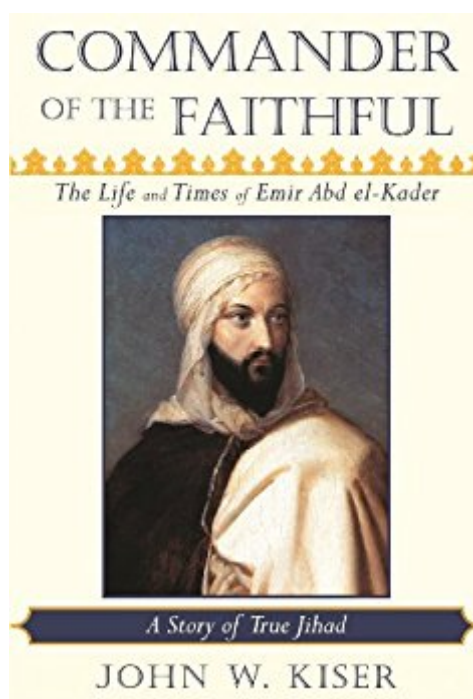


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# Commander Of The Faithful



## Synopsis

A rousing biography and history of world hero Abd el-Kader's resistance to the French colonization of Algeria.

## Book Information

File Size: 3258 KB

Print Length: 394 pages

Page Numbers Source ISBN: 0982324669

Publisher: Monkfish Book Publishing (April 2, 2013)

Publication Date: April 2, 2013

Sold by:Â Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B00CST3PP8

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #1,186,938 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #111

inÂ Books > History > Africa > Algeria #135 inÂ Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Biographies & Memoirs > Historical > Africa #214 inÂ Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > History > Africa > North Africa

## Customer Reviews

Commander of the Faithful is narrative history built on the life of a devout Arab jihadist, Abd el-Kader, who resisted French colonization of Algeria for fifteen years (1832-1847) and then was imprisoned in France for five years, only to become a cultural hero of sorts in France (and elsewhere in Europe) and finally, was exiled to Turkey and Syria for the remainder of his life, where he gained still more fame as an Islamic scholar and, ironically, protector of Christians in Damascus. The piquancy of this book is the contrast between Abd el-Kader's religious-based nobility and French exploitation and duplicity...those years of jihad and the years of jihad we are living today...and the seemingly endless effort that must be devoted to understanding differences between "Western" worldviews and Islamic perspectives. Through the figure of Abd el-Kader, John Kiser has excavated many of the same misunderstandings, or complete lack of understanding, that divided

Europe from the Muslim world 150 years ago and continue to do so today. The fundamental crunch point, of course, is the role of religion in the rule of man--the inability of religiously inspired rulers to yield or compromise, the inability of secular rulers to understand the benefits of religious rule, and the lack of intellectual effort that underpins the communication gap between the two sides. Abd el-Kader was a prodigy of scholarship, so his biography betrays no lack of intellectual effort, either as a leader of his people, or in dialogue with his French adversaries. His problem, however, was the spotty contact he was able to make with French soldiers and politicians able to comprehend, translate, and deal with his socio-religious requirements.

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