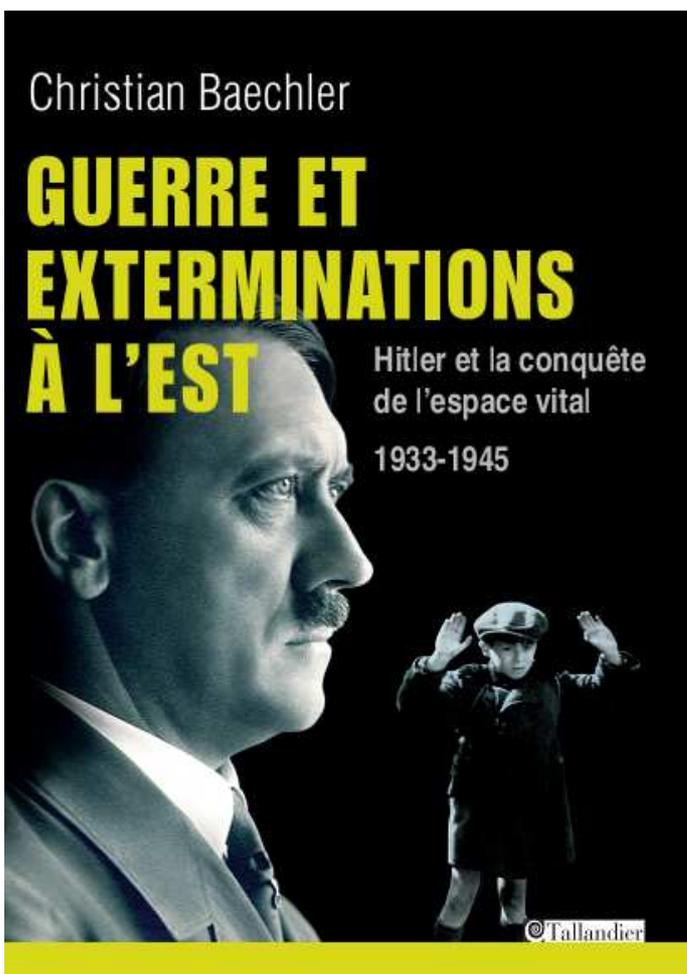


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**NON FICTION**

**2012 -2013**



## WAR AND EXTERMINATION IN THE EAST

Hitler and the Conquest of Lebensraum 1933-1945

*(Guerre et extermination à l'Est*

*Hitler et la conquête de l'espace vital 1933-1945)*

Christian Baechler

In terms of scale this book has neither precedent nor equivalent. The role and the unfolding of the attempt to conquer and "racially restructure" Eastern Europe have hardly ever been studied together and analysed in the long-term.

The war in the East had little in common with the conflict in the West. It was a lawless war, one which knew no braking-point and it was in Poland, Belarus,

Latvia, Estonia, Lithuania, Russia and Ukraine that the Nazis' bloody utopia found its most terrible incarnation. Made of large scale massacres of Polish and Soviet prisoners, expropriations and innumerable expulsions, it was of course the principal theatres of the Holocaust: the ghettos and the extermination camps with their gas chambers designed to clear the land of Jews (*judenfrei*).

The author delves into an impressive German language bibliography, to retrace the military operations with infinite precision showing the intimate link that existed between the campaign and Hitler's cataclysmic ideas.

**Christian Baechler** is Professor of Modern History at the Marc Bloch University in Strasbourg, France. He is a leading expert in German 20<sup>th</sup> Century history and the author of a remarkable *Weimar Republic* (Fayard, 2005) as well as a biography of *William II* (Fayard, 2003).

**Tallandier - March 2012 - 528 pp**

Foreign rights: L'Autre agence (contact@lautreagence.eu)

Georges Bensoussan

# LES DERNIERS JUIFS EN TERRE ARABE

1850-1975



## THE LAST JEWS IN ARAB LANDS 1850-1975

*(Les derniers juifs en terre arabe)*

Georges Bensoussan

This groundbreaking book shows how the Jewish communities who lived in the Arab-Muslim world, in Egypt, Iraq, Lebanon, Algeria and Morocco some of them for more than two millennia became dislocated within just a generation.

It is a story that rouses passions and biases, both fuelled by the ongoing Arab-Israel conflict. How and for what reasons were these very ancient Jewish communities eradicated in the 25 years after the

Second World War? Georges Bensoussan explores the roots of this exodus, which go deeper than just the Arab-Israel conflict.

The Jews of the Arab world have been denied their history for years: it has been embellished and blackened, both to excess, for political ends. This analysis shows how cultural modernization (schooling of girls, increase in the marrying age, westernization of names, dress and morals), the Second World War (which highlighted cracks that had started to take shape 30 or 40 years earlier), the advance of secularism (the progressive loss of the Rabbi's power) and the birth of Arab anti-colonialism obliged the Jewish minorities to redefine their identity and lead to the mass-departures in the 1940s and 1950s

**Georges Bensoussan** is one of the leading historians on questions related to anti-Semitism, the holocaust to Zionism and problems with remembering. He is chief-editor of the History of the Shoah Review (*Revue d'Histoire de la Shoah*) and is in charge of editorial matters at the Holocaust Memorial in Paris (*Mémorial de la Shoah*). The author of several works on these subjects, he last co-edited the Holocaust Dictionary (*Dictionnaire de la Shoah*, Larousse, 2009).

**Tallandier -May 2012 - 850 pp**

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GUY CHAUSSINAND-NOGARET

# Les Femmes des rois

D'Agnès Sorel à Marie-Antoinette

TEXTO

Collection dirigée par Jean-Claude Zylberstein



## WOMEN WITH THEIRS KINGS

(*Les femmes des rois*)

Guy Chaussinand-Nogaret

This original historical study sheds light on one of what was a defining feature of the Royal court: the subtleties of matrimonial and adulterous behaviour around the king. Here the views on the destinies of Agnès Sorel, the Countess de Barry, the Marquise de Montespan, Marie-Antoinette and so many others are enriched with new perspectives.

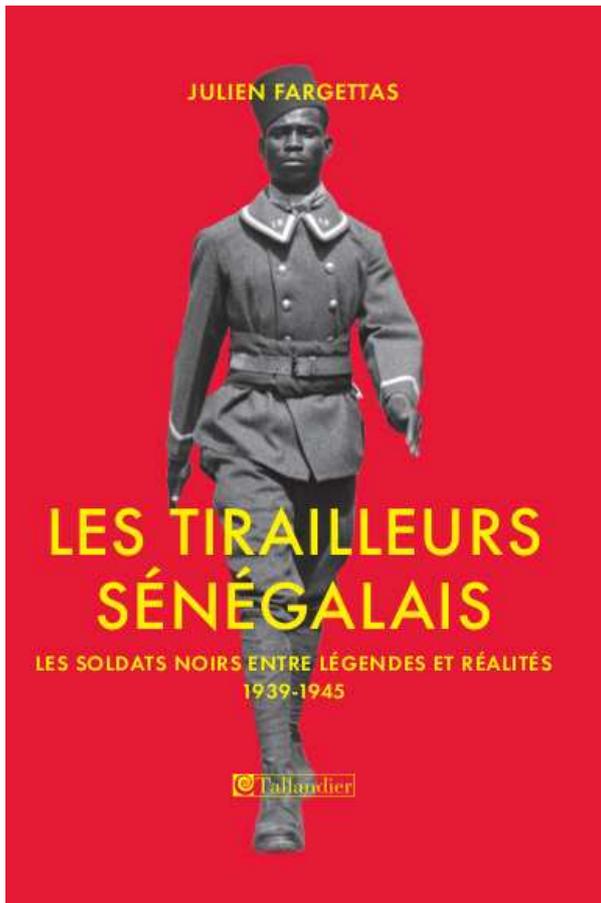
Royal polygamy was one of the cornerstones of the modern monarchy and queen or favourite, women have often played leading roles in the French monarchy. More than just a game

of love, between the 15th and 18th centuries to win and keep the king's bed was something that touched the upper reaches of political power. Queens did not only ensure the continuity of the dynasty but in times of danger, the continuity of the State too. Favourites on the other hand, brought with them disorder, scandal but also a splash of creativity to the royal family. Fragile but essential they embodied ambition and all strategy regarding the conquest of power passed through them. In a time where the king needed to affirm a mystical status, the mistress showed that he was of flesh, blood, desire and passion. If, by relentless patronage, she contributed to the glory of the monarchy she also without doubt acted as a shield for the throne: she would preserve the royal couple in times of crisis as the people's hatred and opprobrium would be directed at her.

Following the international success of *Femmes de dictateur* and written in a lively style with numerous famous examples, this fascinating book shows that women are a crucial though often neglected subject to understand a man's political power.

**Guy Chaussinand-Nogaret**, from EHESS (Ecole des hautes études en sciences sociales) is well known to the general public thanks to his numerous works on 18<sup>th</sup> century France, such as *La Noblesse au XVIII<sup>e</sup> siècle*, (*The Nobility of the XVIII century*) or *La Vie quotidienne des Français sous Louis XV* (*The Daily Lives of the French under Louis XV*) (Hachette) and his biographies of several great intellectuals.

**Tallandier (Texto) – March 2012 – 272 pp**



## THE SENEGALESE SKIRMISHERS:

### The True Story of Colonial Soldiers

*(Les Tirailleurs sénégalais)*

Julien Fargettas

This is the first ever book to fully chart the six-year history of these African troops during the Second World War and the first summary on the issues surrounding the memory of the Tiaroye massacre, the consequences of demobilization and the difficulties faced by those soldiers who wanted to stay in mainland France after the war.

In 1939, colonial troops numbered 500,000 men. Of the 60,000 killed in the German invasion in 1939-40, one third were from the colonies. The Senegalese Skirmishers also covered the retreat, not only did they suffer huge losses they also faced instant execution in the event of capture as the

Germans saw them as "*sub-human*." Who were these soldiers? Where did they come from? How were they recruited? How did they fight? How did they live? How were they killed? How did they get home? Fargettas puts the experiences and stories of WWII African soldiers in a colonial and military perspective as well as in the particular context of the conflict itself.

We learn that the Senegalese Skirmishers were not necessarily of Senegalese nationality. These indigenous troops were drawn from France's colonies—the first time from West-African country hence the moniker—and fought in all of France's wars. They were baptized the "Senegalese Skirmishers", "Indigenous Troops", "The Black Force", they were characterized as "cannon fodder", "The Black Shame" and they were even sadly depicted in posters advertising the breakfast cereal Banania. The history of these fighters is one of glory, blood and tears. The post-war period was almost as painful for them, filled, as it was, with grief, frustration and violence. Their contribution to the Second World War was unprecedented, ambitious, planned, prepared... and remains largely unknown.

For the first time the stories of these men, who left to fight in a war which was not theirs, are told. Julien Fargettas illustrates the extent to which African troops provided a framework for the army in the liberation of France in 1944 and in fighting in North Africa, the Middle East and Italy.

**Julien Fargettas** is a young historian who wrote his thesis on the "Unknown Soldiers, the Senegalese Skirmishers of the Second World War".

**Tallandier – January 2012 – 350 pp**

Foreign

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Jean Favier  
**LE BOURGEOIS DE PARIS  
AU MOYEN ÂGE**

**THE PARISIAN BOURGEOISIE IN THE  
MIDDLE AGES**

*(Le Bourgeois de Paris au Moyen-Âge)*

Jean Favier

Thanks to an intimate knowledge of his subject Jean Favier has become a legendary writer. This major work brings to life an often-misread period in the history of Paris: the creation of the bourgeoisie which can be considered as a major turning point and a key to understanding our modern society.

Between the 13th and 15th centuries Paris became both the largest city in Europe and the heartbeat of a kingdom. This breakthrough was largely due to a new class: the bourgeoisie. It drove the economy through its merchants, artisans, financiers (linked forever with the

rise in power of the monarchy) and politicians; its richness and way of life brought it both power and social prestige.

The role of the Parisian bourgeoisie goes far beyond the city: From Saint Louis to Louis XI, it was responsible for the move away from the feudal system. Equally it progressively supplanted the Church in its cultural role and gradually took over the commissioning and financing of the arts.

Weaving numerous striking anecdotes with stories gleaned from hitherto unknown sources, Jean Favier vividly evokes the life of the Parisian bourgeoisie in all its forms (economic, social, political, historical, cultural and artistic).

A member of the Institut de France and formerly Head of the Archives Nationales, **Jean Favier** has published more than 15 books on the Middle Ages including several biographies. His comprehensive Paris, 2000 Years of History is considered as a landmark. Paris Mayor Bertrand Delanoë appointed him President of the History Commission of Paris.

**Tallandier - April 2012 – 640 pp**



XAVIER HÉLARY

# Courtrai

11 juillet 1302



L'HISTOIRE EN BATAILLES

Tallandier

## COURTRAI

(Courtrai)

Xavier Hélyary

**This book makes us rediscover how an improvised force defeated a classic feudal army and sheds light on a turning point in European construction.**

It is the first to focus on the Battle of Courtrai that saw Philippe IV (le Bel) of France and his knights take on a Flemish force. Prior to Azincourt and Crécy, Courtrai was the first major defeat for the French and gave birth to Flemish nationalism: In Belgium, the 11<sup>th</sup> of July is still a national holiday and is celebrated every year. The battle

sounded the beginning of independence for the Flemish and has since acquired a symbolic value.

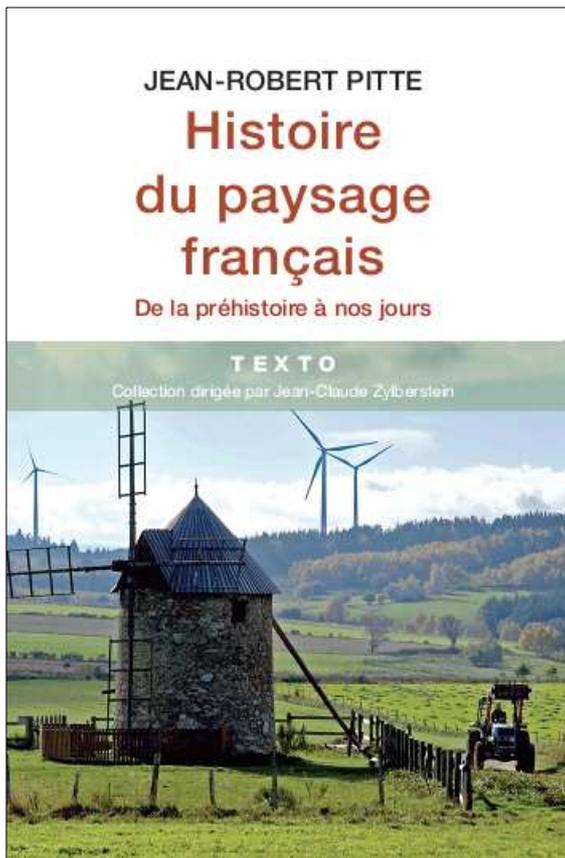
On July 11<sup>th</sup> 1302, the French royal army went up against the Flemish militias as they had done often since the dawn of the new century. The battle became known as "The Battle of Golden Spurs" because of the large number of spurs gathered by the Flemish from the dead bodies of the French knights. It was the first time an army made up of a much smaller infantry of artisans (20,000 soldiers) had beaten a feudal force of knights (50,000 archers, cavalry and foot soldiers).

The Battle led to a massacre; the Flemish routed the French, killing the head of the army and the king's cousin; Robert d'Artois, two marshals of France, the Constable of France, the Keeper of the Seals as well as a large number of barons. Philippe lost a large swathe of his knights and no little prestige.

Answering questions such as why did war erupt between Philippe and his subjects from Flanders? And how could an army of knights, war professionals come to be defeated?, this thoroughly researched book draws on numerous vivid examples. It will appeal to amateurs as historians alike.

**Xavier Hélyary** is a former pupil of Ecole Normale Supérieure (ENS), he has obtained highest academic-rank qualification in history. He runs medieval history courses at Université Paris IV-Sorbonne.

**Tallandier - February 2012 - 208 pp**



## A HISTORY OF THE FRENCH LANDSCAPE

*(Histoire du paysage français)*

Jean-Robert Pitte

**Since its first publication in 1983 this book, unique in its genre, has become a classic in historical geography. Its success is best explained by an original approach to French History married to characterful reflections.**

In this new edition, the geographer Jean-Robert Pitte aids us in our understanding of the environment and affirms the centrality of landscape planning in the birth and development of French identity.

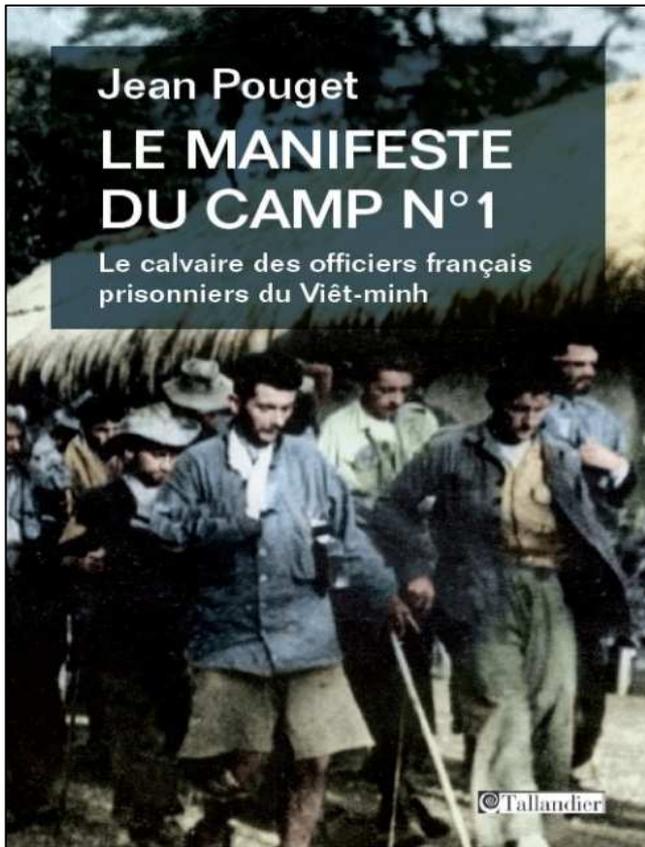
From the prehistory of country planning to most recent times, the author follows the countless transformations of the French social environment, of which the people are at the same time the heirs, the authors, the users and the observers.

Monumental urbanism and the symmetrically ordained spaces of Roman Gaul, walled cities of medieval France, new cities of the XVII century, reforested moor, drained marshes, cities restructured by a triumphant industry, overexploited countryside, dull suburbs of the XX century: so many aspects of a rich and fascinating adventure which made landscape one of the most important privileged witnesses of our cultural history.

**Jean-Robert Pitte**, a specialist of landscape and gastronomy, teaches Geography and landscaping at the université Paris-Sorbonne where he has been the President from 2003 to 2008. He also presides over various institutions, including the Geography Society (Société de géographie), the Association for the Development of the International Geography Festival (FIG), the French Mission for Heritage and Foodcultures (Mission Française du Patrimoine et des Cultures Alimentaires, MFPCA), and the university Paris-Sorbonne Abu Dhabi.

He has been a Member of the Académie des sciences morales et politiques since 2008, he has also written many books, the last of which, "At the table of the Gods" (À la table des Dieux) was published by Editions Fayard in 2009.

**Tallandier - February 2012 - 688 pages (Texto pocket edition)**



## MANIFESTO OF CAMP N° 1

The ordeal of French officers held prisoner by the  
ViêtMinh

*(Le Manifeste du Camp n°1)*

Jean Pouget

**The Manifesto of Camp N° 1 is a prodigious document, novel and eye witness account all rolled into one.**

The story focuses on those French officers who became prisoners of the Viêt-Minh in 1950 and who within a year of captivity were so "brain-washed", so cut off from the outside world that they then signed a text stating that they approved of Ho Chi Minh's war and condemned their own French army. This is also an extraordinary story which charts the extremes conditions of detention in the

Vietnamese jungle, sickness, escape attempts, death marches, moving from camp to camp and the risk of bombardment.

Drawn from the survivors' accounts, the author reconstitutes the genesis of this manifesto. As much as in Arthur Koestler's *Darkness at Noon* Pouget shows how under certain conditions even the strongest of beliefs can collapse.

Given his own experiences and the testimony of former inmates of the Na-Leng camp, Pouget describes their ordeal down to the tiniest of details and with a rare power of evocation. He also depicts the Vietnamese and shows the myriad problems that faced the soldiers of Ho Chi Minh.

He recreates faith displayed by the warrior monks of the Viêt-Minh, and he shows the constant indoctrination which the men and officers of the popular army were subjected to at any time. French officers who experienced Camp N° 1, for the most part, did not survive and nothing, except the names of the characters, in this story is false.

This is a re-edited version of the cult book first published in 1969 by Editions Fayard and now out of print.

**Jean Pouget** left the Saint-Cyr military academy during the German occupation of France and joined the resistance in 1944. His life between 1940 and 1960 was dictated by France's overseas military operations. He parachuted into Dien Bien Phu on the eve of its capitulation. Upon leaving the army he became a senior correspondent for *Le Figaro* and a writer.

**Christian Hoche** is a former senior correspondent for the news magazine *L'Express* and the daily *Le Figaro*. Left for dead after the fall of Saigon in 1975 he became a prisoner of the Viet Cong. In the preface he recounts how he was found and exchanged for two jerrycans of petrol by Jean Pouget.

**Tallandier - March 2012 - 464 pp**

**NF – History/WWII**

**THE SOVIET-GERMAN WAR : 1941-1945  
Hitler against Stalin**

Nicolas Bernard  
Preface by François Kersaudy

**A comprehensive and definitive look at one of the key battles of WWII**

Operation ‘Barbarossa’, the German invasion of the Soviet Union, began on 22<sup>nd</sup> June 1941, and was the greatest German military operation of the Second World War. This “war of extermination” against the “Judeo-Bolshevism” would

eventually take a disastrous turn. Having been pushed back to Leningrad, Moscow and Stalingrad, the Red Army found its feet once more, crushing the invaders, and surging in waves over the Nazi Empire, towards the ruined streets of Warsaw, Budapest and Berlin.

From the Arctic to the Black Sea, from Central and Eastern Europe to the European side of Russia, battles unfolded in an immense theatre of operations.

Great battles, exterminations, deportations and exoduses of entire populations, the killing of prisoners: more than thirty million people died as a result of this catastrophe, a figure which amounts to half of the total death toll of the WWII. Operation Barbarossa reached a level of barbarism that surpassed all records, leaving extensive mental and physical damage in its wake.

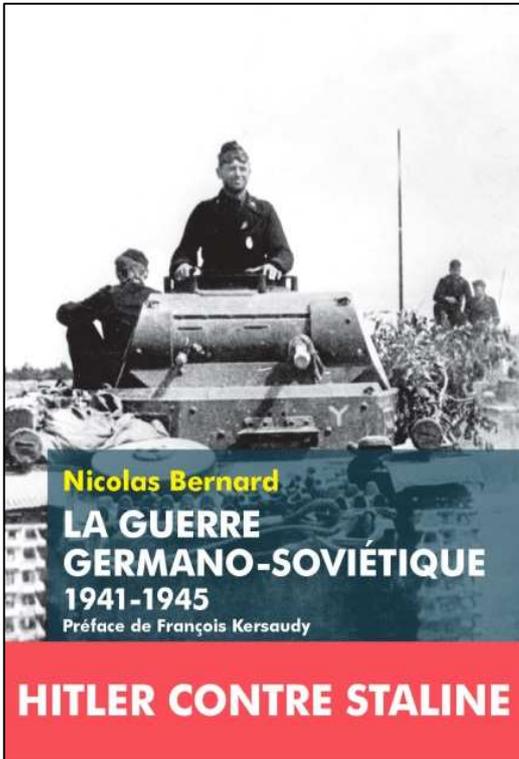
This work embraces all of the aspects of the battle and challenges a number of myths and established norms in the process. In addition to his analysis of the steps taken by Hitler and Stalin, the military operations and doctrines, the author also dedicates a large part of the work to diplomatic events, to instances of violence across the Front, as well as looking at the economic, social and cultural factors involved during the operation.

Operation Barbarossa was in final a battle between two tyrants, two devastating ideologies and two countries, engaged in a war of extermination

**Nicolas Bernard** is a Second World War specialist, as well as serving as a regular contributor to several military history publications. He is also a member of the association ‘*Pratique de l’Histoire et Dévoiements négationniste*’.

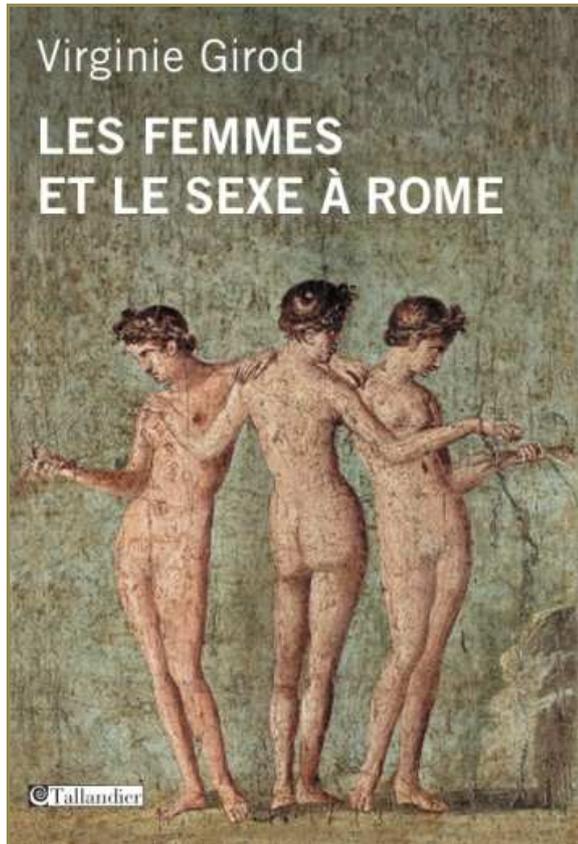
- **Draws on Russian, German and Anglo-Saxon documentary evidence, many unearthed here for the first time.**
- **A remarkably objective perspective which approaches the delicate questions raised by this Titanic battle.**

**Éditions Tallandier - September 2013 - 800 pp. (photo insert)**



WOMEN AND SEX IN ROME

Virginie Girod



It was in an epigram addressed to his wife that Martial wrote: ‘I want you to be a Lucrece during the day, but I need a Lais during the night’.

What did sexuality and its practices represent for the Romans? Were first-century Romans, as epics of the twentieth century would have us believe, really lascivious figures, quick to commit any transgression to satisfy their desires, or were they in fact the pioneers of our Western society, through the way in which they construed sexual norms, norms of our forefathers that are still pertinent today? Were the

erotic body and the reproductive body two determinedly different concepts, or is it possible to align them in an improbable symbiosis? And more specifically how was sexuality dealt with in daily life by women both respectable and dishonourable? With the aid of extensive documentary evidence, Virginie Girod responds to these questions, and sheds new light on what is often referred to as the emancipation of Roman women.

As it is not possible for a woman to be both the paragon of chastity and a licentious lover, Virgine Girod reveals how sexuality was completely determined by social status, and how there could be nothing more alien to this tough patriarchal society, where behaviour was strictly codified, than personal development. The ‘matriarch’ found herself confined to her reproductive role; she was seldom regarded as an erotic object - such a part was bestowed to those of a lower position, namely slaves, emancipated slaves and courtesans

**Virgine Girod** is a professor history and doctor of Literature, and has presented a thesis on Roman sexuality at the start of the Empire, whose material she draws on for this book.

- An important book that unveils all the paradoxes of female eroticism in Ancient Rome.

Éditions Tallandier - August 2013 - 496 pp

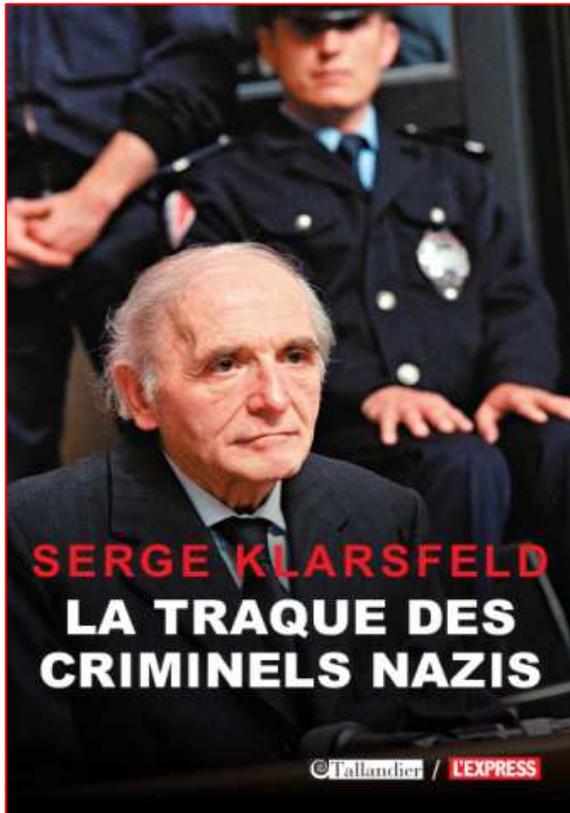
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NF – WWII/Memoir

## TRACKING DOWN NAZI CRIMINALS

Serge Klarsfeld  
w/ Anne Vidalie



The internationally known Nazi tracker Serge Klarsfeld looks back on his career in a personal and highly original tale. He comments on his more than sixty years of enquiry, and on the trials reported on by major journalists from *L'Express*.

Last April, the German justice system announced the start of a new enquiry, involving approximately fifty former guards of Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camp. One of these guards, now in his

nineties, was arrested the following month, charged with implication in murder. Germany has clearly not finished its examination of the crimes committed during the Nazi era.

Serge Klarsfeld—a lawyer and historian, and the son of a Jew who was killed after being deported—and his wife Béate—a non-Jewish German—have spent their lives pursuing and helping unmask top-level Nazi officials who remain on the run to this day, among them Kurt Lischka, Herbert Hagen and Klaus Barbie. The couple has denounced the continued presence of former Nazis in civil services and governments (including those of Germany and Austria), not to mention the impunity of these former officials.

Serge Klarsfeld presents here more than sixty articles from news magazine *L'Express*. He re-examines the endless history, from 1945 to the present day, of the extensive pursuit of Nazi criminals who range from Adolf Eichmann to Maurice Papon via Alois Brunner,.

**Serge Klarsfeld** was born in 1935 in Bucharest, Romania. He and his wife Beate have been notable for their activism against former Nazis since the 1960s. Together they founded *L'Association des fils et filles déportés juifs de France*, a group which has documented cases and located German and French former officials for prosecution. Serge Klarsfeld has published several works on the fate of French Jews during World War Two.

- **New developments on a subject that remains an incomprehensible mystery and which still resonates tragically today**
- **A personal and very moving story, told for the first time.**

Éditions Tallandier/L'Express - November 2013 - 256 pp.

JEAN-JACQUES BECKER  
GERD KRUMEICH

# La Grande Guerre

Une histoire franco-allemande

THE GREAT WAR

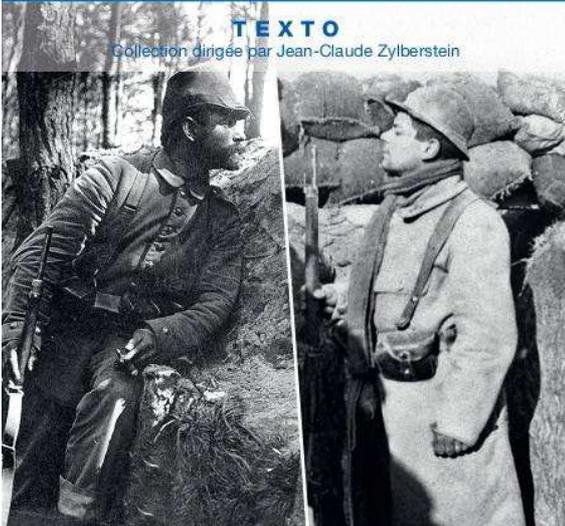
A Franco-German History

(*La Grande Guerre - Une histoire franco-allemande*)

Jean-Jacques Becker & Gerd Krumeich

Going beyond purely nationalistic visions this book brings an understanding and a new examination of the cataclysm that profoundly marked both France and Germany and, by extension, Europe.

The war of 1914 was soon christened "The Great War". The unprecedented scale of the conflict, the number of combatants, casualties and the means used to propagate war all justified such a tag. It implicated parties from all over the world, which led to the conflict becoming – erroneously – known as the First World War. In fact it was a European War, in essence, a Franco-German struggle.



The decisive battles, for the most part, took part in France and the French and German armies were the main actors on this bloody stage.

Most of all, it lasted four and a half years only because the French and German people had the will to fight until total victory, no matter the cruelty of the losses and the magnitude of the sacrifice. Two historians of the 1914-18 conflict chart what happened beyond the course of military events; the lives of soldiers and civilians through to the evolutions of political systems, the mobilization of societies and economies, fluctuations in moral and the birth of "the culture of war".

**Jean-Jacques Becker**, formerly professor at the Paris X-Nanterre University and at Institut des Sciences-Politiques, and president of the 'Historial de Péronne' research center, has dedicated numerous works to the First World War. He directed with Stéphane Audoin-Rouzeau the *Encyclopédie de la Grande Guerre* (Encyclopedia of the Great War).

**Gerd Krumeich**, professor at the Heinrich-Heine-Universität of Düsseldorf, is the author of major works on the 1914 war, as well as on the Versailles peace treaty. He co-directed a massive encyclopedia of the Great War.

- A remarkable collaboration between a French and a German historian.
- A definitive history of a war that remains one of the turning points of the XXth Century and the mother of future modern conflicts.

Éditions Tallandier- 384 pages - November 2012 (Texto –pocketbook)

Rights sold : Iwanami Shoten (Japan), Klartext (Germany)



## WHAT DO THE CHINESE THINK WHEN THEY LOOK AT THE MONA LISA?

*(A quoi pensent les Chinois en regardant Mona Lisa )*

**Christine Cayol & Wu Hongmiao**

**A new dialogue that shares the philosophies, ethics and politics of two civilisations, that don't know each other well, and questions together the notion of society.**

**W**hat do the Chinese think when they discover in the Louvre what we consider a masterpiece? What do they think of us? What do they think of our culture? These Western works of art occupy such a visual place and feed our perception of the world in such a loaded way that we consider them

*our* works.

From this, the author invites an intellectual of a different sensibility, a Chinese, to understand the standout works of western art. He examines, with a fresh eye, the religious works of Giotto, Fra-Angelico and Botticelli as well as the humanists Van Eyck Holbein, Matsys and Dürer through to the human psychology of Caravaggio, da Vinci and Picasso. Art becomes a pretext to bridging mutually unknown civilizations and a means to compare two schools of thought – Paris and Beijing.

**Christine Cayol**, a philosopher, has lived in Beijing since 2005. In December 2010 she founded the association Yishu 8, which welcomes artists to the Chinese capital to learn about French culture and organises artistic demonstrations.

During her time in China she met **Wu Hongmiao**, a linguist and French professor at the University of Wuhan – a central Chinese city of 10 million inhabitants.

- **An unconventional and cross-cultural look at some of the standards of Western art.**

Éditions Tallandier- 250 pages - November 2012 (Texto –pocketbook)

Rights sold : Geulhangari (Korea)

## THE ROMANOV TRAGEDY: THE TRUTH

*(La vérité sur la tragédie des Romanov)*

**Marc Ferro**

On the night of the 16th of July 1918, the Bolsheviks executed Tsar Nicholas II, his wife Alexandra and their children, Olga (22 years old), Tatiana (21), Maria (19), Anastasia (17) and Alexis (13) in Yekaterinburg, in the Urals. That is the official version of events, one that Marc Ferro never believed. This book charts his journey to uncover the truth. The recent discovery of Olga's diary proves that the Tsarina and daughters were not murdered that night.

Historians have been happy to regurgitate the White Russian version of how the story unfolded. But Ferro has always felt there were too many improbabilities in the

judicial report and too many unofficial witnesses were eliminated. Fortunately in recent years several pieces of evidence have emerged to backup his thesis: in the 1990s, the Yeltsin government allowed comparative analysis to be carried out on bodies discovered by two historians and an American university academic unearthed Olga's diary in the Vatican archives. This document proved she had escaped the massacre.

The survival of the Tsarina and her sisters was a truth neither the Bolsheviks nor the Whites could disclose. Both sides ensured that witnesses were executed. After March 1918, the Reds feared that William II would break the treaty of Brest-Litovsk if the "German" Empress and her daughters were not spared. .

**Marc Ferro** is a World-famous historian and a specialist of this period who has been haunted by this story for 20 years. His biography of Nicholas II was published in 1990 by Payot & Rivages and was then translated into numerous languages. Other works include *Pétain, Sept hommes en guerre* (Seven men at War) and *Une histoire de France* (A History of France).

- **A groundbreaking study that sheds light on one of the most well kept and fascinating secrets of the 20th century and one of history's true taboos.**

**Éditions Tallandier - 150 pages - October 2012**

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contact@lautreagence.eu

Rights sold : Record (Brazil)





**NF –History**

## **THE WINE BOTTLE The History of a Revolution**

Jean-Robert Pitte

**Highly documented, lavishly illustrated and nourished by many anecdotes, this book is as exciting as it is lively and makes us discover a completely unknown part of our cultural history.**

**I**n ancient times and during the Middle Ages, people hardly knew how to transport, store, and preserve wine since they didn't have a suitable container. A true revolution took place when, in the early 17<sup>th</sup> century, glass containers were

developed that could be sealed with a cork. This progress was anything but trivial: it took several centuries to master glass manufacturing.

For the first time ever, this long development is described by the best specialist in this field. We learn for instance how the market (especially in England) spurred the production of ever more solid bottles that were fit for transport and storage, how some specific bottle types that we know have emerged (Bordeaux, Burgundy, etc.), and how the development of sparkling wine was made possible.

Member of the Institut de France, **Jean-Robert Pitte** is President of the Geographical Society and of the Wine Academy of France. He is the author of a considerable number of books on cultural geography (*Histoire du paysage français*) and on the history of food and wine in Europe, with among others *Le désir du vin à la conquête du monde* or *Gastronomie française. Histoire et géographie d'une passion*.

- ***In vino veritas* of course! Wine would not be what we all love without the bottle.**
- **An exploration of several centuries through... the wine bottle.**

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