

RESEARCH ARTICLE	YouTube and Collective Memory: A Study in the Impact of				
MITTOLL	Historical Videos on the Formation of National Identity				
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Abstract

The public sphere is witnessing extensive discussions about collective memory and its profound impact on national identity. There is a noticeable increase in interest in preserving cultural and tangible heritage, as well as a re-evaluation of national history through curricula, media tools, and the commemoration of historical events. In this context, digital media plays a pivotal role in shaping public opinion, especially through platforms like YouTube, which allows the public direct and diverse interaction with national history and the formation of collective identity.

This study highlights the role of the "Mohammed DOUMIR" YouTube channel in promoting collective memory and Algerian national identity, employing an analytical method aided by computational approaches and participant observation. The channel has demonstrated its ability to attract a large number of followers, reflecting its significant influence in guiding historical awareness and enshrining national values through the presentation of reliable and engaging historical content. The channel addresses historical issues and influential Algerian figures, contributing to the construction of a shared national narrative that fosters a sense of belonging to the homeland.

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Introduction

Public discourse is witnessing extensive discussions on issues of collective memory and its impact on national identity. The ongoing debates surrounding history curricula, the preservation of tangible and intangible heritage, the re-evaluation of historical figures, and even methods of commemorating historical events are not coincidental. They all revolve around memory, a vital element that plays a pivotal role in the cohesion of the social fabric and the shaping of individuals' cultural and civic identity.

In light of rapid technological advancements, digital media has become critically important in solidifying and preserving collective memory. Social media platforms and other digital media play a significant role in disseminating historical narratives and shaping public opinion regarding historical events and symbols. Moreover, these platforms provide spaces for interaction and dialogue on memory-related issues, which deepens understanding and fosters shared perspectives.



Undoubtedly, digital media, now a global phenomenon, has brought about a radical transformation in the structure of collective memory and national identity. This is due to its characteristics, methods, display tools, processing technology, and data, all distinguished by speed and accuracy. It has also revolutionized the role of the media audience, transforming them from mere recipients into both creators and recipients simultaneously, and from those influenced to active agents capable of influencing opinions and effecting change, all without requiring significant financial resources or complex technologies.

The importance of memory transcends being a mere collection of individual recollections, evolving into an influential force in shaping society's present and future. It serves as a compass guiding individuals to understand themselves and their relationships with others, contributing to the building of social bonds and strengthening national belonging.

Recently, the study of collective memory has garnered increasing attention from various academic disciplines, including political science, media studies, cultural studies, sociology, history, and psychology. Researchers in these fields seek to understand the mechanisms of memory, how it is formed and develops, and its role in shaping national identities.

Preserving collective memory and preventing its distortion is a significant challenge faced by many societies. History, by its nature, is subject to interpretation from different angles, which opens the door to rewriting the past for political or ideological purposes. Therefore, developing effective tools and methods to preserve collective memory and educating younger generations about its importance is an urgent necessity to ensure the building of strong and cohesive societies.

Based on this, we pose the problematic question: What role does the historical video content published on YouTube by Mohammed DOUMIR play in solidifying collective memory and forming national identity? To address this issue, we have divided our study into two main axes:

Axis I: Collective Memory and Identity: A Dialectical Relationship

Axis II: The Role of YouTube in Preserving Collective Memory and National Identity: An Analysis of Mohammed DOUMIR's Channel

I: Collective Memory and Identity: A Dialectical Relationship

At the individual level, memory constitutes a fundamental pillar in the construction of personality and self-awareness. It is not merely a repository of the past but also a determinant of an individual's capacity to comprehend and interact with the present. The loss of memory signifies an irreplaceable forfeiture of one's identity and perceived existence (1). On a broader scale, the concept of "memory" manifests across multiple levels, most notably in the distinction between individual memory, characterized by its psychological and personal nature, and collective memory, which transcends individual boundaries to encompass the history and shared culture of a nation (2).

The concept of collective memory has evolved with the advancement of human sciences, revealing profound social, political, and cultural dimensions. In the mid-20th century, the French sociologist Maurice Halbwachs emerged as a foundational figure in this field. In his seminal work, *The Collective Memory*, Halbwachs emphasized the intricate connection between memory and society, asserting that the individual act of remembering cannot be detached from the social framework within which an individual lives (3). Collective memory is defined as how groups recall their shared history. It transcends a mere aggregation of individual memories to form a conscious construct that includes mechanisms for recalling the past, patterns of its storage, and the content of lived or transmitted experiences across generations. This memory is shaped and influenced by social, historical, and political factors, serving as a living reservoir for the culture and history of peoples. It provides individuals and groups with the values, norms, and behaviors that contribute to their continuity and social cohesion (4).

In a related context, collective memory plays a pivotal role in solidifying national identity. This central concept expresses an individual's or group's sense of self and possession of distinctive characteristics that differentiate them from others (5). Berger, P., and Luckmann, T. emphasized that identity is an essential component of subjective reality, developing in a continuous dialectical interaction with society (6). Identity is formed through complex social processes, and once crystallized, it continues to form, modify, and even reconfigure through various social interactions (7). In the context of collective identity, sociologist Claude Dubar stresses the importance of shared



values and norms among group members, how their relationship with the past and its traditions is formulated, and the capacity for collective mobilization to achieve common goals and express mutual solidarity (8). These elements collectively contribute to the formation of a "we" consciousness, often rooted in shared language, culture, history, national or ethnic origin, and homeland.

The significance of collective memory in establishing national identity is evident in its function as the historical record of a nation, providing individuals with the energy and meaning necessary for continuity and social cohesion. Through the evocation of shared historical experiences, whether moments of pride and triumph or times of challenge and difficulty, the sense of belonging and unity among community members is reinforced. This process solidifies the values and ideals that define national identity and distinguish it from other identities. Within this framework, collective initiatives aimed at preserving memory and commemorating historical events gain particular importance in fostering a shared understanding of the past. Conversely, Alan Baddeley's analysis highlights a crucial point regarding the selective use of memory to evade undesirable truths (9), underscoring the necessity of a critical and conscious approach to the processes of shaping collective memory.

In conclusion, research into the dynamics of collective memory raises vital questions about the mechanisms of its formation, its profound impact on the identity of individuals and groups, and the role that political authorities may play in guiding this process to serve their objectives and promote specific concepts of national identity. Authorities frequently endeavor to leverage collective memory to advance their political agenda and solidify the foundations of the national identity they espouse. Therefore, comprehending the complex relationship between collective memory and national identity is paramount to understanding the evolution of societies and their internal dynamics. This analysis demonstrates that collective memory and national identity are intertwined concepts, each profoundly influencing the other. Collective memory forms the historical and cultural basis of national identity, while national identity contributes to guiding the process of remembering and interpreting the past. Understanding this dialectical relationship is essential for comprehending the dynamics and development of societies.

II: The Role of YouTube in Preserving Collective Memory and National Identity: An Analysis of Mohammed DOUMIR's Channel

Given the notable surge in the use of digital media and applications, alongside their growing user base and increasing influence on shaping awareness and attitudes, and in light of the expanding interest in disseminating and commemorating the glorious Algerian Revolution on these digital platforms by historians, specialized researchers, and general users enriching digital content, our analysis will highlight the contribution of the YouTube platform. This platform holds particular significance due to its visual nature and its capacity to attract millions of users across various demographics, making it a vital space for the circulation and production of content related to collective memory and national identity. This trend of utilizing these digital tools to serve and preserve collective memory through the contributions of historians, researchers, and users is relatively recent, leveraging diverse mediums, formats, and expressive styles (rare photos, audio and visual recordings, live confessions and testimonies, documented historical texts, in-depth opinions and analyses, and artworks inspired by the revolution).

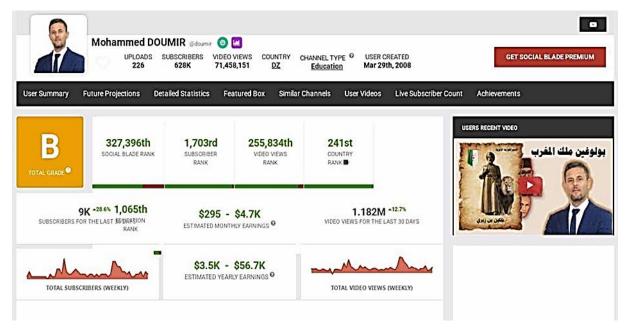
In this context, our analysis of **Mohammed DOUMIR's YouTube channel** aims to understand how it contributes to the revival of collective memory and the promotion of a sense of belonging and national unity. This will involve examining several key aspects:

AnalyticalStudy of Mohammed DOUMIR'sChannel:

Dr. Mohammed Doumir: An Algerian national, Dr. Mohammed Doumir is recognized as one of the most prominent Arab influencers in science and technology. He was a winner of the "Stars of Science" title and was nominated by the United Nations as one of the best influencers in the field of knowledge. He joined YouTube on March 29, 2008, and has successfully attracted over 625,000 subscribers. In a relatively short period, he has produced 225 video clips, reflecting his productivity and commitment to delivering new and innovative content. These videos have garnered over 71 million views. These substantial figures underscore his significant impact on attracting and retaining audiences, which confirms the quality and effectiveness of his content.

1. Analysis of Doumir's Channel Page Image in the Context of YouTube, Collective Memory, and National Identity.





The Mohammed Doumir YouTube channel represents a platform with significant potential for shaping collective memory and fostering national identity, particularly within the Algerian context. An analysis of the available data from the provided image reveals the channel's focus on educational content, positioning it as an effective tool for knowledge dissemination and public enlightenment on historical and national issues. This type of educational content plays a pivotal role in solidifying collective memory and guiding public opinion, contributing to a deeper understanding of shared national history and reinforcing adherence to Algerian national identity. When individuals watch educational videos discussing historical events or national figures, they not only acquire knowledge but also reconstruct their perceptions of their history and identity.

Given its Algerian origin, the channel gains importance through the content it offers, whether historical, cultural, or social. This content contributes to building a shared national narrative and strengthening Algerian identity. By reflecting Algeria's rich and diverse history and culture, this content plays a crucial role in embedding collective memory among Algerians and enhancing their sense of belonging to their homeland and identity. Furthermore, the channel's creation date (March 2008) reflects a long trajectory of production and engagement, thereby augmenting its influence and weight within the media and social landscape.

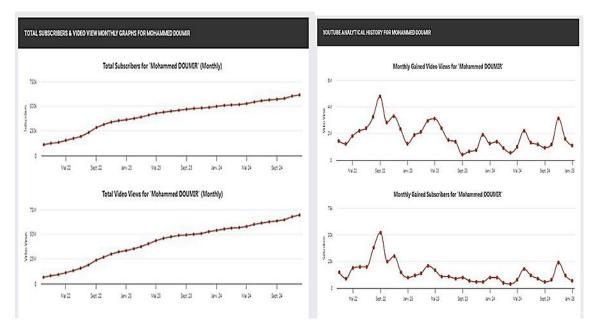
The substantial subscriber count of 628,000 indicates that the channel commands a broad and engaged audience base. This implies that the content provided by the channel fulfills a need for a large segment of the public, making it influential in shaping and directing public opinion.

The impressive number of views, totaling 71,458,151, underscores the extensive reach and impact of the channel's content. Each view represents an opportunity to establish or reinforce a particular idea or opinion among viewers, contributing to the construction of a shared narrative on historical topics.

Therefore, it can be concluded that Mohammed Doumir's YouTube channel effectively contributes to the formation of collective memory and the enhancement of national identity. Through its educational content, which focuses on history and national themes, the channel educates the public and deepens their awareness of their shared history, thereby strengthening their affiliation with their national identity. Crucially, the channel's Algerian identity further elevates the significance of its role in constructing Algerian national identity, as its content contributes to forging a shared national narrative and fostering a sense of belonging to Algeria.

2- Growth Trends of Mohammed DOUMIR's YouTube Channel: Implications for Collective Memory and National Identity



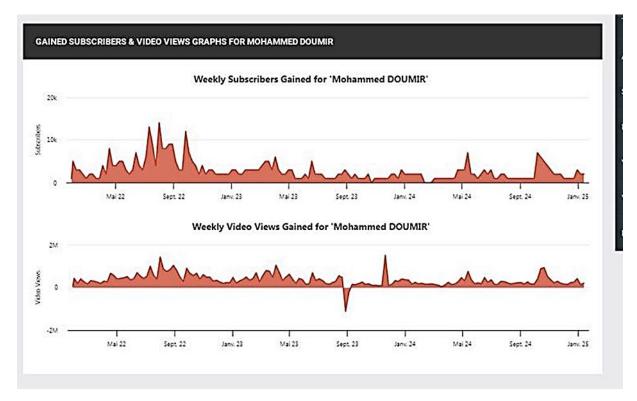


The provided data illustrates the remarkable growth in both subscribers and views for the "Mohammed DOUMIR" YouTube channel over three years. A gradual increase in subscribers is evident, rising from approximately 25,000 in May 2022 to around 75,000 by January 2025. This surge reflects the channel's growing popularity and expanding audience. Similarly, a significant rise in viewership is observed, with views climbing from approximately 2 million in May 2022 to about 6 million by January 2025, indicating a heightened public interest in the channel's content.

This increased audience engagement can be understood within the context of the study's subject. The historical content presented by the channel, such as videos pertaining to historical events or national figures, has likely attracted an audience keen on history and collective memory. This content plays a crucial role in fostering awareness of national history and shaping national identity among viewers. The historical videos made available through the YouTube platform contribute to solidifying the collective memory of individuals and communities by disseminating and circulating historical content. This enables individuals to learn about and engage with their national history, thereby strengthening their affiliation with their national identity. Furthermore, YouTube is playing an increasingly vital role in shaping historical and national consciousness among individuals, especially youth. Such platforms can offer engaging and readily accessible historical content, encouraging young people to explore and interact with their national history.

3- Analyzing the Impact of Mohammed DOUMIR's YouTube Channel on Collective Memory and National Identity





A graphical analysis of the "Mohammed DOUMIR" YouTube channel over a defined period reveals two prominent developments: a notable increase in the subscriber base, which grew from approximately 500,000 to nearly 630,000, and a similar rise in viewership, escalating from around 50 million to 70 million views. This sustained growth can be attributed to the continuous and targeted presentation of historical content offered by the channel. It is plausible that this type of content, which addresses national historical events and figures, serves as a significant draw for broad segments of the audience interested in collective memory. It also contributes considerably to fostering awareness of national history and shaping national identity among viewers.

This growth indirectly reflects YouTube's expanding role as an effective tool for disseminating and circulating historical content. This, in turn, contributes to the formation of collective memory for individuals and communities, enabling them to engage with their national history and strengthen their affiliation with their national identity. It is worth noting that YouTube, by providing engaging and easily accessible historical content, has become a crucial resource in shaping historical and national consciousness, especially among young people, who find on this platform an unconventional opportunity to explore and interact with their history.

Based on these observations, it can be concluded that the remarkable growth in the metrics of the **"Mohammed DOUMIR"** channel directly reflects the impact of historical content in attracting an audience interested in collective memory and national identity. This highlights YouTube's effective role in shaping historical and national consciousness in contemporary contexts.

4- Detailed Performance Analysis of Mohammed DOUMIR's YouTube Channel: Implications for Collective Memory



DATE		SUBSCRIBERS		VIDEO VIEWS		ESTIMATED EARNINGS	
024-12-28	Sat		619K		+40,839	70,317,008	\$10 - \$163
024-12-29	Sun	-	619K		+35,831	70,352,839	\$9 - \$143
24-12-30	Mon	-	619K		+28,785	70,381,624	\$7 - \$115
24-12-31	Tue	+1K	620K		+49,983	70,431,607	\$12 - \$200
25-01-01	Wed	-	620K		-	70,431,607	\$0 - \$0
25-01-02	Thu	+1K	621K		+212,197	70,643,804	\$53 - \$849
25-01-03	Fri		621K		+67,923	70,711,727	\$17 - \$272
25-01-04	Sat	+1K	622K		+48,853	70,760,580	\$12 - \$195
25-01-05	Sun	-	622K		+31,189	70,791,769	\$8 - \$125
25-01-06	Mon		622K		-	70,791,769	\$0 - \$0
25-01-07	Tue	-	622K		+27,823	70,819,592	\$7 - \$111
25-01-08	Wed		622K		•20,889	70,840,481	\$5 - \$84
25-01-09	Thu	-	622K		+22,126	70,862,607	\$6 - \$89
25-01-10	Fri	+1K	623K		+38,739	70,901,346	\$10 - \$155
25-01-11	Sat		623K			70,901,346	\$0 - \$0
25-01-12	Sun	+1K	624K		+22,168	70,923,514	\$6 - \$89
25-01-13	Mon		624K		+27,585	70,951,099	\$7 - \$110
25-01-14	Tue		624K		+22,311	70,973,410	\$6 - \$89
25-01-15	Wed	+1K	625K		+57,912	71,031,322	\$14 - \$232
25-01-16	Thu		625K			71,031,322	\$0 - \$0
25-01-17	Fri		625K		+40,674	71,071,996	\$10 - \$163
25-01-18	Sat	+1K	626K		+39,096	71,111,092	\$10 - \$156
25-01-19	Sun		626K		+38,443	71,149,535	\$10 - \$154
25-01-20	Mon	+1K	627K		+30,467	71,180,002	\$8 - \$122
25-01-21	Tue	-	627K		+63,184	71,243,186	\$16 - \$253
25-01-22	Wed		627K		9	71,243,186	\$0 - \$0
25-01-23	Thu	-	627K		+65,308	71,308,494	\$16 - \$261
25-01-24	Fri	+1K	628K		+35,445	71,343,939	\$9 - \$142
25-01-25	Sat		628K		+114,212	71,458,151	\$29 - \$457
25-01-26	Sun		628K	OLIVE		71,458,151	\$0 - \$0
Daily Averages <		+300			+40,526		\$10 - \$162 0
Weekly Averages <		+2.1K			+283,682		\$71 - \$1.1K [©]
Last 30 Days <		+9K		+1,215,755		\$304 - \$4.9K [®]	

This analytical report provides a detailed overview of the performance metrics for the "Mohammed DOUMIR" YouTube channel, encompassing subscriber counts, viewership, and estimated earnings over a specified period.

1- Daily Data Analysis



Daily data indicates a modest increase in subscriber numbers, with notable spikes on specific days. Viewership, however, exhibits significant fluctuations, with figures ranging from days of high engagement to days of lower activity. Estimated daily earnings are directly proportional to viewership, showing an increase on high-viewership days and a decrease on low-viewership days.

2- Aggregate Data

The average daily increase in subscribers is estimated at +300, while the average daily increase in views stands at +40,526. Average daily earnings typically range between \$10 and \$162. Every week, the subscriber growth is estimated at +2.1 thousand, and the average weekly view increase is +283,682. Monthly data further indicates an increase of +9 thousand subscribers and +1.2 million views over 30 days.

3- Annual Projections

Based on the available data, annual projections suggest an increase of 108 thousand subscribers and 14.5 million views, with annual earnings ranging from \$3.6 thousand to \$58.4 thousand.

Interpretation and Implications

The performance data for the "Mohammed DOUMIR" YouTube channel demonstrates a consistent growth in its subscriber base and viewership, accompanied by noticeable fluctuations in daily earnings. This intricate interplay reflects a complex relationship between historical content and collective memory. The observed growth in engagement is attributed to the impact of the historical videos presented by the channel, which likely address national events and figures, thereby attracting a broad audience interested in history and collective memory. These videos play an active role in enhancing awareness of national history and shaping national identity among viewers, leveraging YouTube as a vital platform for the dissemination and circulation of such content, and consequently contributing to the formation of individuals' and communities' collective memory.

While YouTube plays an increasingly crucial role in shaping historical and national consciousness, especially among young audiences through the provision of engaging and easily accessible historical content, the fluctuation in earnings may be due to various factors. These could include the nature of historical content, which may not consistently attract significant advertiser interest, or changes in YouTube's algorithms that affect video visibility and discoverability. The annual projections indicate the potential for substantial future growth, noting that these forecasts are based on current data and are subject to change due to multiple dynamic factors.

III- Study Findings:

The "Mohammed DOUMIR" YouTube channel stands out as a distinguished platform primarily dedicated to delivering historical and cultural content, specifically aimed at fostering national awareness and constructing national identity. The channel features video segments that delve into historical figures, pivotal events in Algerian history, and social and cultural issues that contribute to the formation of Algerians' collective memory. This focus on national history aligns with the contemporary Algerian context, where the state endeavors to bolster national identity in the face of challenges posed by globalization and socio-cultural shifts.

The channel's content predominantly centers on educating viewers about Algerian history, particularly concerning the Algerian Revolution and the prominent figures who contributed to the establishment of the modern state. Topics vary from detailed historical analyses and personal testimonies to reports and research that highlight crucial junctures in Algerian history. A distinguishing feature of the channel is its scientific and methodical approach to historical subjects, presenting information in a well-researched and sequential manner. This method simplifies complex topics, making them accessible to a wide audience.

Through significant engagement with followers in the comments section, it is evident that the channel has successfully cultivated a community interested in history and collective memory, reflecting its success in attracting an interactive audience. This interaction extends beyond mere comments, encompassing live discussions and participation on the topics presented, which further reinforces a shared national identity.

As previously noted, the graphical analysis indicates a remarkable growth in both subscriber count and viewership over a specified period, demonstrating the channel's success in attracting new audiences and sustaining the engagement of existing ones. The increase in viewership, moreover, reflects a growing interest in the historical



content provided, likely resulting from the channel's effective strategies in reaching its target audience through educational videos, coupled with Mohammed Doumir's compelling storytelling.

The success of the "Mohammed DOUMIR" channel underscores YouTube's increasing role in disseminating historical and cultural content more broadly. Thanks to its advanced recommendation algorithms and user-friendly interface, YouTube contributes to the wider reach of such channels, enhancing their impact on collective consciousness and the formation of national identity. In the Algerian context, YouTube provides audiences with access to historical information that might have been missing or limited in traditional media, such as books or television programs.

One of the most notable features of the "Mohammed DOUMIR" channel is its ability to present historical content that is both engaging and accessible. Despite the sometimes complex nature of the historical subjects covered, the channel employs simplifying techniques such as illustrations, audio, and visual documentation, which help make the content more relatable and understandable for viewers, whether young or old. Furthermore, the direct narrative style used to present topics facilitates viewers' comprehension of complex historical contexts without requiring advanced historical background.

Through its content, the "Mohammed DOUMIR" channel contributes to strengthening Algerian national identity, which is of paramount importance in contemporary Algeria. With the increasing significance of national memory and cultural identity in fostering national unity, the channel provides a sequential narrative of major events in Algeria's history. This contributes to both an official and popular understanding of Algerian history. The channel does not merely present historical content; it also seeks to connect this content with the audience's identity by invoking national symbols and historical figures that resonate deeply and reinforce a sense of national belonging.

Conclusion:

This study highlights a fundamental transformation in the concept of collective memory, a cornerstone in shaping individual and collective identity. This shift is primarily driven by the rapid evolution of digital media, particularly video platforms like YouTube. These platforms are gaining increasing importance amidst the growing challenges to national identity in a world characterized by accelerating change and globalization. Mohammed DOUMIR's channel serves as an effective model in this context, actively contributing to the dissemination and deepening of collective memory through its historical and educational content. This content goes beyond mere narration of events; it actively participates in the construction and formation of Algerian national identity.

The empirical and performance analysis of Mohammed DOUMIR's channel confirms its pivotal role in preserving national history and fostering a collective awareness of national memory, which in turn strengthens national unity in Algeria. With the continuous increase in subscribers and viewership, the channel emerges as a powerful and effective tool for enhancing the collective understanding of national history, thereby reinforcing a sense of belonging and social solidarity among community members.

Underlining the significance of modern approaches to bolstering collective memory and highlighting the pivotal role of digital media in solidifying and establishing national identity in the contemporary landscape, we propose the following recommendations:

- We recommend developing specialized educational programs to equip young people with the skills to
 critically engage with historical content disseminated across digital platforms. This will enhance their
 ability to discern between credible and unreliable information and train them to responsibly leverage
 digital media for the advancement of national identity.
- 2. Involving educational institutions in the creation of online historical digital content, through initiatives such as educational videos or interactive projects, will foster intergenerational dialogue. This approach will enable the public to directly interact with their nation's history.
- 3. Encouraging diversity in historical narratives published on digital platforms is crucial. This will contribute to presenting a more comprehensive and accurate portrayal of the national past, thereby broadening the shared understanding of national identity.
- 4. We advocate for supporting community initiatives focused on documenting collective memory through digital platforms. This includes organizing workshops and seminars on effective methods for documenting



- collective memory. Such endeavors can enrich the transmission of national memory and provide new generations with innovative ways to engage with their history.
- 5. Strategies should be formulated to preserve collective memory and promote national identity on a broad scale. This necessitates continuous studies and research to comprehend the intricate relationship between digital media and collective memory, as well as the impact of digital platforms on the formation of national identity.
- 6. Encouraging artists and creators to utilize digital media for producing creative content—such as documentaries or artistic works that illuminate national history—can play a significant role in rehabilitating collective memory and fostering national spirit.

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