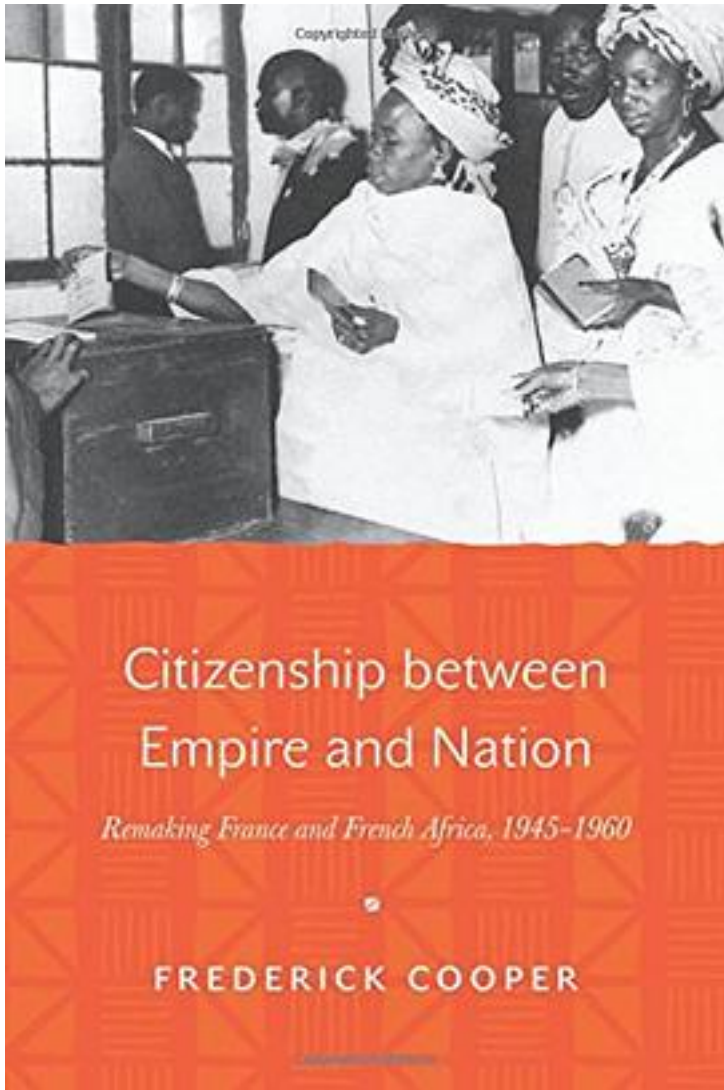


Citizenship between Empire and Nation



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As the French public debates its present diversity and its colonial past, few remember that between 1946 and 1960 the inhabitants of French colonies possessed the rights of French citizens. Moreover, they did not have to conform to the French civil code that regulated marriage and inheritance. One could, in principle, be a citizen and different too. *Citizenship between Empire and Nation* examines momentous changes in notions of citizenship, sovereignty, nation, state, and empire in a time of acute uncertainty about the future of a world that had earlier been divided into colonial empires.

Frederick Cooper explains how African political leaders at the end of World War II strove to abolish the entrenched distinction between colonial "subject" and "citizen." They then used their new status to claim social, economic, and political equality with other French citizens, in the face of resistance from defenders of a colonial order. Africans balanced their quest for equality with a desire to express an African political personality. They hoped to combine a degree of autonomy with participation in a larger, Franco-African ensemble. French leaders, trying to hold on to a large French polity, debated how much autonomy and how much equality they could concede. Both sides looked to versions of federalism as alternatives to empire and the nation-state. The French government had to confront the high costs of an empire of citizens, while Africans could not agree with French leaders or among themselves on how to balance their contradictory imperatives. Cooper shows how both France and its former colonies backed into more "national" conceptions of the state than either had sought.

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标签

社会运动

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评论

真是一部杰作。库珀敏锐的指出二战后法属非洲的领导人要求的是更多的政治权利，而不是民族独立，他们被普世主义意识形态所推动，而不是民族主义。在十年间，法属非洲的命运实际上是不定的。在这段时期发生的事情既不是一个殖民帝国想要重新恢复等级秩序，也不是民族独立运动，而是法国人和非洲人都在考虑，如何建设和适应一个共同体。这本书的缺陷是对这些人做如此之想，只有论断，而没有指出其动因——法帝国很特殊，其共和主义意识形态虚伪又真诚，确有海纳百川的气度，其作为颇似中国行科举制，使天下英雄入彀中，造就了一批心向普世的地方精英。

intro & conclusion

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