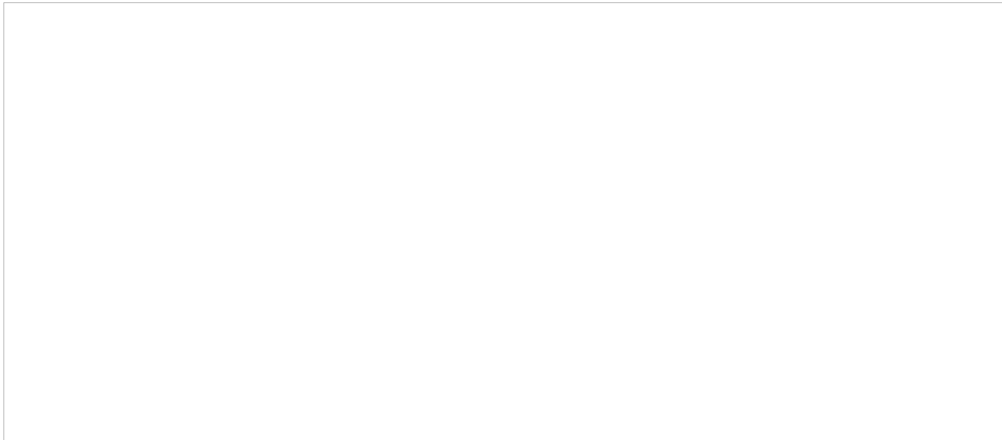


newsKutub tackles the issue of children during wars through the work of Hubert Haddad

30 Mar 2016



Hubert Haddad (Tunisia, 1947)

Haddad, of Arab and Jewish origins, is a French writer, poet, novelist, art historian and essayist. His father was a Jewish-Berber Tunisian and his mother was Algerian. He lived his childhood in Paris, a city to which his parents immigrated when he was 4 years old. After finishing his studies in literature, he published his first selection of poems when he was 20 years old. Later on, he established the literary magazines *Le Point d'être* and *Le Horla*. This was followed by approximately 20 novels and essays, although his beginnings were with poetry (*Le Charnier déductif*, 1968). He was member of the groups *Quando* and *Nouvelle Fiction*.

- **Hubert Haddad gained the renowned Renaudot Prize 2009 for his novel *Palestine*, as well as the Five Continents of the Francophonie Award 2008 in acknowledgement of his long career and his talent in engaging us in his intellectual, human and literary commitment.**



[1]

Regarding *Opium Poppy*

«Love never cries as does blood». Hubert Haddad's novel is particularly based on this fact, a tragic story, yet, unfortunately, realistic and forceful. In the heart of a torn Afghanistan, Alam, a young 12 year old boy, is found unconscious after a burst of gunfire. Since then, he begins an obsessive descent into hell. Alam has lost everything during war, including his first name which he had borrowed from his brother, and starts an escape towards a world which gradually robs him of his childhood. Suffering from the feeling of being hunted like an animal, with no family nor a place to go, he reaches the suburbs of a big European city. Consequently, and due to an extremely early contact with war and unscrupulous adults, Alam loses his innocence and converts into a terrible weapon.

Hubert Haddad manages with his novel to make us reflect on children's 'luck' during wars; he makes us reflect on how Europe receives, or better say does not receive, those children.

The structure of the novel mingles two stories. The first one deals with Alam's memories before the bombing of his neighborhood, which converts him into a wandering child and later into a child soldier. The second one tackles the memories of his journey to survive in that society in which he is allowed only to fight as an adult. In France, he would get involved within marginalized groups. Finally, he is faced with endless interrogations with psychologists, educators and full-fledged handlers who would ask him to track his life before, during and after

war.

Alam's story is based on real events. One night, Haddad met the boy under a bridge in Paris. However, Allam is not just that 12 year old boy, but he represents each and every one of those lost children victims of wars. Hence, *Opium Poppy* is a chilling work. Haddad transmits the horrors of war, the dramatic situation in which approximately 300.000 children in the world find themselves through a poetic style of a beauty scarcely found within the novel.



[2]

EL CLUB DE LECTURA KUTUB

Durante ocho meses, de octubre a mayo, se podrá disfrutar en esta cuarta edición del Club de nuevos autores y títulos.

"Kutub" , que cuenta con la colaboración de la Fundación Tres Culturas del Mediterráneo, nació en el año 2012 con el propósito de trabajar en el fomento de la lectura como herramienta de conocimiento y educación intercultural, a través de la difusión de las obras de autores del Mediterráneo.

El Club pretende ser un lugar de encuentro para el disfrute de la lectura, abierto a quienes deseen compartir ideas, reflexiones y opiniones que susciten la lectura de obras de autores del Mediterráneo.

El Club de lectura de la Fundación Euroárabe realiza cada mes una reunión en la que se aborda el debate sobre la obra que se ha trabajado en ese tiempo. Los libros se ponen a disposición de los miembros del Club en régimen de préstamo. Se determina una fecha de entrega y otra de devolución del libro elegido para ese mes.

Todas las reuniones del Club se realizan el último miércoles del mes, en la sede de la Fundación Euroárabe (calle San Jerónimo, 27 de Granada), a las 18,30h.

Para esta edición se cuenta con unas interesantes propuestas:

- **TIEMPO DE ERRORES** (Mohammed Chukri)
- **EL ÚLTIMO PATRIARCA** (Najat El Hashmi)
- **ZIMMA** (Ismael Diadé)
- **LA PRIMAVERA ÁRABE** (Tahar Ben Jelloun)
- **DÉJALO, YA VOLVEREMOS** (Esther Bendahan)

- **OPIUM POPPEY** (Hubert Haddad)
- **MUHJABABES** (Allegra Straton)
- **SERES DE FICCIÓN** (Azzeddine Tazi)

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