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978-1-107-05681-7 - French Colonial Soldiers in German Captivity during World War II

Raffael Scheck

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## French Colonial Soldiers in German Captivity during World War II

This book discusses the experience of nearly 100,000 French colonial prisoners of war captured by Nazi Germany during World War II. Raffael Scheck shows that the German treatment of French colonial soldiers improved dramatically after initial abuses, leading the French authorities in 1945 to believe that there was a possible German plot to instigate a rebellion in the French empire. Scheck illustrates that the colonial prisoners' contradictory experiences with French authorities, French civilians, and German guards created strong demands for equal rights at the end of the war, leading to clashes with a colonial administration eager to reintegrate them into a discriminatory routine.

RAFFAEL SCHECK is Katz Distinguished Teaching Professor of modern European history at Colby College. He is the author of five books and more than twenty articles on German history ranging from 1871 to 1945. In 2006, Scheck published the book *Hitler's African Victims: The German Army Massacres of Black French Soldiers in 1940* (Cambridge), which also appeared in French and German. A group of editors and journalists selected the German edition as the fourth-best nonfiction book published in German in 2009. He completed a habilitation at the University of Basel in 2003.

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RAFFAEL SCHECK

*Colby College, Waterville, Maine*



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*To my parents, Florian Scheck and Monika Scheck (1935–2014),  
and to Sophia Scheck*

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# Abbreviations

AD	<i>Archives départementales</i>
AN	<i>Archives nationales de France</i> (French national archives), Pierrefitte-sur-Seine (formerly Paris)
ANOM	<i>Archives nationales d'outre-mer</i> (French overseas archives), Aix-en-Provence
BA-MA	<i>Bundesarchiv-Militärarchiv</i> (German military archives), Freiburg im Breisgau
HIA	Hoover Institution Archives at Stanford University
ICRC	International Committee of the Red Cross, Geneva
MAE	<i>Ministère des affaires étrangères</i> (French foreign ministry), La Courneuve
MBF	<i>Militärbefehlshaber Frankreich</i> (Military Commander in France)
NACP	National Archives, College Park, Maryland
OKW	<i>Oberkommando der Wehrmacht</i> (German Armed Forces High Command)
OT	<i>Organisation Todt</i>
PAAA	<i>Politisches Archiv des Auswärtigen Amtes</i> (Political Archive of the German Foreign Office), Berlin
SDPG	<i>Service diplomatique des prisonniers de guerre</i> (Diplomatic service for POWs, a.k.a. Scapini Mission)
SHD	<i>Service historique de la défense</i> (French military archives), Vincennes



MAP 1. Frontstalags in France, July 1941