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**“Lavigerie, White Fathers, and Kabyle National Self-Consciousness:  
Missionary Endeavors among the Kabyle Berbers of Algeria”**

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This study will examine the complicated history of missionary work among the Kabyle Berbers of Eastern Algeria during the French colonial period (1830-1962) and after Algerian independence in 1962, in order to consider long-term effects of Christian missionaries on Berber national self-consciousness. The paper outlines the foundation of the Roman Catholic missionary order known as the White Fathers in 1868 by Cardinal Charles Lavigerie, the nature of their work among the Kabyle, and the interplay of colonial and ecclesiastical politics as it facilitated or hindered missionary outreach. This history of colonial intervention in the Arabo-Islamic world has been rife with misunderstanding and long-term socio-political ramifications stretching back to the time of the Crusades and reaching to the modern conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan. Included in this inquiry will be an analysis of Arabic treatises from Islamic perspectives regarding the purposes and effects of Christian missionary activity in Muslim lands. An attempt is made to show the unintended effects of missionary activity on the rise of autonomous Berber nationalism and its use by European interests to fracture a nascent Algerian nation. The current state of Muslim-Christian interaction in Europe and North Africa shifted from a dialogue of conquest and imperial expansion, which characterized colonial activities in relation to Muslims, to an appeal to universal human rights and individual freedom of conscience in the realm of the sacred. This paper focuses on the continuance of old colonial attitudes which continue to exist in relation to the “other,” both Christian and Muslim; as well as the historical roots of current issues facing Muslims in the West.