

## *Stories of Actors and Observers: Biography, Memoir, and Reporting*

### *Suggested Titles*

Chacour, Elias. Forward by James A Baker III. **Blood Brothers: The Unforgettable Story of a Palestinian Christian Working for Peace in Israel.** Royal Oak: Chosen, 2003. ("Is it possible to live at peace in the midst of conflict? From my perspective, both as a believer and as a diplomat, I take hope and comfort in knowing that amid all the hatred, destruction, and death, Father Chacour continues his patient work, softening one heart at a time." --James A. Baker III, U.S. Secretary of State, 1989-1992 "An accurate, moving account worthy of careful attention." --Wes Pippert, former UPI bureau chief)

Grossman, David. **The Yellow Wind.** Translated by Haim Watzman. New York: Picador, 2002. ("A brilliant, searing examination of Israel's occupation of the West Bank...beautiful, passionate and profoundly disturbing." --*Chicago Tribune* "The most honest, soul-searching book yet written by an Israeli--or, for that matter, by a Palestinian--on an agony that neither of them alone can bring to an end." --*Los Angeles Times* " Even the most cautious readers--and even the most hostile--are bound to learn something about the conflict that they never knew before, something that illuminates the news and the reality that produces it, something that explains what is and may yet be, something deep and aching, damningly, true." --*The New York Times Book Review* "Invaluable. It should be available alongside the road maps at Ben Gurion Airport, for it is a map of the psychological distances that now separate not only occupier and occupied, but willing from unwilling conquerors." --*The Wall Street Journal*)

Hass, Amira. **Drinking the Sea at Gaza: Days and Nights in a Land Under Siege.** New York: Picador, 2000. ("The author lived in the Gaza Strip and personally observed the events she so eloquently relates in this highly readable and lucid book. She describes in agonizing detail the hardship and deprivation experienced by ordinary Palestinians as they live their lives under Israeli rule. As the author points out, the unrelenting difficulties and humiliations experienced by ordinary Palestinians have not changed since the Oslo peace process and the establishment of the Palestinian Authority in parts of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. Stories and moving testimonials gathered by the author add a much-needed human dimension to the Palestinian tragedy. Highly recommended for all readers interested in the future of the Palestinian-Israeli peace process." -- *Library Journal*)

Malek, Cate and Mateo Hoke, eds. **Palestine Speaks: Narratives of Lives under Occupation.** London: Verso, 2015. ("A stunning, essential, and heartbreaking book that puts a profoundly human face on the suffering of the Palestinian people. This should be required reading for anyone with an interest in the Middle East, which is to say: everyone. Like all *Voice of Witness* books, *Palestine Speaks*, uses the grand old tools, presenting beautifully shaped narratives that evoke the reader's empathy and help him see the connections between himself and the people narrating. The effect is magical and empowering—the reader feels a sense of connection and warmth and is thus able to imagine positive outcomes. In other words, to read a *Voice of Witness* book is to feel one's habitual sense of disconnection begin to fall away." —George Saunders, author of *The Tenth of December* and MacArthur Genius Grant recipient "*Palestine Speaks* demonstrates that nothing is more eloquent than the voices of those who endure and try valiantly to survive. Nothing is more important for us than to listen to them carefully, to grasp their suffering, to learn from their testimonies about them and about ourselves, and to use this understanding to bring their tragedy to an end." —Noam Chomsky, author and professor at MIT)

Tolan, Sandy. **The Lemon Tree: an Arab, a Jew, and the Heart of the Middle East.** Bloomsbury USA, 2007. ("Through broad sweeps of narrative going back and forward in time, Tolan's sensitively told, eminently fair-minded narrative closes with a return to that lemon tree and its promise of reconciliation. Humane and literate--and rather daring in suggesting that the future of the Middle East need not be violent." --*Kirkus Reviews* "Tolan weaves together dramatically different perceptions of the conflict and its context and explains how the lemon tree grew to become a powerful symbol of home." - NPR.org "A moving story of both grief and hope." -- *BookPage* "Moving, well-crafted . . . readers will experience one of the world's most stubborn conflicts firsthand." --*Publishers Weekly* "[Tolan] sensitively describes the tough friendship between Dalia Eshkenazi Landau, the daughter of Romanian Jewish immigrants who settled in Ramla, and Palestinian Bashir Khairi, who in 1967 knocked on her door to look at the house his family lost when it was forced to flee in 1948 . . . Tolan uses the beloved backyard lemon tree to drive home the shared humanity of the successive inhabitants of one home." --*Los Angeles Review of Books*)

### ***Related Titles***

Abu-Sharif, Bassam and Uzi Mahnaimi. **The Best of Enemies: The Memoirs of Bassam Abu-Sharif & Uzi Mahnaimi.** Boston: Little, Brown and Company, 1995. (“Mahnaimi was an Israeli intelligence officer who recruited Arab agents; after his resignation from the Israeli Army in 1984, he became a left-wing journalist. Abu-Sharif helped mastermind terrorist spectacles. Later, as Yasir Arafat's closest adviser (he has been mentioned as the PLO leader's possible successor), he supplied Mahnaimi with inside information about Arafat's growing willingness to renounce violence and recognize the state of Israel. This daring arrangement grew out of their mutual conviction that an historic compromise between Israelis and Palestinians was imperative. Both men were harshly denounced for their early stand on this thorniest of issues. As they explain in their eloquent double memoir, the 1993 handshake on the White House lawn between Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin was the culmination of everything these two unlikely collaborators had been working toward since their first meeting, in 1988. These exceptional men movingly reveal in these pages how they shed ingrained patterns of thought and came to appreciate the viewpoint of the "other side." If each of these authors had published separate autobiographies, the results would have been compelling. Told contrapuntally, their stories make more gripping reading than most adventure novels. The fact that these men are of a similar age and have lived through the same events often in the same locations enables the reader to view Middle East history of the last 50 years from an astonishingly broad perspective.” —*Publishers Weekly*)

Abu Saif, Atef. **The Drone Eats with Me: A Gaza Diary.** Boston: Beacon Press, 2016. (“This stunning memoir reads more like poetry than prose.” —*San Francisco Chronicle* “An indelibly memorable book...the saddest thing about *The Drone Eats with Me* is how long it's likely to remain timely.” —*The Christian Science Monitor* “Saif sets politics aside in order to focus on both the human tragedy that continues to play out there and the power of hope. An important addition to Middle Eastern literature.” —*Booklist* “Without a TV, we stand by the window and watch Gaza, together. Fields of darkness spread out in all directions. The ghost of a city. The only lights are those of the drones and F16s hovering above it all.’ *The Drone Eats with Me* is a devastating contemporary war journal. This is what war is like in the twenty-first century—the voice of a civilian in the onslaught of drone warfare, a voice we have never heard before.” —Michael Ondaatje, author of *Divisadero*)

Abu Saif, Atef and Noam Chomsky. **The Drone Eats with Me: Diaries from a City under Fire.** Comma Press, 2017. (“In July 2014, in response to the kidnapping and murder of three teenagers, Israel launched a wide-scale attack on the people of Strip, lasting 51 days, killing 2145 Gazans (578

of them children), injuring more than 11,000, and demolishing 17,200 homes. The worldwide public outcry at this punishment of an entire people was coupled with protests at the pro-Israeli bias of much of the Western media. The usual news machine rolled up, and the same tragic scenes and heightened political rhetoric was aired, yet practically nothing was being reported of the lives of ordinary, nonpolitical Gazans, the real victims of the war. One of the few voices to make it out was that of Atef Abu Saif, a writer and editor who had toured the UK just weeks before to launch an anthology of stories depicting ordinary Gazan life. Atef's eye-witness diary pieces were published in a range of major outlets (the *Guardian*, the *New York Times*, *Slate*, and the *Sunday Times*) and became a unique porthole into the conflict for Western readers. Here, his complete diaries of the war, offer a unique perspective on one of the world's most contested political crises." –Amazon)

Abu Sitta, Salman. **Mapping My Return: A Palestinian Memoir** 1st Edition. Cairo: The American University in Cairo Press, 2016. "Abu Sitta is a leading expert on the 'nakbah' and what is nowadays widely described as the "ethnic cleansing" it involved. He is also a passionate advocate of the "right of return," under which Palestinian refugees must be allowed to go back to their lost lands and property."--*The Guardian* "An extraordinary engineer and scholar."--Edward Said "This manuscript is a valuable and unique addition to the genre of Palestinian autobiographies in English."--Dr. Rochelle Davis, Center for Contemporary Arab Studies, Georgetown University "In a life lived intensely, with unflagging curiosity and vocal outrage at the injustices that have beleaguered his people, Salman Abu Sitta is to be celebrated for his tenacity, intelligence and ability not to lose heart despite all the odds. This accessible and informative book describes all that he has lived through as a Palestinian, both on his own land and as a refugee. It also presents very clearly the fundamental need for the 'right of return' to be enshrined in any just and lasting peace in the region."--Selma Dabbagh)

Al Jundi, Sami. **The Hour of Sunlight: One Palestinian's Journey from Prisoner to Peacemaker.** (" In this remarkable story of life under Israeli occupation, coauthors al Jundi, cofounder of the Seeds of Peace Center for Coexistence in Jerusalem, and Marlowe (Darfur Diaries) intertwine the personal and the political as they trace al Jundi's evolution from Palestinian militant to peacemaker. As teenagers, al Jundi and two friends joined the PLO, but when a bomb exploded as they were building it, one boy was killed, and the other two badly injured—and on the receiving end of Israeli interrogations and torture. Sentenced to a decade in prison, al Jundi dedicates himself to an extensive education program maintained by the prisoners themselves, ultimately committing himself to nonviolence and to bridging the Israeli-Palestinian divide. The authors successfully convey al Jundi's joys and sorrows, the triumph of his endurance, the complexity of the conflict, and the necessity of dialogue. —*Publishers Weekly*)

Alshaer. Alef. **The Nakba through Palestinian Writers' Eyes.** London: Saqi Books, 2018. ("This unique collection brings together the finest poetry and prose on the Nakba by Palestinian writers over the last seventy years, for the first time. Covering three critical periods (pre-Nakba, post-Nakba

and post-Oslo Accords), it includes translated excerpts of poems, novels, short stories and memoirs by major authors such as Mahmoud Darwish, Samira Azzam, Fadwa Tuqan and Edward Said, as well as by emerging Palestinian writers. Showcasing the vibrant and distinctive literature of Palestine, this landmark anthology highlights the ongoing resonances of the Nakba as the occupation enters its seventieth year. It is the ideal book both for lovers of world literature and for those who seek a more intimate understanding of the conflict.” – Amazon)

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)

Ashrawi, Hanan. **This Side of Peace**. New York: Touchstone, 1995. (“From the world-recognized leader of the Palestinians comes an inside view of Arafat and of the secret negotiations and last-minute decisions that led to the Oslo Peace Talks. A revealing document of a partisan who has helped make Middle East.”--*Publishers Weekly*)

Atwan, Abdel Bari. **A Country of Words: A Palestinian Journey from the Refugee Camp to the Front Page**. London: Saqi, 2007. (“A penetrating insight into the world as seen from the point of view of someone born and bred a Palestinian refugee in a Gaza camp ... Atwan's authentic voice and sharp, descriptive writing brings alive a lifetime spent deep in the travails of the Middle Eastern tragedy.' Polly Toynbee 'Atwan's enthralling memoir charts his meteoric rise from shoeless urchin in the 1950s to cultured commentator whose opinion is now sought all over the world - A Country of Words combines in-depth analysis with a welcome dose of the personal - A skilful raconteur' Tribune Magazine 'A Country of Words traces [Atwan's] life in greater detail while also offering chapters on the Israeli/Palestinian conflict, London, and his fascinating interviews with Osama Bin Laden and Yasser Arafat.' The Middle East in London 'A remarkable Palestinian memoir, exceptional because of its abundance of compassion, humor and humility' --*Electronic Intifada*)

Avnery, Uri. **My Friend, the Enemy**. Westport, CT: Lawrence Hill & Co., 1986. (“Avnery, Israeli journalist and peace activist, traveled extensively to establish personal contact with PLO leaders similarly committed to argue, listen, and begin to trust....Highly recommended.” —Elizabeth R. Hayford, President, Assoc. Colls. of the Midwest, Chicago)

Barghouti, Maurid. **I Saw Ramallah**. New York: Anchor, 2003. (You can never go home again. That's the message in this impressionistic memoir by a Palestinian poet returning to the West Bank after 30 years of exile. Barghouti was in Cairo at the university when Israel won the Six-Day War and didn't return home until 1996, when the now-defunct Oslo Accords allowed him to go back. As one

might expect, his return to see his birthplace and his family is fraught with problems, as he attempts to reconnect with relatives and friends. The people living in Ramallah and its physical geography have changed in ways that make Barghouti feel as displaced at home as he does abroad. The changes he blames partly on the weakness of his own people, but mostly on the Israelis. The truth of Palestinian faults "does not absolve the enemy of his original crime...." Indeed, the anger he feels at Israelis on both the left and the right helps explain why the Oslo peace process failed and why peace seems as elusive as ever. But this is as much a personal journey as a political one. Using a poet's eye for detail and language (the book is beautifully translated), Barghouti, who now lives in Cairo, intersperses the story of his homecoming with his history of journeys across the Arab world. "The displaced person becomes a stranger to his memories and so he tries to cling to them." His deft mind and words show how, for many Palestinians, politics have swallowed up the personal. – *Publishers Weekly*)

Barghouti, Mourid. **I Was Born There, I Was Born Here.** New York: Walker Books, 2011. ("In 1996, award-winning Palestinian poet Mourid Barghouti returned to his home for the first time since his exile—first in Egypt, then in Hungary—following the Six-Day War in 1967, and wrote *I Saw Ramallah*, a poignant and acclaimed memoir of the exile's lot. A few years later, he returned to the Occupied Territories to introduce his Cairo-born son, Tamim, to his Palestinian family. Soon after returning to Egypt, Tamim was arrested for taking part in a demonstration against the impending Iraq War, and ironically was held not only in the same Cairo prison his father had occupied before being expelled from Egypt when Tamim was a baby, but in the very same cell. Tamim then felt the same sting of exile as he was banished from Egypt. Explaining to his son, and to the world, the life decisions he has made, *I Was Born There, I Was Born Here* illuminates the path of exile across generations. Ranging freely back and forth in time between the 1990s and the present, Barghouti poignantly recalls Palestinian history and daily life while expressing the meaning of home and the importance of being able to say, standing in a small village in Palestine, "I was born here," rather than saying from exile, "I was born there." His elegant and expressive prose, beautifully rendered in Humphrey Davies' sensitive translation, is full of life and humor in the face of a culture of death. *I Was Born There, I Was Born Here* is destined, like its predecessor, to become a classic." --Amazon)

Baroud, Ramzy. **The Last Earth: A Palestinian Story.** "At times reminiscent of the storytelling of the iconic Gabriel García Márquez, Baroud mingles past, present, dreams, and fantasy to forge a document that demands respect and rejects pity. . . . Engrossing . . . A vital and inspiring document." –*Truthout* "In the finest tradition of people's history, these sensitive, painful and evocative pieces provide a human face to the painful saga of Palestinian torment and the remarkable courage and resilience of the victims." --Noam Chomsky "This book is a powerful tool to revive and record the human history of al Nakba, the largest, longest, most comprehensive and still continuous ethnic cleansing in Palestine's history. Al Nakba is not a traffic accident but a process subjecting its victims to a constant tragedy across many countries and many decades... a must read for all those who want to see the concealed human dimension of the Palestinian life and suffering." ----Salman Abu Sitta, Author of *Mapping My Return* and the *Atlas of Palestine*)

Ben-Zeev, Efrat. **Remembering Palestine in 1948: Beyond National Narratives.** Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2011. ("The war of 1948 in Palestine is a conflict whose history has been written primarily from the national point of view. This book asks what happens to these

narratives when they arise out of the personal stories of those who were involved. Efrat Ben-Ze'ev, an Israeli anthropologist, examines the memories of those who participated and were affected by the events of 1948, and how these events have been mythologized over time. As she discovers, these small-scale truths, which were collected from people at the dusk of their lives and previously overshadowed by nationalized histories, shed new light on the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, as it was then and as it has become.” –Amazon)

Bing, Anthony. **Israeli Pacifist: The Life of Joseph Abileah**. Syracuse, NY: Syracuse University Press, 1990. (“For more than 50 years, Joseph Abileah, a violinist from Haifa, has worked for reconciliation between Arabs & Jews....This life of an Israeli pacifist is also a study of an alternative history of Israel, one that reflects the tensions between spiritual & political Zionism.” —*Publishers Weekly*)

Bucaille, Laetitia, **Growing Up Palestinian: Israeli Occupation and the Intifada Generation**. Princeton University, 2006. (“A must for all those concerned with the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, the great value of this contemporary history is that it brings you close-up to the Palestinian people and their politics, revealing the differences among them, differences across generations but also of class, religion, politics, and place. . . . Neither simplistic nor sentimental, Bucaille shows that the conflict with the Israelis is inseparable from the Palestinians' conflict within their own community.” —*Booklist* “Like a painter of miniatures, Laetitia Bucaille describes a multitude of small scenes from the lives of young Palestinians, ushering us into a world view in which death gradually comes to occupy the central role. . . . This book offers a richly detailed look at the rise of that political impasse which engenders suicide bombings and the alarming commitment of martyrs.”---Gilles Kepel, *Le Monde*)

Chabon, Michael and Ayelet Waldman, ed. **Kingdom of Olives and Ash: Writers Confront Occupation**. New York: HarperPerennial, 2017. (“A groundbreaking collection of essays by celebrated international writers bears witness to the human cost of fifty years of Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza. In *Kingdom of Olives and Ash*, Michael Chabon and Ayelet Waldman, two

of today's most renowned novelists and essayists, have teamed up with the Israeli NGO Breaking the Silence—an organization comprised of former Israeli soldiers who served in the occupied territories and saw firsthand the injustice there—and a host of illustrious writers to tell the stories of the people on the ground in the contested territories. *Kingdom of Olives and Ash* includes contributions from several of today's most esteemed storytellers including: Colum McCann, Jacqueline Woodson, Colm Toibin, Geraldine Brooks, Dave Eggers, Hari Kunzru, Raja Shehadeh, Mario Vargas Llosa and Assaf Gavron, as well as from editors Chabon and Waldman. Through these incisive, perceptive, and poignant essays, readers will gain unique insight into the narratives behind the litany of grim destruction broadcasted nightly on the news, as well as deeper understanding of the conflict as experienced by the people who live in the occupied territories. Together, these stories stand witness to the human cost of the occupation. —Amazon “Dramatic testimonies... radiant with telling details, vital portraits, and explosive facts.... This sensitive, galvanizing, and landmark gathering brings the occupation into sharp focus as a tragedy of fear and tyranny, a monumental failure of compassion and justice, a horrific obstacle to world peace.” —*Booklist* “On the 50th anniversary of Israeli occupation of Palestine, top writers bear witness to oppression and despair.... moving, heartbreaking, and infuriating.... Deeply unsettling, important stories call for urgent responses to the Middle East conflict.” —*Kirkus Reviews*)

Chacour, Elias and Mary Jensen. **We Belong to the Land: The Story of a Palestinian Israeli Who Lives for Peace and Reconciliation.** Notre Dame, IN: University of Notre Dame Press, 2001. (“The conflict of being a clergyman and a Palestinian Arab in Israel forms the backdrop for this human drama as the author, a priest in the Melkite Catholic Church, tries to serve as a spokesperson for fellow Palestinians against what they perceive as injustices imposed on them by a Jewish state. Among the travails he relates are the destruction of his village in the Upper Galilee by Israeli authorities, who transformed the area into a military security zone; and the forced evacuation of Biram, another village in the Galilee.” — *Library Journal*)

Cook, Jonathan. **Blood and Religion: the Unmasking of the Jewish and Democratic State.** London: Pluto Press, 2006. (A former staff journalist of the *Guardian* and *Observer* newspapers, Cook continues to report on the status of the Israeli Arabs from his home in Nazareth. In this book Cook documents how Israel is treating its Arab minority with its numerical growth by developing and reinforcing “an image of the minority as an irredentist population group, an enemy trying to subvert the Jewish state from within on behalf of the Palestinians in the occupied territories.” --Preface)

Corrie, Rachel. **Let Me Stand Alone: The Journals of Rachel Corrie.** New York: W. W. Norton, 2009. (“Rachel Corrie's determination to make a better, more peaceful world took her from Olympia, Washington, to the Middle East, where she died in 2003 as she tried to block the demolition of a Palestinian family's home in the Gaza Strip. A twenty-three-year-old American activist, Corrie also possessed a striking gift for poetry, writing, and drawing. *Let Me Stand Alone*, a

selection of her journals, letters, and drawings as chosen by her family, reveals her story in her own hand, from her precocious reflections as a young girl to her final emails. Corrie's words--whether writing about the looming issues of our time or the ordinary angst of an American teen--bring to life all that it means to come of age: a dawning sense of self, a thirst for one's own ideals, and an evolving connection to others, near and far.” –Amazon)

Dunsky, Marda. **Pens and Swords: How the Mainstream American Media Report the Israel-Palestine Conflict.** New York: Columbia University Press, 2008. (“[Dunsky’s] writing is perceptive and her arguments insightful” – *Jewish Book World*)

El-Haddad, Laila. **Gaza Mom: Palestine, Politics, Parenting, and Everything In Between.** Charlottesville, VA: Just World Books, 2010. (“[*Gaza Mom*] takes us into the life and world of a busy Palestinian journalist who is both covering the story of Gaza and living it—very intensely. This book is El-Haddad’s self-curated choice of the best of her writings from December 2004 through July 2010. She was in Gaza City in 2005, watching hopefully as the Israelis prepared their withdrawal from the Gaza Strip. She covered the January 2006 Palestinian elections—judged ‘free and fair’ by all international monitors. But then, she watched aghast as the Israeli government, backed by the Bush administration, moved in to punish Gaza’s 1.5 million people for the way they had voted by throwing a tough siege around the Strip....El-Haddad was not only covering Gaza’s situation as a journalist and correspondent. She was also living them, including by trying to explain the ongoing events to her own young children.” – *Just World*)

Finkelstein, Norman. **The Rise and Fall of Palestine: A Personal Account of the Intifada Years.** Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1996. (“An American Jewish academician with strong sympathies for Palestinian causes provides a personal perspective on what has been commonly referred to as the intifada. Finkelstein (*Image and Reality of the Israel-Palestinian Conflict*, Routledge, 1995) focuses on the quality of life of the Palestinians living under Israeli military occupation. He argues that Palestinian-initiated violence in the area and support for Iraq during the Persian Gulf War must be understood as a reflection of frustration at Israeli control over Palestinians' daily lives. The author was a frequent visitor to Israel and the occupied territories during the period 1988-92 and conducted extensive interviews with Palestinian activists and politicians. While the ideological similarities between him and his subjects may be seen by some as an inability to assess objectively the relationship between violence and political goals in the Palestinian community, this witness statement is worth critical analysis by a wide range of audiences. For academic and larger public collections. —*Library Journal*)

Gilberts, Mads and Erik Fosse. **Eyes in Gaza.** London: Quartet Books: 2010. (“Eyes in Gaza is a detailed and harrowing account by the Norwegian doctors Mads Gilbert and Erik Fosse of their experiences in al-Shifa Hospital during Israel’s deadly assault on Gaza in December 2008-January 2009. For a time, they were not just the only western doctors in Gaza, but among the handful of western witnesses to what they repeatedly call Israel’s “massacre” of some 1,400 Palestinian men,

women and children. Hence the book's title, bearing witness to their status as witnesses." – Raymond Deane)

Gluck, Sherna Berger. **An American Feminist in Palestine: The Intifada Years**. Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 1994. ("Not many middle-aged Jewish college professors spend their vacations in occupied Palestine, dodging tear-gas canisters hurled by Israeli soldiers, and visiting—and occasionally staying with—Arab families in overcrowded refugee camps or tiny houses with no central heating....Gluck's experiences are worth reading..." —*Publishers Weekly*)

Hass, Amira. **Reporting from Ramallah: An Israeli Journalist in an Occupied Land**. Los Angeles: Semiotext(e); illustrated edition, 2003. ("Culled from her dispatches during the past five years, these pieces offer a three-dimensional portrait of the daily experiences of the Palestinians under Israeli occupation. The early pieces, written while serious peace talks were being conducted in the late '90s, shows the roots of the current violence: most notably, Palestinians' frustration that the Oslo peace accords hadn't produced many tangible results. As Hass presciently wrote: 'The distance from here to private and collective acts of despair is not great.' As the book wends its way through the outbreak of violence in September 2000, that despair is increasingly on display. Her pieces illustrate how Palestinian frustration—over detentions, house demolitions, a life so riddled with restrictions that 'hundreds of thousands of Palestinians are criminals or potential criminals' —erupted into suicide bombings and other forms of terrorism." —*Publishers Weekly*)

Hoffman, Adina. **My Happiness Bears No Relation to Happiness: A Poet's Life in the Palestinian Century**. New Haven: Yale University Press, 2009. "Vivid and intimate, engrossing and full of memorable characters. Every scene [Hoffman] sketches comes alive.... Taha Muhammad Ali is fortunate to have had ... [her to] tell his story with such eloquence."—*Haaretz* "A rich tapestry of the personal, the literary and the political, skillfully woven by a sympathetic writer ... Hoffman's intense but often humorous book is a powerful reminder of the singularity and complexity of this most intractable of conflicts and of the ability of the human spirit to be creative in adversity."—*The Guardian* "Luminous .... Looking past the usual strident politics, Hoffman presents readers with a subtle, moving evocation of the human realities of the Palestinian experience, rooted in land and memory."—*Publishers Weekly*)

Johnson, Penny and Raja Shehadeh, eds. **Seeking Palestine: New Palestinian Writing on Exile and Home**. New Delhi: Women Unlimited, 2012. ("[A]n extraordinarily frank, fresh and unsentimental assessment of what Palestinians are and have become. It is not only a testimony as to the strength, dedication and sticking power of Palestinian people, but also of the writers themselves. It is a book not just of ideas and bearing witness, but a catalogue of astonishing characters..." – Selma Dabbagh)

Kanaaneh, Hatim. **Doctor in Galilee: The Life and Struggle of a Palestinian in Israel**. London: Pluto Press, 2008. ("Hatim Kanaaneh is a Palestinian doctor who has struggled for over 35 years to bring medical care to Palestinians in Galilee, against a culture of anti-Arab discrimination. This is the story of how he fought for the human rights of his patients and overcame the Israeli authorities' cruel indifference to their suffering. Kanaaneh is a native of Galilee, born before the creation of Israel. He left to study medicine at Harvard, before returning to work as a public health physician

with the intention of helping his own people. He discovered a shocking level of disease and malnutrition in his community and a shameful lack of support from the Israeli authorities. After doing all he could for his patients by working from inside the system, Kanaaneh set up The Galilee Society, an NGO working for equitable health, environmental and socio-economic conditions for Palestinian Arabs in Israel.” —Pluto Press)

Lynd, Staughton, Sam Bahour, Alice Lynd. eds. **Homeland: Oral Histories of Palestine and Palestinians**. New York: Olive Branch Press, 1994. (“Throughout the world Palestinians have often been viewed through narrow prisms of "terrorists" or "victims." This comprehensive collection of oral histories brings to life generations of Palestinians, those living in the occupied territories as well as those in the far-flung exile of the Palestinians, those living in the occupied territories as well as those in the far-flung exile of the Palestinian diaspora. The editors travelled throughout Israel and the occupied territories to find the multi-generational families living in towns, villages and refugee camps whose voices resonate in Homeland. These are Palestinians who lost their homes in 1948, who grew up as refugees in Jordan or Lebanon after the dispossessions of 1949 or 1967, women battling for their land as well as their rights, former prisoners, farmers, workers, children and great-grandparents. Homeland poignantly links the people to the land, the attachment to which has created and sustained Palestinian national identity around the world. These are stories of loss, of exile, of remembering.” —Amazon)

Matar, Diana. **What It Means to Be Palestinian: Stories of Palestinian Peoplehood**. I.B. Tauris, 2010. (“[T]his is a rich narrative woven together by expert hands...Behind the success of this book are three main strengths: the well-balanced spectrum of Palestinian interviewees, Matar’s solid grasp of Palestinian history and the lively and interesting stories of the interviewees themselves...These stories demand to be read by a wider English audience. This is a book the reader will dip into over and over again. It is to be hoped that more Western publishers will follow I. B. Tauris in allowing Palestinian voices to speak for themselves in such a powerful manner” -- Asa Winstanley, *The Electronic Intifada*)

Nathan, Susan. **The Other Side of Israel: My Journey Across the Jewish/Arab Divide**. New York, NY: Nan A. Talese, 2005. (“Almost invisible in the international media, the Arab citizens of Israel have found very few advocates among Israel’s Jewish majority. By leaving Tel Aviv and moving into an Arab village, Nathan began the personal transformation that made her one of that small number. Living among Arab Israelis has engendered in Nathan a keen awareness of their fortitude and courage in coping with the adversity imposed by Israeli policies and practices. In Israel’s schools and its legislative chamber, on its farms and its job sites, Nathan sees Jewish Israelis

denying Arab Israelis equitable treatment, relegating them to second-class citizenship. And, unfortunately, the unmistakable parallels with South African apartheid fail to register even in the minds of Israel's progressive Jews, who insist that Israel's Arabs must surrender their traditional culture before they qualify for equal rights.... Nathan's concluding appeal for a truly equitable and inclusive Israel will stir sharp controversy by forcing hard questions." – *American Library Association: Booklist*)

Olson, Pamela. **Fast Times in Palestine**. New York: Mason Hill Press, 2011. ("It's love in the time of occupation as Pamela Olson . . . takes us on the emotional roller-coaster of her very personal experience of life in Ramallah — and in doing so lays bare the human drama of a people . . . determined to live free." – Tony Karon, Senior Editor, *Time* "Pamela Olson's insightful, sometimes shocking, but always deeply human account of the Palestinian reality should be read by anyone who wants to get beyond the myths and misconceptions around the Palestinian struggle. The effortless narrative is driven by encounters with ordinary, and sometimes extraordinary, people sometimes as confused as the rest of the world about their reality. But Olson is clear in laying out the stark truth of dispossession, oppression, and outright racism imposed on the Palestinians—insights all too lacking in news reports and political debate." —Chris McGreal, *The Guardian* "A moving, inspiring account of life in Palestine that's enormously informative yet reads like a novel!" —Rebecca Vilkomerson, Executive Director of Jewish Voice for Peace)

Peres, Shimon. **The New Middle East**. New York: Henry Holt, 2003. ("The late-summer headlines of a landmark peace accord between the government of Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization stunned and delighted citizens of conscience from every walk of life and from all over the world. Here, at last, were the first glimmerings of harmony for a region whose bloody, intractable conflicts between Arab and Jew had outlived hot and cold wars alike to become an inescapable, insoluble fact of life in our modern age. Many men and women of peace and vision worked together to bring about this epoch-making accord, but none played a more prominent and crucial role than Israeli Minister of Foreign Affairs, and former Prime Minister, Shimon Peres. Using both behind-the-scenes statecraft and the very public platform of the international media, Peres has called for nothing less than a total transvaluation of our thinking about the future of the Middle East. Peace, he has argued eloquently, is the only alternative for Jews and Arabs poised on the verge of a new century, and a new millennium. Peace will come only as the result of compromise. Peace is the only way to prevent posterity from making the same terrible mistakes of preceding generations....*The New Middle East* is a blueprint for the dawning of a new age. A visionary manifesto of current events no one can afford to ignore, it also may become one of the enduring political documents of our time." –Amazon)

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peace, the Jerusalem-born Israeli prime minister played a key role in developing the Jewish state and was instrumental in establishing peace in the Middle East. Yitzhak Rabin's memoirs, first published in 1979 but long out of print, are now available in this expanded edition. They provide a candid appraisal of significant events in Israeli history, and passages censored when the memoirs were first published have been restored. The addition of an afterword by Rabin's political advisor, Yoram Peri, and his most important speeches given after 1979 round out Rabin's life and show the evolution of his beliefs. Rabin writes of his years in the Haganah (the independent Jewish military) and gives a controversial account of the War of Independence. He details the tactical moves that made him a hero in the Six Day War and recalls his years as ambassador to the United States. He tells of his difficult decision to authorize the 1976 rescue of hijacked hostages from the Entebbe airport. Rabin describes the conflicts that eventually led to his party's defeat after thirty years in power, and he concludes with a shrewd assessment of the Israeli-Egyptian peace treaty and of prospects for peace with Israel's other neighbors, including the Palestinians.” —Amazon)

Reporters Without Borders. **Israel/Palestine: The Black Book**. London: Pluto Press, 2003. (“[T]he nonpartisan international organization of journalists Reporters without Borders presents a shocking compilation of reports on the human rights violations that have occurred in Israel and Palestine since the second intifada began in 2000. The reports, which are drawn from Israeli, Palestinian and international human rights groups such as Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch, contain individual case histories as well as general overviews. The Israeli group B’Tselem, for example, describes the demolition of houses along the Egyptian border, while the Palestinian Center for Human Rights documents the Palestinian Authority’s attacks on the free press. Other topics include the behavior of Israeli soldiers during demonstrations and at checkpoints, the shortcomings of the Palestinian justice system, the killings committed by Palestinians and the use of torture in Israel. The book makes for sobering reading, but, as the editors write, “Terrorism does not justify torture. Colonial oppression does not justify terrorism.” And the first step to stopping such crimes is to acknowledge that they have occurred.” —*Publishers Weekly*)

Shehadeh, Raja. **Samed: A Journal of a West Bank Palestinian**. New York: Adama Books, 1984. (“Describes the daily lives of Palestinians living under Israeli rule and depicts the tactics the Israeli government is using to force Palestinians out of the country.” --Amazon “Shehadeh brings the Catch-22 situation of the West Bank to life. This slim and readable book is the best I’ve read so far on what Palestinians living in the West Bank have to cope with on a day to day basis. Highly recommended.” —CPT)

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Turki, Fawaz. **Disinherited: Journal of a Palestinian Exile**. Monthly Review Press, 1972. (“... extraordinary memoir ... this small, brilliant book restores a dimension of humanity to the impassioned abstraction that the Middle East has become.” --*Washington Post*)

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Yermiya, Dov. **My War Diary: Lebanon, June 5-July 1, 1982.** Boston: South End Press, 1999. (“A passionate, humane eyewitness account of the effects of the Israeli invasion of Lebanon on the civilian population by a lieutenant colonel in the Israeli Defence Forces.” --Amazon)

Zaru, Jean. **Occupied with Nonviolence: A Palestinian Woman Speaks.** Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2008. (“Jean Zaru, the longtime activist and Quaker leader from Ramallah, here brings home the pain and central convictions that animate Christian nonviolence and activity today. Zaru vividly paints the complex realities faced by all parties in Palestine - Jews and Muslims and Christians, Israelis and Palestinians, women and men. Yet even as Zaru eloquently names the common misunderstandings of the history, present situation, and current policies of the parties there, she vividly articulates an alternative: a religiously motivated nonviolent path to peace and justice in the world's most troubled region. –Amazon)