

Living under Occupation and Blockade: The Palestinian Plight

Suggested Titles

Roy, Sara. **Hamas and Civil Society in Gaza**. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 2013. ("This is the most perceptive analysis available not only of the evolution of the social institutions of Hamas, but also of the extraordinary pressures brought to bear on Palestinian society under occupation. Roy's book is leavened by her profound empathy for the lives of ordinary people, and it is suffused by a moral clarity that is rare in works of this level of acuity and scholarly rigor. No one seriously interested in Palestine or Israel can afford to ignore this powerful book."--Rashid Khalidi, author of *The Iron Cage: The Story of the Palestinian Struggle for Statehood*)

Sfard, Michael. **The Wall and the Gate: Israel, Palestine, and the Legal Battle for Human Rights**. Metropolitan Books: 2018. ("Engaging, highly informative, and thought-provoking, this is a book that only an activist, scholar, and top human rights lawyer like Michael Sfard could have written. It should be required reading for anyone wanting to understand the struggle for human rights in occupied Palestine." —Raja Shehadeh, author of *Where the Line Is Drawn: A Tale of Crossings, Friendships, and Fifty Years of Occupation in Israel-Palestine* "At a time of surging ethnic nationalism, the legal struggle to prevent injustice against Palestinians is especially difficult. Michael Sfard is at the forefront of this struggle and his account is both a compelling story and an important contribution to understanding how battles for human rights are fought in the courts." —Aryeh Neier, former executive director of the ACLU "Comprehensive, detailed, reflective, troubling, thought-provoking and rooted in universal human principles, *The Wall and the Gate* is the definitive study of the struggle for Palestinian human rights under occupation—a must read." —Naomi Chazan, former member of Knesset and president, the New Israel Fund)

Shehadeh, Raja. *Where the Line Is Drawn: A Tale of Crossings, Friendships, and Fifty Years of Occupation in Israel-Palestine*. The New Press, 2017. ("Writing has allowed Shehadeh to continue crossing into these territories, even as they become increasingly off-limits to him. His books are maps, painstakingly pieced together, of regions lost to senseless division, to bad choices, and to lies." —*The Nation* "Remarkable and hopeful . . . a deeply honest and intense memoir." —Gal Beckerman, *The New York Times Book Review* "Shehadeh describes with courage and grace the internal struggle to remain fair." —*The New Yorker* "No one else writes about Palestinian life under military occupation with such stubborn humanity, melancholy, and fragile grace. . . . One feels the loss in every paragraph Shehadeh writes, but also the inescapable beauty that remains, which both softens and deepens the rage." —*The Guardian*)

Related Titles

Allen, Lori. **The Rise and Fall of Human Rights: Cynicism and Politics in Occupied Palestine**. Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press, 2013. ("In her exceptional book . . . anthropologist Lori Allen explores a complex set of interlocking themes about the role of human rights in the Palestinian nationalist agenda, viewed through the prism of cynicism . . . This book is a must read—with relevance far wider than the case of Palestine." ---Deena R. Hurwitz *Middle East Journal*)

Arrigoni, Vittorio. **Gaza: Stay Human.** Leicestershire, UK: Kube Publishing, 2010. (“During the Israeli offensive against the Gaza Strip in 2008-9, Arrigoni acted as a human shield while working with the Palestinian Red Crescent ambulances. Working as a freelance journalist for the Italian daily, *Il Manifesto*, Arrigoni’s daily dispatches, written between bombing raids and patchy internet access, ended with the plea, ‘stay human’, which became the motto of the anti-Israeli peace protests in his native Italy. His authoritative and deeply-moving eyewitness account was later published in 2010 in Italian, French, German and English, which the historian Ilan Pappé described as the ‘account of an everyman and a true humanist.’” —Kube)

Bayoumi, Mustafa, ed. **Midnight on the Mavi Marmara: The Attack on the Gaza Freedom Flotilla and How It Changed the Course of the Israel/Palestine Conflict.** Chicago: Haymarket Books, 2010. (“[A] range of activists, journalists, and analysts piece together the events that occurred that May night. Mixing together first-hand testimony and documentary record with hard-headed analysis and historical overview, *Midnight on the Mavi Marmara* reveals why the attack on the Gaza Freedom Flotilla may just turn out to be Israel’s Selma, Alabama moment . . .” —Haymarket Books)

Christison Kathleen and Bill Christison. **Palestine in Pieces: Graphic Perspectives on the Israeli Occupation.** London: Pluto Press, 2009. “This book brings personal and pictorial perspectives to the Israeli occupation of Palestinian territories in the West Bank, Gaza, and East Jerusalem. Former CIA political analysts Kathleen and Bill Christison give a comprehensive description of the occupation and the ways in which Israel dominates the Palestinians: Israeli settlements, the Separation Wall, roads restricted to cars with Israeli license plates, home demolitions on a massive scale, imprisonment, mass assassinations and wanton sniper and artillery fire. With more than 50 photographs vividly demonstrating the impact of the occupation on the Palestinian people, the authors argue that Israel’s long-term intention is to so fragment the occupied territories that any sustainable presence in the land by Palestinians as a nation will be negated.” —Pluto Press.)

Davis, Rochelle. **Palestinian Village Histories: Geographies of the Displaced.** Stanford Studies in Middle Eastern and Islamic Societies and Cultures. Palo Alto, CA: Stanford University Press, 2010. (“[O]ver four hundred Palestinian villages were depopulated in the 1947-1949 war. With houses mostly destroyed, mosques and churches put to other uses, and cemeteries plowed under, Palestinian communities were left geographically dispossessed. Palestinians have since carried their village names, memories, and possessions with them into the diaspora, transforming their lost past into local histories in the form of “village memorial books”. Numbering more than 100 volumes in print, these books recount family histories, cultural traditions, and the details of village life, revealing Palestinian history through the eyes of Palestinians. . . .this book analyzes individual and collective historical accounts of everyday life in pre-1948 Palestinian villages as composed today from the perspectives of these long-term refugees.” —Stanford University Press.)

Hamzeh, Muna. **Refugees in Our Own Land: Chronicles from a Palestinian Refugee Camp in Bethlehem.** London: Pluto Press, 2001. ("The book creates a new respect for the refugees among whom she lived and gives the reader a glimpse of the incredible difficulties of their everyday lives. (She exposes) the humanity of people who are so often dismissed by the world as "refugees." She mentions their names and describes their faces and personalities, thereby giving the reader an immediate empathy with them and a desire to reach out and comfort them." ---*American Journal of Islamic Social Sciences* "The strength of the diary is in Hamzeh's ability to lay bare the whole spectrum of human emotion that she, her neighbors, and friends undergo as the relentless series of events unfolds. The euphoria felt and the outset of the intafada is replaced by dismay...Exhaustion, hopelessness and bitterness are the constants. The second section of the book showcases her strength as a writer - the ability to encapsulate the larger sense of things through the small human story." ---*Journal of Palestine Studies* "Hamzeh, a Palestinian-American journalist, takes a personal approach in recounting her experiences in Dheisheh, a refugee camp near Bethlehem. The first part, written as a diary in late 2000 describes the daily suffering a hardships of her relatives and neighbors, and the belief she shares with many Palestinians that Israelis regard them as subhuman. The second half of the book contains an interesting collection of short essays written over the past 10 years. This book is an eloquent document of life under occupation." ---*Multicultural Review*)

Handel, Ariel, Marco Allegra and Erez Maggor. **Normalizing Occupation: The Politics of Everyday Life in the West Bank Settlements.** Indiana University Press, 2017. ("Normalizing Occupation [...] brings the perspective of ordinary cities to the core of urban geopolitics, emphasizing the "normal" (or, better, the normalized) at the core of the exceptional, in Palestine/Israel. And it does so by mobilizing a variegated set of conceptual approaches to the issue of Israeli settlements. [T]he editors [problematize] the mainstream conception of the settlements as an exception to the fabric of the "multi-cultural" Israeli state and society [...] and rather show how the settlements have become a "mundane" part of wider processes of transformation of Israel, and particularly its state's neoliberal restructuring."-- Simone Tulumello, *Antipode- Radical Journal of Geography* "Several disciplinary and theoretical frameworks are employed and applied simultaneously, creating a kaleidoscope of complementing perspectives: political economy, urban, suburban and geographical planning, demography, political theory, political theology, human geography, and anthropology. The settlements are studied in their full diversity and heterogeneity, shattering a common prejudice to look mainly at the religious-nationalist, ideologically driven among them. The authors show in detail how the colonization project involves communities and agents coming from all sectors of Israeli society." --Ariella Azoulay, co-author of *The One-State Condition: Occupation and Democracy in Israel/Palestine*)

Keshet, Yehudit. **Checkpoint Watch: Testimonies from Occupied Palestine.** London: Zed Books, 2006. ("This important book offers an insightful perspective of the system of Israeli military checkpoints and blockades in the West Bank, their devastating impact on the Palestinian population, and the arbitrary use of a control mechanism for reasons which often have little to do with security considerations. The first-hand accounts and observations of the Watchers - Israeli women from all walks of life - also provide an interesting insight into how different sectors of Israeli society see - or fail to see - the impact of such a system and its injustices! Donatella Rovera, Researcher on Israel and the Occupied Territories, Amnesty International 'It is impossible to guess when and how the harsher Israeli version of the Apartheid Pass System will collapse. When it does, *CheckpointWatch* will have had an important role in its collapse.'" --Amira Hass)

LeVine, Mark, and Gershon Shafir, **Struggle and Survival in Palestine/Israel.** Berkeley: University of California Press, 2012. ("This wonderful volume illuminates the human dimensions of the complex and often painful history of modern Palestine/Israel by vividly relating the life stories of a variety of individuals and exploring how their experiences have been profoundly shaped by the recurrent struggles over this land. It highlights the importance of human agency in shaping history, but also the impact of historical events and processes on individuals' life choices. This book is not only a valuable resource for teaching but is also of great value to anyone interested in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, and in the perspectives and destinies of those who have lived in its shadows."—Zachary Lockman, New York University)

Levy, Gideon. **The Punishment of Gaza.** London: Verso, 2010. ("... Gideon Levy is a prominent Israeli journalist. For over twenty years he has covered the Israel–Palestine conflict, in particular the occupation of Gaza and the West Bank, for the Israeli newspaper *Ha'aretz* in his column 'Twilight Zone.' – Verso)

Macintyre, Donald. **Gaza: Preparing for Dawn.** London: Oneworld, 2017. ("Donald Macintyre's Gaza is a deeply informed and elegant portrait of this small but profoundly important and misunderstood part of the world. Not only are Gaza's history and politics made compellingly accessible, so too are her sight, sound and smell. In this way Macintyre challenges any notion of Gaza's irrelevance and perhaps more importantly does what few authors writing on Gaza have done: elevates the ordinary in a manner that will endure, helping the reader understand that no matter who we are and where we are from, in Gaza we can recognise ourselves. This book speaks to something greater than Gaza's pain; it speaks to Gaza's soul." --Sara Roy, Senior Research Scholar, Center for Middle Eastern Studies, Harvard University)

Makdisi, Saree. **Palestine Inside Out: An Everyday Occupation.** (Revised edition) New York: W. W. Norton, 2010. ("An extraordinarily detailed portrait. . . . Weaves together a tapestry of harrowing narratives in a lucid and measured tone." —*Times Higher Education Supplement*)

Nusseibeh, Sari. **Once Upon a Country: A Palestinian Life.** London: Picador, 2008. (“There are villains and victims, patriots and fools, war and peace, betrayal and corruption, and an inevitable romance. . . . The book dramatizes recent history in Palestine as few others have done.” —Amos Elon, *The New York Review of Books* “A deeply admirable book by a deeply admirable man.” —Leon Wieseltier, *The New York Times Book Review* “*Once Upon a Country* is an often enthralling book, with a lucid unfolding of the issues and subtle analysis of the games played by both sides. . . . This complicated man--shrewd, idealist, pragmatic, dreamer, peaceful warrior--is very much worth knowing.” —Charles Matthews, *San Francisco Chronicle* “A bighearted, admirable, and exceptionally interesting account of Nusseibeh's struggle for an equitable peace in a conflict in which compromise is often interpreted as treason. This is a rare book.” —Jeffrey Goldberg, *Los Angeles Times* “*Once Upon a Country* is a subtle, sad, and humorous memoir that casts a fresh light on the Israeli-Palestinian tragedy and a vivid picture of Palestinian society as well.” —Amos Oz, author of *A Tale of Love and Darkness*.)

Peleg, Ilan. **Human Rights in the West Bank and Gaza: Legacy and Politics.** Syracuse: Syracuse University Press, 1995. (“Ilan Peleg focuses on the status of human rights in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip until the early 1990s and evaluates the likely condition of human rights within a variety of possible solutions to the conflict. He approaches the Israeli-Palestinian dilemma from a human rights perspective and offers solutions within a human rights context. Massive violations of human rights, Peleg concludes, cannot be amended by a reform of the legal system but requires a more fundamental political change.” —Syracuse University Press)

Schneider, Suzanne. **Mandatory Separation: Religion, Education, and Mass Politics in Palestine.** Stanford CA: Stanford University Press. (“Brilliantly weaving together British, Zionist, and Palestinian Arab sources, Suzanne Schneider reveals the roots of national politics in the continuities, disjunctures, and struggles among the educators and reformers who saw the schools of Palestine as ground zero in their efforts to construct the ideal modern citizen. Mandatory Separation shows that the intertwining of religion and national politics in Israel/Palestine today is neither new nor eternal.” --Liora R. Halperin University of Washington “Mandatory Separation sheds welcome light on a crucial aspect of the British Mandate for Palestine, education for mass politics among both Jews and Muslims. Through this discussion, Suzanne Schneider exposes some of the essential foundations for the decades of conflict in Palestine and Israel that have followed. An important and timely work.” --Rashid Khalidi Columbia University)

Shafir, Gershon. **A Half Century of Occupation: Israel, Palestine, and the World's Most Intractable Conflict.** Oakland: University of California Press, 2017. (“While younger generations of Palestinians have grown up knowing nothing but occupation, all global citizens need to learn or be reminded of how it came about, its nature, and the reasons for its longevity. Gershon Shafir tells this story masterfully, with clarity and passion. A much-needed guidebook for understanding of the great moral questions of our time.” —James Gelvin, author of *The Israel-Palestine Conflict: One Hundred Years of War*)

White, Ben. **Israeli Apartheid: A Beginners Guide.** London: Pluto Press, 2009. (“If you want to learn about Palestine, start here.” —Karma Nabulsi, Oxford University; “This book deals rationally and cogently with a topic that almost always generates heat. . . . A highly commendable effort to throw light on a fraught subject.” —Archbishop Desmond Tutu.)

White, Ben. **Palestinians in Israel: Segregation, Discrimination and Democracy**. London: Pluto Press, 2011. (“This book debunks convincingly and forcefully the myth of Israel being ‘the only democracy’ in the Middle East. As this book shows, the treatment of the Palestinians in Israel is the ultimate proof that the Jewish State is anything but democratic.” —Professor Ilan Pappé, University of Exeter)