In his new book, Austrian historian Fritz Keller portrays a forgotten part of left-wing activism inside and outside Austria's social democracy.

While the anti-colonial movement against the French occupation of North Africa grew in Algeria, European leftists started solidarity movements with the Front de Libération Nationale (FLN), the armed Algerian liberation movement. Neither the French Social Democratic party nor the Communist party supported the armed struggle of the FLN. Therefore, it was predominantly the non-orthodox leftists who became active and helped the Algerian resistance all over Europe. Non-orthodox communists like the Egyptian Jew Henri Curiel played a crucial role for the support network of the FLN in France. The famous *porteurs de valises* (suitcase carriers) helped to carry money, munitions, and propaganda for the FLN.

France was not the only European country where leftists supported the struggle of the FLN in Algeria. In other European countries, leftists began to help the FLN in the 1950s. In Austria, this work was carried out by activists from the youth organization of the social democratic party (SPÖ), Communists, Trotskyites, and some independent individuals. The youth organization of the SPÖ was at that time far to the left of the leadership of the party. However, Fritz Keller points out that the leadership of the SPÖ helped in one sense by helping Austrians who deserted the French Légion Étrangère (Foreign Legion) to return to their native land.

Besides the impressive biographies of activists like Winfried Müller, alias Si Mustapha (1926-1993), who later became the Algerian undersecretary of state for tourism under Ahmed Ben Bella, Reimar Holzinger (b. 1923), the artist Otto Rudolf Schatz (1900-1961), the communist Eva Priester (1910-1982), or the Trotskyite and former Catholic monk Heinrich Schüller (1901-1962), the support of Austrian officials for deserters of the Légion is maybe the most interesting aspect of Keller's work. The highest ranking politicians of the SPÖ, including Bruno Kreisky, at that time minister of foreign affairs, or the diplomat Rudolf Kirchschläger, who later became president in 1974, were helping to bring back Austrian members of the Légion. The Austrian Ministry of Foreign Affairs helped to repatriate Austrian legionnaires and helped them avoid penalization.

Keller's impressive work also demonstrates the importance of the FLN solidarity movement for the new Austrian left as a precursor of the 1968 generation that later became politicized through Vietnam. The coming to power of authoritarian military leaders in Algeria after its independence and the import of ideas of the "new left" from Germany pushed the memory of this aspect of the history of the Austrian left aside. It is to Fritz Keller's credit that he has brought it back so vividly.

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