

THE RESISTANCE

Hemley Boum, translated from French by Nchanji Njamnsi

1. The novel's original French-language title is *Les Maquisards*, a reference to 1940s French and Belgian working-class men who evaded conscription in the mountains and forests and led an armed resistance against the Nazis. A decade later, the guerilla movement in Cameroon adopted the same name. What is the significance of claiming this name for the Cameroonian resistance movement and for the novel?

2. The prologue is one of the latest scenes in the novel's 1958 timeline, yet it is placed at the beginning. What questions and themes does the prologue introduce, and how does the novel answer them? How does *The Resistance's* organization into time periods impact the story it tells?

3. What is the significance of the Bassa-land forest in *The Resistance*?

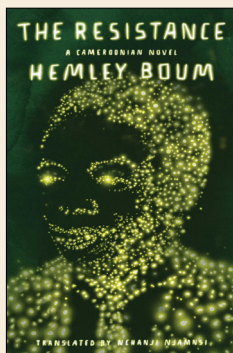
3. What is Ruben Um Nyobè (Mpodol)'s argument for nonviolence, and what tensions does it create in the resistance movement? What sacrifices do Mpodol and others make in support of Cameroonian liberation?

4. What specific perspectives and approaches to colonial violence and anticolonial resistance do the novel's female characters, including Esta, Likak, and Sister Marie-Bernard, provide?

5. How does the novel depict the Bassa people's indigenous cosmology and spiritual and cultural practices? How do African-based forms of authority and power interact with European ones in the novel?

7. Alongside political struggle, *The Resistance* is also a story of star-crossed love. What role does romance play in the novel?

8. In her reference note, Hemley Boum writes that the *The Resistance's* fictional story is based in historical research about Cameroon's independence period. How does the novel interact with and expand upon its historical inspiration?



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