

The legacy of trauma in Boualem Sansal and Camille de Toledo

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Abstract. Traumatic representations of the Second World War and the Algerian Civil War are skilfully woven into Boualem Sansal's novel *The German's Village or The Schiller Brothers' Diary*. The Schiller brothers, like Theseus and his brother Jérôme in de Toledo's *Theseus, his new life* inherit the guilt, suffering and tragic secrets of their parents and ancestors. However, through writing, testimony and the quest for meaning in their suffering, the main characters in these two novels attempt redemption outside of transcendence, thus becoming part of what could be called a new soteriological and historical vision of French novelists at the beginning of the 21st century.

Keywords: transgenerational transmission of trauma, Second World War, Algerian Civil War, Holocaust.