

Encounters with the Other Sisters of the Past: the Role of Colonial History and Memory in the Adjustment of the Postcolonial Female Identity

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Abstract : The present paper is a comparative analysis of the Algerian writer Assia Djebar's women of Algiers in *Their Apartment* (1982) and the Anglo-Egyptian Ahdaf Soueif's *The Map of Love* (1999) foregrounded on the female protagonists' painfully common colonial and patriarchal experiences, though in different geographical regions of North Africa. This study raises questions pertaining, first, to the emerging contemporary genre "Historiographic meta-fiction" in which the novels examined could be inscribed, then, the interplay of colonial history and personal memory that impinges on the development of the identity of the post-colonial female subject. As the novels alternate between the historical and the autobiographical, we currently seek to understand how it is pertinent and pressing for women to excavate the lost and occluded stories of the past for the adjustment of their present personal identities, which are undoubtedly an important part of the identity of a nation.

Keywords : postcolonial feminism, islamic feminism, memory, historiographic metafiction

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