

Lesson 4 : The Outbreak of the Algerian War of Independence (November 1st, 1954)

Reading Text

By 1954, many Algerians had grown frustrated with peaceful political movements. They believed that the French government would never grant independence through negotiation alone.

On November 1st, 1954, the National Liberation Front (FLN) launched a series of coordinated attacks across Algeria. These actions marked the official start of the Algerian War of Independence. The FLN aimed to unite Algerians under a common goal of liberation and to show that armed struggle had become necessary.

The FLN's first attacks targeted police stations, military posts, and strategic locations, demonstrating both planning and organization. Their message was clear: Algeria would no longer accept colonial rule, and independence was the ultimate goal.

The French government responded quickly with military force, arrests, and curfews, trying to suppress the revolution. Despite this, the FLN gained support from many Algerians, particularly in rural areas, and gradually strengthened its position.

This period marked the beginning of a long and bloody war, which would last over seven years and ultimately lead to Algeria gaining independence in 1962. The outbreak of the war showed the determination of Algerians to fight for their freedom, dignity, and national identity.

Vocabulary

Word / Expression	Meaning
Strategic	The main organization that led the Algerian independence struggle
Curfew	Planned and carried out together in an organized way
National Liberation Front (FLN)	Using weapons and military action to achieve a goal
Armed struggle	Important for achieving a plan or goal
Coordinated	A rule that limits

	when people can go outside, often imposed by authorities
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Comprehension Questions

1. Why did Algerians grow frustrated with political movements by 1954?
2. What organization launched attacks on November 1st, 1954?
3. What types of locations did the FLN target in its first attacks?
4. How did the French government respond to the outbreak of the war?
5. Why did many Algerians support the FLN, especially in rural areas?
6. How long did the Algerian War of Independence last?
7. What was the ultimate goal of the FLN?
8. What does the outbreak of the war reveal about Algerians' determination?

True or False

1. The Algerian War of Independence officially began on November 1st, 1954.
2. The FLN relied only on peaceful protests at the start.
3. The first attacks were carefully planned and coordinated.
4. The French government responded with military force and curfews.
5. Rural Algerians mostly ignored the FLN's actions.
6. The war lasted more than seven years.
7. The FLN's main goal was independence from French rule.
8. The outbreak of the war showed Algerians' willingness to fight for their freedom.

Language Activity: Fill in the blanks

Use these words: (FLN – independence – armed – strategic – curfew)

1. The _____ was the main organization leading the Algerian struggle.
2. November 1st, 1954, marked the beginning of the fight for _____.
3. The FLN used _____ struggle to challenge French control.
4. They targeted _____ locations to gain an advantage.
5. The French authorities imposed a _____ to control the population.

Discussion Questions (Speaking)

1. Do you think the FLN had no choice but to start an armed struggle? Why or why not?
2. Why do you think the FLN focused on both urban and rural areas in their attacks?
3. How do you think ordinary Algerians felt when the war started?