

Occasional Talk

"Kamerun!"



History of a War, History of a Book

A seminar in the presence of the authors

Thomas Deltombe, Manuel Domergue & Jacob Tatsitsa

"Kamerun! Une guerre cachée aux origines de la françafrique (1948-1971)"

Friday 8 November 2013, 16.30 to 18.00, Room S3 ARB

"Kamerun!" was the cry for freedom and justice of Cameroonian nationalists against colonial and postcolonial oppression. It is also a massive book, the result of the encounter between a Cameroonian historian who had been a Bamiléké schoolboy surrounded by the ambivalent memories of a hidden but nonetheless omnipresent war, with two French journalists. Based on the meticulous analysis of hundreds of government, military and private archives from Europe and Africa and the collection of hundreds of interviews with people involved in all sides of the conflict, this 800 pages book gives an extremely detailed account of the different phases and dimensions of the war that tore the country apart between 1955 and 1971. It offers an invaluable insight on a forgotten and murderous conflict which is central in understanding contemporary Cameroonian politics, was largely connected to the rest of Africa and the world, and inaugurated the era of what is controversially called "*françafrique*". In addition to the presentation of findings, the seminar will detail the way the authors worked on this neglected and controversial topic, the sources they unearthed, the challenges they faced. More info and exclusive documents <http://www.kamerun-lesite.com>.

"Kamerun! provides by far the most detailed portrait available of the origins and formation of Françafrique" New Left Review

"A documented, fascinating book that fringes with amazement, and timely breaks the complete amnesia on the genuine colonial war France carried out in Cameroon" Le Monde