







1954-1973. The Glory of Our Fathers (eps. 3)

Director(s): Yann COQUART

Writer(s): Françoise DAVISSE, Carl ADERHOLD

They were the fathers who catapulted France into modern times thanks to the "trente glorieuses", the thirty-year economic boom after 1945. These newcomers made it possible for those who'd arrived before them to climb the social ladder a little.
Unlike previous immigration cycles (1880 or 1920), that saw France look outside its borders for the necessary workforce to build or rebuild the country, this wave of immigration was impacted by decolonization and especially, the Algerian war of independence. Algerian workers would become the enemies of the interior who suffered for a long time the resentment from those with a nostalgic attachment to the idea of racial superiority.
Still, in their wake, hundreds of thousands of migrant workers and their families would come from Portugal, Spain or Italy and gradually integrate "discreetly", without being targeted by political speeches or the police forces.
Their children and grandchildren recall this particular page of French history...from the Algerian war to social advancement through education and hard work; from May '68 to anti-racism, from rock n roll to paid holidays.
For them, the idea of "returning home" was a visit to their fathers' country, but home was where this new generation had built their lives....
Click here to watch the beginning of eps. 3 (in French)!
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