



Palestine/ Israel Resource Collection

This collection of resources was put together by UW community members to encourage learning about Israel/Palestine. Do you want to know what Zionism means to Israeli Jews? What life is like for Palestinians in Gaza? The stories of people who came together in the struggle for peace?

These contents were selected both to give access to core texts and sources, as well as to highlight often-unheard voices and perspectives.

Violence between Israelis and Palestinians returned to international awareness in 2023, but its history stretches back 76 years and beyond. This collection brings together resources for learning about the peoples, the region, its history, and the why and how of conflict. It is an acknowledgment in the years to come, knowledge of this conflict will continue to be vitally necessary and important.

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Novels

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How to Read Critically

Reality Bites: Rhetoric and the Circulation of Truth Claims in U.S. Political Culture by Dana Cloud

Fake news, alternative facts, post truth-terms all too familiar to anyone in U.S. political culture and concepts at the core of Dana L. Cloud's new book, *Reality Bites*, which explores truth claims in contemporary political rhetoric in the face of widespread skepticism regarding the utility, ethics, and viability of an empirical standard for political truths. Cloud observes how appeals to truth often assume-mistakenly-that it is a matter of simple representation of facts. However, since neither fact-checking nor "truthiness" can respond meaningfully to this problem, she argues for a rhetorical realism-the idea that communicators can bring knowledge from particular perspectives and experiences into the domain of common sense. Through a series of case studies-including the PolitiFact fact-checking project, the Planned Parenthood "selling baby parts" scandal, the Chelsea Manning and Edward Snowden cases, Neil deGrasse Tyson's *Cosmos*, the rhetoric of Thomas Paine and the American Revolution, and the Black Lives Matter movement-Cloud advocates for the usefulness of narrative, myth, embodiment, affect, and spectacle in creating accountability in contemporary U.S. political rhetoric. If dominant reality "bites"-in being oppressive and exploitative-it is time, Cloud argues, for those in the reality-based community to "bite back." - from the publisher

Novels and Short Stories

I Saw Ramallah by Murid Barghouti

“Part memoir, part essay, and part prose poem, *I Saw Ramallah* is a poignant account of Barghouti's first return trip to Palestine after 30 years of enforced absence, a result of the Israeli takeover of the West Bank in 1967. Barghouti's account of his life outside of Palestine is interspersed with his impressions of the changes that have taken place in Ramallah and Deir Ghassanah, the neighbouring village where he spent his early childhood, creating a narrative that moves self-consciously between past and present in the pursuit of an accurate picture of the hometown which the author is no longer legally allowed to call home.” - Anna Bernard, ‘Who would dare to make it into an abstraction’: Mourid Barghouti’s *I Saw Ramallah*

The Land of Sad Oranges by Ghassan Kanafani, in Men in the Sun and Other Palestinian Stories

Kanafani's short story presents one episode among many of Palestinian flight from besieged cities and villages during the Nakba. Already displaced once from Yaffa to Akka, a family shatters when the Haganah's attack on the city forces them to flee a second time, leaving the orange groves of home behind forever.

Return to Haifa by Ghassan Kanafani

"In Returning to Haifa, Kanafani writes the story of a Palestinian couple returning there after the setback of June 1967 (Naksah) for a one-day visit. They are in search of their son whom they lost during the chaos of the defeat of 1948 (Nakbah) when civilians were forced out of the city under the terror of the Haganah to other shores. As the protagonists Said and Safiyya return to Haifa, they find that, though the city still exists geographically, it has been remapped, and thus its traces of memory have been obliterated. Jewish people from around the world have migrated to Palestine and become dwellers in the evacuated homes of Palestinians. The breaking point in this encounter for Said and Safiyya is meeting their lost son Khaldun after all these years, only to find out that he has been raised by the very family that had taken their dwelling and is serving as a soldier in the Israeli Army." - Sumaya Alhaj Mohammad and Dania Meryan, "Ghassan Kanafani's Returning to Haifa: tracing memory beyond the rubble

Gaza Writes Back, edited by Refaat Alareer

"Gaza Writes Back: Short Stories from Young Writers in Gaza, Palestine, edited by Refaat Alareer is a compelling collection of short stories from fifteen young writers in Gaza, members of a generation that has suffered immensely under Israel's siege and blockade. Their experiences, especially during and following Israel's 2008-2009 offensive known as "Operation Cast Lead", have fundamentally impacted their lives and their writing. Indeed, many of these writers saw the war as a catalyst for their writing, as they sought an outlet and a voice in its aftermath. They view the book as a means of preserving Palestinian memories and presenting their own narratives to the world without filters. Their words take us into the homes and hearts of moms, dads, students, children, and elders striving to live lives of dignity, compassion, and meaning in one of the world's most embattled communities." - Just World Books

***The Woman from Tantoura* by Radwa Ashour**

“Ruqayya was only thirteen when the Nakba came to her village in Palestine in 1948. The massacre in Tantoura drove her from her home and from everything she had ever known. She had not left her village before, but she would never return. Now an old woman, Ruqayya looks back on a long life in exile, one that has taken her to Syria, Lebanon, the Gulf, and given her children and grandchildren. Through her depth of experience and her indomitable spirit, we live her love of her land, her family, and her people, and we feel the repeated pain of loss and of diaspora” - American University in Cairo Press

***Gaza Weddings* by Ibrahim Nasr Allah**

“Twin sisters Randa and Lamis live in the besieged Gaza Strip. Inseparable to the point that even their mother cannot tell them apart, they grow up surrounded by the random carnage that characterizes life under occupation.

Randa, who wants to be a journalist, writes to record the devastation around her, taking pictures of martyred children. Meanwhile, their beloved neighbor Amna quietly converses with all those she has lost, as she plans the wedding of Lamis and her son Saleh.

With their menfolk almost entirely absent, it is the women who take center stage in this poignant novel of resilience, determination, and living against the odds.” - AUC Press

***Salt Houses* by Hala Alyan**

“*Salt Houses* is a piercingly elegant novel that registers Palestine with deep resonance for what it is: a once beloved home, known, lost, and re-imagined into life. A place where families decide between security and happiness, religion and heritage, where war is constant, yet peace is found. In the exquisite prose of a poet, Hala Alyan shows how we carry our origins in our hearts wherever we may roam, and how that history is calibrated by the places we choose to put down roots. This is a book with the power to both break and mend your heart.” - Ru Freeman, author of *On Sal Mal Lane*

***Dancing Arabs* by Sayed Kashua**

Nearly 20% of Israel’s population is composed of Palestinians whose families remained in Israel after the 1948 Nakba. While they were incorporated as citizens, they continue to face significant obstacles of discrimination from Jewish Israelis and neglect from the government, and the tension between identifying as Palestinian vs Israeli pulls both directions. In *Dancing Arabs*,

originally written in Hebrew, Sayed Kashua writes to that experience, as his protagonist is torn between his family's history and culture and his desire to fit in among the dominant Jewish Israeli population.

Midnight Convoy and Other Stories by S. Yizhar

Yizhar Smilansky was born to Jewish settlers in Ottoman Palestine. A professor and a member of the Knesset (Israeli parliament) on the Labor Party ticket, Smilansky was also a foundational Hebrew writer in the late British Mandate and early Israeli state. The short story *The Prisoner* is sometimes paired with his longer novella *Khirbet Khizeh* as notable perspectives on the violence through which the state was born and how it affected the people tasked with carrying it out.

A Tale of Love and Darkness by Amos Oz

Amos Oz is one of the most celebrated Israeli writers. This fictionalized memoir takes readers through his childhood in 40s and 50s Jerusalem, his perspective on its streets and people, and family tragedy as he follows multiple generations of his family from Europe into Mandate Palestine, through multiple wars and the violent birth of the Israeli state.

Poetry

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Mahmoud Darwish

“Palestinian Mahmoud Darwish was born in al-Birwa in Galilee, a village that was occupied and later razed by the Israeli army. Because they had missed the official Israeli census, Darwish and his family were considered “internal refugees” or “present-absent aliens.” Darwish lived for many years in exile in Beirut and Paris . . . Mahmoud Darwish’s early work of the 1960s and 1970s reflects his unhappiness with the occupation of his native land. Carolyn Forché and Runir Akash noted in their introduction to *Unfortunately It Was Paradise* (2003) that “as much as [Darwish] is the voice of the Palestinian Diaspora, he is the voice of the fragmented soul.” Forché and Akash commented also on his 20th volume, *Mural*: “Assimilating centuries of Arabic poetic forms and applying the chisel of modern sensibility to the richly veined ore of its literary past, Darwish subjected his art to the impress of exile and to his own demand that the work remain true to itself, independent of its critical or public reception.” - Poetry Foundation

- [A Lover from Palestine](#)
- [I Come from There](#)
- [Passport](#)

Yehuda Amichai

Born in Germany in 1924, Amichai and his family fled the country during Hitler’s rise to power when Amichai was 12 and settled in Palestine. During the 1948 Arab-Israeli war he fought with the Israeli defense forces. The rigors and horrors of his service in this conflict, and in World War II, inform his poetry. In an interview with the Paris Review, Amichai noted that all poetry was political: “This is because real poems deal with a human response to reality, and politics is part of reality, history in the making,” he said. “Even if a poet writes about sitting in a glass house drinking tea, it reflects politics.” - Poetry Foundation

- [Jews in the Land of Israel](#)
- [A Child is Something Else Again](#)
- [A Meeting with My Father](#)

Hijra by Hala Alyan

“In her third poetry collection, *Hijra*, Hala Alyan creates poems of migration and flight reflecting and bearing witness to the haunting particulars in her transnational journey as well as those of her mother, her aunts, and the female ancestors in Gaza and Syria. The reader sees war, diaspora, and immigration, and hears the marginalized voices of women of color. The poems use lyrical diction and striking imagery to evoke the weight of an emotional and visceral journey. They grow and build in length and form, reflecting the gains the women in the poems make in re-creating selfhood through endurance and strength. In prose, narrative, and confessional-style poems, Alyan reflects on how physical space is refashioned, transmitted, and remembered. Her voice is distinct, fresh, relevant, and welcoming.” - halaalyan.com

Things I Found in my Ear, by Mosab Abu Toha

"These poems emerge directly from the experience of growing up and living in constant lockdown, and often under direct attack. Like Gaza itself, they are filled with bombs, rubble and the ever-present menace of surveillance drones policing a people unwelcome in their own land. They are also suffused with the smell of tea, roses in bloom, and the view of a sunset over the sea. Children are born, families continue traditions, students attend university, and libraries rise from the ruins as Palestinians go on about their lives, creating beauty and finding new ways to survive." - Back cover

“As the bombs fall I write: The poets of Gaza” in Aljazeera, 2021

“I wrote my first poem in 2014, as Israeli bombs rained down on Gaza, sitting in the corner of my room during the three hours of electricity we had each day, listening to the radio and to the sound of bombs, drones and ambulances. I typed out the words – “I was born in Gaza.” I wanted to talk about what I was going through in the tune of a poet or a poetry lover. When the poem was finished, I posted it on social media. The next day, I found an enormous number of likes and shares; my message had been delivered.” - Mohammed Moussa, excerpted from article

History

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Historical Overview

The Palestinian-Israeli Conflict: A Very Short Introduction by Martin Bunton

A blazingly short crash course in the conflict, split into successive periods that each build upon the last. This is an introduction meant as a first step to familiarize readers with the basic events and shifts over the roughly 150 years of Jewish settlement in Palestine.

Understanding Israel/Palestine: Race, Nation, and Human Rights in the Conflict, by Eve Spangler

“This book is written for people who want a point of entry into the conversation. It offers both a historic and analytic framework. Readers, whether acting as students, parishioners, neighbors, voters, or dinner guests will find in these pages an analysis of the most commonly heard Israeli positions, and a succinct account of the Palestinian voices we seldom hear. I argue that human rights standards have never been used as the basis on which the Israeli-Palestinian conflict should be resolved and that only these standards can produce a just and sustainable resolution. This book will be useful for classes in Middle East studies, peace and conflict studies, Middle East history, sociology of race, and political science. It can be helpful for church groups, labor groups, or other grass roots organizations committed to social justice, and for all readers who wish to be informed about this important topic.” - Eve Spangler

The Hundred Years' War on Palestine by Rashid Khalidi

Khalidi here covers the history of conflict in Palestine from a Palestinian perspective. Khalidi merges his overarching historical analysis with narrative history of his own family, members of which were often directly involved in events at a high level. This is a vital book where a Palestinian historian reclaims the power to narrate Palestinian history from dominant western voices, and at every step brings a critical eye to the choices before Palestinian actors—how they viewed oncoming British-supported Jewish settlement of their land, its consequences, and how they chose to respond to the expulsion and occupation that accompanied it.

Israel: A History by Anita Shapira

A history of Israel and Zionism from the European Jewish perspective. Covers the origins of Zionism as one of several reactions to European antisemitism, early relations between Jewish settlers and Palestinians during the Ottoman Empire, the direction that the Zionist settlement project evolved, and the debates and features of Israeli identity-building. While conflict between Israelis and Palestinians inevitably features, and each part includes a major war, this book is focused squarely on the history of Israel as a state, and spends significant time discussing internal Israeli histories, debates, politics, and culture.

Side by Side: Parallel Histories of Israel-Palestine by Adwan, Naveh, and Bar-On

A book that chooses definitively not to take a side: presents overarching Palestinian and Israeli narratives in their entirety, separately, on facing pages. For each major period, the authors give one history covering events that were important to Israelis, and one history covering events that were important to Palestinians. This is a book for readers interested in understanding the major divergences in perspective and thought between Palestinians and Israelis.

The Birth of the Palestinian Refugee Problem Revisited by Benny Morris

“Benny Morris' *The Birth of the Palestinian Refugee Problem* was published in 1988. Its startling revelations about how and why 700,000 Palestinians left their homes and became refugees during the Arab-Israeli war in 1948 undermined traditional interpretations as to whether they left voluntarily or were expelled as part of a systematic plan. This book represents a revised edition of the earlier work, compiled on the basis of newly-opened Israeli military archives. While the focus remains the 1948 war and the analysis of the Palestinian exodus, the new material contains more information about what happened in Jerusalem, Jaffa and Haifa, and how events there led to the collapse of Palestinian urban society. It also sheds light on the battles and atrocities that resulted in the disintegration of rural communities. The story is a harrowing one. The refugees now number four million and their existence remains a major obstacle to peace.” - Description of the revised edition

Primary Source Texts

“The Iron Wall” by Zeev Jabotinsky

“Ze'ev Jabotinsky (1880-1940) was an ardent Jewish nationalist, the founder of Revisionist Zionism, and the spiritual father of the Israeli right . . . Jabotinsky turned sharply against those

Zionists who portrayed the Palestine Arabs either as fools who could be easily deceived by a watered-down version of Zionist objectives or as a tribe of mercenaries ready to give up their right to a country in exchange for economic advantage: "Every indigenous people," he wrote, "will resist alien settlers as long as they see any hope of ridding themselves of the danger of foreign settlement. This is how the Arabs will behave and go on behaving so long as they possess a gleam of hope that they can prevent 'Palestine' from becoming the Land of Israel." - Avi Shlaim, *The Iron Wall: Israel and the Arab World*

“The Jewish State” by Theodor Herzl

“In “The Jewish State”, Herzl called for Jews to organize themselves so that they could gain a territory of their own, to create institutions and forums, to oversee Jewish immigration and settlement and eventually create a state. Under his short watch, as president, he established the World Zionist Organization, conducted regular meetings of Zionist Congresses, and helped found the Jewish National Fund and Jewish Colonial Trust . . . After the publication of “The Jewish State” and the conduct of the First Congress, Herzl became the maestro for political Zionism, its cheerleader, organizational guru, and diplomatic envoy to capitals and leaders of Europe and the Ottoman Empire. He crystallized existing feelings from individuals who wanted to see the establishment of a Jewish state and bestowed upon Zionism working structural frameworks.” - Ken Stein, Center for Israel Education

“Genocide” and “Genocide as a Crime under International Law” by Raphael Lemkin

Raphael Lemkin was a Polish Jewish lawyer and is best known for originating the concept of genocide prior to its codification under international law. His definition of genocide contains notable differences from its definition in the Convention. Most notably, Lemkin’s definition does not require intent for genocide to have taken place, a turning point of the international Convention, and includes, as well as “biological destruction,” the act of “cultural destruction” as constituting genocide. See “Genocide” VI for a concise definition, and “Genocide” V for discussion as it relates to an occupied population.

Correspondence between Yusuf Diya Al-Khalidi and Theodor Herzl on the implications of Jewish settlement in Palestine

Yusuf Diya Al-Khalidi was a Palestinian politician who served as mayor of Jerusalem in the later Ottoman Empire of the 19th century. He was well-educated and reform-minded, an opponent of growing corruption in the empire. As the European Zionist movement began discussing establishing a Jewish homeland in Palestine, Al-Khalidi took note and wrote a response. His

letter to Theodor Herzl is one of the first recorded texts about Zionism from a Palestinian perspective. While he is aware of ancient Jewish heritage in Palestine, he argues that Herzl's program would create significant harm for the modern people of Palestine.

Yasser Arafat Speech before the UN General Assembly 1974

Yasser Arafat was the best-known representative of Palestinian liberation for the latter half of the 20th century. He was the head of the Fatah party and led the Palestinian Liberation Organization. Here, 20 years before he would bring the PLO into the Oslo negotiations, he argued the case for Palestine during a debate at the UN General Assembly.

The Palestinians' Fourteen Demands, Sari Nuseibeh

"The following document was presented at a press conference held in Jerusalem on 14 January 1988 by Professor Sari Nusaybah of Birzeit University. Also present at the session were Mustafa al-Natshah, former mayor of Hebron; Gabi Baramki, acting president of Birzeit University; and Mubarak 'Awad, director of the Jerusalem Center for the Study of Non-Violence. The Israeli army prevented certain Palestinian personalities from Gaza from attending the press conference. Two others were arrested on their arrival at the National Palace Hotel: Ibrahim Qara'in, head of the Palestinian Press Service, and trade unionist Bassam Ayyub. It was presented in the name of "Palestinian nationalist institutions and personalities from the West Bank and Gaza." - Introduction in Journal of Palestine Studies

***The Israel/Palestine Reader* ed. Alan Dowty**

"From Mark Twain to Theodor Herzl, Gamal Abdul Nasser, Golda Meir, Anwar Sadat, Ezer Weizman, Ehud Barak, Marwan Barghouti, Mahmoud Abbas, Benjamin Netanyahu, John Kerry, and dozens of others, the first-hand narratives brought together in this Reader bring the conflict to life as seen by those closest to it."

"My View of Zionism," Diary, Khalil as-Sakakini. (in conversation with "The Iron Wall," "The Jewish State," Correspondence.)

أرشيف المتحف الفلسطيني الرقمي - The Palestinian Museum Digital Archive

A searchable archive of digitized media, including photos, documents, posters, videos, and more, from the collections of the Palestinian Museum at Bir Zeit University in the occupied West Bank.

The archive allows users to explore often-overlooked Palestinian primary source materials related to history, culture, politics, resistance, diaspora, women, and more.

National Library of Israel

The National Library of the state of Israel boasts a wealth of material on a gamut of Jewish and Israeli historical topics. In their words, they have “over 1000 personal archives, the majority of which bear testimony to the activities of outstanding Jewish personalities from a wide variety of spheres: writers and poets, humanists, rabbis, Zionist leaders, scientists, journalists, critics and others . . . [including] approximately a million items focusing on the Land of Israel in the 19th century and Diaspora Jewish communities.”

Israeli History

“The New Historiography: Israel Confronts Its Past” by Benny Morris in *Making Israel*

Benny Morris is one of the most renowned Israeli historians from the “New Historians” era, who revised previously held historical narratives regarding Israel’s founding and the Nakba using just-declassified Israeli government documents. He is perhaps best known for *The Birth of the Palestinian Refugee Problem, 1947-49*.

“The ability to unite: the Jewish resistance movement in Mandatory Palestine” by Ido Yahel

“Abstract: This article compares and contrasts the relations among the three Jewish underground groups in Mandatory Palestine – the Hagana, the Irgun and LEHI – with three anti-colonial national liberation movements: in Malaya, Algeria and Vietnam. It shows that the fact that the Jewish resistance movement had the fewest divisive elements enabled it to unite its three distinct components, however briefly (in 1945-1946), though the reappearance of the divisive factors led to the dismantlement of the united front and to each organisation conducting its own struggle for national liberation.”

***Ten Myths about Israel* by Ilan Pappé**

“In the first few pages of his latest book, Ilan Pappé states, “We need to examine the facts.” He thus not only sets the tone for the coming chapters, but also takes aim at the often confusing and obfuscating debate that surrounds the political and social situation in Israel and Palestine. Pappé

proceeds to cut through the nonsense, laying out the reality without fanfare and clutter, launching right into the succinct spirit of the title. He tackles a variety of myths, both historical and contemporary, including: The Jews Were a People Without a Land, The June 1967 War Was a War of "No Choice," and The Two-State Solution Is the Only Way Forward. Delving deeper beyond the 10 myths, Pappe exposes and sheds light on many others as well, including little facts and tidbits that make for an interesting read. He doesn't muddle the conversation with external factors and distracting points, but instead offers the reader a clean narrative and, as he has in the past, a fair amount of bluntness." - Bailey, Nathaniel, Washington Report on Middle East Affairs

The Invention of Jewish Theocracy by Alexander Kaye

“Abstract: The Invention of Jewish Theocracy is about Jewish religious approaches to law and politics in the State of Israel. It uncovers the forgotten history of religious Zionists who tried to create a “halakhic state” by making traditional Jewish law (halakha) into Israel’s official law. This endeavour brought about a conflict over Israel’s legal framework with the majority of Israeli Jews who wanted Israel to be a secular democracy. This struggle over legal authority became the backdrop for a pervasive culture war, whose consequences are felt throughout Israeli society until today. It has also shaped religious attitudes to many aspects of Israeli society and politics, created an ongoing antagonism with the state’s civil courts, and led to the creation of a new and increasingly powerful state rabbinate. The book uncovers the surprising truth, which runs counter to the common understanding, that the religious Zionist ideology of legal supremacy emerged no earlier than the middle of the twentieth century. Even more notably, the book shows that, far from being endemic to Jewish religious tradition as its proponents claim, the idea of the halakhic state borrows heavily from modern European jurisprudence.”

Becoming Israeli: National Ideals and Everyday Life in the 1950s by Anat Helman

Proquest Synopsis: “With a light touch and many wonderful illustrations, historian Anat Helman investigates life on the ground in Israel during the first years of statehood. She looks at how citizens--natives of the land, longtime immigrants, and newcomers--coped with the state's efforts to turn an incredibly diverse group of people into a homogenous whole. She investigates the efforts to make Hebrew the lingua franca of Israel, the uses of humor, and the effects of a constant military presence, along with such familiar aspects of daily life as communal dining on the kibbutz, the nightmare of trying to board a bus, and moviegoing as a form of escapism. In the process Helman shows how ordinary people adapted to the standards and rules of the political and cultural elites and negotiated the chaos of early statehood.”

An Army Like No Other: How the Israel Defense Force Made a Nation by Haim Bresheeth-Zabner

"To understand Israel, you must first understand its army. David Ben-Gurion, founder and first prime minister of the State of Israel, established that force in 1948 convinced that the 'whole nation is the army'. To his mind, the Israel Defence Forces (IDF) would be an army like no other - not merely an instrument of military might but the institution that would transform a diverse, mostly immigrant population into a nation. Haim Bresheeth-Zabner, a writer, academic and Israeli peace activist, charts the evolution of the IDF from the days of the Nakba, through conflicts with Egypt, Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, and Iraq, to its ongoing assaults on the vulnerable Palestinian population, culminating in the continuing attacks on Gaza. As he shows, the IDF has been the largest, richest and most influential institution in Israel's Jewish society and the Alma Mater of its social, economic, and political ruling class. Today, it is embedded in all aspects of daily life and identity in Israel, including the vast military-industrial complex that drives the national economy. *An Army like No Other* is an unflinching exploration of the war-driven origins of the Israeli state as well as the on-going story of Israeli militarism."-- Provided by publisher.

History of Zionism

Zionism: A Very Short Introduction by Michael Stanislawski

"This Very Short Introduction discloses a history of Zionism from the origins of modern Jewish nationalism in the 1870's to the present. Michael Stanislawski provides a lucid and detached analysis of Zionism, focusing on its internal intellectual and ideological developments and divides" - Provided by publisher

“Zionism and European Nationalisms: Comparative Aspects” by Hedva Ben-Israel

“FOR A LONG TIME, studies of Zionism were focused on the development of Zionism, its history, its ideas, its internal struggles, and debates as part of Jewish history. It was only recently that the question was raised whether Zionism was like or unlike other national movements. At first, this question prompted more descriptive or propagandist writing, but in time, it became possible for students of Zionism to approach their subject from a comparative vantage point. 1 Although this kind of work is just beginning, today it is considered legitimate and instructive to try and place Zionism among the national movements and, as in general studies of nationalism, to seek to find both unique characteristics and recurring patterns in the various movements.” - from the text

***Israel and the Daughters of the Shoah: Reoccupying the Territories of Silence* by Ronit Lentin**

“This book is the culmination of years of preoccupation with the meaning of the Shoah for the author, an Israeli woman with a "split subjectivity": - that of a daughter of a family of Shoah survivors, and that of a daughter of the first Israeli-born generation; the culmination of her need to break the silence about the Shoah in a society which constructed itself as the Israeli antithesis to diaspora Jewry, and to excavate a "truth" from underneath the mountain of Zionist nation-building myths. These myths, the author argues, not only had deep implications for the formation of her generation but also had a profound impact on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Moreover, they are shot through with images of the "masculine" Israeli, contrasted with those of the weak, passive, non-virile Jewish "Other" of the diaspora. This book offers the first gendered analysis of Israeli society and the Shoah.” - from the publisher

***Unacknowledged Kinships: Postcolonial Studies and the Historiography of Zionism*, edited by Stefan Vogt**

“The book strives to facilitate a conversation between the historiography of Zionism and postcolonial studies by identifying and exploring possible linkages and affiliations between their subjects as well as the limits of such connections. The authors of the essays in this volume discuss central theoretical concepts developed within the field of postcolonial studies, use these concepts to analyze crucial aspects of the history of Zionism, and contextualize Zionist thought, politics, and culture within colonial and postcolonial histories. While the main purpose of the book is to test the applicability of postcolonial concepts to the history of Zionism, it also traces vectors that move in the opposite direction.” - from the introduction

***Zionism Reconsidered: The Rejection of Jewish Normalcy*, compiled by Michael Selzer**

“In this volume, *Zionism Reconsidered*, Mr. Selzer again has achieved excellence. This time he has chosen to present the reader with an anthology of some of the greatest Jewish writings composed in opposition to "normal" political Zionism. The list of contributors proves most impressive. It contains such wide-ranging scholars as Yehezkel Kaufman, Hans Kohn, David Riesmun, Simon Dubnow, and Philip Roth. These authors chosen by Mr. Selzer are not anti-Zionist. They all share concern for the quality of Jewish life. Their criticism of political Zionism simply reflects the prophetic rejection of the ancient Hebrew desire "to be like the other nations." They stand with the prophets in defining Jewishness along ethical-spiritual lines.

Political Zionism, to these authors, represents a surrender of traditional Judaism to the secular force of nationalism.” - Vince Moses, review in *Journal of Church and State*

Palestinian History

***Nakba: Palestine, 1948, and the Claims of Memory*, edited by Ahmad H. Sa'di and Lila Abu-Lughod**

“The book's essays consider the ways in which Palestinians have remembered and organized themselves around the Nakba, a central trauma that continues to be refracted through Palestinian personal and collective memory. Analyzing oral histories and written narratives, poetry and cinema, personal testimony and courtroom evidence, the authors show how the continuing experience of violence, displacement, and occupation have transformed the pre-Nakba past and the land of Palestine into symbols of what has been and continues to be lost. *Nakba* brings to light the different ways in which Palestinians experienced and retain in memory the events of 1948. It is the first book to examine in detail how memories of Palestine's cataclysmic past are shaped by differences of class, gender, generation, and geographical location. In exploring the power of the past, the authors show the urgency of the question of memory for understanding the contested history of the present.” - JSTOR summary

***Palestine: A Four Thousand Year History* by Nur Masalha**

“Starting with the earliest references in Egyptian and Assyrian texts, Nur Masalha explores how Palestine and its Palestinian identity have evolved over thousands of years, from the Bronze Age to the present day. Drawing on a rich body of sources and the latest archaeological evidence, Masalha shows how Palestine's multicultural past has been distorted and mythologised by Biblical lore and the Israel–Palestinian conflict. In the process, Masalha reveals that the concept of Palestine, contrary to accepted belief, is not a modern invention or one constructed in opposition to Israel, but rooted firmly in ancient past. Palestine represents the authoritative account of the country's history.” - via Bloomsbury Publishing

***Return: A Palestinian Memoir* by Ghada Karmi**

“Ghada Karmi is a highly respected and effective commentator on Palestinian issues and for readers new to the politics of Palestine this book could serve as a very engaging introduction to its recent history. Karmi, exiled after the 1948 Nakba, returns in 2005 to work as a media consultant for the Palestinian Authority. As she meets various people...you learn about past traumas and present aspects of Palestinian life. It is through reporting these encounters that the

hardship and poverty of life under occupation comes through: the land theft and house demolitions, the checkpoints, the racism, the normality of long prison sentences, the anger and yet the impotence to resist. In addition, she reports on the difficulty of doing meaningful work in this 'not a state'." - Miriam Scharf, *Journal of Holy Land and Palestine Studies*

“Arab Jew in Palestine” by Menachem Klein

“Using sources on everyday life of average citizens, the article shows that an Arab–Jewish hybrid identity already existed in Palestine in the late nineteenth century, prior to the introduction of Arab or Jewish national movements. Afterwards it competed with them over the loyalty of its original members. Arab–Jewish identity was part of Palestine’s modernizing order rather than its old one. It prevailed in joint neighborhoods, religious festivals, spoken languages, schools, and joint coffee shops. Unlike other Middle East Arab–Jewish communities, in Palestine it included both Ashkenazi Jews and a certain type of Zionist.”

“Why did the Palestinians Leave? Revisited” by Walid Khalidi

“The myth that the Palestinian exodus of 1948 was triggered by orders from the Arab leaders--a cornerstone of the official Israeli version of the 1948 war and intended to absolve it of responsibility for the refugee problem--dies hard . . . Given the endurance of this central plank of the Israeli doctrine of 1948, JPS has decided to reprint for the first time a difficult-to-obtain article published in July 1959 by Walid Khalidi in a long-defunct periodical of the American University of Beirut (AUB), *Middle East Forum*. Entitled "Why Did the Palestinians Leave? An Examination of the Zionist Version of the Exodus of '48," the article was based on a talk Professor Khalidi gave at AUB earlier that year. After tracing the origins and first appearance of the Zionist claim, the article, using AHC and Arab League archival material, Arab and Palestinian press releases and reports, Arab and Haganah radio broadcasts, and other Arab and Israeli sources exhaustively rebuts the claim [that Palestinians were ordered to flee their homes in 1948 by Arab military leaders] through showing both what the broadcasts did not say and what they did say. JPS is reprinting the article as is.” - Publication Abstract

History of Gaza

***Footnotes in Gaza* by Joe Sacco**

"From the great cartoonist-reporter, a sweeping, original investigation of a forgotten crime in the most vexed of places. Rafah, a town at the bottommost tip of the Gaza Strip, is a squalid place. Raw concrete buildings front trash-strewn alleys. The narrow streets are crowded with young

children and unemployed men. On the border with Egypt, swaths of Rafah have been bulldozed to rubble. Rafah is today and has always been a notorious flashpoint in this bitterest of conflicts. Buried deep in the archives is one bloody incident, in 1956, that left 111 Palestinians dead, shot by Israeli soldiers. Seemingly a footnote to a long history of killing, that day in Rafah-- cold-blooded massacre or dreadful mistake-- reveals the competing truths that have come to define an intractable war. In a quest to get to the heart of what happened, Joe Sacco immerses himself in daily life of Rafah and the neighboring town of Khan Younis, uncovering Gaza past and present. Spanning fifty years, moving fluidly between one war and the next, alive with the voices of fugitives and schoolchildren, widows and sheikhs, *Footnotes in Gaza* captures the essence of a tragedy"- Publisher's website

Hamas Contained: The Rise and Pacification of Palestinian Resistance by Tareq Baconi

“ Hamas rules Gaza and the lives of the two million Palestinians who live there. Demonized in media and policy debates, various accusations and critical assumptions have been used to justify extreme military action against Hamas. The reality of Hamas is, of course, far more complex. Neither a democratic political party nor a terrorist group, Hamas is a multifaceted liberation organization, one rooted in the nationalist claims of the Palestinian people. *Hamas Contained* offers the first history of the group on its own terms. Drawing on interviews with organization leaders, as well as publications from the group, Tareq Baconi maps Hamas's thirty-year transition from fringe military resistance towards governance. He breaks new ground in questioning the conventional understanding of Hamas and shows how the movement's ideology ultimately threatens the Palestinian struggle and, inadvertently, its own legitimacy. Hamas's reliance on armed struggle as a means of liberation has failed in the face of a relentless occupation designed to fragment the Palestinian people. As Baconi argues, under Israel's approach of managing rather than resolving the conflict, Hamas's demand for Palestinian sovereignty has effectively been neutralized by its containment in Gaza. This dynamic has perpetuated a deadlock characterized by its brutality-and one that has made permissible the collective punishment of millions of Palestinian civilians.” - Publisher Description

Shell-Shocked: On the Ground Under Israel's Gaza Assault by Mohammed Omer

“Operation Protective Edge, launched in early July 2014, was the third major Israeli assault on the Gaza Strip in six years. It was also the most deadly. By the conclusion of hostilities some seven weeks later, 2,200 of Gaza's population had been killed, and more than 10,000 injured. In these pages, journalist Mohammed Omer, a resident of Gaza who lived through the terror of those days with his wife and then three-month-old son, provides a first-hand account of life on-the-ground during Israel's assault. The images he records in this extraordinary chronicle are a literary equivalent of Goya's “Disasters of War”: children's corpses stuffed into vegetable

refrigerators, pointlessly because the electricity is off; a family rushing out of their home after a phone call from the Israeli military informs them that the building will be obliterated by an F-16 missile in three minutes; donkeys machine-gunned by Israeli soldiers under instructions to shoot anything that moves; graveyards targeted with shells so that mourners can no longer tell where their relatives are buried; fishing boats ablaze in the harbor. Throughout this carnage, Omer maintains the cool detachment of the professional journalist, determined to create a precise record of what is occurring in front of him. But between his lines the outrage boils, and we are left to wonder how a society such as Israel, widely-praised in the West as democratic and civilized, can visit such monstrosities on a trapped and helpless population.” - Haymarket Books

Hamas: Unwritten Chapters by Azzam Tamimi

“In this trenchant history spanning from the first days of the 1987 intifada to the sweeping democratic victory of the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) in the Palestinian elections of January 2006, London-based scholar Tamimi argues that seeing Hamas as merely another face of Al Qaeda obscures more than it elucidates. A successor to the Muslim Brotherhood, Hamas comes out of a transnational Islamic reform movement that grew among Palestinians in the 1970s, largely in reaction to Arab nationalism’s failure to champion the Palestinian cause. Increasingly, against a string of failed peace processes and the corruption and concessions of the PLO-led secular leadership, Hamas’s popular support has rested heavily on its stance as a militant resistance movement wedded to the Palestinian dream of regaining pre-1948 Palestine, and as provider of essential social services. Tamimi draws extensively on the words of insiders in carefully charting and contextualising the development of Hamas’s highly resilient organisation, shifting outlook and embrace of various tactics, including the offer of a truce with Israel and, most controversially, suicide bombing. It will be a key resource in English for any serious assessment of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict.” - Publishers Weekly

GAZA

“Gaza brings us into a unique place beyond the reach of television news reports to reveal a world rich with eloquent and resilient characters, offering us a cinematic and enriching portrait of a people attempting to lead meaningful lives against the rubble of perennial conflict.” - via Filmoption Film Festival

Ambulance

“An honest, straight and raw first-person account of the last war in Gaza in the summer of 2014. Mohamed Jabaly, a young man from Gaza City, joins an ambulance crew as war approaches,

looking for his place in a country under siege. While thousands of things are published on the recurring violence, the stories behind them remain hidden. Not this one.” - library description

Born in Gaza

“Filmed shortly after the 2014 Gaza war, this documentary examines how violence has transformed the lives of 10 Palestinian children.” - via IMDB

Gaza Under Siege

“One of the most densely populated places on earth, the Gaza Strip, is home to a million Palestinians -- and is a virtual prison. Just forty-three kilometers long and ten kilometers wide, most of its residents are refugees who have lived in camps since 1948. Since the Palestinian uprising -- the second Intifada -- began in September 2000, none of Gaza's forty thousand day laborers have been able to cross the border to Israel. The checkpoint is also closed to all goods and medical supplies coming in from Israel and the West Bank. Local Gazans bear the brunt of Israel's determination to quash the uprising.” - via Alexander Street

Colonialism

“Zionism as Colonialism: A Comparative View of Diluted Colonialism in Asia and Africa” by Ilan Pappé

Abstract: “This essay compares the Zionist movement with other settler colonialist movements in Palestine and West Africa. The historical context, the formative years, the ideological infrastructure, the symbolic world, and activities on the ground are examined in three cases: the Zionist movement, the Templers' movement, and the Basel Mission. Particular focus is given to the relationship with a mother country or metropole in order to find out how unique the Zionist case study was in the history of colonialism. The comparative approach validates the need to further examine Zionism as a settler colonialist phenomenon, despite its unique origins and chronological timing. This scholarly orientation was shunned for many years and was not properly attempted due to ideological considerations. This essay is an addendum to the important recent attempts by a few critical Israeli sociologists to introduce the paradigm of colonialism into the study of Israel and Zionism.”

**“Is Zionism a Colonial Movement?” by Derek J. Penslar in *Colonialism and the Jews*,
edited by Katz, Leff, and Mandel**

- [Essay](#)
- [Book](#)

“The lively essays collected here explore colonial history, culture, and thought as it intersects with Jewish studies. Connecting the Jewish experience with colonialism to mobility and exchange, diaspora, internationalism, racial discrimination, and Zionism, the volume presents the work of Jewish historians who recognize the challenge that colonialism brings to their work and sheds light on the diverse topics that reflect the myriad ways that Jews engaged with empire in modern times. Taken together, these essays reveal the interpretive power of the "Imperial Turn" and present a rethinking of the history of Jews in colonial societies in light of postcolonial critiques and destabilized categories of analysis. A provocative discussion forum about Zionism as colonialism is also included.” - Publisher’s Description

Scholarship

Table of Contents

Theory: Frameworks for Reading

Orientalism by Edward Said

“A groundbreaking critique of the West’s historical, cultural, and political perceptions of the East that is—three decades after its first publication—one of the most important books written about our divided world . . . In this wide-ranging, intellectually vigorous study, Said traces the origins of “orientalism” to the centuries-long period during which Europe dominated the Middle and Near East and, from its position of power, defined “the orient” simply as “other than” the occident. This entrenched view continues to dominate western ideas and, because it does not allow the East to represent itself, prevents true understanding.” - Penguin Random House

Imagined Communities by Benedict Anderson

“The definitive, bestselling book on the origins of nationalism, and the processes that have shaped it. *Imagined Communities*, Benedict Anderson's brilliant book on nationalism, forged a new field of study when it first appeared in 1983. Since then it has sold over a quarter of a million copies and is widely considered the most important book on the subject. In this greatly anticipated revised edition, Anderson updates and elaborates on the core question: what makes people live and die for nations, as well as hate and kill in their name? Anderson examines the creation and global spread of the 'imagined communities' of nationality, and explores the processes that created these communities: the territorialization of religious faiths, the decline of antique kinship, the interaction between capitalism and print, the development of secular languages-of-state, and changing conceptions of time and space. He shows how an originary nationalism born in the Americas was adopted by popular movements in Europe, by imperialist powers, and by the movements of anti-imperialist resistance in Asia and Africa. In a new afterword, Anderson examines the extraordinary influence of *Imagined Communities*, and the book's international publication and reception, from the end of the Cold War era to the present day.”

The Wretched of the Earth by Frantz Fanon

"The Wretched of the Earth is an analysis of the psychology of the colonized and their path to liberation. Bearing singular insight into the rage of colonized peoples and the role of violence in

historical change, the book also incisively attacks post independence disenfranchisement of the masses by the elite on one hand, and intertribal and interfaith animosities on the other. A veritable handbook of social reorganization for leaders of emerging nations, *The Wretched of the Earth* has had a major impact on civil rights, anticolonialism, and black-consciousness movements around the world" - Jacket

The Making of Modern Zionism: Intellectual Origins of the Jewish State by Shlomo Avineri

"Delineates a number of aspects of Zionist thought, as expressed through the writings of selected central nineteenth and twentieth century individuals. Avineri presents a history of Zionist thought through profiles of some of Zionism's major thinkers. Each chapter is devoted to a specific personality and focuses on a particular topic or approach. By examining the stories of these men, how their ideas developed, and some of their writings, the reader becomes familiar with different aspects of Zionist thought." - Summary

Parting Ways: Jewishness and the Critique of Zionism by Judith Butler

"Butler engages thinkers such as Edward Said, Emmanuel Levinas, Hannah Arendt, Primo Levi, Martin Buber, Walter Benjamin, and Mahmoud Darwish as she articulates a new political ethic. In her view, it is as important to dispute Israel's claim to represent the Jewish people as it is to show that a narrowly Jewish framework cannot suffice as a basis for an ultimate critique of Zionism. She promotes an ethical position in which the obligations of cohabitation do not derive from cultural sameness but from the unchosen character of social plurality. Recovering the arguments of Jewish thinkers who offered criticisms of Zionism or whose work could be used for such a purpose, Butler disputes the specific charge of anti-Semitic self-hatred often leveled against Jewish critiques of Israel. Her political ethic relies on a vision of cohabitation that thinks anew about binationalism and exposes the limits of a communitarian framework to overcome the colonial legacy of Zionism." - Columbia University Press

On Antisemitism, essays collected by Jewish Voice for Peace

"When the State of Israel claims to represent all Jewish people, defenders of Israeli policy redefine antisemitism to include criticism of Israel. Antisemitism is harmful and real in our society. What must also be addressed is how the deployment of false charges of antisemitism or redefining antisemitism can suppress the global progressive fight for justice. There is no one definitive voice on antisemitism and its impact. Jewish Voice for Peace has curated a collection of essays that provides a diversity of perspectives and standpoints. Each contribution explores critical questions concerning uses and abuses of antisemitism in the twenty-first-century,

focusing on the intersection between antisemitism, accusations of antisemitism, and Palestinian human rights activism.” - Haymarket Books

“Introducing settler colonial studies” by Lorenzo Veracini

Abstract: “Settler colonial studies aims to contribute to the consolidation of a new scholarly field. This process requires that colonial and settler colonial phenomena be analytically disentangled. They have generally been seen either as entirely separate, or as different manifestations of colonialism at large. Neither stance, however, allows a proper appraisal of settler colonialism in its specificity. In contrast, in this introduction to this new scholarly journal, I suggest that colonialism and settler colonialism should be understood in their dialectical relation. On the basis of this distinction, in the second part of this introduction, I reflect on the need to develop dedicated interpretative tools capable of sustaining an approach to the decolonisation of settler colonial formations.”

“Geography and indigeneity I: Indigeneity, coloniality and knowledge” by Sara A. Radcliffe

Abstract: “Why talk of indigeneity rather than of Indigenous peoples? This report examines the critical purchase on questions of inequality, subjectivity and power offered by critical geographies of indigeneity. In comparison with accounts that treat indigeneity as relational with nature and the more-than-human, the report highlights literature that examines indigeneity as relational with deeply historical, institutionalized and power-inflected ontologies. To think about settler colonialism as an ongoing effect, not a singular event, recognizes how patterns of engagement with and oppression of indigeneity pervade the colonial present and its geographies beyond the specific locales associated with Indigenous peoples. Finally, the report examines how indigeneity figures in the geography discipline’s knowledge production, and argues that worldly Indigenous ontologies are theorizing the world precisely because they are forced to apprehend, appraise and then rethink ‘universals’.”

“Can the Subaltern Speak? : Reflections on the History of an Idea” Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak

“Spivak's essay hones in on the historical and ideological factors that obstruct the possibility of being heard for those who inhabit the periphery. It is a probing interrogation of what it means to have political subjectivity, to be able to access the state, and to suffer the burden of difference in a capitalist system that promises equality yet withholds it at every turn.” - Columbia University Press

“Settler Colonialism and the Elimination of the Native” by Patrick Wolfe

“[T]he article argues that the positive institutions of settler society continue to be shaped by the elimination of the native. Elimination is a structure, not an event. As incorporated into the institutions and practices of settler society, elimination can be but is not always genocidal. The discussion draws its material from a number of settler-colonial situations, principally that of Indians in the USA but also from the cases of Australian Aborigines and of Palestinians, together with a number of incidental illustrations. It concludes with an attempt to nominate circumstances under which settler colonialism becomes more likely to conduce to genocide.” - excerpt

International Politics

United Nations Resolutions Concerning Palestine

United Nations Resolutions Concerning Israel

- See in particular Resolutions 181, 194
- Security Council Resolutions 237, 242

***The Fateful Triangle* by Noam Chomsky**

“From its establishment to the present day, Israel has enjoyed a special position in the American roster of international friends. In *Fateful Triangle* Noam Chomsky explores the character and historical development of this special relationship.” - ProQuest

***Partitions: A Transnational History of Twentieth-Century Territorial Separatism* ed. Arie Dubnov and Laura Robson (Introduction and Chapters 5, 6, 7, 8)**

“Partition--the physical division of territory along ethno-religious lines into separate nation-states--is often presented as a successful political "solution" to ethnic conflict. In the twentieth century, at least three new political entities--the Irish Free State, the Dominions (later Republics) of India and Pakistan, and the State of Israel--emerged as results of partition. This volume offers the first collective history of the concept of partition, tracing its emergence in the aftermath of the First World War and locating its genealogy in the politics of twentieth-century empire and decolonization. Making use of the transnational framework of the British Empire, which presided over the three major partitions of the twentieth century, contributors draw out concrete connections among the cases of Ireland, Pakistan, and Israel--the mutual influences,

shared personnel, economic justifications, and material interests that propelled the idea of partition forward and resulted in the violent creation of new post-colonial political spaces. In so doing, the volume seeks to move beyond the nationalist frameworks that served in the first instance to promote partition as a natural phenomenon.” - ProQuest

“The Abraham Accords from a Moroccan Perspective: 3-Years On” talk by Mohsine El Ahmadi, hosted by the Center for Global Studies at the University of Wyoming

“Mohsine El Ahmadi, Professor at Cadi Ayyad University in Marrakesh, Morocco, speaks on Morocco’s unique history with Israel. Dr. Ahmadi studies Islamist movements across the Arab World, and his books include "The Birth of the Arab Citizen and the Changing Middle East" (Co-edited with Stuart Schaar). He has been a consultant for Think-Tanks such as l’Institut Royal des Etudes Stratégiques (Rabat), and the Superior Council for Education (Rabat), Amadeus (Casablanca), Euromed (Barcelona), and GIZ (Berlin). In Fall 2023 he was a Fulbright Scholar at the Washington Institute for Near East Policy, researching the "Abraham Accords: Assessment and future relations." Dr. El Ahmadi spoke at the University of Wyoming in October 2023.” - Center for Global Studies

***Conflict, Security, and Justice: Practice and Challenges in Peacebuilding* by Eleanor Gordon**

“This path-breaking new textbook provides a broad overview of the core concepts, actors and activities involved in building security and justice after conflict, as well as challenges and lessons learned in this field. Drawing attention to the principles which guide – or should guide – this kind of work, as well as using practical examples throughout, the book covers a uniquely wide range of issues in peacebuilding – from transitional justice and disarmament to security sector reform and human rights. It concludes by considering both the regional and more far-reaching impacts of conflict, including such global phenomena as terrorism, piracy and organised crime.” - Bloomsbury Publishing

***Blind Spot: America and the Palestinians, from Balfour to Trump* by Khaled Elgindy**

“The book is unique in that it looks at both sides of the American-Palestinian relationship. The focus is not just on how American policymakers view the Palestinians, but on how Palestinian decision makers view the role of the United States as chief sponsor of the peace process. A critical political history of US-Palestinian relations The United States has invested billions of dollars and countless diplomatic hours in the pursuit of Israeli-Palestinian peace and a two-state solution. Yet American attempts to broker an end to the conflict have repeatedly come up short. Two irreducible factors stand in the way: Israeli power and Palestinian politics. American

peacemaking efforts have been hobbled by the U.S. assumption that a credible peace settlement could be achieved without addressing Israel's vast superiority in power or internal Palestinian politics. While there is no denying the roles played by Israelis and Palestinians in perpetuating their conflict, Washington's distinctive "blind spot" to Palestinian politics and Israeli power has prevented it from serving as an effective peace broker. Shaped by the pressures American domestic politics and the special relationship with Israel, the blind spot also has deep historical roots, dating back to the 1917 Balfour Declaration and the British Mandate over Palestine. The size of the blind spot has varied over the years and from one administration to another, but it is always present. Unless and until U.S. policymakers are prepared to act in ways that constrain Israeli power and acknowledge Palestinian politics, American peacemaking stands little chance of success.” - Library description

The Occupation

***The One-State Condition: Occupation and Democracy in Israel/Palestine* by Ariella Azoulay and Adi Ophir**

“Since the start of the occupation of Palestinian territories in 1967, Israel's domination of the Palestinians has deprived an entire population of any political status or protection. But even decades on, most people speak of this rule both in everyday political discussion and in legal and academic debates as temporary, as a state of affairs incidental and external to the Israeli regime. In "The One-State Condition," Ariella Azoulay and Adi Ophir directly challenge this belief. Looking closely at the history and contemporary formation of the ruling apparatus the technologies and operations of the Israeli army, the General Security Services, and the legal system imposed in the Occupied Territories, Azoulay and Ophir outline the one-state condition of Israel/Palestine: the grounding principle of Israeli governance is the perpetuation of differential rule over populations of differing status...Azoulay and Ophir show that acknowledgment of the one-state "condition" is not only a prerequisite for considering a one- or two-state "solution"; it is a prerequisite for advancing new ideas to move beyond the trap of this false dilemma.” - ProQuest

***“Separate and Unequal: Israel’s Discriminatory Treatment of Palestinians in the Occupied Palestinian Territories”* Human Rights Watch**

“This report consists of a series of case studies that compare Israel’s different treatment of Jewish settlements to nearby Palestinian communities throughout the West Bank, including East Jerusalem. It describes the two-tier system of laws, rules, and services that Israel operates for the two populations in areas in the West Bank under its exclusive control, which provide preferential services, development, and benefits for Jewish settlers while imposing harsh conditions on

Palestinians. The report highlights Israeli practices the only discernable purposes of which appear to be promoting life in the settlements while in many instances stifling growth in Palestinian communities and even forcibly displacing Palestinian residents. Such different treatment, on the basis of race, ethnicity, and national origin and not narrowly tailored to meet security or other justifiable goals, violates the fundamental prohibition against discrimination under human rights law.” - Report summary

Data Sheet, December 2022: Law Enforcement on Israeli Civilians in the West Bank (Settler violence) 2005-2022

“Yesh Din’s long-term monitoring of the outcomes of investigations into ideologically motivated offenses committed by Israelis shows that Israeli law enforcement agencies consistently and systematically fail to enforce the law on Israeli civilians who harm Palestinians and their property in the Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPT).” - Report introduction

Israeli settler violence against Palestinians in the West Bank under the guise of war

“In the first month and a half since the outbreak of the war, Israeli settler violence against Palestinians in the West Bank intensified. During this period, Yesh Din recorded 225 incidents of Israeli civilian violence in 93 Palestinian communities in the West Bank.” - Report summary

The Law in These Parts

“Can a modern democracy impose a prolonged military occupation on another people while retaining its core democratic values? Since Israel conquered the territories of the West Bank and Gaza Strip in the 1967 war, the military has imposed thousands of orders and laws, established military courts, sentenced hundreds of thousands of Palestinians, enabled half a million Israeli "settlers" to move to the Occupied Territories and developed a system of long-term jurisdiction by an occupying army that is unique in the entire world. The men entrusted with creating this new legal framework were the members of Israel's military legal corps. Responding to a constantly changing reality, these legal professionals have faced (and continue to face) complex judicial and moral dilemmas in order to develop and uphold a system of long-term military “rule by law” of an occupied population, all under the supervision of Israel's Supreme Court, and, according to Israel, in complete accordance with international law.” - via film website

The Settlers

"Since Israel's decisive victory in the 1967 Six-Day War, hundreds of thousands of Israeli citizens have made their homes in the Occupied Territories of the West Bank. With unprecedented access to pioneers of the settlement movement and a diverse group of modern-day settlers, religious and secular alike, "The settlers" is a comprehensive exploration of the controversial communities that exert inordinate influence on the sociopolitical destinies of Israel and Palestine." - Container

Palestinian Experience

The Drone Eats With Me by Atef Abu Saif

"An ordinary Gazan's chronicle of the struggle to survive during Israel's 2014 invasion of Gaza. The fifty-day Israel-Gaza conflict that began in early July of 2014 left over 2,100 people dead. The overwhelming majority of the dead were Palestinians, including some 500 children. Another 13,000-odd Palestinians were wounded, and 17,200 homes demolished. These statistics are sadly familiar, as is the political rhetoric from Israeli and Palestinian authorities alike. What is less familiar, however, is a sense of the ordinary Gazan society that war lays to waste. One of the few voices to make it out of Gaza was that of Atef Abu Saif, a writer and teacher from Jabalia refugee camp, whose eyewitness accounts (published in the Guardian, New York Times, and elsewhere) offered a rare window into the conflict for Western readers. Here, Abu Saif's complete diaries of the war allow us to witness the events of 2014 from the perspective of a young father, fearing for his family's safety. In *The Drone Eats with Me*, Abu Saif brings readers an intimate glimpse of life during wartime, as he, his wife, and his two young children attempt to live their lives with a sense of normalcy, in spite of the ever-present danger and carnage that is swallowing the place they call home" - Provided by publisher

After the Last Sky: Palestinian Lives by Edward Said, *Photographs* by Jean Mohr

"This is not a normal tandem of word and image, neither a coffee-table book with a long, glorified caption nor a work of prose propped up here and there by sheaves of shiny pictures. Mr. Said writes to the photos so assiduously and with such effect as to make one powerful essay. And at times, we realize with a sobering lurch, he writes not to the pictures but from them: for he, too, is an outsider now. "The fact is," Mr. Said writes, "that today I can neither return to the places of my youth, nor voyage freely in the countries and places that mean the most to me." - Review by Richard Ben Cramer, *New York Times*

Refugees of the Revolution: Experiences of Palestinian Exile by Diana Allan

“Some sixty-five years after 750,000 Palestinians fled or were expelled from their homeland, the popular conception of Palestinian refugees still emphasizes their fierce commitment to exercising their "right of return." Exile has come to seem a kind of historical amber, preserving refugees in a way of life that ended abruptly with "the catastrophe" of 1948 and their camps—inhabited now for four generations—as mere zones of waiting. While reducing refugees to symbols of steadfast single-mindedness has been politically expedient to both sides of the Arab-Israeli conflict it comes at a tremendous cost for refugees themselves, overlooking their individual memories and aspirations and obscuring their collective culture in exile. *Refugees of the Revolution* is an evocative and provocative examination of everyday life in Shatila, a refugee camp in Beirut. Challenging common assumptions about Palestinian identity and nationalist politics, Diana Allan provides an immersive account of camp experience, of communal and economic life as well as inner lives, tracking how residents relate across generations, cope with poverty and marginalization, and plan—pragmatically and speculatively—for the future. She gives unprecedented attention to credit associations, debt relations, electricity bartering, emigration networks, and NGO provisions, arguing that a distinct Palestinian identity is being forged in the crucible of local pressures. What would it mean for the generations born in exile to return to a place they never left? Allan addresses this question by rethinking the relationship between home and homeland. In so doing, she reveals how refugees are themselves pushing back against identities rooted in a purely nationalist discourse. This groundbreaking book offers a richly nuanced account of Palestinian exile, and presents new possibilities for the future of the community.” - Book Description

Drinking the Sea in Gaza by Amira Hass

“In 1993, Amira Hass, a young Israeli reporter, drove to Gaza to cover a story-and stayed, the first journalist to live in the grim Palestinian enclave so feared and despised by most Israelis that, in the local idiom, "Go to Gaza" is another way to say "Go to hell." Now, in a work of calm power and painful clarity, Hass reflects on what she has seen in the Gaza Strip's gutted streets and destitute refugee camps. *Drinking the Sea at Gaza* maps the zones of ordinary Palestinian life. From her friends, Hass learns the secrets of slipping across sealed borders and stealing through night streets emptied by curfews. She shares Gaza's early euphoria over the peace process and its subsequent despair as hope gives way to unrelenting hardship. But even as Hass charts the griefs and humiliations of the Palestinians, she offers a remarkable portrait of a people not brutalized but eloquent, spiritually resilient, bleakly funny, and morally courageous. Full of testimonies and stories, facts and impressions, *Drinking the Sea at Gaza* makes an urgent claim on our humanity. Beautiful, haunting, and profound, it will stand with the great works of wartime reportage.” - Macmillan Publishers

Palestine by Joe Sacco

“Fantagraphics Books is pleased to present the first single-volume collection of this landmark of journalism and the art form of comics. Based on several months of research and an extended visit to the West Bank and Gaza Strip in the early 1990s (where he conducted over 100 interviews with Palestinians and Jews), Palestine was the first major comics work of political and historical nonfiction by Sacco, whose name has since become synonymous with this graphic form of New Journalism. Like Safe Area Gorazde, Palestine has been favorably compared to Art Spiegelman's Pulitzer Prize-winning Maus for its ability to brilliantly navigate such socially and politically sensitive subject matter within the confines of the comic book medium. Sacco has often been called the first comic book journalist, and he is certainly the best.” - Fantagraphics description

The Palestine Nakba: Decolonising History, Narrating the Subaltern, Reclaiming Memory by Nur Masalha

“This book explores new ways of remembering and commemorating the Nakba - the most traumatic catastrophe that ever befell Palestinians. Masalha argues that to write more truthfully about the Nakba is not just to practise a professional historiography but an ethical imperative. The struggles of ordinary refugees to recover and publicly assert the truth about the Nakba is a vital way of protecting their rights and keeping the hope for peace with justice alive.” - Library description

Selections from This Arab is Queer, ed. Elias Jahshan

Unheld Conversations by Anbara Salam

Trophy Hunters, White Saviours and Grindr (A queer Arab's search for a husband), anonymous

Then Came Hope by Madian Aljazerah

“This ground-breaking anthology features the compelling and courageous memoirs of eighteen queer Arab writers – some internationally bestselling, others using pseudonyms. Here, we find heart-warming connections and moments of celebration alongside essays exploring the challenges of being LGBTQ+ and Arab. From a military base in the Gulf to loving whispers caught between the bedsheets; and from touring overseas as a drag queen to a concert in Cairo where the rainbow flag was raised to a crowd of thousands, this collection celebrates the true colours of a vibrant Arab queer experience.” - via Saqi publishers

A Child in Palestine: The Cartoons of Naji Al-Ali by Naji Al-Ali and Joe Sacco

“Naji al-Ali grew up in the Palestinian refugee camp of Ain al-Hilweh in the south Lebanese city of Sidon, where his gift for drawing was discovered by the Palestinian poet Ghassan Kanafani in the late 1950s. Early the following decade he left for Kuwait, embarking on a thirty-year career that would see his cartoons published daily in newspapers from Cairo to Beirut, London to Paris. Independent and unaligned to any political party, Naji al-Ali strove to speak to and for the ordinary Arab people. The pointed satire of his stark, symbolic cartoons brought him widespread renown. For the first time in book form, *A Child in Palestine* presents the work of Naji al-Ali. Through his most celebrated creation, the witness-child Handala (Hanthala), al-Ali chronicles the Israeli occupation, the corruption of the regimes in the region, and the plight of the Palestinian people.” - Library description

Failing Peace: Gaza and the Palestinian-Israeli Conflict by Sara Roy

“This book is the culmination of 20 years of research, fieldwork and analysis on the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, and the impact of Israeli occupation. Discussion of Israeli policy toward Palestinians is often regarded as a taboo subject, with the result that few people -- especially in the U.S. -- understand the origins and consequences of the conflict. Roy's book provides an indispensable context for understanding why the situation remains so intractable. The focus of Roy's work is the Gaza Strip, an area that remains consistently neglected and misunderstood despite its political centrality. Drawing on more than two thousand interviews and extensive first-hand experience, Roy chronicles the impact of Israeli occupation in Palestine over nearly a generation. Exploring the devastating consequences of socio-economic and political decline, this is a unique and powerful account of the reality of life in the West Bank and Gaza. Written by one of the world's foremost scholars of the region, it offers an unrivalled breadth of scholarship and insight.” - Library description

Light in Gaza: Writings Born of Fire by Jihad Abusalim, Jennifer Bing, and Mike Merryman-Lotze

“Imagining the future of Gaza beyond the cruelties of occupation and Apartheid, *Light in Gaza* is a powerful contribution to understanding Palestinian experience... This distinctive anthology imagines what the future of Gaza could be, while reaffirming the critical role of Gaza in Palestinian identity, history, and struggle for liberation... As political discourse shifts toward futurism as a means of reimagining a better way of living, beyond the violence and limitations of colonialism, *Light in Gaza* is an urgent and powerful intervention into an important political moment.” - ProQuest

Mayor

“MAYOR follows Musa Hadid, the Christian mayor of Ramallah, during his second term in office. His immediate goals: repave the sidewalks, attract more tourism, and plan the city’s Christmas celebrations. His ultimate mission: to end the occupation of Palestine. Rich with detailed observation and humor, MAYOR offers a portrait of dignity amidst the madness and absurdity of endless occupation while posing a question: how do you run a city when you don’t have a country?” - via film website

Children of Shatila

“Farah and Issa are two Palestinian children who live in the refugee camp of Shatila, home to displaced Palestinians and Lebanese alike. Following the Shatila massacre of 1982, Farah and Issa struggle to lead a normal life, as they deal with the realities of living in a refugee camp. When they are each given a video camera to film with, we are given an insight into the questions that these young minds have, growing up in a war-torn region that has witnessed countless tragedies.” - via Alexander Street

5 Broken Cameras

“Winner at the Sundance Film Festival, 5 BROKEN CAMERAS is a deeply personal, first-hand account of non-violent resistance in Bil'in, a West Bank village threatened by encroaching Israeli settlements. Shot almost entirely by Palestinian farmer Emad Burnat, who bought his first camera in 2005 to record the birth of his youngest son, the footage was later given to Israeli co-director Guy Davidi to edit. Structured around the violent destruction of each one of Burnat's cameras, the filmmakers' collaboration follows one family's evolution over five years of village turmoil. Burnat watches from behind the lens as olive trees are bulldozed, protests intensify, and lives are lost. "I feel like the camera protects me," he says, "but it's an illusion." - via Kanopy

Israeli Society

Security and Suspicion: An Ethnography of Everyday Life in Israel by Juliana Ochs

“In Israel, gates, fences, and walls encircle public spaces while guards scrutinize, inspect, and interrogate. With a population constantly aware of the possibility of suicide bombings, Israel is defined by its culture of security. Security and Suspicion is a closely drawn ethnographic study of the way Israeli Jews experience security in their everyday lives. Observing security concerns

through an anthropological lens, Juliana Ochs investigates the relationship between perceptions of danger and the political strategies of the state. Ochs argues that everyday security practices create exceptional states of civilian alertness that perpetuate-rather than mitigate-national fear and ongoing violence. In Israeli cities, customers entering gated urban cafés open their handbags for armed security guards and parents circumnavigate feared neighborhoods to deliver their children safely to school. Suspicious objects appear to be everywhere, as Israelis internalize the state's vigilance for signs of potential suicide bombers. Fear and suspicion not only permeate political rhetoric, writes Ochs, but also condition how people see, the way they move, and the way they relate to Palestinians. Ochs reveals that in Israel everyday practices of security-in the home, on commutes to work, or in cafés and restaurants-are as much a part of conflict as soldiers and military checkpoints. Based on intensive fieldwork in Israel during the second intifada, *Security and Suspicion* charts a new approach to issues of security while contributing to our appreciation of the subtle dynamics of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. This book offers a way to understand why security propagates the very fears and suspicions it is supposed to reduce.” - Library description

***Handbook of Israel: Major Debates* edited by Eliezer Ben-Rafael, Julius H. Schoeps, Yitzhak Sternberg and Olaf Glöckner**

“The Handbook of Israel: Major Debates serves as an academic compendium for people interested in major discussions and controversies over Israel. It provides innovative, updated and informative knowledge on a range of acute debates. Among other topics, the handbook discusses post-Zionism, militarism, democracy and religion, (in)equality, colonialism, today’s criticism of Israel, Israel-Diaspora relations, and peace programs. Outstanding scholars face each other with unadulterated, divergent analyses. These historical, political and sociological texts from Israel and elsewhere make up a major reference book within academia and outside academia. About seventy contributions grouped in thirteen thematic sections present controversial and provocative approaches reflecting, from different angles, on the present-day challenges of the State of Israel.” - Library description

***Poetic Trespass: Writing Between Hebrew and Arabic in Israel/Palestine* by Lital Levy**

“A Palestinian-Israeli poet declares a new state whose language, "Homelandic," is a combination of Arabic and Hebrew. A Jewish-Israeli author imagines a "language plague" that infects young Hebrew speakers with old world accents, and sends the narrator in search of his Arabic heritage. In *Poetic Trespass*, Lital Levy brings together such startling visions to offer the first in-depth study of the relationship between Hebrew and Arabic in the literature and culture of Israel/Palestine. More than that, she presents a captivating portrait of the literary imagination's power to transgress political boundaries and transform ideas about language and belonging.

Blending history and literature, *Poetic Trespass* traces the interwoven life of Arabic and Hebrew in Israel/Palestine from the turn of the twentieth century to the present, exposing the two languages' intimate entanglements in contemporary works of prose, poetry, film, and visual art by both Palestinian and Jewish citizens of Israel. In a context where intense political and social pressures work to identify Jews with Hebrew and Palestinians with Arabic, Levy finds writers who have boldly crossed over this divide to create literature in the language of their "other," as well as writers who bring the two languages into dialogue to rewrite them from within. Exploring such acts of poetic trespass, Levy introduces new readings of canonical and lesser-known authors, including Emile Habiby, Hayyim Nahman Bialik, Anton Shammas, Saul Tchernichowsky, Samir Naqqash, Ronit Matalon, Salman Masalha, A. B. Yehoshua, and Almog Behar. By revealing uncommon visions of what it means to write in Arabic and Hebrew, *Poetic Trespass* will change the way we understand literature and culture in the shadow of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.” - Library description

“How Did the Mizrahim "Become" Religious and Zionist? Zionism, Colonialism and the Religionization of the Arab Jew” by Yehouda Shenhav

“I would like to start with a conventional wisdom about the Mizrahim in Israel. It is a sentiment that is often heard in public discourse as in this recent statement by columnist Iris Mizrahi: "All doors were slammed in the face of the Mizrahim. Only the synagogue's door was left ajar". I will readdress this statement in the course of my talk, which is about the role of religion in the incorporation of the Arab-Jews to the Zionist project as well as about the crystallization of Mizrahi identity through religion and via religion in Israeli culture. Theoretically, I focus on the entangled relationships between nationalism, religion and ethnicity and attempt to show that religion became an ethnic and national marker for the Mizrahim.” - Introduction

“Zionism’s Internal Others: Israel and the Oriental Jews” by Joseph Massad

“The type of Jewish culture that Zionism wanted to create had nothing to do with Diaspora culture, seen as a manifestation of oppressed Jewishness. Yiddish, stigmatized as a product of that culture, was and is actively discouraged in favor of Hebrew, while the Arabic of Arab Jews became the contemptible language of the enemy. In sum, Israel created a new Israeli identity and culture alien to Diaspora Jews.’ Zionism’s commitment to cosmopolitan European gentile culture as the identitarian basis for the New Jew led Georges Friedmann to assert that Israel “constitutes a new kind of assimilation liable to produce ‘generations of Hebrew-speaking Gentiles.’”² Thus, the creation of Israel was to have far-reaching effects not only for Palestinian Arabs but also on the identity both of European Jews and of Asian and African Jews. Whereas non-European Jews were classified as Sephardim (Spaniards) and later Mizrahim³ (Easterners) and were juxtaposed to the Yiddish-speaking Jews whose Ashkenazi identity preceded Zionism, Palestinians were

divided into Druze, Bedouin, and Christian and Muslim Arabs. Israel, consequently, was based on a complete overhauling of the ethnic identities of the population over whom it was to have jurisdiction. The irony about the Mizrahi identity created by the Ashkenazi establishment is that it came to be internalized by the Mizrahim themselves, who launched ethnic protests based on it.” - Article introduction

“Sephardim in Israel: Zionism from the Standpoint of its Jewish Victims” by Ella Shohat

“Debate concerning Israel & Zionism, which has largely focused on the Jewish-Arab, East-West conflict, is extended to include a consideration of Arab or Oriental Jewish immigrants -- the Sephardic Jews -- who now constitute the majority of the Jewish population in Israel. Zionism's claim that it represents a liberation movement for all Jews is challenged, & it is argued that Zionism is predominantly the voice of European Jews -- the Ashkenazim -- while Sephardic Jews have been systematically discriminated against. The origins of this structural oppression are traced, & ways that historiographic, sociological, political, & journalistic discourses both subliminate & perpetuate it are analyzed. In addition, it is shown how the Sephardim are akin to a Third World people in Israel, existing in a relationship of dependency & oppression with the First World European Jews.” - K. Hyatt

“Jurisdiction in an Immigrant-Settler Society: The “Jewish and Democratic State” by Baruch Kimmerling

Abstract “The major dilemma presented in this article is how a state that officially and constitutionally defines itself as “Jewish and democratic” relates to two categories of Arab minorities: (a) the Arab citizens of Israel and (b) the Palestinians who have resided in the occupied territories since the 1967 war. The analysis will focus on both the legislative and judicial levels, as they reflect the Israeli state's policy toward minority groups more than any other sphere. The article examines the Israeli state's delineation of various boundaries in various contexts, allows the state to exhibit a “democratic façade,” and legitimizes the regime and the state. The Palestinian population in the occupied territories is, even today, after establishment of an autonomous national authority (following a partial implementation of the Oslo Accords), still included within the control and economic system of the Israeli state.”

Israel: State of Siege

“Israeli society felt threatened and took to the trenches during the Gaza war, launching devastating attacks on its Palestinian neighbours with a high toll of civilian deaths. Why? To try and find some answers we visited the kibbutzim - Israeli collective farms - located near the Gaza

Strip. For the past 8 years they have been under attack by the Palestinian militia, making it difficult for them to imagine coming to peace with their neighbours across the border. But that response is not unique to Israelis living in the south of the country. More than 90% of Israeli Jews supported the Gaza offensive. In Tel Aviv, the country's most modern and cosmopolitan city, many young people admit to feeling increasingly threatened. According to some Israeli anti-war political analysts, this reaction has been stirred up by politicians and the media, which give little voice to independent thinkers. One exception is the weekly political satire TV program "Eretz Nehederet" ('A Wonderful Country') that takes Israeli politicians to task through its sharp humour, but during the Gaza offensive, also made jokes about the number of Palestinian victims - victims who today are no longer willing to even try and understand Israeli society.” - via Alexander Street

Activism & Social Movements

Freedom is a Constant Struggle by Angela Davis

“In these newly collected essays, interviews, and speeches, world-renowned activist and scholar Angela Y. Davis illuminates the connections between struggles against state violence and oppression throughout history and around the world. Reflecting on the importance of Black feminism, intersectionality, and prison abolitionism for today's struggles, Davis discusses the legacies of previous liberation struggles—from the Black freedom movement to the South African antiapartheid movement. She highlights connections and analyzes today's struggles against state terror, from Ferguson to Palestine. Facing a world of outrageous injustice, Davis challenges us to imagine and build the movement for human liberation. And in doing so, she reminds us that "freedom is a constant struggle." - Library description

When Peace is not Enough: How the Israeli Peace Camp Thinks about Religion, Nationalism, and Justice by Atalia Omer

“By focusing on the perceptions and histories of Israel's most marginalized stakeholders - Palestinian Israelis, Arab Jews, and non-Israeli Jews - Atalia Omer cuts to the heart of the Israeli-Arab conflict, demonstrating how these voices provide urgently needed resources for conflict analysis and peacebuilding. Navigating a complex set of arguments about ethnicity, boundaries, and peace, and offering a different approach to the renegotiation and reimagination of national identity and citizenship, Omer pushes the conversation beyond the bounds of the single narrative and toward a new and dynamic concept of justice - one that offers the prospect of building a lasting peace.” - Library description

Days of Awe: Reimagining Jewishness in Solidarity with Palestinians by Atalia Omer

“For many Jewish people in the mid-twentieth century, Zionism was an unquestionable tenet of what it meant to be Jewish. Seventy years later, a growing number of American Jews are instead expressing solidarity with Palestinians, questioning old allegiances to Israel. How did that transformation come about? What does it mean for the future of Judaism? In *Days of Awe*, Atalia Omer examines this shift through interviews with a new generation of Jewish activists, rigorous data analysis, and fieldwork within a progressive synagogue community. She highlights people politically inspired by social justice campaigns including the Black Lives Matter movement and protests against anti-immigration policies. These activists, she shows, discover that their ethical outrage at US policies extends to Israel's treatment of Palestinians. For these American Jews, the Jewish history of dispossession and diaspora compels a search for solidarity with liberation movements. This shift produces innovations within Jewish tradition, including multi-racial and intersectional conceptions of Jewishness and movements to reclaim prophetic Judaism. Charting the rise of such religious innovation, Omer points toward the possible futures of post-Zionist Judaism.” - from the publisher

In Pursuit of Peace in Israel and Palestine by Gershon Baskin

“During the many cycles of peace negotiations, Baskin has served both as an outside agitator for peace and as an advisor on the inside of secret talks—for example, during the prime ministership of Yitzhak Rabin and during the initiative led by Secretary of State John Kerry. Baskin ends the book with his own proposal, which includes establishing a peace education program and cabinet-level Ministries of Peace in both countries, in order to foster a culture of peace. The history of modern Israel and Palestine is populated with leaders stuck in the present and linked to the past, limiting their ability to imagine a different future. Inevitably, as *Pursuit of Peace in Israel and Palestine* demonstrates, strategic thinking requires the ability to design a course of events, policies and decisions that create a different reality. As a center of perpetual trans-generational conflict, the reality that we have all known between Israel and the Arabs is debilitating, it stunts imagination and diminishes the ability to design policies that can change the conflictual basis of relations.” - summary from Gershon Baskin, gershonbaskin.org

Israel/Palestine and the Queer International by Sarah Schulman

“As Schulman learns more, she questions the contradiction between Israel's investment in presenting itself as gay friendly—financially sponsoring gay film festivals and parades—and its denial of the rights of Palestinians. At the same time, she talks with straight Palestinian activists about their position in relation to homosexuality and gay rights in Palestine and internationally. Back in the United States, Schulman draws on her extensive activist experience to organize a

speaking tour for some of the Palestinian queer leaders whom she had met and trusted. Dubbed "Al-Tour," it takes the activists to LGBT community centers, conferences, and universities throughout the United States. Its success solidifies her commitment to working to end Israel's occupation of Palestine, and it kindles her larger hope that a new "queer international" will emerge and join other movements demanding human rights across the globe." - Duke University Press

Interviews with Radical Palestinian Women edited by Shoal Collective

"The interviews in this book describe experiences of living under occupation, under siege, and within the Palestinian diaspora. These experiences shape how the women see the world as radicals. In talking about the Palestinian anti-colonial struggle, many of the women critique the authoritarian nature of the Palestinian Authority, and demand a liberation which deals with the many layers of oppression that they face. The interviews also describe the struggle of being a female radical within Palestinian society." - Introduction

Social Justice and Israel/Palestine: Foundational and Contemporary Debates, edited by Aaron J. Hahn Tapper and Mira Sucharov

"This book critically assesses a series of complex and topical debates helping readers make sense of some of the most foundational and contemporary ideas around the politics of the Israeli-Palestinian relationship. Each chapter considers one topic, represented by two or three essays offered in conversation with one another. Together, these essays advance different perspectives; in some cases they are complementary and in others they are oppositional. Topics include scholarly and activist interpretations of communal narratives, assessing the concept of self-determination for Jewish Israelis and Palestinians, addressing the debate over settler-colonialism as an appropriate framework for interpreting the history of Israel/Palestine, an analysis of international law and related issues, questions surrounding Palestinian and Jewish refugees and the impact of displacement, the debate over the apartheid label, the phenomenon of intersectionality, including the dynamics of allies and alliances, and a close look at BDS (Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions) as a set of tactics. Through these four foundational and contemporary topics, readers will be challenged to examine critically the strengths and weaknesses of each position in light of scholarly debates rooted in social justice, and helped to gain a deeper understanding of the relationship between Israelis and Palestinians in order to see a path forward--towards justice for all." - Provided by publisher

**“Putting Palestine Back on the Map: Boycott as Civil Resistance” by Omar Barghouti.
Journal of Palestine Studies Vol 35 No 3 Pages 51-57**

“[M]ore than 170 Palestinian civil society organizations and unions, including the main political parties, issued a call for boycott, divestment, and sanctions (BDS) against Israel “until it fully complies with international law.” After fifteen years of the so-called “peace process,” Palestinian civil society reclaimed the agenda, articulating Palestinian demands as part of the international struggle for justice long obscured by deceptive “negotiations.” In a noteworthy precedent, the BDS call was issued by representatives of the three segments of the Palestinian people—the refugees, the Palestinian citizens of Israel, and those under occupation. It also directly “invited” conscientious Israelis to support its demands. The Palestinian boycott movement succeeded in setting new parameters and clearer goals for the growing international support network, sparking, or giving credence to, boycott and divestment campaigns in several countries.” - excerpt

“Black-Palestinian Transnational Solidarity: Renewals, Returns, and Practice” by Noura Erakat and Marc Lamont Hill

“The Ferguson-Gaza moment precipitated increased intellectual and cultural production related to Black-Palestinian solidarity. Since summer 2014, a range of collaborative art exhibits, multimedia collaborations, delegations, solidarity statements, speeches, and scholarly essays have continued to spotlight the fecund political connections and possibilities between Blacks and Palestinians.¹⁰ We mindfully deploy the term “renewal” to describe these contemporary articulations of BPTS. With this term, we refer to the regeneration of individual and collective energies within various African-descendant and Palestinian communities throughout the global diaspora for the purpose of developing effective, reciprocal, and transformative political Relationships.” - excerpt

“‘From The River To The Sea’ Doesn’t Mean What You Think It Means” by Maha Nassar

“BDS in the USA, 2001-2010” by Noura Erakat

“On April 26, 2010, the student senate at the University of California-Berkeley upheld, by one vote, an executive veto on SB 118 - the student body resolution endorsing divestment of university funds from General Electric and United Technologies, two companies that profit from the Israeli occupation of East Jerusalem, the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. Proponents of the resolution needed 14 votes to override the veto and, as 16 senators had spoken in favor of doing so, it appeared a simple task. But the vote in Berkeley had shifted the gaze of national pro-Israel organizations from Capitol Hill westward, begetting an unlikely alliance between the hawkish

American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) and its self-proclaimed liberal rival, J Street. The two groups collaborated in lobbying efforts on campus to sustain the veto.” - excerpt

Disturbing the Peace

“DISTURBING THE PEACE follows former enemy combatants--Israeli soldiers from elite units and Palestinian fighters, many of whom served years in prison--who have joined together to challenge the status quo and say 'enough.' The film reveals their transformational journeys from soldiers committed to armed battle to nonviolent peace activists, leading to the creation of Combatants for Peace.” - Library description

Israelism

“When two young American Jews raised to unconditionally love Israel witness the brutal way Israel treats Palestinians, their lives take sharp left turns. They join a movement of young American Jews battling the old guard to redefine Judaism’s relationship with Israel, revealing a deepening generational divide over modern Jewish identity.” - via film website

Peace Processes

*Galia Golan "Peace plans, 1993-2010" in **The Routledge Handbook on the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict***

Abstract “There have been numerous plans to bring about a resolution of the Israeli– Palestinian conflict since the Oslo Declaration of 1993. 1 With one exception, none has constituted a comprehensive blueprint for peace and none, obviously, has in fact brought about peace. The period has, however, witnessed the formulation of a cumulative body of proposals relating to the core issues of the conflict: borders, security, Jerusalem, and refugees.”

Israel and Palestine: Peace Plans and Proposals from Oslo to Disengagement by Galia Golan

“The Oslo Accords, inaugurated with the historic Rabin-Arafat handshake on the White House lawn, marked a promising breakthrough for resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. These Accords, however, turned out to be but the first in a series of numerous proposals and plans over the next ten years, all designed to cope with repeated failures and disappointments as well as the major issues of the conflict itself. Golan explores these plans and proposals, concentrating on the key issues addressed by the parties directly involved, along with the contributions of the

Americans, the Quartet as a whole, and the Arab League. This book is a valuable resource for understanding the conflict, the issues involved and the prospects for peaceful resolution.” - Markus Wiener Publishers

***Parts III and IV in The Oslo Accords: International Law and the Israeli-Palestinian Peace Agreements* by Geoffrey R. Watson**

“This analysis of the Oslo Accords examines them from the standpoint of international law, arguing that they are legally binding agreements not political undertakings, and suggesting how this might help shape resolution of final status issues.” - Library description

***Palestine: Peace not Apartheid* by Jimmy Carter**

“In this book, President Carter shares his intimate knowledge of the history of the Middle East and his personal experiences with the principal actors, and he addresses sensitive political issues many American officials avoid. Pulling no punches, Carter prescribes steps that must be taken for the two states to share the Holy Land without a system of apartheid or the constant fear of terrorism. The general parameters of a long-term, two-state agreement are well known, the president writes. There will be no substantive and permanent peace for any peoples in this troubled region as long as Israel is violating key UN resolutions, official American policy, and the international “road map” for peace by occupying Arab lands and oppressing the Palestinians. Except for mutually agreeable negotiated modifications, Israel’s official pre-1967 borders must be honored. As were all previous administrations since the founding of Israel, US government leaders must be in the forefront of achieving this long-delayed goal of a just agreement that both sides can honor.” - Jimmy Carter Presidential Library and Museum

***Israel and Palestine: Reappraisals, Revisions, Refutations* by Avi Shlaim**

“Shlaim's fundamental position runs like a steel core through this collection of essays and reviews: the creation of Israel in 1948 represented "a terrible injustice" for the Palestinians, whose homeland was erased from the map. But that injustice sits alongside another one: the hideous persecution of the Jews – "a people . . . like any other [with] a natural right to self-determination" – culminating in the Nazi genocide. Only Palestine could provide the "titanic" solution the Jews required, he writes.” - Review in the Guardian, 2009

Blind Spot: America and the Palestinians, from Balfour to Trump by Khaled Elgindy

“The book is unique in that it looks at both sides of the American-Palestinian relationship. The focus is not just on how American policymakers view the Palestinians, but on how Palestinian decision makers view the role of the United States as chief sponsor of the peace process...American peacemaking efforts have been hobbled by the U.S. assumption that a credible peace settlement could be achieved without addressing Israel's vast superiority in power or internal Palestinian politics. While there is no denying the roles played by Israelis and Palestinians in perpetuating their conflict, Washington's distinctive "blind spot" to Palestinian politics and Israeli power has prevented it from serving as an effective peace broker. Shaped by the pressures American domestic politics and the special relationship with Israel, the blind spot also has deep historical roots, dating back to the 1917 Balfour Declaration and the British Mandate over Palestine. The size of the blind spot has varied over the years and from one administration to another, but it is always present. Unless and until U.S. policymakers are prepared to act in ways that constrain Israeli power and acknowledge Palestinian politics, American peacemaking stands little chance of success.” - Library description

The Oslo Accords 1993-2013: A Critical Assessment

“Twenty years have passed since Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization concluded the Oslo Accords, or Declaration of Principles on Interim Self-Government Arrangements for Palestine. It was declared “a political breakthrough of immense importance.” Israel officially accepted the PLO as the legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, and the PLO recognized the right of Israel to exist. Critical views were voiced at the time about how the self-government established under the leadership of Yasser Arafat created a Palestinian-administered Israeli occupation, rather than paving the way towards an independent Palestinian state with substantial economic funding from the international community. Through a number of essays written by renowned scholars and practitioners, the two decades since the Oslo Accords are scrutinized from a wide range of perspectives. Did the agreement have a reasonable chance of success? What went wrong, causing the treaty to derail and delay a real, workable solution? What are the recommendations today to show a way forward for the Israelis and the Palestinians” - Library description

“The Status Quo and the Feminization of Political Alternatives: The Israeli-Palestinian Conflict” by Noa Balf

Abstract: “The Oslo peace process has effectively stalled and failed. In this article I show that by positioning the Oslo process and any political and civic forces involved with it as tainted by irrational and emotional weakness, neo-conservative figures and institutions within Israel have

successfully argued for a hyper-masculinized Israeli security paradigm. In this configuration, the process of cooperation and the acknowledgement of Palestinian claims are viewed as weak and reprehensible, while aggressive military strategies, deterrence, and the demand for unequivocal Palestinian acceptance of Israel's terms are perceived as rational and responsible actions that protect Israeli interests. By conflating security with the state, Israeli political leaders perpetuate the conflict rather than resolve it."

"Missing the Spoiler: Israel's Policy with Regard to Hamas during the Oslo Talks and the First Stages of the Implementation of the Oslo Accords" by Elad Ben-Dror and Netanel Flamer

Abstract: "The article examines how Israel related to the threat that Hamas posed to the peace process, both during the talks that led to the signing of the Declaration of Principles (December 1992–September 1993) and then until the signing of the Oslo 2 agreement (September 1995). The Israeli negotiators and leaders were locked into the idea that the PLO would "deal with Hamas" because of its clear interest to do so. During the talks, however, there was no detailed discussion of the matter. Instead, the negotiators focused—and with full justification—on the important achievement of an accord with the PLO and its agreement to refrain from terrorism. This, reinforced by the assumption that the PLO would suppress Hamas, paved the way for the signing of the Declaration of Principles without any concrete attention to Hamas. Thus Hamas terrorism proved to be a major obstacle to the fulfillment of the Oslo Accords. Hamas bomb attacks killed many Israelis and undermined Israelis' faith in the process. In parallel, the IDF activity to thwart Hamas, which involved major operations on the ground, as well as the accords' failure to produce an economic upturn for the Palestinians, diminished their support for the agreement."

***Conflict, Security, and Justice: Practice and Challenges in Peacebuilding* by Eleanor Gordon**

"This path-breaking new textbook provides a broad overview of the core concepts, actors and activities involved in building security and justice after conflict, as well as challenges and lessons learned in this field. Drawing attention to the principles which guide – or should guide – this kind of work, as well as using practical examples throughout, the book covers a uniquely wide range of issues in peacebuilding – from transitional justice and disarmament to security sector reform and human rights. It concludes by considering both the regional and more far-reaching impacts of conflict, including such global phenomena as terrorism, piracy and organised crime." - Bloomsbury Publishing

Aziz Abu Sarah: “Crossing Boundaries” talk hosted by the Center for Global Studies at the University of Wyoming

“Aziz Abu Sarah, internationally known peace builder, speaks on his work to build international understanding through tourism. Having experienced the impacts of hostility and violence in Jerusalem, Aziz chose a different way in the world. The founder of Mejdi Tours, which develops cultural exchange and understanding through tourism in some of the world’s most challenging places, Aziz advocates for the power of story telling—and of listening to others’ stories. In 2020, he published *Crossing Boundaries: A Traveler’s Guide to World Peace*. Aziz Abu Sarah spoke at the University of Wyoming in November 2022.” - Center for Global Studies

International Law

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Summary of Conventions on Occupation of Territory

“Under international humanitarian law, the rules relating to the law of occupation provide strong protections for persons living under occupation. International humanitarian law (IHL) only applies to armed conflict, and the laws on occupation only apply to situations of occupation – a specific type of armed conflict.” - excerpt. A summary of what constitutes military occupation, and the duties of the occupier towards the occupied people.

Convention (IV) relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War (4th Geneva Convention)

Particularly Part III, including Section III: Occupied Territories and Article 49 - Deportations, transfers, evacuations, and Article 60 - Relief II. Responsibilities of the Occupying Power.

This section of the conventions are one of two pieces of international law outlining the obligations and prohibitions upon the forces maintaining an occupation vis a vis the territory, its own civilians, and the occupied population of civilians.

Convention (II) with Respect to the Laws and Customs of War on Land and annex (2nd Hague Convention)

Articles 42-56

This is the second convention defining the obligations and prohibitions upon forces maintaining an occupation over a territory and people.

C169 - Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention, 1989 (United Nations International Labor Organization)

Outlined by the International Labor Organization of the UN, this document defines indigenous persons and their rights.

United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

UN Declaration adopted in 2007 on the rights of indigenous peoples. For a definition of indigenous peoples under international law, see C169 - Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention, 1989.

“Expert Guidance: Law of Armed Conflict in the Israel-Hamas War” by Ryan Goodman, Michael W. Meier and Tess Bridgeman

“The following describes the law of armed conflict (LOAC), also known as international humanitarian law, that applies to the ongoing Israel-Hamas war. We identify where the law is well settled and clear, and where it is less so. We do not apply the law to any alleged facts. Indeed, whether any conduct violates the law would generally require a fact-driven, case-by-case analysis. We hope this guidance will assist policymakers, diplomats, analysts, reporters, scholars, and the public at large.” - excerpted from the text. A summary, from October 17th, of specific items of international law as it pertains to the war in Gaza.

International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid

Definition of apartheid under international law and the responsibilities of states party to the convention.

Reports on Apartheid in the Occupied Palestinian Territories and Israel

Reports from one Israeli and two international human rights organizations on the evidence of apartheid structures perpetuated in the West Bank, Gaza, and Israel.

- [Summary](#)
- [Human Rights Watch](#)
- [Amnesty International](#)
- B'Tselem
 - [Summary](#)
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Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of Genocide

The UN-adopted convention defining genocide, and outlining the responsibilities of states party to the convention in the event of apparent genocide.

“Genocide” and “Genocide as a Crime under International Law” by Raphael Lemkin

Raphael Lemkin was a Polish Jewish lawyer and is best known for originating the concept of genocide prior to its codification under international law. His definition of genocide contains notable differences from its definition in the Convention. Most notably, Lemkin’s definition does not require intent for genocide to have taken place, a turning point of the international Convention, and includes, as well as “biological destruction,” the act of “cultural destruction” as constituting genocide. See “Genocide” VI for a concise definition, and “Genocide” V for discussion as it relates to an occupied population.

Indication by the International Court of Justice of provisional measures in South Africa’s Application against Israel (January 2024)

- [The decision](#)
- [The case](#)

***Justice for Some: Law and the Question of Palestine* by Noura Erakat**

“Justice in the Question of Palestine is often framed as a question of law. Yet none of the Israel-Palestinian conflict's most vexing challenges have been resolved by judicial intervention. Occupation law has failed to stem Israel's settlement enterprise. Laws of war have permitted killing and destruction during Israel's military offensives in the Gaza Strip...Focusing on key junctures—from the Balfour Declaration in 1917 to present-day wars in Gaza—Noura Erakat shows how the strategic deployment of law has shaped current conditions. Over the past century, the law has done more to advance Israel's interests than the Palestinians'. But, Erakat argues, this outcome was never inevitable. Law is politics, and its meaning and application depend on the political intervention of states and people alike. Within the law, change is possible. International law can serve the cause of freedom when it is mobilized in support of a political movement. Presenting the promise and risk of international law, *Justice for Some* calls for renewed action and attention to the Question of Palestine.” - ProQuest

“Realising the Right of Return: Refugees’ Roles in Localising Norms and Socialising UNHCR” by Megan Bradley

Abstract: “Refugee repatriation rests on a fundamental norm: the right of return. The Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) styles itself as the chief defender of international norms on refugees, educating refugees about their rights and socialising states to

respect the cardinal rules of the refugee regime. However, UNHCR initially devoted little attention to the right of return. When UNHCR began to engage more actively with repatriation in the 1980s, it had only a nascent institutional conceptualisation of the right of return: it framed the implementation of the right of return as a non-political, humanitarian undertaking, and assumed sovereign states had largely unfettered discretion in its implementation. Drawing on extensive material from the UNHCR archives on repatriation movements from Honduras to El Salvador in the 1980s, this article examines how refugees themselves have influenced the governance of return by serving as norm entrepreneurs, localising the right of return and socialising UNHCR to rethink and support broader interpretations of this principle. It analyzes how Salvadoran refugees envisioned the right of return as a collective and deeply political process of asserting citizenship claims, and took direct action to implement this right, compelling UNHCR and government actors to adjust to their vision. These experiences have important implications for understandings of the right of return as an international norm, and the roles of refugees themselves as actors in norm localisation and socialisation processes. Reinforcing and expanding on recent studies of how refugees actively shape aid efforts, peacebuilding and the resolution of displacement, this study highlights the significance of subaltern power in the refugee regime, showing how it can reverberate across different sites and scales to definitively influence not only the execution of the regime's core functions but also the interpretation of the normative commitments underpinning it."

United Nations Resolutions concerning Palestine

Concerning Israel

- See in particular Resolutions 181, 194
- Security Council Resolutions 237, 242

Films

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Drama

Foxtrot

Abstract: “Michael and Dafna are devastated when army officials show up at their home to announce the death of their son Jonathan. While his sedated wife rests, Michael spirals into a whirlwind of anger only to experience one of life's unfathomable twists, which rival the surreal military experiences of his son.”

Historical Drama

Farha (Netflix)

As Palestine descends into civil war between Jewish settlers and Palestinians, a Palestinian daughter is locked in a closet for her protection, and witnesses horrifying violence take place outside. A portrait of the Nakba, the mass expulsion of Palestinians by Israeli forces in 1948, through the lens of one atrocity. Based on the director’s family history.

Waltz with Bashir

“An animated motion picture based on events in the director's own life, involving his attempts to both remember and verify his wartime experiences. After not being able to recall the time he spent on an Israeli Army mission during the Lebanon War, Ari attempts to unravel the mystery by traveling around the world to interview old friends and comrades. As the pieces of the puzzle begin to come together, his memory begins to return in illustrations that are surreal...” - Library description

Semi-fictional Drama

Our Boys (TV series, Max)

“In the summer of 2014, three Jewish teenagers are kidnapped and murdered, leaving Israel shocked. Two days later, the burned body of a 16-year-old Palestinian from eastern Jerusalem is

found. Based on true events, this HBO limited series follows Simon, an officer from the Shin Bet, as he investigates the murder, while the parents of the slain teenager seek justice.” - description via HBO.

***The Present* (short film, available on Amazon)**

“On his wedding anniversary, Yusef and his young daughter set out in the West Bank to buy his wife a gift. Between soldiers, segregated roads and checkpoints, how easy would it be to go shopping?” - via IMDB

Documentaries

GAZA

“Gaza brings us into a unique place beyond the reach of television news reports to reveal a world rich with eloquent and resilient characters, offering us a cinematic and enriching portrait of a people attempting to lead meaningful lives against the rubble of perennial conflict.” - via Filmoption Film Festival

Ambulance

“An honest, straight and raw first-person account of the last war in Gaza in the summer of 2014. Mohamed Jabaly, a young man from Gaza City, joins an ambulance crew as war approaches, looking for his place in a country under siege. While thousands of things are published on the recurring violence, the stories behind them remain hidden. Not this one.” - Library description

Born in Gaza

“Filmed shortly after the 2014 Gaza war, this documentary examines how violence has transformed the lives of 10 Palestinian children.” - via IMDB

Israel: State of Siege

“Israeli society felt threatened and took to the trenches during the Gaza war, launching devastating attacks on its Palestinian neighbours with a high toll of civilian deaths. Why? To try and find some answers we visited the kibbutzim - Israeli collective farms - located near the Gaza

Strip. For the past 8 years they have been under attack by the Palestinian militia, making it difficult for them to imagine coming to peace with their neighbours across the border. But that response is not unique to Israelis living in the south of the country. More than 90% of Israeli Jews supported the Gaza offensive. In Tel Aviv, the country's most modern and cosmopolitan city, many young people admit to feeling increasingly threatened. According to some Israeli anti-war political analysts, this reaction has been stirred up by politicians and the media, which give little voice to independent thinkers. One exception is the weekly political satire TV program "Eretz Nehederet" ('A Wonderful Country') that takes Israeli politicians to task through its sharp humour, but during the Gaza offensive, also made jokes about the number of Palestinian victims - victims who today are no longer willing to even try and understand Israeli society.” - via Alexander Street

Gaza Under Siege

“One of the most densely populated places on earth, the Gaza Strip, is home to a million Palestinians -- and is a virtual prison. Just forty-three kilometers long and ten kilometers wide, most of its residents are refugees who have lived in camps since 1948. Since the Palestinian uprising -- the second Intifada -- began in September 2000, none of Gaza's forty thousand day laborers have been able to cross the border to Israel. The checkpoint is also closed to all goods and medical supplies coming in from Israel and the West Bank. Local Gazans bear the brunt of Israel's determination to quash the uprising.” - via Alexander Street

Mayor

“MAYOR follows Musa Hadid, the Christian mayor of Ramallah, during his second term in office. His immediate goals: repave the sidewalks, attract more tourism, and plan the city's Christmas celebrations. His ultimate mission: to end the occupation of Palestine. Rich with detailed observation and humor, MAYOR offers a portrait of dignity amidst the madness and absurdity of endless occupation while posing a question: how do you run a city when you don't have a country?” - via film website

Children of Shatila

“Farah and Issa are two Palestinian children who live in the refugee camp of Shatila, home to displaced Palestinians and Lebanese alike. Following the Shatila massacre of 1982, Farah and Issa struggle to lead a normal life, as they deal with the realities of living in a refugee camp. When they are each given a video camera to film with, we are given an insight into the questions

that these young minds have, growing up in a war-torn region that has witnessed countless tragedies.” - via Alexander Street

5 Broken Cameras

“Winner at the Sundance Film Festival, 5 BROKEN CAMERAS is a deeply personal, first-hand account of non-violent resistance in Bil'in, a West Bank village threatened by encroaching Israeli settlements. Shot almost entirely by Palestinian farmer Emad Burnat, who bought his first camera in 2005 to record the birth of his youngest son, the footage was later given to Israeli co-director Guy Davidi to edit. Structured around the violent destruction of each one of Burnat's cameras, the filmmakers' collaboration follows one family's evolution over five years of village turmoil. Burnat watches from behind the lens as olive trees are bulldozed, protests intensify, and lives are lost. "I feel like the camera protects me," he says, "but it's an illusion." - via Kanopy

Disturbing the Peace

“DISTURBING THE PEACE follows former enemy combatants--Israeli soldiers from elite units and Palestinian fighters, many of whom served years in prison--who have joined together to challenge the status quo and say 'enough.' The film reveals their transformational journeys from soldiers committed to armed battle to nonviolent peace activists, leading to the creation of Combatants for Peace.” - Library description

The Law in These Parts

“Can a modern democracy impose a prolonged military occupation on another people while retaining its core democratic values? Since Israel conquered the territories of the West Bank and Gaza Strip in the 1967 war, the military has imposed thousands of orders and laws, established military courts, sentenced hundreds of thousands of Palestinians, enabled half a million Israeli "settlers" to move to the Occupied Territories and developed a system of long-term jurisdiction by an occupying army that is unique in the entire world. The men entrusted with creating this new legal framework were the members of Israel's military legal corps. Responding to a constantly changing reality, these legal professionals have faced (and continue to face) complex judicial and moral dilemmas in order to develop and uphold a system of long-term military “rule by law” of an occupied population, all under the supervision of Israel's Supreme Court, and, according to Israel, in complete accordance with international law.” - via film website

The Settlers

"Since Israel's decisive victory in the 1967 Six-Day War, hundreds of thousands of Israeli citizens have made their homes in the Occupied Territories of the West Bank. With unprecedented access to pioneers of the settlement movement and a diverse group of modern-day settlers, religious and secular alike, "The settlers" is a comprehensive exploration of the controversial communities that exert inordinate influence on the sociopolitical destinies of Israel and Palestine." - Container

Israelism

"When two young American Jews raised to unconditionally love Israel witness the brutal way Israel treats Palestinians, their lives take sharp left turns. They join a movement of young American Jews battling the old guard to redefine Judaism's relationship with Israel, revealing a deepening generational divide over modern Jewish identity." - via film website

Other Resources

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News

[Ha'aretz](#)

Israel's primary centrist newspaper, whose name means "The Land." Covering news across Israel, the Jewish world, and, infrequently, Palestine, Ha'aretz hosts reporting and opinion from Jewish Israelis and other citizens of Israel. Widely respected internationally for its nuance and balance from a Zionist perspective, it is less representative of Israeli public opinion than the far more popular Israel Hayom.

[Al Jazeera](#)

A major international news channel for much of the Middle East and North Africa region, funded in large part by the Qatari government but with independent editorial oversight. With a much larger regional focus than Ha'aretz, Al Jazeera English and AJ+ frequently cover events in Palestine and Israel from the perspective of MENA countries, individuals, and Palestinians themselves.

[+972 Magazine](#)

With a name based on the shared phone code of Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories, +972 brings coverage and long form content by Israelis and Palestinians about their shared reality. Covering news and opinion about politics, violence, social movements and solidarity.

Non-Governmental and Civil Society Organizations

[UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs](#)

"Our name, OCHA, stands for the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. In the occupied Palestinian territory (oPt), as elsewhere around the world, we coordinate emergency response to save lives and protect people in humanitarian crises. We advocate for effective and principled humanitarian action by all, for all." - from the website

B'Tselem

“Since B’Tselem’s inception in 1989, we have been documenting, researching and publishing statistics, testimonies, video footage, position papers and reports on human rights violations committed by Israel in the Occupied Territories. The initial mandate we took upon ourselves focused on the occupation regime in the West Bank (including East Jerusalem) and in the Gaza Strip. However, over the years, it has become clear that the concept of two parallel regimes operating between the Mediterranean Sea and Jordan River...is divorced from reality. The entire area that Israel controls is ruled by a single apartheid regime, governing the lives of all people living in it and operating according to one organizing principle: establishing and perpetuating the control of one group of people – Jews – over another – Palestinians – through laws, practices and state violence.” - from the website

Combatants for Peace

“Combatants for Peace is a grassroots movement of Palestinians and Israelis, working together to end the occupation and bring peace, equality and freedom to our homeland. Committed to joint nonviolence since our inception, we use civil resistance, education and other creative means of activism to transform systems of oppression and build a free and peaceful future from the ground up. Launched in 2006, we are the only movement worldwide that was founded by former fighters on both sides of an active conflict. As a result, we were nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize in 2017 and 2018.” - from the website

Ir Amim

“Ir Amim (“City of Nations” or “City of Peoples”) focuses on Jerusalem within the context of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The mission of Ir Amim is to render Jerusalem a more equitable and sustainable city for the Israelis and Palestinians who share it and to help secure a negotiated resolution on the city through sustained monitoring, reporting, public and legal advocacy, public education and outreach to re-orient the public discourse on Jerusalem.” - from the website

On Campus Resources

MENA Culture Club

“The Middle East & North Africa (MENA) Cultural Club is a group of students interested in the region's culture, tradition and history. It is an opportunity for students to come together to share

in this interest, learn about the MENA region and experience a new culture. If you are originally from the MENA region, it is the chance to learn about countries different from your own, as well as share and educate people about your country's culture.” - from the website

Arabic and Middle East Studies Program

“The UW Arabic and Middle East North Africa (MENA) Studies Program aims to provide quality education in Arabic and Middle East North Africa Studies through formal courses, experiential learning, and study abroad opportunities; to foster understanding of the Middle East/North Africa region in Wyoming by encouraging diverse perspectives; to help current and future students develop the creative and critical thinking necessary to address local and global challenges.” - from the website

Center for International Experiential Learning

“This annual study abroad experience allows UW students to travel to the Middle East and learn more about the Israel-Palestinian conflict. Students are exposed to peace processes, diplomatic relations, and foreign policy. Students will meet politicians, community leaders, non-governmental organizations, faith leaders, and victims/survivors from all sides impacted by the conflict to hear a comprehensive view of the divergent perspectives, narratives, and human stories of people living in the region. Hosted by the Center for International Experiential Learning, students will be in Jordan, Israel, and the West Bank.” - from the website

Peeling Back: Narratives from the MENA Region by the UWyo Arabic and Middle East Studies Program, episodes:

- **Peacebuilding through Storytelling**
 - Palestinian peace activist, author, and entrepreneur, Aziz Abu Sarah discusses practical advice on how to be a peacemaker, future prospects of peace in Israel/Palestine, and the power of storytelling in peacebuilding efforts.
- **On the Ground in Gaza**
 - Palestinian Fulbright scholar Abdulrahim Abuwarda talks about his experiences growing up in the Gaza Strip, the difficult journey he faced getting out, and the future he sees for the people of Gaza. He also talks about how he has adjusted to his new home in Wyoming.
- **Insights from the Frontline: Timna Medovoy’s Perspective on October 7th and Beyond**

- Timna Modevoy, conflict educator and Deputy Director for International Experiential Learning, discusses her firsthand experience in the recent Israel-Gaza conflict and explores societal shifts in Israel since October 7th.
- **International Experiential Learning: Twenty Years of Conflict Narratives**
 - Founder of the non-profit CIEL (Center for International Experiential Learning), Dr. Daniel Wehernfenning discusses his twenty years of experiential learning programs that explore the Israeli-Palestinian and the Northern Ireland conflicts.

Travel and Experiential Learning

Fellowships at the W.F. Albright Institute for Archaeological Research

The W. F. Albright Institute of Archaeological Research (AIAR) supports an annual Fellows program that brings US, Israeli, Palestinian and other international scholars together in the shared pursuit of research excellence. The AIAR offers around 12 fellowships every year, each with different requirements regarding nationality, academic status, and terms of residency (between one and six months). Continuous residency at the Albright is required without frequent trips outside the country, and each fellowship includes a stipend that is used in part to cover room and board. The option to accommodate dependents is subject to available space.

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Journals

Israel Studies Review

“Israel Studies Review (ISR) is the journal of the Association for Israel Studies, an international and interdisciplinary scholarly organization dedicated to the study of all aspects of Israeli society, history, politics, and culture. ISR explores modern and contemporary Israel from the perspective of the social sciences, history, the humanities, and cultural studies and welcomes submissions on

these subjects. The journal also pays close attention to the relationships of Israel to the Middle East and to the wider world, and encourages scholarly articles with this broader theoretical or comparative approach provided the focus remains on modern Israel.” - via JSTOR

Journal for Palestine Studies

“Since 1971, the Journal of Palestine Studies (JPS) has been the leading quarterly devoted exclusively to the Arab-Israeli conflict and Palestinian affairs. JPS provides an international forum for study of the region and peaceful resolution to the conflict. Comprehensive analysis of current developments in the peace process as well as a range of articles from the latest historical scholarship to coverage of cultural and societal trends, are included in JPS. In-depth feature articles by respected writers and behind-the-scenes interviews are supplemented by a wealth of concise documentation. Each issue of the Journal of Palestine Studies also carries book reviews, documents and source material, a chronology and a bibliography of periodical literature. There is also a settlement monitor assessing Israeli settlements in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.” - via JSTOR

Archives

The Palestinian Museum Digital Archive - أرشيف المتحف الفلسطيني الرقمي

A searchable archive of digitized media, including photos, documents, posters, videos, and more, from the collections of the Palestinian Museum at Bir Zeit University in the occupied West Bank. The archive allows users to explore often-overlooked Palestinian primary source materials related to history, culture, politics, resistance, diaspora, women, and more.

National Library of Israel

The National Library of the state of Israel boasts a wealth of material on a gamut of Jewish and Israeli historical topics. In their words, they have “over 1000 personal archives, the majority of which bear testimony to the activities of outstanding Jewish personalities from a wide variety of spheres: writers and poets, humanists, rabbis, Zionist leaders, scientists, journalists, critics and others...[including] approximately a million items focusing on the Land of Israel in the 19th century and Diaspora Jewish communities.”

Miscellaneous

iReturn (app by Zochrot)

“iReturn – Navigate Palestine, Imagine The Future, is an upgraded version of the famous trilingual iNakba App first launched in 2014. The App is designed to enhance understanding of the Palestinian Nakba, its manifestations in the landscape and the possibility for redress. With the iReturn app, Zochrot aims to use technology to re-tell a suppressed history and to reveal Israel’s hidden landscape of ethnic cleansing and forced expulsions. It gives users and beneficiaries a tool through which they could learn that history but also envision a just, viable, and peaceful solution to the ongoing crisis facing Palestinian refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs).” - Zochrot Website

Brandeis Teach-in on October 7 and its implications

A panel of Brandeis faculty moderated by Professor Alexander Kaye, Director of the Schusterman Center for Israel Studies, in the immediate aftermath of October 7. Panel expertise includes: Arab Politics, Mizrahi and Sephardi studies, Israeli Politics, Journalism and Middle Eastern Studies, American Jewish History, and Israeli Law.