

Why is Paris Burning? A Little History of France.

As the children of French immigrants burn cars and buildings, people want to know why they are doing it. Some say they are gang members, some say they are just angry teenagers. But that is not the truth.

During World War II (1939-1945), many thousands of French men were killed. Also, the government of France spent millions of dollars on the war, and when the war was over, many French companies had big problems. One big problem was that the companies didn't have enough people to work, so they needed to hire people fast. During the 1950's and 1960's, they decided to hire thousands of people from North Africa because the companies could pay them less money and make them work harder. Many of these people could not read and write, so it was difficult for them to get better jobs.

The French government liked having the immigrants work, but didn't let them have an opportunity to a good education. Many of the French people also didn't like the immigrants because they had black skin and were Muslims.

Now, the immigrants have children who were born in France and are French citizens. The families are poor, and the children can't get good jobs or a good education. They are angry at the government for not helping them, and angry at the other French people for discriminating against them. This is why they are burning cars and buildings.

True/False

1. The young people burning cars are French citizens. T F
2. Many French people were killed in World War II. T F
3. The immigrants in France are from Mexico. T F
4. The French government let the immigrants have a good education. T F
5. Many of the immigrants have white skin. T F
6. Many of the immigrants could read and write. T F
6. Many French people don't like the immigrants. T F
7. The immigrant families have a lot of money. T F
8. The young people burning cars are bad people. T F

Questions

1. What was one big problem for the French companies?

2. Why do many French people not like the immigrants?

3. Do people in the U.S. not like immigrants because they have brown or black skin? If yes, what do they do to immigrants?