

The BATTLE OF ALGIERS

—a film by Gillo Pontecorvo—



An online project to increase understanding of this famous film.

I. VIDEOS – Please watch the following:

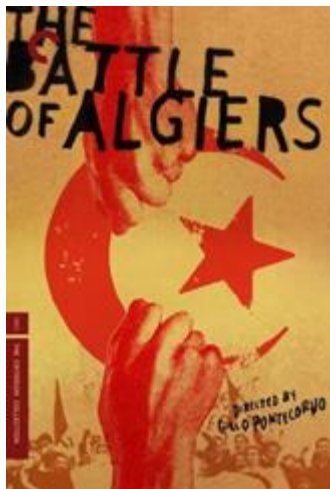
- A) Movie review by Penn State’s [Bill Kelly](#).
- B) [Five Directors](#) on *The Battle of Algiers*.

II. ARTICLES – Please read the following:

- A) Two reviews by Roger Ebert: [1968](#) and [2004](#).
- B) An American Historical Association article by [Ron Briley](#).
- C) Univ. of California eScholarship article by [Michael O’Riley](#).

III. WRITING and RESPONDING

Write answers/responses to the following, around 100-125 words each. Email them to me and we’ll share in class.



- A) After watching *The Battle of Algiers* and watching and reading the materials in (I) and (II) above describe your strongest reaction to the film or a specific scene in the film, and tell which of all the materials above made most sense to you, or created a deeper understanding of either the film or an issue (terrorism, for example) addressed by the film.
- B) The Briley piece above explicitly mentions Fanon. What is the main relationship to Frantz Fanon you see in the film or any of the materials above?
- C) The O’Riley piece above explains “Third Cinema”—the designation being somewhat similar to the “Third” in “Third World.” What is “Third Cinema”? Next, recall the scene in *Battle of Algiers* where the Arab women are making themselves up as “Western” women to go out and plant their bombs. How does this exemplify “Third Cinema,” and do you see any paradoxes or ironies in this scene that might deepen our understanding of “Third Cinema” and/or its depiction of Western vs. “Third World” violence or conceptions of race?