

## History 4363-Essay #2

General Paul Aussaresses's *The Battle of the Casbah* is a memoir of his time as an intelligence officer involved in combat against Algerian guerrillas seeking the independence of their country from French rule. Aussaresses discusses the French Army's use of "extreme measures" to include torture and summary executions as a normal part of operations against the Algerian independence movement (FLN). In an extended analytical essay of (800-900 words), I ask that you discuss the following issues:

- 1) How and why does Aussaresses justify the use of torture and summary executions by the French Army in the Algerian conflict? Why does he say these tactics were necessary and how does he attempt to justify them?
- 2) What insight does the work reveal about the nature of fighting an insurgency that is willing to employ terrorist methods to attain its goals? How can such an insurgency be successfully countered?
- 3) What are the ethical and legal restraints that an army must accept when battling against an insurgency?
- 4) Finally, what implications does this work have for defining US actions in the current conflict in Afghanistan?

Your essay should include specific examples and citations from *The Battle of the Casbah* to support your argument. When citing from the work, use the following convention:

Example 1 (Direct Quote): Aussaresses asserts, "To acquire credibility the paratroopers had to be even more extreme than the FLN" (Aussaresses, 87).

Example 2 (Citation of evidence): Aussaresses discussed the plans of French colonists in Algeria to destroy the Casbah in a giant firestorm (Aussaresses, 77).

The essay is due to [www.Turnitin.com](http://www.Turnitin.com) by the start of class **on Lesson 13 (15 April 2021)**. Good luck!