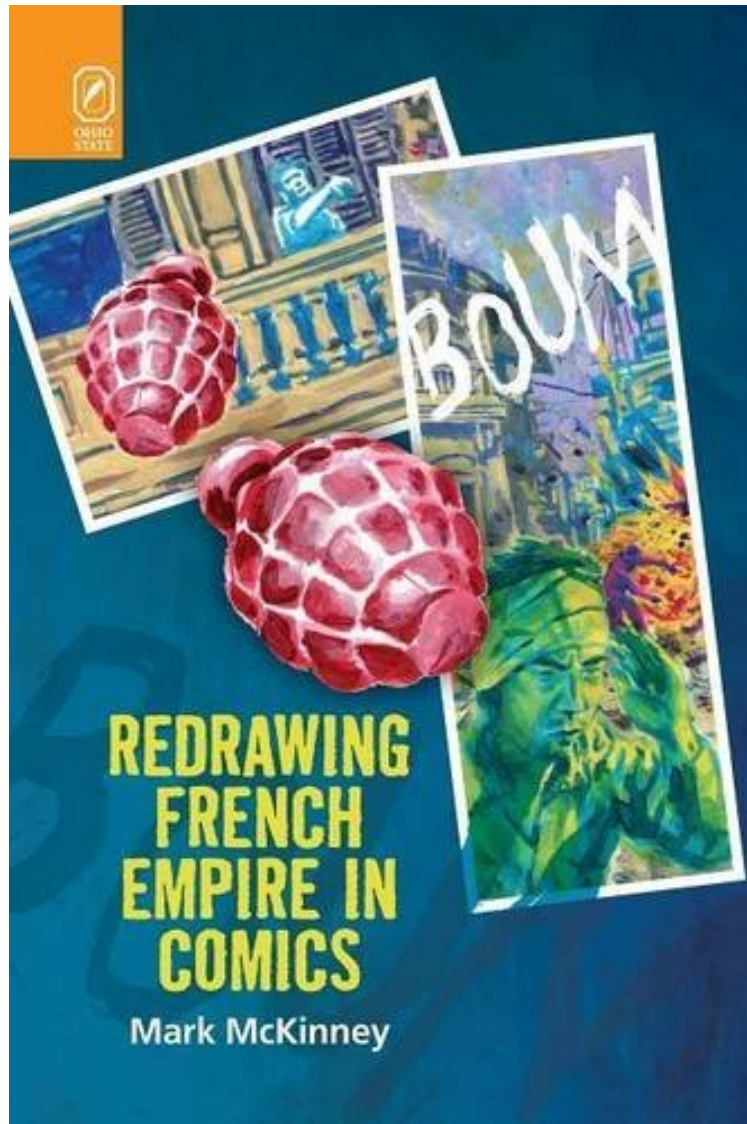


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## Redrawing French Empire in Comics (Studies in Comics and Cartoons)

Mark McKinney

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**Mark McKinney : Redrawing French Empire in Comics (Studies in Comics and Cartoons)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Redrawing French Empire in Comics (Studies in Comics and Cartoons):

*Redrawing French Empire in Comics* by Mark McKinney investigates how comics have represented the colonization and liberation of Algeria and Indochina. It focuses on the conquest and colonization of Algeria (from 1830), the French war in Indochina (1946-1954), and the Algerian War (1954-1962). Imperialism and colonialism already featured prominently in nineteenth-century French-language comics and cartoons by Töpffer, Cham, and Petit. As society has evolved, so has the popular representation of those historical forces. French torture of Algerians during the Algerian War, once taboo, now features prominently in comics, especially since 2000, when debate on the subject was reignited in the media and the courts. The increasingly explicit and spectacular treatment in comics of the more violent and lurid aspects of colonial history and ideology is partly due to the post-1968 growth of an adult comics production and market. For example, the appearance of erotic and exotic, feminized images of Indochina in French comics in the 1980s indicated that colonial nostalgia for French Indochina had become fashionable in popular culture. *Redrawing French Empire in Comics* shows how contemporary cartoonists such as Alagb, Baloup, Boudjellal, Ferrandez, and Sfar have staked out different, sometimes conflicting, positions on French colonial history.

Mark McKinney has been at the forefront in driving forward research on comic book art and is widely recognized as the foremost authority in the English-speaking world on comic book (bande dessinée, or BD) representations of the French colonial experience and its aftermath. His *Redrawing French Empire in Comics* is an immensely knowledgeable, highly original and richly informative study of French bande dessinée representations of French colonialism and its violent demise with particular reference to Algeria and Indochina. A key dynamic structuring the book is the interplay between, on the one hand, experiences and attitudes characteristic of the colonial period and, on the other, perspectives and preoccupations shaped by post-colonial circumstances. Alec Hargreaves, Emeritus Winthrop-King Professor of Transcultural French Studies, Florida State University