



Learn More About...

Israeli-Palestinian Conflict

An Annotated Bibliography

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Web Links

Arava Institute for Environmental Studies <<http://www.arava.org>>

The Arava Institute for Environmental Studies is the premier environmental teaching and research program in the Middle East, preparing future Arab and Jewish leaders to cooperatively solve the region's environmental challenges. The Institute gives Jewish, Arab and other students a unique opportunity to study and live together for an extended period of time; building networks and understanding that will enable future cooperative work and activism in the Middle East and beyond. The idea that nature knows no political borders is more than a belief. It is a curriculum, and a way of life.

Churches for Middle East Peace <<http://www.cmep.org/>>

The work of Churches for Middle East Peace focuses on Washington in the knowledge that sound United States policy is crucial to achieving and maintaining just and stable relationships throughout the Middle East. CMEP seeks to help the member organizations advocate in a knowledgeable, timely and effective way their concerns about justice and peace for all people and countries in the region.

End the Occupation <<http://www.endtheoccupation.org/article.php?list=type&type=34>>

The U.S. Campaign to End the Occupation seeks to inform, educate and mobilize the public in the United States in order to change the U.S. role in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict to support peace, justice, human rights and international law.

The Israeli Committee Against House Demolitions <<http://www.icahd.org/>>

The ICAHD is a non-violent, direct-action group originally established to oppose and resist Israeli demolition of Palestinian houses in the Occupied Territories. Recently, the organization has expanded its action to other areas including land expropriation, settlement expansion, by-pass road construction, policies of "closure" and "separation" and the wholesale uprooting of fruit and olive trees.

Israeli/Palestinian Conflict 101 <http://www.jewishvoiceforpeace.org/publish/printer_101conflict.shtml>

Jewish Voice for Peace has created this helpful "Frequently Asked Questions" page answering some of the most basic questions about the Israeli/Palestinian Conflict. Visitors to the site can even post their own questions which will be answered by JVP.

Jewish Voice for Peace <<http://www.jewishvoiceforpeace.org/>>

Jewish Voice for Peace is a diverse and democratic community of activists inspired by Jewish tradition to work together for peace, social justice, and human rights, including the aspirations of Israelis and Palestinians for security and self-determination.

Michigan Peace Team <<http://www.michiganpeaceteam.org/>>

The *Michigan Peace Team* offers nonviolence training workshops and provides opportunities to join delegations to Israel/Palestine.

Stop the Wall <<http://www.stophewall.org/>>

The Palestinian grassroots Anti-Apartheid Wall Campaign is a coalition of Palestinian non-governmental organizations and popular committees that mobilize and coordinate efforts on local, national and international levels. These efforts are focused upon stopping and dismantling the wall, and resisting Israeli occupation and colonization.

Books

Phyllis Bennis, *Understanding the Palestinian-Israeli Conflict: A Primer* (Orlando, FL: Trans Arab Research Institute, 2002)

Using easy to understand and straight-forward language, Phyllis Bennis, a fellow at the Institute of Policy Studies and long time analyst of the Middle East and U.S. Policy in the region answers frequently asked questions regarding the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Walter Bruggemann, *The Land: Place as Gift, Promise and Challenge in Biblical Faith* (Minneapolis, MN: Augsburg Fortress, 2002)

The land was one of the most vibrant symbols for the people of ancient Israel. In the land—gift, promise, and challenge—was found the physical source of Israel's fertility and life, and a place for the gathering of the hopes of the covenant people. In this careful treatment, Walter Brueggemann follows the development of his theme through the major blocks of Israel's traditions. The book provides a point of entrance both to the theology of the Old Testament and to aspects of the New Testament—even as it illuminates crucial issues of the contemporary scene, including the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Joan Chittister, OSB et al. *The Tent of Abraham: Stories of Hope and Peace for Jews, Christians, and Muslims* (Boston: Beacon Press, 2006)

In recent years there has been an explosion of curiosity and debate about Islam and the role of religion on the global stage. The debates bring up questions of politics, history, and global security, but virtually no one speaks to the heart and the spirit. *The Tent of Abraham* provides readers with stories that can bring all the faiths together. Written by three religious leaders, from the Jewish, Muslim and Christian faiths, the book explores in accessible language the mythic quality and the teachings of reconciliation that are embedded in the Torah, the Quran and the Bible. It also employs the story of Abraham from all three of these sacred texts to weave together the wisdoms of these religious traditions into a deeper more unified whole.

Elias Chacour, *Blood Brothers* (Grand Rapids, MI: Chosen Books, 2003)

As a child, Elias Chacour lived in a small Palestinian village in Galilee. The townspeople were proud of their ancient Christian heritage and lived at peace with their Jewish neighbors. But early in 1947, their idyllic lifestyle was swept away as tens of thousands of Palestinians were killed and nearly one million forced into refugee camps. An exile in his native land, Elias began a years-long struggle with his love for the Jewish people and the world's misunderstanding of his own people. In *Blood Brothers*, Chacour blends his riveting life story with historical research to reveal a little-known side of the Arab-Israeli conflict and the birth of modern Israel.

Edward Said, *The Question of Palestine* (New York: Random House, 1992)

This original and deeply provocative book was the first to make Palestine the subject of a serious debate. Edward Said traces the fatal collision between two peoples in the Middle East and its repercussions in the lives of both the occupier and the occupied - as well as in the conscience of the West.

Raja Shehadeh, *Strangers in the House: Coming of Age in Occupied Palestine* (South Royalton, VT: Steerforth Press, 2002)

In this autobiography of a Palestinian living in Israel, Shehadeh, a lawyer and founder of Al-Haq, an affiliate of the International Commission of Jurists, reminisces about growing up "in the shadow of home" and coming to terms with the political situation in which he was born. It wasn't until he was an adult that he finally understood the work of his father, Aziz, an early advocate of the two-state solution for the Israeli-Palestinian conflict who was murdered in 1985. Shehadeh describes the uncertainties of life during a period of national difficulty. Readers

will get a glimpse into the emotional and political turmoil of the region and possibly form a better understanding of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Raja Shehadeh, *When the Birds Stopped Singing: Life in Ramallah Under Siege* (South Royalton, VT: Steerforth Press, 2003)

Shehadeh gave a general presentation of the Palestinian Arab plight in his memoir *Strangers in the House*. Here he provides an intimate view of living under curfew, listening to gunfire and explosions, detouring around troops and roadblocks and having one's home searched or damaged. Amid these vignettes, Shehadeh expounds on the immediate context – the collapse of the Oslo Accord – up to the present.

Sandy Tolan, *The Lemon Tree: An Arab, A Jew, and the Heart of the Middle East* (New York: Bloomsbury Publishing, 2006)

The title of this moving, well-crafted book refers to a tree in the backyard of a home in Ramla, Israel. The home is currently owned by Dalia, a Jewish woman whose family of Holocaust survivors emigrated from Bulgaria. But before Israel gained its independence in 1948, the house was owned by the Palestinian family of Bashir, who meets Dalia when he returns to see his family home after the Six-Day War of 1967. Journalist Tolan traces the history of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict through the parallel personal histories of Dalia and Bashir and their families—all refugees seeking a home. As Tolan takes the story forward, Dalia struggles with her Israeli identity, and Bashir struggles with decades in Israeli prisons for suspected terrorist activities. As they follow Dalia and Bashir's difficult friendship, readers will experience one of the world's most stubborn conflicts firsthand.

Articles/Papers/Study Guides

Churches for Middle East Peace, “Church Toolkit for Israeli-Palestinian Peacemaking,” *Churches for Middle East Peace*, 6 May 2006 <http://www.cmep.org/Toolkit/Church_Toolkit.htm>

This toolkit is designed to assist congregational leaders in planning a worship service, prayer vigil, adult Sunday School series, workshop, panel discussion, advocacy initiative or other community activity by highlighting topics as well as resources for more information.

Marion Couldrey and Dr. Tim Morris, “Palestinian Displacement: A Case Apart?” *Forced Migration Review* 26, September 2006 <<http://www.fmreview.org/palestine.htm>>

This issue includes a major feature on *Palestinian displacement*. Twenty-eight articles by UN, Palestinian and international human rights organizations, Palestinian scholars in the Diaspora and Jewish and Israeli activist groups examine the root causes of the displacement of Palestinians, the consequences of the failure to apply international humanitarian law in the Occupied Palestinian Territory and Palestinian entitlement to protection and compensation.

Rabbi Michael Lerner, “Israel has Crossed a Moral Boundary,” *ZNet*, 10 July 2006

<<http://www.zmag.org/content/showarticle.cfm?SectionID=107&ItemID=10550>>

Rabbi Michael Lerner, author and editor of *Tikkun* magazine, the largest circulation progressive Jewish magazine in the world argues that Americans should challenge Israeli policy even as we support Israeli security.

Sojourners, “Christians and the Middle East” *Sojourners on the Issues*, 2006 <http://store.sojo.net/product_p/dg_me.htm>

It has been said that up to 70 percent of the conflicts in the world today stem from the still unresolved Israeli/Palestinian conflict. This guide, from *Sojourners* magazine, is part of a series designed to spark discussion, thought, and action about how to live out God's call for justice for all. The guide includes four sessions, each with *Sojourners* articles, questions for discussion and ideas for further study.

Kathleen Wells, “Noam Chomsky: The Real Reasons the U.S. Enables Israeli Crimes and Atrocities,” *AlterNet*, August 16, 2010 <<http://www.alternet.org/world/147865>>

Noam Chomsky is internationally recognized as one of America's most critically engaged public intellectuals today. He spoke with Kathleen Wells, a political correspondent for *Race-Talk*, about Israel and its interplay with the United States.

Periodicals/Newsletters

Churches for Middle East Peace quarterly newsletter <<http://www.cmep.org/Policy/policy.htm>>

Haaretz <http://www.haaretz.com/>

Occupation End Notes <<http://www.endtheoccupation.org/article.php?list=type&type=48>>

Washington Report on Middle East Affairs <<http://www.wrmea.com/>>

Audio/Visual/Interactive Resources

The McNeil Lehrer News Hour: Israeli-Palestinian Conflict Interactive Site

<http://www.pbs.org/newshour/bb/middle_east/conflict/index.html>

This site provides regularly updated news on the development of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict as well as a number of interactive educational tools including a map of Israel and the Occupied Territories, a history of the various peace efforts in the region, the key players in the peace process, and resources for teachers.

Munich. Prod. Dreamworks SKG, 2005

During the 1972 Olympic Games in Munich, eleven Israeli athletes are taken hostage and murdered by a Palestinian terrorist group known as Black September. In retaliation, the Israeli government recruits a group of Mossad agents to track down and execute those responsible for the attack. This film looks at the decades of terrorism and reprisal and concludes, as one of the characters states, "There can be no peace at the end of this."

Paradise Now. Prod. Augustus Film 2005

Two men, best friends from childhood, are summoned to fulfill their agreement to be suicide bombers for the Palestinian cause. The movie passes no judgment on these men; impassioned arguments are made for both sides of the conflict. Its psychological portrait goes beyond the Palestinian/Israeli conflict and resonates with fanaticism and oppression throughout the world, be it related to a religious, nationalist or tribal cause.

Promises. DVD and VHS. Prod. The Promises Film Project. 2004

Promises follows the journey of one of the filmmakers, Israeli-American B.Z. Goldberg. B.Z. travels to a Palestinian refugee camp and to an Israeli settlement in the West Bank, and to the more familiar neighborhoods of Jerusalem where he meets seven Palestinian and Israeli children. Though the children live only 20 minutes apart, they exist in completely separate worlds; the physical, historical and emotional obstacles between them run deep. *Promises* explores the nature of these boundaries and tells the story of a few children who dared to cross the lines to meet their neighbors. Rather than focusing on political events, the seven children featured in PROMISES offer a refreshing, human and sometimes humorous portrait of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. 106 minutes.

<<http://www.promisesproject.org/film.html>>

Searching for Peace in the Middle East. Prod. Foundation for Middle East Peace, 2006

Through the voices of Israelis and Palestinians of diverse backgrounds, this film explores the issues that divide them and reveals their hopes and fears. It describes in a compelling way a common yearning for peace, pointing the way toward a resolution of this tragic conflict that would meet the deepest needs of both societies, and it calls for new American diplomatic leadership. A study guide for use with the DVD can be downloaded at.

<http://www.cmep.org/documents/Searching_For_Peace_Booklet.pdf>

Shoah. Prod. Historia, 1985

Claude Lanzmann directed this 9 1/2 hour documentary of the Holocaust without using a single frame of archive footage. He interviews survivors, witnesses, and ex-Nazis (whom he had to film secretly since they only agreed to be interviewed by audio). His style of interviewing by asking for the minutest details is effective at adding up

these details to give a horrifying portrait of the events of Nazi genocide. The film shows that the anti-Semitism that caused 6 million Jews to die in the Holocaust is still alive in many people living in Germany, Poland, and elsewhere.