

General Introduction and Historical Overview

Suggested Titles

Bennis, Phyllis. **Understanding the Palestinian—Israeli Conflict: A Primer.** Updated 6th Edition. Northampton: Olive Branch Press, 2015. (“This balanced and highly useful “primer” presents in question-and-answer form extensive explanations of recent events in the Israeli-Palestinian struggle. It explains both sides’ needs and actions, the recent surge in violence, and the roles of the United States, the United Nations, the Arab States, and Europe. An essential volume by an experienced scholar and analyst at the Institute for Policy Studies in Washington, DC.” —*Library Journal*)

Gelvin, James. **The Israel-Palestine Conflict: One Hundred Years of War,** 3rd ed. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, 2014. (“Now entering its third edition, James L. Galvan’s award-winning account of the conflict between Israelis and their forebears, on the one hand, and Palestinians and theirs, on the other, offers a compelling, accessible, and current introduction for students and general readers. Newly updated to take into account the effects of the 2010-11 Arab uprisings on the conflict and the recognition of Palestinian statehood by the United Nations, the book traces the struggle from the emergence of nationalism among the Jews of Europe and the Arab inhabitants of Ottoman Palestine through the present, exploring the external pressures and internal logic that have propelled it. Placing events in Palestine within the framework of global history, *The Israel-Palestine Conflict: One Hundred Years of War* skillfully interweaves biographical sketches, eyewitness accounts, poetry, fiction, and official documentation into its narrative.” – Amazon)

Khalidi, Rashid. **The Iron Cage: The Story of the Palestinian Struggle for Statehood.** Boston: Beacon Press, 2006. (“Historian Khalidi (Resurrecting Empire), a leading expert on the Middle East and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, brings vital perspective to Palestinian attempts to achieve independence and statehood. Admirably synthesizing the latest scholarship and concentrating on the period of the British Mandate (1920–1948) established by the League of Nations after WWI, Khalidi describes the process by which a newly arrived European Jewish minority overcame, with help from its imperial ally, the claims and rights of the native Arab majority in what became Israel and the occupied territories. Khalidi shows Palestinians under the mandate facing comparatively severe systemic, institutional and constitutional obstacles to the development of any para-state structure—contrary to British promises of Arab independence and Article 4 of the Covenant of the League of Nations. Meanwhile, the Jewish minority could count on a system biased in its favor to develop the structures that became those of the Israeli government in 1948 amid violent expulsion of over half the indigenous population. In bringing this narrative up to the present, Khalidi rigorously details the missteps of the Palestinians and their leadership. —*Publishers Weekly*)

Morris, Benny. **Righteous Victims: A History of the Zionist-Arab Conflict, 1881-2001**, Reprint Edition. New York: Vintage, 2001. (“Tracing the roots of political Zionism back to the pogroms of Russia and the Dreyfus Affair, Morris describes the gradual influx of Jewish settlers into Palestine and the impact they had on the Arab population. Following the Holocaust, the first Arab-Israeli war of 1948 resulted in the establishment of the State of Israel, but it also shattered Palestinian Arab society and gave rise to a massive refugee problem. Morris offers distinctive accounts of each of the subsequent Israeli-Arab wars and details the sporadic peace efforts in between, culminating in the peace process initiated by the Rabin Government. In a new afterword to the Vintage edition, he examines Ehud Barak’s leadership, the death of President Assad of Syria, and Israel’s withdrawal from the Gaza Strip.” –Vintage “The most sophisticated and nuanced account of the Zionist-Arab conflict.”—*The New York Times Book Review* “A very rich account.... Defies sweeping generalizations about the conflict and facile attribution of moral responsibility to any one side.”—*Foreign Affairs* *Morris’ detailed presentation of an extraordinary array of original sources, including declassified documents on the history of the region provides a grounding understanding of how the conflict was born and perpetuated, including a detailed account of the efforts to deceive American Jews. While we do NOT agree with his concluding analysis, his data and presentation are a powerful source of understanding.* –CJPIP)

Shlaim, Avi **The Iron Wall: Israel and the Arab World**. New York: W.W. Norton, 2001. (“In 1897, under order of First Zionist Congress president Theodor Herzl, two Austrian rabbis traveled to Palestine to explore the possibility of locating a Jewish state there. “The bride is beautiful,” the rabbis cabled Herzl, “but she is married to another man.” That “other man” was the Palestinian Arab nation, long established in the region as a political entity. . . . In this far-ranging history, Avi Shlaim analyzes that . . . [problem] in remarkable detail, tracing the shifting policies of Israel toward the Palestinians and the Arab world at large.” —W.W. Norton Press)

Related Titles

Avineri, Shlomo. **The Making of Modern Zionism: The Intellectual Origins of the Jewish State**. 2nd edition. New York: Basic Books, 1984. (“For eighteen centuries pious Jews had prayed for the return to Jerusalem, but only in the revolutionary atmosphere of nineteenth-century Europe was this yearning transformed into an active political movement: Zionism. In *The Making of Modern Zionism*, the distinguished political scientist Shlomo Avineri rejects the common view that Zionism was solely a reaction to anti-Semitism and persecution. Rather, he sees it as part of the universal quest for self-determination. In sharply-etched intellectual profiles of Zionism's major thinkers from Moses Hess to Theodore Herzl and from Vladimir Jabotinsky to David Ben Gurion, Avineri traces the evolution of this quest from its intellectual origins in the early nineteenth century to the establishment of the State of Israel. In an expansive new epilogue, he tracks the changes in Israeli society and politics since 1967 which have strengthened the more radical nationalist and religious trends in Zionism at the expense of its more liberal strains. The result is a book that enables us to understand, as perhaps never before, one of the truly revolutionary ideas of our time.” –Amazon)

Beit-Hallahmi, Benjamin. **Original Sins: Reflections on the History of Zionism and Israel**. New York: Olive Branch Press, 1993. (“*Original Sins* is to date the best brief overview published in English of the definition and history of Zionism in theory and practice.” —*Middle East Policy*)

Ben-Ami, Shlomo. **Scars of War, Wounds of Peace: The Israeli-Arab Tragedy.** London: Oxford University Press, 2007. ("This is an exceptionally subtle and sophisticated treatment of one of the most bitter, protracted, and intractable conflicts of modern times--the conflict between Israel and the Arabs. Shlomo Ben-Ami brings to the task both the skills of the professional historian and the practical experience of a senior participant in the peace process. He invariably goes to the core of the problems and he writes in a lucid and incisive style. His book is a must for anyone seeking to understand the causes of war and the prospects for peace in the Middle East."--Avi Shlaim, author of *The Iron Wall: Israel and the Arab World*)

Benin, Joel and Rebecca Stein, eds. **The Struggle for Sovereignty: Palestine and Israel, 1993-2005.** Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press, with the Middle East Research and Information Project, 2006. ("...prominent scholars and journalists examine the dramatic political changes in Palestine and Israel from the Oslo Accords through the second intifada and the death of Yasser Arafat. Their essays address the political economy of the Oslo process, social and political changes in Palestine and Israel, United States foreign policy, social movements and political activism, and the interplay between cultural and political-economic processes." – Stanford University Press)

Benvenisti, Meron. **Sacred Landscape: The Buried History of the Holy Land Since 1948.** Berkeley: University of California Press, 2000. ("The former deputy mayor of Jerusalem addresses the transformation of an Arab land into a Jewish state from a novel perspective: geography. How, asks Benvenisti (*Intimate Enemies*, 1995; *City of Stone*, 1996), did the Arabic names of mountains, towns, and bodies of water get replaced with Hebrew words? How did Umm Jurfinat become Kibbutz Grofit, and Rakhma become Yerukham? And how has the physical and political geography of the Arabs been affected by the development of a state whose mandate is to provide a homeland for Jews? In many ways, the answers Benvenisti provides to these questions comprise a geography not just of Israel but of the author, the son of a leading Israeli geographer who created some of those early Hebrew maps." – *Kirkus Reviews*)

Black, Ian. **Enemies and Neighbors: Arabs and Jews in Palestine and Israel, 1917-2017.** New York: Atlantic Monthly Books, 2017. ("A remarkable book that combines sharp insight with absolute impartiality on one of the world's most complex and intractable conflicts. Black captures the voices of the Palestinians and Israelis with equal compassion and holds their leaders to account with equal severity. An outstanding accomplishment." —Eugene Rogan, author of *The Fall of the Ottomans: The Great War in the Middle East, 1914-1920* and *The Arabs: A History* "In a conflict like this, it is impossible to understand the present without being familiar with the past, and this superbly researched and highly readable book helps the reader to do just that. Even those who are well read on the subject will find new insights that had escaped them."—Raja Shehadeh, author of *Where the Line Is Drawn: A Tale of Crossings, Friendships, and Fifty Years of Occupation in Israel-Palestine and Palestinian Walks: Notes on a Vanishing Landscape* "In its fine balance of historical sweep and telling detail, in its sharp analysis of social, economic, and political forces, and in its exceptional fairness to all sides, Ian Black's thorough and incisive history of the struggle between Arabs and Jews in Palestine and Israel is the book every student of this conflict should read first. A remarkable achievement."—Nathan Thrall, author of *The Only Language They Understand: Forcing Compromise in Israel and Palestine*)

Bregman, Ahron. **Cursed Victory: A History of Israel and the Occupied Territories**. London: Pegasus Books, 2014. ("A former Israeli soldier in Lebanon, Mr. Bregman knows his subject first-hand. As an academic at King's College London, he has accumulated copious documents, many of them secret and unpublished. A detailed and well thought-out book." -- *The Economist* "Lucid ... timely ... Bregman has assets which lift this account above many on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. One is access to some hitherto secret material. *Cursed Victory* is a highly readable study, an excellent starting point for those wanting to know more about how military victory turned into a tragedy." --- *The Independent*)

Brenner, Michael. **Zionism: A Brief Expanded History**. Translated by Shelley Frisch. Princeton, NJ: Markus Wiener, 2011. ("In this translation of the German *Geschichte des Zionismus*, Brenner (Jewish history and culture, U. of Munich) explains the early history of the movement for the Jewish return to the biblical land of Israel, foundational myths, and the status of Zionism since the founding of modern Israel. Includes posters for the cause, and a chronology spanning from 1825 (proposal for a Zionist community in upstate New York to 2011. --*Book News*)

Caplan, Neil. **The Israel-Palestine Conflict: Contested Histories**. John Wiley & Sons, 2010. ("Neil Caplan has devoted a lifetime to understanding, teaching, and writing prolifically about the origins and development of Arab-Jewish relations, and particularly aspects of Arab-Israeli negotiations dating back to before World War I. More than half a dozen scholarly monographs later, in writing this summative analysis, he has again maintained a characteristically meticulous devotion to sources. Almost unique in our professional specialty, he enthusiastically presents an unbiased presentation of viewpoints. It will have wide appeal for followers of the conflict and can be used as an introductory primer for one's first exposure to the conflict's century-long twists and turns." -- *Middle East Journal*, Spring 2010)

Farsoun, Samih and Naseer Aruri. **Palestine and the Palestinians: A Social and Political History**. Boulder: Westview Press, 2006. ("A brilliant achievement. By far the most comprehensive analysis of the political economy of Palestine and Palestinians in the twentieth century." -- *Times Literary Supplement*)

Finkelstein, Norman. **Image and Reality of the Israel-Palestine Conflict**. 2nd edition. London: Verso, 2003. ("First published in 1995, this highly acclaimed study scrutinizes popular and scholarly representations of the Israel-Palestine conflict. It begins with a novel theoretical interpretation of Zionism, and then moves on to critically engage the influential studies of Joan Peters, Benny Morris, and Anita Shapira. Carefully rehearsing the documentary record, Finkelstein also challenges the dominant images of the June 1967 and October 1973 Arab-Israeli wars. In a comprehensive new introduction, he provides the most succinct overview available in the English language of the Israel-Palestine conflict, while in several new chapters he juxtaposes Israeli policy in the Occupied Territories against South African apartheid and demolishes the scholarly pretensions of Michael Oren's recent bestseller on the June 1967 war." --Verso)

Gat, Moshe. **The Arab-Israeli Conflict, 1956-1975: From Violent Conflict to a Peace Process.** New York: Routledge, '17. (“*The Arab-Israeli Conflict, 1956–1975* contains a collection of articles that examine select issues between the end of the Suez Campaign in November 1956 and the Sinai II, or Interim Agreement, signed by Israel and Egypt in September 1975. The book provides a comprehensive overview of the struggle between the three superpowers – the UK, the United States and the Soviet Union – and the effects this had on the region. It also explores the circumstances that led to the Six Day War in June 1967. Two chapters look at the two leaders during the war: Egyptian President Gamal Abdel Nasser, leader of the Arab world – a charismatic and dominant persona – and Israeli Prime Minister Levi Eshkol, considered weak and inconspicuous. Three chapters focus on the period between the two wars – June 1967 and October 1973 – and one explores the aftermath.”– Amazon)

Hadawi, Sami. **Bitter Harvest: A Modern History of Palestine.** New York: Olive Branch Press, 1991. (“Sami Hadawi is a Palestinian scholar who was born in Jerusalem in 1904. He worked as the official land valuer during the British Mandate period in Palestine, and later for the Jordanian government and with the United Nations Palestine Conciliation Commission. He served in a number of Arab and Palestinian diplomatic positions. In 1965, he became Director of the new Institute of Palestine Studies in Beirut. Hadawi analyzes the people of ancient Palestine, through the years of British colonization; he examines the Jewish community and Zionism, the legacy of Jewish terror against both British and Palestinian targets. Later sections look at the role of the state of Israel, its treatment of Palestinians, and the emergence of the Palestine Liberation Organization. In the final chapter Hadawi covers the 1979 Camp David Accords, Israel’s invasion of Lebanon in 1982, and the intifada of mid-1989.” – Olive Branch Press)

Khalidi, Rashid. **Palestinian Identity: The Construction of Modern National Consciousness.** New York: Columbia University Press, 1997. (“Winner of the 1997 Albert Hourani Book Award, Middle East Studies Association. In this insightful book, Rashid Khalidi critically assesses the narratives that make up Palestinian history and identify and demonstrate how the Palestinian national consciousness has come full circle.” —Columbia University Press)

Msalha, Nur. **Imperial Israel and the Palestinians: The Politics of Expansion.** London: Pluto Press, 2000. (“In *Imperial Israel and the Palestinians*, Nur Masalha provides a history of Israel's expansionist policies, focusing on the period from the June War of 1967 to the present day. He demonstrates that imperialist tendencies in Israel run the political gamut, from Left to Right. Masalha argues that the heart of the conflict between Zionist immigrants/settlers and the native Palestinians has always been about land, territory, demography and water. He documents how Israeli policy has made it a priority to expel the Palestinians, either by war or peaceful measures. But these imperialist tendencies are not restricted to extremist zealots. The author uncovers the expansionist policies found in Labour Zionism and Kookist ideology. Chapters cover the Whole Land of Israel Movement, Zionist Revisionism and the Likud Party, Gush Emunim and the religious fundamentalists, parties and movements of the far right and the evolution of Israeli Jewish public attitudes since 1967.” —Amazon)

Pappé, Ilan. **A History of Modern Palestine: One Land, Two Peoples.** Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2004. ("Along with the late Edward Said, Ilan Pappé is the most eloquent writer of Palestinian history. He is also one of the most scholarly ... here, for the first time, is a textbook on Palestine that narrates the real story as it happened - a non-Zionist version of Zionism ... To its credit, Cambridge University Press has published Pappé's pioneering and highly accessible work as an authoritative history." --*New Statesman* "Ilan Pappé is a 'new historian' and this book is true to this label. It adopts a revisionist approach and it challenges the old ways in which the history of Palestine is written which makes it such an exciting read." --Ahron Bregman, *International Affairs* "... Ilan Pappé has written a book that is lucid and forthright. It is a unique contribution to the history of this troubled land, and all those concerned with developments in the Middle East will have to read ... Ilan Pappé's book is a valuable contribution to the historical research of Palestine as a general survey for those studying the subject. Designed for students and general readers, the book's new approach to the analysis of well-known events will be of interest to academics, journalists, foreign-policy makers, and to all those concerned with Palestine's complex past and its uncertain future. The inclusion of illustrations, maps, short biographies, a glossary of terms, a bibliography, and a reliable index further increases the usefulness of the book." --*Quarterly Journal of African and Asian Studies*)

Rabinovich, Itamar. **The Lingering Conflict: Israel, the Arabs, and the Middle East, 1948-2011.** Washington D.C.: Brookings Institution, 2011. ("The *Lingering Conflict* explains, in the author's characteristically clear and articulate style, everything that went wrong in the long years of negotiations in the various arenas, though not overlooking the lone successes: the peace treaties with Egypt and Jordan." --*Haaretz* "The *Lingering Conflict* reflects the author's keen strategic insights and the perspective gained as an important participant in key Arab-Israeli negotiations. With its informed analysis of the consequences of the Arab Spring, this book makes a major contribution toward understanding the tangled issues that stand in the way of Middle East peace." --Dr. Henry A. Kissinger, former U.S. Secretary of State "The *Lingering Conflict*... adopts the style of sweeping overview, stitching together the disparate strands of the domestic politics and diplomacy in each of the three key countries—Israel, Syria, and the United States. Given the unique dual vantage point from which Rabinovich was able to observe these developments, this book is a *tour d'horizon* of the peace process that should appeal to a broad public audience." --Ambassador Daniel Kurtzer, Princeton University)

Reinhart, Tanya. **Israel/Palestine: How to End the War of 1948.** New York: Seven Stories Press, 2002. ("Israeli journalist Tanya Reinhart provides a primer on the current Israeli/Palestinian crisis. She details the roots of the conflict, presents compelling evidence that Israel has been working to undermine the 1993 Oslo peace agreement, and discusses how the crisis is linked to America's war on terrorism." -- Seven Stories Press)

Robinson, Shira. **Citizen Strangers: Palestinians and the Birth of Israel's Liberal Settler State.** Stanford CA: Stanford University Press, 2013. ("*Citizen Strangers* is an extremely important, highly scholarly work on the conflict between Zionism and the Palestinians . . . The book is based on exemplary original research involving extensive use of both Hebrew and Arabic archives and newspapers, as well as interviews . . . This is an essential work for scholars (including serious no specialists) and policy-makers concerned with Israel/Palestine or broadly with ethnic conflict and colonialism. Summing Up: Essential." --G. E. Perry *CHOICE*)

Sacher, Howard M. **A History of Israel from The Rise of Zionism to Our Time** (2nd edition). New York: Knopf, 1998. (“A magnificent achievement” – *The Times* [London]; “We must blush that there does not exist in Hebrew so complete and all-embracing a history of the Jewish state” – Yediot Ahronot [Tel Aviv])

Shapira, Anita. **Israel: A History (The Schusterman Series in Israel Studies)**. Waltham, MA: Brandeis University Press; Reprint edition, 2014. (“[A]n indispensable guide. . . . The author is at her best focusing on economic, social, and culture history—she makes deft use of Hebrew literature to illuminate her points, and she succinctly captures the zeitgeist of the times.”—*Publishers Weekly* “Shapira’s Israel has many strengths. . . . That go hand in hand with her rapid, suggestive illumination of themes.”—*Jewish Review of Books* “A fascinating new one-volume history of Israel by the eminent Israeli historian Anita Shapira explains Arab thinking about partition back in 1947 and the many other unexpected and real events that have comprised Israel’s history from the beginnings of the Zionist movement in the 1890s through the second intifada in 2001. Unlike other histories that often tell Israel’s story by jumping from one war to the next, this one, called *Israel: A History* (Brandeis), captures the nation’s diversity and cultural richness along with its existential struggles.”—*Jewish Week* “This is surely a much-needed primer for an English-language audience that is often unaware of the intricacies of the country’s social past, knowing only about the battles and intifadas that seem to make up its history. . . . Shapira’s accessible survey of Israeli history provides a thought-provoking text for those unfamiliar with the Jewish state.” —*Jerusalem Post*)

Shlaim, Avi. **War and Peace in the Middle East: A Concise History**. New York: Penguin, 1995. (“Examining Western relations with the Middle East since WWI, Oxford international relations professor Shlaim criticizes American policy in the region, charging that the U.S. continues to ignore the economic and social needs of that community.” —Amazon)

Shlaim, Avi. **Israel and Palestine: Reappraisals, Revisions, Refutations**. New York: Verso, 2010. (“. . . provides a realpolitik reading of the history, demolishing the heroic and innocent image of Israel in its relations with the Palestinians. —*Foreign Affairs*)

Smith, Charles. **Palestine and the Arab-Israeli Conflict: A History with Documents**. 9th edition. New York: Bedford/St. Martin’s, 2016. (“Palestine and the Arab-Israeli Conflict provides a comprehensive, balanced, and accessible narrative of a complex historical topic. The narrative is supported by more than 40 primary documents that highlight perspectives from all sides of the struggle. Throughout the book, the author examines how underlying issues, group motives, religious and cross-cultural clashes, diplomacy and imperialism, and the arrival of the modern era shaped this volatile region. Maps, photographs, chronologies, public opinion polls, and discussion questions help facilitate student understanding. A fully updated final chapter makes this the most current history of the topic.” --Amazon)

Sprinzak, Ehud. **The Ascendance of Israel's Right**. London: Oxford University Press, 1991. ("Gives a history of the right-wing Zionist enterprise from a leftist point of view." —Amazon)

Sternhell, Zeev. **The Founding Myths of Israel: Nationalism, Socialism, and the Making of the Jewish State**. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1998. ("The well-known historian and political scientist Zeev Sternhell here advances a radically new interpretation of the founding of modern Israel. The founders claimed that they intended to create both a landed state for the Jewish people and a socialist society. However, according to Sternhell, socialism served the leaders of the influential labor movement more as a rhetorical resource for the legitimation of the national project of establishing a Jewish state than as a blueprint for a just society. In this thought-provoking book, Sternhell demonstrates how socialist principles were consistently subverted in practice by the nationalist goals to which socialist Zionism was committed." —Princeton University Press)

Jamie Stern-Weiner. **Moment of Truth: Tackling Israel-Palestine's Toughest Questions**. OR Books, 2018. ("This book brings together an unprecedented wealth of expertise—encompassing political leaders, preeminent scholars, and dedicated activists from Israel, Palestine, and abroad—in direct critical exchange on the issues at the heart of the world's most intractable war. Has Israel's vast settlement enterprise made a Palestinian state impossible? Can the Palestinian leadership end the occupation? Is Israel's rule in the Palestinian territories a form of apartheid? What role must the United States play in securing a just peace? In a series of compelling, illuminating and at times no-holds-barred debates, leading authorities tackle these and other problems, exposing myths, challenging preconceptions, and providing a more sober and informed basis for political action." —Amazon)

Tessler, Mark. **A History of the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict**. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2009. ("Of the numerous books devoted to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, Univ. of Michigan political science professor Tessler's contribution certainly ranks among the most extensive and thorough. Given the highly polemical nature of the discourse over Israel/Palestine, Tessler's ability to provide a balanced account of the dispute should be commended. ... Recommended. March 2010 *Choice* "[Tessler is] thoughtful, well-informed and resolutely fair-minded . . . rigorous and commiserative alike, and his gloss on the fallout from the creation of Israel, which included a counterflow of millions of Jewish immigrants from the Arab world, is among the best things in the book."---David Schoenbaum, *New York Times Book Review*)

Veracini, Lorenzo. **Israel and Settler Society**. London: Pluto Press, 2006. (“The struggle between Israel and the Palestinians is not unique -- whatever the news media may suggest. Lorenzo Veracini argues that the conflict is best understood in terms of colonialism. Like many other societies, Israel is a settler society. Looking in detail at the evolution of other colonial regimes -- apartheid South Africa, French Algeria and Australia -- Veracini presents a thoughtful interpretation of the dynamics of colonialism, offering a clear framework within which to understand the middle east crisis. Veracini challenges two important myths: firstly, that the Israeli-Palestinian dispute is unique and defies comparative approaches; and secondly that the struggle is mainly based in nationality and religion and therefore different to typical colonial conflicts. On the contrary, Veracini shows how Israeli society is organised along apartheid lines -- and that apartheid was not unique to South Africa, but a common feature of colonisation. He examines wars of decolonization, and conflicts where whole native populations were all but eradicated -- as in Australia. Comparing and contrasting these with the more recent history of Israel and Palestine, he offers a critical perspective on colonialism as well as important new insights into patterns of imperialism today.” —Amazon)

