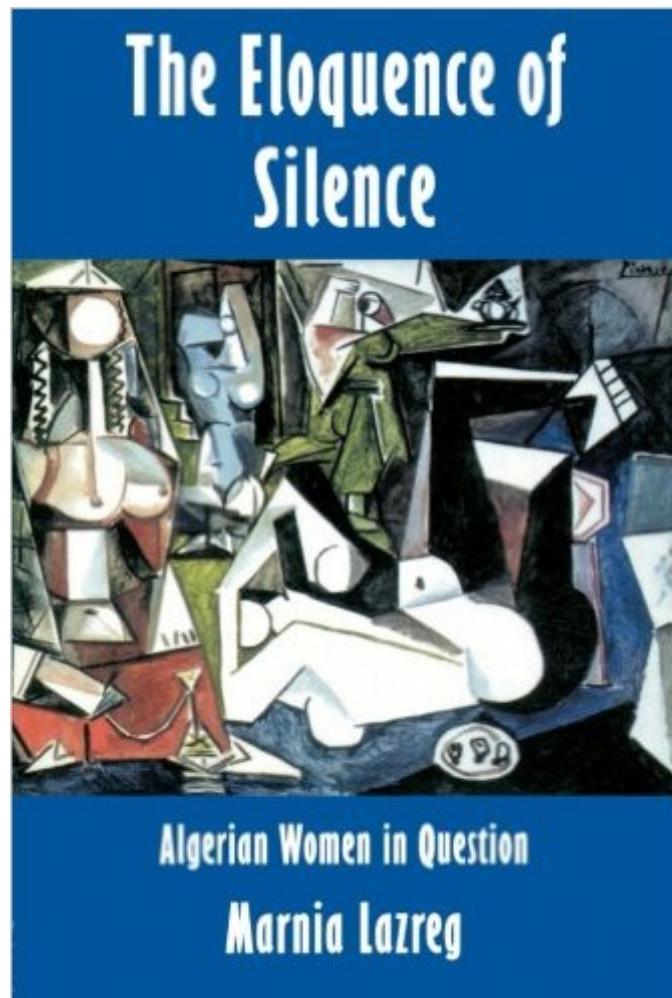


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The Eloquence Of Silence: Algerian Women In Question



Synopsis

The Eloquence of Silence makes a critical departure from more traditional studies of Algerian women--which usually examine female roles in relation to Islam--and instead takes an interdisciplinary look at the subject, arguing that Algerian women's roles are shaped by a variety of structural and symbolic factors. These elements include colonial domination, demographic change, nationalism, socialist development policy of the 1960s and 70s, family formation and the progressive shift to a capitalist economy. Covering both pre-colonial and colonial eras as well as the independence period, this book focuses on the changes that took place in family structure and law, customs, education, and the war of decolonization as they affected gender relations. Marnia Lazreg approaches the post-colonial era through an examination of how Algeria's model of economic development, structural adjustment policies, and the rise of religious-political opposition affected women's lives.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This work is flawed: the author presents life before French colonialism as authentically Algerian and doesn't even reference the history of the country as a product of Islamic/Arab and Ottoman conquest. She has a tendency to overuse phrases such as: 'Algerians thought that...' as if they were homogeneous. Worst of all she refers to Berberism as 'anti-Muslim and anti-Arab' -- twice, without even a variation of phraseology -- and that this phrase is the quite literally the only mention of the Berber people she makes within the whole post-colonial section of the book. For someone who claims to be filling the 'silence' this omission of the concerns of one third of the population is very

telling. However, the sections dealing with post-independence legal changes are informative and useful.

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