

The Harkis

Introduction

The Harkis is a term that was used by the French in the years of early 1950s to refer to a group of forces. The members of the *Harki* were fighting during the Algerian war, and there were the people who were familiar with the culture of the inhabitants of Algeria and also who understood the physical area of the place quite well. However, there are diverse reasons why a large number of the Algerians citizens joined the Harkis forces, among the reasons are the discourse between the clan and the villagers, other joined due to fear of terror attack against the village. Since a large proportion of the Harkis were the locals of Algeria, their loyalty was doubted leading to the being led by a large troop of the French commanders.

Algeria attained independence in the year 1960 under the ruling of Charles de Gaulle which led to the Harkis being disarmed to prevent them from initiating a revolt against France. The safety of the French loyalties was at stake, and therefore the independent government of Algeria issued an amnesty to all French who in turn signed a unilateral agreement dictating that any French who wished to leave Algeria would be transported to Metropole. Following the end of the war in 1962, the French and the FLS negotiated to lead to the announcement of the fire-
cease which finally led to full independence several months later. Upon the freedom, the auxiliary troops who a large proportion were the Harkis were disarmed, given a bonus and asked to go home.

Following the dismiss of the Harkis from the military there were exposed to more threats, and their safety was at risk. A considerable number of the Harkis were killed which forced most of them to flee to the military barracks in search of protection in which they were offered protection and most of them transported to France. The Harkis were put on restriction on

what conflict?

traveling to France in which their rights were violated even though most of the Algerian citizens were French. The restriction place on Harkis, for example, led to the deportation of the Harkis who has arrived at Marseille through unofficial means. The primary reason behind the restriction placed on the Harkis was the claim that they might be working undercover for the terrorist and issue that was raised by minister Joxes. Following the declaration by Joxes, the Harkis were soon moved out of France which led to a worsening of their insecurity.

The Harkis were exposed to dangers of death in which they were killed together with their families. Some of the Harkis were an impression and exposed to hard labor. A large number of Harkis were killed during this period. In the years between 1962 and 1967, the government had organized a repatriation program that leads to the transportation of Harkis and their dependents close to 25,000 to France and other 60,000 Algerians had found their way to France through unofficial means. *where?*

Settlement in France

The Harkis were settled in a segregated camp in France, among the fields that hosted the Harkis were the Riversaltez and Larzak among others. Even though the Harkies had been settled in the France soil, still they were not granted France citizenship despite most of them changing their names to fit the Europeans name. The Harkies were discriminated and offered low paying jobs as a way of preventing them from developing to move out of poverty. The children of Harkie felt embarrassed and were referred to as traitors; also, the French called them Arabs; they did not have any freedom and rights in the French society.

However, some of the Harkis children appreciated the fact that their father had chosen to move to France because they would have suffered the terror found in Algeria. The French were displayed to have betrayed the *Harkis* by mistreating them yet they the Harkies had been loyal to

the army in Algeria. Therefore, the Harkis were treated as a reminder of failure to protect the French loyalties and also the reluctance to accept them into the French society as well as the cost of decolonization. The French treated the Harkies as a reminder of the battle that they wish to forget.

Protest against mistreatment

In the year 1974, the Harkis protected against the abuse that they received in France through hunger strikes, speaking to the press and official hostages. Series of protest followed years later. The liberation and freedom of the Harkis in France gained a new direction when the Gaullist leaders left power, leaving room for the new generation that had not been involved in the war to take over; the new leader was Michael Rocard who assured the *Harkis* that he would address their grievances in the year 1990s. The *Harkis* were later empathized and described as victims of colonization.

The fight against racism in France was initiated in the year 1980 led by xenophobia. The fight against racism was led by responsible political leaders who claimed that the *Harkis* and other immigrants did not deserve to be mistreated and segregated since they also had shaded blood for France at one point in time. The *Harkis* were included in the government granting them more freedom and a sense of belonging to France. The *harkis* were allowed the same rights as the French soldiers and also given financial support. The *Harkis* who has been imprisoned by the FNL for their loyalty to France were compensated through a pension.

As a way of apologizing for the mistreated that the *Harkis* had undergone in France national symbols were developed. Additionally, a stamp was established with an appraisal of the *Harkis* as France solders which was distributed widely across France. In 1994 the France parliament honored the contribution of the auxiliary army forces which encompassed the *Harkis*.

THE HARKIS

The killings of the *Harkis* that had occurred under the ruling of Gaullist was defined as genocide.

When⁵? By whom

The massacre had claimed so many lives of the *Hakis* who suffered as innocent citizens during the Algerian war. The murders left a massive mark in the history of the Algeria war and fight for independence.

In early 2000, the *Harkis* filed a case suing the French government for the crimes committed against humanity. The *Harkis* claimed that they suffered at the hands of the France government and therefore they needed justice for their suffering. The *Harkis* by then represented a significant proportion of the France citizens who contributed to the election. Following the demand by the *Harkis* for national recognition, the order was issued by president Chirac in which a national holiday was held in respect of the *Harkis* for the suffering they had experienced. During the national speech president, Chirac expressed regret for the pain of the *Harkis* and also the massacred that they encountered. The bad reception on their arrival to France, segregation, lack of schooling and the president promised the *Harkis* of a better position in the national government. The France government displayed gratitude for the auxiliary soldiers who had maintained their loyalty to the France army. The national holiday was a critical symbolic act to the *Harkis* community who anticipated for the time when they would no longer be named as *Harkis* but rather be known as the French citizens.

Khamed, this is a good summary of Chen's article. I hope you'll do better for the 2nd response paper.

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The Harkis

The Harkis are an Algerian community which has a unique history. The uniqueness is based on the origin having come up as a political group rather than an ethnic tribal or family group. The emergence of the Harkis came during the French-Algerian war for Independence which from 1954 to 1962 was fought and escalated a crisis point between 1954 and 1958. The term does not denote the approximately 200,000 Berber and Arab Muslims who supported the French Army military during the war for independence in Algeria but also their descendants and families. The word Harkis mean "war party" hence collaboration with the enemy and to soldiers it is relevant. The support the Harkis gave was not the only military since they would even protect villages that had been isolated. The knowledge of land conditions and terrain made the French recruit the Harkis. During the fight for independence in Algeria, the Harkis constituted of two independence movements which were the FLN (National Liberation Front) and the MNA (Algerian National Movement). Civil war brought the two movements into conflict. The two parties' confrontation indirectly or directly injured and killed a lot of people. In metropolitan France, it's where the conflict took place mostly. "Popular support was lost by MNA in Algeria whereas FLN managed to prove it was the one that led to fighters' underground resistance." (Bouteldja, Valinsky & West, 2016)

The Harkis were loyal to colonial France during the war. In 1962, Algeria won independence and the Harkis position was dangerous having been viewed as worse than traitors and they deserved punishment extremely for their betrayal of the people of Algeria. In my paper, I will analyze information concerning how the Harkis suffered from racism, missions, and government failure to give their right by the France army in France. (Fanon, Farrington & Sartre, 2001)

When it comes to racism. The Harkis are lumped by racists together with other North Africans except when it suits the distinguishing purpose. It is particularly true of the Front

National and other extreme-right groups as they promote anti-immigration policy that is racially based. The Harkis were distinguished from other North Africans by stressing the fact that they are French through claiming that they made sacrifices for France. They shoddy treatment and the promises they made to support their cause was against the people of Algeria. The Harkis had chosen the French army over the FLN as a survival way.

The Harkis Lived under extreme poverty when the revolution started in 1954. The living conditions were harsh due to more than 130 years under colonization. During the liberation war, the standards of living worsened. In that context, a lot of the Harkis people went it the French military for jobs to support their families. During the war, the Harkis sided with the French army. After independence, very few Harkis managed to escape to France who was less than 3000. Following the French occupation removal, a lot of Harkis were killed. Most of the Harkis suffered a lot of racism through subjection to chaos by violence assaults. Having supported the French during the war, they were seen to have collaborated with them. "The Harkis racial discrimination made them have inferior positions in resources allocation, power occupation and even lack of visibility." (Fanon, Farrington & Sartre, 2001)

The Harkis mission to support the French in the fight to capture Algeria failed to result in a lot of suffering. On March 1962 when the Evian Accords were signed, the Harkis were abandoned and were handled over the National Liberation Army and the National Liberation Front and thousands of them were massacred. Their mission was to support the French failed to result in torture and raping of wives and daughters before the massacre. The Harkis were subjected to forced labour and imprisoned in miserable camps. Their mission to flee to Franc before official channels had been prepared by the government made them be sent back to Algeria as the French government was unsympathetic generally. They lack a state of recognition as their mission had failed to result in deaths for their traits. On the other hand,

those who managed to be admitted later in France did not have contact with the native French people having spent several years on French soil. (Bouteldja, Valinsky & West, 2016)

In France, the Harkis were not given their right by France army in terms of government. The government never identified them due to the following. The memories of genocide and torture left most of them with stress syndromes that were post-traumatic. Their ability to discuss the revolution events was minimized through shame and inadequacy combined feelings and not having fought for their fellow Algerians' resulted in depression from spatial isolation and politics. Identical crises suffering resulted due to the Harkis both individually and in the community hence lack of recognition in matters to do to with the government. After the end of the liberation war more than fifty years, the Harkis and their descendants living in Algeria have continued to be victims of discrimination and unpleasant social segregation hence making their lives miserable. (Withuis & Mooij, 2010)

When it comes to positions in the government mainly about state-owned companies and public administration, none of them have been recruited. There is an emphasis on the Harkis as being traitors due to the inability to heal from the colonization wounds. The believe that the Harkis origin is not in Algeria has led to a lack to give their rights since they might lead to other instances that may lead to the suffering of innocent people in favour of others. "Loyalty and willingness to fight for one own country should be in every citizen and even be ready to die for own country." (Withuis & Mooij, 2010)

In France, there was discrimination by the government of the Harkis people due to their Muslim names and Maghreb features. There lacked acceptability both in France and Algeria of the Harkis. As a result, their involvement in matters to do with politics was a doubt due to their lack of acceptability that led to psychological torture effects. Harkis descendants and allies continued to have a lot of protests to be accepted and have official recognition. The

Harkis endured hardships due to lack of proper recognition hence lack of establishment of their origin (Fanon, Farrington & Sartre, 2001)

The history of the Harkis collective memory has a revelation that it is ultimately looking for a place for itself in the national imagination. At the root of the intra-community memory, conflict is a debate over how it can best foster solidarity with the French community members having faced complexities and tragedies in Algeria due to the support they gave to the French. The Harkis have become synonyms with "traitor" due to their link with the link to colonial regime injustices having made a decision to support the French. (Bouteldja, Valinsky & West, 2016)

Ahmed, you are all over the place because you chose a shortcut. First you are simply summarizing readings that you completely mix up, and then you don't seem to have grasped the contradictions. Make sure for the final paper to stick to what we discussed in class and address the issues raised in the prompt.

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