

Mecca of revolution: Algeria, decolonization, and the third world order

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Deskripsi Lengkap: <https://lib.ui.ac.id/detail?id=20470176&lokasi=lokal>

Abstrak

Mecca of Revolution examines the history of anticolonial internationalism, or Third Worldism, through the prism of Algerias decolonization and the international relations of independent Algeria. It argues that the Third World movement evolved from a subversive transnational phenomenon in the late-colonial era into a diplomatic collaboration among postcolonial elites to exalt state sovereignty and national authority. Its examination of international affairs places equal, or even greater, emphasis on South-South relations than the more typical North-South perspective. New evidence from the archives of Algeria, Yugoslavia, and numerous other countries demystifies the Third Worldist phenomenon. The book looks past the rhetoric of Bandung, nonalignment, and Afro-Asianism to analyze the nascent geopolitics of postcolonial Africa, the Middle East, and the Southern Hemisphere as a whole. Refuting the notion that the Third World project ended in failure, Mecca of Revolution reveals the development of a Third Worldist normative framework that shapes global affairs in the early twenty-first century, its import felt in matters as diverse as the Arab Spring revolutions, nuclear proliferation, and global trade negotiations. It also argues that the most important effect of the Cold War in the Southern Hemisphere was to push the process of decolonization toward its eventual state-centric outcome. In that regard, the Algerian case shows that the industrialized worlds new methods of political mobilization (such as Wilsonian diplomacy and Marxist-Leninist revolution) were much more influential in the postcolonial world than were the underlying ideologies that informed those methods.