

## PLS RESOURCE LIST.1 – Fall Semester 2017

### Useful websites, books and films on the Israeli-Arab conflict

#### OVERVIEWS

**POV "History of the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict"** 10-page timeline of the main events up to 2001, with Israeli and Palestinian perspectives: <http://pov-tc.pbs.org/pov/pdf/promiese/promises-timeline.pdf>

Note: I found a few factual mistakes in this timeline. For example on p.5: "June 6, 1982. Israel invades Lebanon...in order to block *Hezbollah* [...] from staging attacks on Northern Israeli communities..." It should be "the *PLO*..." Hezbollah was established later. See First Lebanon War: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1982\\_Lebanon\\_War](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1982_Lebanon_War).

**Good overview of the "peace process" since 2000**, including summaries of previous Israeli-Arab agreements: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Israeli%E2%80%93Palestinian\\_peace\\_process](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Israeli%E2%80%93Palestinian_peace_process) For the 2002 Arab Peace Initiative: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arab\\_Peace\\_Initiative](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arab_Peace_Initiative)

**BBC Maps** [http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/shared/spl/hi/middle\\_east/03/v3\\_israel\\_palestinians/maps/html/](http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/shared/spl/hi/middle_east/03/v3_israel_palestinians/maps/html/)

**Vox summary** of Israel-Palestine conflict in 10 minutes (!), quick and superficial: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iRYZjOuUnIU>

#### DOCUMENTARIES

***Fifty Years War***. PBS documentary covers the main events from 1948. Parts 1 and 2. 2:20 each part: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fSAD9pS8Nlw> / <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MtLorIXCcz4>

***The Nakba***. Al Jazeera series, presents the Arab perspective on Zionism (as a colonialist enterprise) and events leading to the 1948 Nakba. Four episodes: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H7FML0wzJ6A>

***The Pillar of Fire (Amud Ha-esh)***. Israeli TV series, presents the Israeli perspective on Zionism (as a liberation movement) and events leading to the 1948 War of Independence. The English version has 7 episodes: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qjBSmqgkxbxE> For what is in each episode, see: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pillar\\_of\\_Fire\\_\(documentary\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pillar_of_Fire_(documentary)) Israeli Channel 1 produced an additional mini-series, ***Tkuma*** ("Revival" 1998) that continues the Israeli narrative, from the Declaration of Independence to the assassination of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin in 1995. In Hebrew only.

***The Law in these Parts*** (2012, Hebrew, Engl.subtitles) "Can a modern democracy impose a prolonged military occupation on another people while retaining its core democratic values?" Award-winning documentary offering a critical look at Israel's military justice system in the West Bank and Gaza since 1967. Surprising interviews with top military judges. <https://www.thelawfilm.com/eng/#!/the-film>

***The Gatekeepers*** (2012, Hebrew, Engl.subtitles). Oscar nominee for Best Documentary. Six former heads of Shabak (Israel's internal security service) reveal their surprising views on Israel's occupation of the West Bank and Gaza. <http://www.thegatekeepersfilm.com/the-film.html>

***Arna's Children***. This film about the Freedom Theater in Jenin during the Second Intifada is more amazing than any fictional movie on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. By Juliano Mer-Khamis (Palestinian-Israeli father, Jewish-Israeli mother) who was assassinated in Jenin in 2011.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arna's\\_Children](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arna's_Children)

***Five Broken Cameras*** (2013, Arabic, Hebrew, Engl. subtitles (חמש מצלמות ; خمس كاميرات محطمة) (שבורות). Oscar nominee for Best Documentary, co-directed by Palestinian Emad Burnat and Israeli Guy Davidi. First-hand account of local non-violent protests against the West Bank Barrier in Bil'in, a small village. A fascinating example of a successful non-violent action campaign by Palestinians with Israeli and international volunteers. <http://5brokencamerasthemovie.com/>

***Budrus*** (2009, Arabic&Hebrew, Engl.subtitles). Israeli-Palestinian co-produced film about Ayed Morrar, a Palestinian whose work for Fatah led to five detentions in Israeli jails, but whose decision that the Separation Barrier in his village should be opposed by nonviolent resistance.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Budrus\\_\(film\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Budrus_(film))

***The Lab*** (2013). A Michael-Moore-style documentary, by young Israeli director, about Israel's recent wars and the connection to the arms export industry. Based on interviews with Israeli arms merchants.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iabky5rvsGk&t=837s> OPEN WITH GOOGLE CHROME or FIREFOX

*Want to see more documentary films on this conflict? See this list:*

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Category:Documentary\\_films\\_about\\_the\\_Israeli%E2%80%93Palestinian\\_conflict](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Category:Documentary_films_about_the_Israeli%E2%80%93Palestinian_conflict)

## FICTION FILMS

***Ajami*** (2010). A powerful, realistic drama on relations between Israeli Palestinians and Israeli Jews (and 1967 Palestinians) in a poor neighborhood in Jaffa. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=atG9ta5foM4>

***Waltz with Bashir*** (2008). A prize-winning, realistic *and* surrealistic animated film on the 1982 Lebanon War, from an Israeli soldier's perspective (2008). Try to find it online.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Waltz\\_with\\_Bashir](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Waltz_with_Bashir)

***The Lemon Tree*** (2008). Israeli drama about the "efforts of a Palestinian widow to stop the Israeli Defense Minister, her next door neighbor, from destroying the lemon trees in her family farm. At the same time, she develops a human bond with the minister's wife." [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lemon\\_Tree\\_\(film\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lemon_Tree_(film))

***The Syrian Bride***. Israeli fictional comedy-drama about the Druze Arabs in the Golan Heights.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The\\_Syrian\\_Bride](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Syrian_Bride)

## BOOKS

(books with \* can be borrowed from PLS office – ask Michael for a copy)

\* ***Side by Side: Parallel Histories of Israel-Palestine*** (English edition 2012, edited by Sami Adwan, Dan Bar-On and Eyal Naveh. “Side by Side comprises the history of two peoples, in separate narratives set literally side-by-side, so that readers can track each against the other, noting both where they differ as well as where they correspond.”

<http://www.goodreads.com/book/show/11961982-side-by-side>

\* ***Two Sides of the Coin: Independence and Nakba 1948. Two Narratives of the 1948 War and its Outcome*** (2011). Motti Golani and Adel Manna, “One of the most important questions asked in this conflict over narrative is: what happened in 1948? Golani and Manna have treated with delicacy and depth this highly complex and divisive question...” English-Hebrew edition and English-Arabic edition. <https://www.amazon.com/Two-Sides-Coin-Independence-English-Hebrew/dp/9089790802>

\* ***I Shall Not Hate – A Gaza Doctor's journey***. Dr. Izzeldin Abuelaish (2011). Extraordinary account by a Harvard-educated Palestinian doctor who was born and raised in a refugee camp in the Gaza Strip and "has devoted his life to medicine and reconciliation between Israelis and Palestinians" (New York Times). Abuelaish lost three of his daughters and his niece when Israeli shells hit his home in Jabalya in the 2009 Gaza War. <https://www.amazon.com/Shall-Not-Hate-Doctors-Journey/dp/0802779492>

\* ***A History of Modern Palestine: One Land, Two Peoples*** by Ilan Pappé (2003). Broad social history of Palestinian and Jewish societies from 19<sup>th</sup> century to the second Intifada, by a revisionist (post-Zionist) Israeli historian.

\* ***Year Zero of the Arab-Israeli Conflict: 1929*** by Hillel Cohen (2015). “In late summer 1929, a countrywide outbreak of Arab-Jewish-British violence transformed the political landscape of Palestine forever. In contrast with those who point to the wars of 1948 and 1967, historian Hillel Cohen marks these bloody events as year zero of the Arab-Israeli conflict that persists today.”

<https://www.amazon.com/Arab-Israeli-Conflict-Schusterman-Israel-Studies/dp/1611688116>

\* ***להכיר את חמאס (To Know Hamas)*** by Shlomi Eldar (2012, Hebrew only). Fascinating account of Hamas as a political and military organization, by an Israeli journalist with ties to both Hamas and Israeli leaders.

***Sleeping on a Wire – Conversations with Palestinians in Israel***. David Grossman (2003).

<https://www.amazon.com/Sleeping-Wire-Conversations-Palestinians-Israel/dp/0312420978>

***The Yellow Wind*** by David Grossman (2002 edition). A leading Israeli novelist’s account of his observations on the West Bank in early 1987, helps explain much of the violence that broke out two years later in the first Intifada: “the misery of the refugees and their deep-seated hatred of the Israelis, the cost of occupation for both occupier and occupied.”

[https://www.amazon.com/Yellow-Wind-New-Afterword-author/dp/0312420986/ref=sr\\_1\\_9?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1484404273&sr=1-9&keywords=david+grossman](https://www.amazon.com/Yellow-Wind-New-Afterword-author/dp/0312420986/ref=sr_1_9?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1484404273&sr=1-9&keywords=david+grossman)

\* *Out of Place – A Memoir* by Edward Said (2000). “Said writes with great passion and wit about his family and his friends from his birthplace in Jerusalem, schools in Cairo, and summers in the mountains above Beirut, to boarding school and college in the United States... Underscoring all is the confusion of identity the young Said experienced as he came to terms with the dissonance of being an American citizen, a Christian and a Palestinian, and, ultimately, an outsider.” <https://www.amazon.com/Out-Place-Edward-W-Said/dp/0679730672>

*In the Land of Israel* by Amos Oz (1993; Hebrew edition 1983). Israel's most famous novelist records his conversations with workers, soldiers, settlers, Orthodox Jews and Palestinians. Still relevant today.

Recent summary of more books on the Conflict:

<http://www.haaretz.com/life/books/.premium-1.795391>

*IF YOU'VE SEEN A GOOD FILM OR READ A GREAT BOOK ON THE ISRAELI-ARAB CONFLICT – PLEASE SUGGEST IT AND WE MAY ADD IT TO THE LIST!*