FIGHT OR FLIGHT

BRITAIN, FRANCE, AND THEIR ROADS FROM EMPIRE

MARTIN THOMAS



Contents

List of Illustrations	ix
List of Maps	x
Preface	xi
Introducing Fight or Flight	I
1. Imperial Zenith? The Victors' Empires after the First World War	II
2. Empires and the Challenge of Total War	44
3. Brave New World? Rebuilding Empire after the Second World War	72
4. Fiery Sunsets: Fighting Withdrawals in Asia, 1945–8	96
5. Troubled Roads: War and Revolution in Southeast Asia, 1948–57	131
6. Fighting Together, Drifting Apart: The Suez Crisis	164
7. The Return of the Red Shawls? Fighting Insurrection in Madagascar	190
8. Emergency! Paths to Confrontation in Black Africa	208
9. Keeping the Peace? 'Constructive Nationalism' in West Africa	236
10. From a Whisper to a Scream: The Politics of Letting Go	263
11. Open Wounds: Fighting the Algerian War	285
12. Endgames in Algeria and Rhodesia	316
13. New Dawn: After Fight or Flight	348

Glossary	371
Notes	375
Select Bibliography	476
Picture Acknowledgements	516
Index	517

viii

List of Illustrations

...

Ι.	The Empire Needs Men!	12
2.	Marshal Lyautey hosts the visit of the Duke and Duchess of York to the Paris Colonial Exhibition	32
3.	Palestine riots, January 1936	38
4.	Marshal Pétain as saviour	49
5.	Post-partition violence in Calcutta, January 1949	103
6.	Palestine map prepared for the Peel Commission in 1937	106
7.	British recruitment poster for the Palestine Police	115
8.	Malaya, July 1948 interrogation	135
9.	1954 Vietnamese youth rally in Hanoi	157
10.	President Nasser announces the nationalization of the Suez Canal,	
	Cairo, July 1956	166
11.	Post-war French recruitment for the Troupes Coloniales	194
12.	Mau Mau detainees, Operation Anvil	229
13.	Macmillan's Wind of Change speech as depicted by the Daily Herald,	
	4 February 1960	264
[4.	'Don't be blind!' French Army psychological warfare bureau	
	propaganda	307
15.	1957 Algiers government booklet, Mélouza et Wagram accusent	310
16.	Algerian First World War veterans parade through Algiers,	
	11 November 1957	322
17.	Victory! Algiers casbah reopens, 22 March 1962	337
18 .	Returnees to Algeria, Paris Orly Airport, July 1962	358
19.	Paris monument to Algerian War dead	361

List of Maps

1. The British Empire	xvi
2. The French Empire between the wars	xvii
3. Middle East Mandates	14
4. The British Mandate in Palestine	36
5. Indian Partition, 1947	99
6. British colonial Malaya	133
7. Territorial control in the Indochina War, 1950-4	143
8. The Suez Operation, 1956	170
9. Kenyan 'White Highlands' and main detention camps	220
10. French West Africa	238
11. Nigeria before independence	246
12. The spread of rebel violence in Algeria, 1954-6	286
13. FLN and ALN administrative districts, 1959 (adapted from SHD-DA	NT,
1H1600)	319