

Inside the French Foreign Legion

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Résumé ou extrait : "Unique among the world's fighting forces, the French Foreign Legion remains one of its most mysterious, as well. Open to volunteers from around the world (men from some 150 countries fill its ranks), the Legion boasts an illustrious and exciting military history stretching from Europe to Africa and Latin America, from Vietnam and Algeria to Afghanistan; features a notoriously difficult selection and training process, accepting only 10 percent of applicants; and has traditionally required soldiers to enlist under assumed names. Soldiers swear allegiance not to France, but to the Legion, which has been romanticized in literature, song, and action movies as a place for men to prove their mettle or start their lives over. In this colorful, highly readable book, a blend of firsthand experience and interviews with former legionnaires, Nick Valldejuli gives an insider's perspective on what it means--and what it takes--to be a Légionnaire. Valldejuli, an English-born American who spent two years in the Legion, lifts the veil on who legionnaires are, what they do, where they serve, why they joined, and why they're willing to die for France, which for most is a foreign country. Stories move from Algeria in the 1960s to more recent French operations in Afghanistan and former colonies in Africa. Drawing on his own experiences, as well as those of members from various countries over the past fifty years (including two girlfriends of soldiers), his stories highlight the Legion's intense camaraderie and its members' fierce loyalty to this unique unit, in addition to the extreme mental and physical demands made of them and the sacrifices of their families back home." -- Inside front cover

Sujet - Collectivité : France Armée. Légion étrangère. -- Histoire

Forme, genre ou caractéristiques physiques : Récits personnels américains