

Waging War: From al-Nakba to the Assault on Gaza

Suggested Titles

Blumenthal, Max. **The 51 Day War: Ruin and Resistance in Gaza**. New York: Nation Books, 2016. ("On July 8, 2014, Israel launched air strikes on Hamas-controlled Gaza, followed by a ground invasion. The ensuing conflict led to 51 days of war that left over 2,000 people dead, the vast majority of whom were Palestinian civilians. During the assault, at least 10,000 homes were destroyed and, according to the United Nations, nearly 300,000 Palestinians were displaced. Max Blumenthal was on the ground during what he argues was an entirely avoidable catastrophe. In this explosive work of reportage, Blumenthal reveals the harrowing conditions and cynical deceptions that led to the ruinous war — details that slipped through the cracks of the mainstream media." — Amazon)

Fisk, Robert. **Pity the Nation: Lebanon at War**. Cambridge: Oxford University Press, October 2001. ("Pity the Nation ranks among the classic accounts of war in our time, both as historical document and as an eyewitness testament to human savagery. Written by one of Britain's foremost journalists, this remarkable book combines political analysis and war reporting in an unprecedented way: it is an epic account of the Lebanon conflict by an author who has personally witnessed the carnage of Beirut for over a decade. Fisk's book recounts the details of a terrible war, but it also tells a story of betrayal and illusion, of Western blindness that had led inevitably to political and military catastrophe. Updated and revised, Fisk's book gives us a further insight into this troubled part of the world. 'Robert Fisk is one of the outstanding reporters of this generation. As a war correspondent he is unrivalled.' ---Edward Mortimer, *Financial Times*)

Laron, Guy. **The Six Day War: The Breaking of the Middle East**. New Haven: Yale University Press, 2017. ("With the occupation now in ripe middle age, an engaging crop of new books is re-examining its consequences —and, in the case of Guy Laron's *The Six Day War*, making us look afresh at the events that led to conflict between Israel and its neighbours. Laron, a historian at Jerusalem's Hebrew University, argues that the war was no accident; rather, it was 'designed and even desired by prominent military figures in the warring countries.'"—John Reed, *Financial Times* "For Laron, there are no simple binaries. . . . Laron's critical approach echoes that of Segev, while his diligent and eye-opening archival work complements that undertaken by Oren. He describes the war from a number of different perspectives, and places it in a global context . . . he paints a comprehensive and captivating picture of a complex reality."—Ari Shavit, *Times Literary Supplement*)

Rabinovich, Abraham. **The Yom Kippur War**. Random House, 2005. ("Never before has the Israeli experience in the Yom Kippur War been so sensitively and intricately documented . . . A seamless, riveting narrative [that is] both compelling and intelligent." —*The Washington Post Book World* "The best general history of the Yom Kippur War. The writing is clear, compelling, and precise and offers a good understanding of both the military operations and the political developments. At both levels it was a fascinating war. . . . Outstanding." —*Ha'aretz* "Rabinovich's extra efforts to get inside the minds of Arab generals are especially welcome. . . . sheds light on a conflict that altered the psychology and diplomacy of the Middle East down to the present day." —*The New York Times Book Review*)

Related Titles

Al-Hout, Bayan Nuwayhed, **Sabra and Shatila**: September 1982. London, Pluto Press, 2004. ("The book covers the history of the Sabra and Shatila massacre, which took place over three bloody days in the Lebanese capital Beirut. It was committed against Palestinian refugees by Lebanese militias, aided and supervised by the Israeli Army, which had encircled the district. Now available in English, this classic book is the most comprehensive, authoritative account of what happened and who was responsible. The author, Bayan Nuwayhed al-Hout, was a Professor at the Lebanese University at the time. Driven by the horror of what occurred, she interviewed survivors and set up an oral history project immediately after the massacre to preserve testimonies. This book is the result." -- Amazon)

Chomsky, Noam, and Ilan Pappé. **Gaza in Crisis: Reflections on US-Israeli War against the Palestinians**. Chicago: Haymarket, 2013. ("Israel's Operation Cast Lead thrust the humanitarian crisis in the Gaza Strip into the center of the debate about the Israel/Palestine conflict. In this updated and expanded edition, Noam Chomsky and Ilan Pappé survey the fallout from Israel's conduct in Gaza, including their latest incursions, and place it in historical context." – Amazon)

Finkelstein, Norman. **Gaza: An Inquest into Martyrdom**. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press, 2018. ("No scholar has done more to shed light on Israel's ruthless treatment of the Palestinians than Norman Finkelstein. In *Gaza*, he meticulously details Israel's massacres of the Palestinians in that tiny enclave during Operations Cast Lead and Protective Edge, while demolishing the myths Israel and its supporters have invented to disguise these shocking events."— John J. Mearsheimer, R. Wendell Harrison Distinguished Service Professor of Political Science, University of Chicago)

Gluska, Ami. **The Israeli Military and the Origins of the 1967 War**. New York: Routledge, 2007. ("This new book looks at the relationship between the Israeli armed forces, the government, and the origins of the 1967 War. Ami Gluska discusses the effect of the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) on Israel's defense policy between 1963-1967 against the backdrop of the developments in the Middle East. In addition, he describes in detail the decision-making process leading to the Arab-Israeli Six Day War in June 1967 through the prism of the relations between the military and political echelons. He shows how the Six Day War was a watershed event in the Middle-Eastern conflict and had a profound effect on the development of the Palestinian problem and the character of the State of Israel over the past four decades. This book will be of great interest to students of Middle Eastern politics, strategic studies, Israeli politics and military history in general." –Amazon)

Hamzeh, Muna, and Todd May, eds. **Operation Defensive Shield: Witnesses to Israeli War Crimes**. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2003. ("Always compelling, [Hamzeh's writing movingly conveys these tragedies, and how, in a tight-knit society on a small patch of land, they are all inter-connected." ---*The Financial Times*)

Horowitz, Adam, Lizzy Ratner, Philip Weiss, eds. **The Goldstone Report: The Legacy of the Landmark Investigation of the Gaza Conflict.** Asbury Park, NJ: Nation Books, 2011.

(“American journalists Horowitz, Lizzy Ratner, and Philip Weiss provide a comprehensive picture of the 2009 Gaza conflict in this abridged version of the UN Fact-Finding Mission’s report on the Gaza Conflict commonly known as “the Goldstone Report.” Much more than a simple paring down of the controversial original document, which recounts human rights abuses committed by both Israel and Hamas, this edition is enhanced by oral testimonies and essays from experts following the report’s publication. . . An essential read for those concerned with accurate documentation of historical events and nations’ accountability for their treatment of civilians living in war zones. — *Publishers Weekly*)

Khalidi, Rashid. **Under Siege: P.L.O. Decisionmaking During the 1982 War.** New York: Columbia University Press, 2014. (“A fascinating and often terrifying firsthand account of the 1982 war in Lebanon, *Under Siege* vividly reveals the complex negotiations and military maneuvers which ended with the evacuation of the P.L.O. from Beirut. Rashid Khalidi, a Palestinian, lived with his family in Beirut during the siege and ensuing massacres. Using many usually inaccessible sources, such as P.L.O. telexes and government messages, and interviews with key military officials and diplomats, he tells the story from the compelling viewpoint of those living amid the fighting. Khalidi provides a carefully detailed picture of the P.L.O. from within, the local Lebanese environment, the military pressure on the P.L.O. and Palestinian and Lebanese civilians, and of U.S. diplomacy during the crisis. While focusing primarily on the inner workings of the P.L.O., the author also addresses various aspects of Lebanese and inter-Arab politics and examines the military and diplomatic behavior of involved outside parties such as the United States, France, and the former Soviet Union.” –Amazon)

Louis, William Roger, and Avi Shlaim, eds. **The 1967 Arab-Israeli War: Origins and Consequences.** Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2012. (“The June 1967 war was a watershed in the history of the modern Middle East. In six days, the Israelis defeated the Egyptian, Syrian and Jordanian armies, seizing large portions of their territories. Two veteran scholars of the Middle East bring together some of the most knowledgeable experts in their fields to reassess the origins and the legacies of the war. Each chapter takes a different perspective from the vantage point of a different participant, those that actually took part in the war, and also the world powers that played important roles behind the scenes. Their conclusions make for sober reading. At the heart of the story was the incompetence of the Egyptian leadership and the rivalry between various Arab players who were deeply suspicious of each other's motives. Israel, on the other side, gained a resounding victory for which, despite previous assessments to the contrary, there was no master plan.” – Amazon)

Morris, Benny. **Israel's Border Wars, 1949-1956**. New York, NY: Oxford University Press-USA, 1997. ("Covers the seven-year period after the 1948 War, when the Jewish State fought to keep thousands of mostly unarmed Palestinians from returning to their homes and lands. The book also documents the war between the newly formed Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) and the nascent Palestinian armed resistance movement then based in neighboring Jordan and Egypt. Border Wars is meticulously researched, using documents from government archives to present a most powerful argument refuting the myth of the of the IDF as "the world's most moral army." --Ira Glunts, *Mondoweiss*)

Oren, Michael. **Six Days of War: June 1967 and the Making of the Modern Middle East**. New York: Presidio, 2003. ("Powerful . . . A highly readable, even gripping account of the 1967 conflict . . . [Oren] has woven a seamless narrative out of a staggering variety of diplomatic and military strands."—*The New York Times* "With a remarkably assured style, Oren elucidates nearly every aspect of the conflict. . . . Oren's [book] will remain the authoritative chronicle of the war. His achievement as a writer and a historian is awesome."—*The Atlantic Monthly* "This is not only the best book so far written on the six-day war, it is likely to remain the best."—*The Washington Post Book World* "[In] Michael Oren's richly detailed and lucid account, the familiar story is thrilling once again. . . . What makes this book important is the breadth and depth of the research."—*The New York Times Book Review* "Like Saddam Hussein, Oren claimed, Gamal Abdel Nasser, the Egyptian president during the Six-Day War, had aspired to unite the Arab world. Just like Saddam, Oren argued, Nasser defied UN resolutions and had stockpiled weapons of mass destruction. Nasser wanted to wage a war of annihilation on Israel, but Israel "did not wait around" and launched a preemptive attack. Oren implicitly suggested that Israel's war on Egypt in 1967 was as justified as the American war on Iraq in 2003. At the time, he probably thought this analogy bolstered his argument. With hindsight, this comparison only weakened it." --Guy Laron, author of *The Six Day War: The Breaking of the Middle East*)

Quigley, John. **The Six-Day War and Israeli Self-Defense: Questioning the Legal Basis for Preventive War**. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2016. ("In this book, John Quigley continues to champion the Palestinian cause. He has labored mightily for right in a field where the very same diplomacy that he describes has made it impossible for even those with the best intentions to advance basic legal and human rights for the Palestinian people." --M. Cherif Bassiouni, Emeritus Professor of Law, DePaul University "Quigley shows that throughout the history of Israel, its leaders have given the international community false assurances and falsified facts, and that many of Israel's diplomatic achievements are the result of this deception." --John Dugard, Former UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights in the Occupied Palestinian Territory 'John Quigley's book, which covers the period from around 1900 to 1967, is an informative survey of Zionist-Israeli diplomatic practice ...' --Lawrence Davidson, *Journal of Palestine Studies*)

Sa'di, Ahmad H., ed. and Abu-Lughod, Lila, ed. **Nakba: Palestine, 1948, and the Claims of Memory (Cultures of History)**. New York: Columbia University Press, 2007. (Ahmad H. Sa'di is a senior lecturer in the Department of Politics and Government at Ben-Gurion University. Lila Abu-Lughod is professor of anthropology and gender studies at Columbia University. “[F]or Palestinians themselves, the iniquities of the present are experienced as a continuous replay of the injustice of the past. By focusing on memories of the Nakba or “catastrophe” of 1948, in which hundreds of thousands of Palestinians were dispossessed to create the state of Israel, the contributors to this volume illuminate the contemporary Palestinian experience and clarify the moral claims they make for justice and redress. The book’s essays consider the ways in which Palestinians have remembered and organized themselves around the Nakba, a central trauma that continues to be refracted through Palestinian personal and collective memory. Analyzing oral histories and written narratives, poetry and cinema, personal testimony and courtroom evidence, the authors show how the continuing experience of violence, displacement, and occupation have transformed the pre-Nakba past and the land of Palestine into symbols of what has been and continues to be lost.” —Columbia University Press)

Schiff, Ze'ev and Ehud Yaari. **Israel's Lebanon War**. New York: Simon and Schuster, 1984. (“A detailed narrative by two Israeli journalists on the origins, conduct, and political repercussions of the Lebanon war, based on previously unreleased documents and interviews with high officials.” — Amazon)

Segev, Tom. **1967: Israel, the War, and the Year that Transformed the Middle East**. New York: Metropolitan Books, 2007. (“Drawing on unpublished letters and diaries, as well as government memos and military records, Segev reconstructs an era of new possibilities and tragic missteps. . . . He reveals as never before Israel’s intimacy with the White House as well as the political rivalries that sabotaged any chance of peace. Above all, he challenges the view that the war was inevitable, showing that a series of disastrous miscalculations lie behind the bloodshed. — Metropolitan Books)

Shlaim, Avi and Eugene Rogan, eds. **War for Palestine: Rewriting the History of 1948**. 2nd edition. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2007. (“In a preface to the new edition, the editors survey the state of scholarship in this contested field. The impact of these debates goes well beyond academia. There is an important link between the state of Arab-Israeli relations and popular attitudes towards the past. A more complex and fair-minded understanding of that past is essential for preserving at least the prospect of reconciliation between Arabs and Israel in the future. The rewriting of the history of 1948 thus remains a practical as well as an academic imperative.” — Cambridge University Press)

Tamari, Salim, ed. **Jerusalem 1948: The Arab Neighbourhoods and their Fate in the War**. Jerusalem: Institute of Jerusalem Studies and Bethlehem: Badil Resource Center, 1999. (“...an informative, enlightening, candidly descriptive and analytical history.... highly recommended....” — *Midwest Book Review*)

Zochrot. Omrim. **Yshna Eretz — Once Upon a Land: A Tour Guide. Hebrew and Arabic.** Haifa: Pardes Publications, 2012. (“[A] bilingual tour guide, in Hebrew and Arabic, to what is left and – mainly – what was erased, almost without a trace. A journey through time and consciousness, 18 tours to some of the approximately 400 Palestinian villages and urban neighborhoods, whose residents fled or were expelled in 1948. Most of their homes were wiped off the face of the earth immediately afterward, generally without even a sign remaining of them.” ---Gideon Levy)