

Dialogue Forum Resources List

This list of websites, films, books, and podcasts is meant to give Dialogue Forum participants a deeper understanding of the issues that often come up in dialogue sessions. If you have any other suggestions to add to our list (English, Hebrew or Arabic) please feel free to share with the dialogue facilitators!

General Topics:

1. Historical Overview
2. IDF & the Occupation
3. Settlers, Second Intifada
4. Zionism
5. Palestinians and Jews in Israel
6. Activism, Resistance, and Dialogue

HISTORICAL OVERVIEW

Videos:

- [Vox summary of Israel-Palestine conflict](#)
- [Crash course on Conflict in Israel and Palestine](#)

Documentaries:

- **Fifty Years War** (1998). PBS documentary, covers the main events from 1948 to 1998 more. Watch [Part 1](#) and [Part 2](#)
- **The Nakba** (2013). Al Jazeera series ([4 episodes](#)) gives the Arab perspective on Zionism, Palestinian/Arab resistance, and events leading to the 1948 Nakba ("catastrophe").
- **The Pillar of Fire** (1981). Israeli series presents the mainstream Zionist perspective on Zionism, Arab resistance to it, and events leading to the 1948 War of Independence. The [English version](#) has 7 episodes. Click [here](#) to choose which episodes to watch.
- **"Homeland Lesson" (שיעור מולדת)**. (2019). Israeli series in Hebrew only Chapter1.

Podcasts:

- **MartyrMade Podcast: Fear and Loathing in the New Jerusalem** (2015). Thought-provoking plunge into the roots of the Israeli-Palestinian, narrated by Darryl Cooper.
 - [Part 1](#). Explores the roots of modern Zionism and its relations with European colonialism and antisemitism.
 - [Part 2 - Jews, Arabs & National Identity](#). Introduces the idea of nationalism, then delves into the roots of Arab, and later Palestinian, nationalism, including their complex relations with the Zionists, with colorful bio's of figures like Emir Faisal and David Ben Gurion (his history is very male-oriented).

Websites & Articles:

- [Wikipedia summary of the conflict](#): General summary with links to other Wikipedia descriptions of key terms (e.g. Oslo Accords, Palestinian Authority, etc.) Arabic and Hebrew readers can check the same terms in the Hebrew and Arabic Wikipedia and compare the differences from the English version.
- [BBC Maps](#): Eight maps tracing the history of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

- [Zochrot Nakba Map](#): Shows the 500+ towns and villages destroyed from 1948 to 1967. Zochrot is an Israeli NGO raising awareness of the Nakba primarily among Israelis and promoting the Palestinian "Right of Return". The website also has Hebrew and Arabic versions.
- ***The Green Line***: Articles explaining the territorial demarcation by [+972 magazine](#) and [My Jewish Learning website](#).

Books:

- ***Contested Land, Contested Memory: Israel's Jews and Arabs and the Ghosts of Catastrophe***. Jo Roberts (2013). "After a war, the victors write history. How was the story of the exiled Palestinians erased – from textbooks, maps, even the land? How do Jewish and Palestinian Israelis now engage with the histories of the Palestinian Nakba and the Holocaust, and how do these echo through the political and physical landscapes of their country?"
- ***Two Sides of the Coin: Independence and Nakba 1948***. Eds: Motti Golani and Adel Manna (2011; English-Hebrew edition and English-Arabic edition), "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..."
- ***Side by Side: Parallel Histories of Israel-Palestine***. Eds: Sami Adwan, Dan Bar-On and Eyal Naveh (English edition 2012). Written by Israeli and Palestinian teachers. "*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."
- ***A History of Palestine: From Ottoman Conquest to the Founding of the State of Israel***. Gudrun Kramer (2011). "...historian Gudrun Krämer examines the meanings ascribed to the land in the Jewish, Christian, and Muslim traditions. Paying special attention to social and economic factors, she examines the gradual transformation of Palestine, following the history of the region through the Egyptian occupation...the Ottoman reform era, and the British Mandate up to the founding of Israel in 1948. Focusing on the interactions of Arabs and Jews, [she] tells how these connections affected the cultural and political evolution of each community..."
- ***Year Zero of the Arab-Israeli Conflict: 1929***. Hillel Cohen (2015). Original Hebrew: תרפ"ט. "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."
- ***A History of Modern Palestine: One Land, Two Peoples***. Ilan Pappé (2003). Broad social history of Palestinian and Jewish societies from 19th century to the second Intifada, by a revisionist (post-Zionist) Israeli historian.
- ***The Israel Palestine question***. Ilan Pappé, ed. (1999). Essays by Palestinian and revisionist Israeli historians. Downloadable copy [here](#).

IDF & THE OCCUPATION

Documentaries and Films:

- **The Law in these Parts** (2012, Hebrew, English subtitles). Award-winning film offers a critical look at Israel's military justice system in the West Bank and Gaza since 1967, including interviews with top military judges.
- **The Gatekeepers** (2012, Hebrew, English subtitles). Oscar nominee for Best Documentary. Six former heads of Shabak (Israel's internal security service) reveal their views on the occupation of West Bank and Gaza.
- **The Green Prince**. הנסיך הירוק (2014). Israeli documentary on the son of a Hamas leader who became a Shabak collaborator.
- **The Lab** (2013). A documentary about Israel's recent wars and the connection to the arms export industry. Based on interviews with Israeli arms merchants.
- **Advocate** (2019). Lea Tsemel defends Palestinians, from feminists to fundamentalists, from nonviolent demonstrators to armed militants. As a Jewish-Israeli lawyer who has represented political prisoners for five decades, Tsemel, in her tireless quest for justice, pushes the praxis of a human rights defender to its limits. As far as most Israelis are concerned, she defends the indefensible. As far as Palestinians are concerned, she's more than an attorney, she's an ally.
- **Waltz with Bashir** (2008). The prize-winning animated film on the First Lebanon War, from an Israeli soldier's perspective.
- **Gmar Gavia** (1992, Hebrew, Arabic). Fiction film of an IDF soldier captured by a PLO squad in the First Lebanon War, starring two of Israel's leading actors.
- **The Syrian Bride** (2004) Israeli fictional comedy-drama about the Druze in the Golan Heights.

Books:

- ***Movement and The Ordering of Freedom***. Hagar Kotef (2015). This book shows how concepts of freedom, security, and violence take form and find justification via “regimes of movement.”

SETTLERS, SECOND INTIFADA

Documentaries & Films:

- **Checkpoint** מחסום (2001, Hebrew & Arabic; English subtitles). Award-winning Israeli documentary shows the everyday interaction between Israeli soldiers and Palestinians at several checkpoints just before the second Intifada, mostly from the soldiers' perspective.
- **The Settlers** המתנחלים (2016, Hebrew with English subtitles). Comprehensive documentary of the settlement enterprise from 1967 until today. Interviews with many settler leaders and with those opposed to them. Shows how a tiny, determined minority of Israelis with a messianic ideology led to the situation today: over half a million Israelis live in the West Bank.
- **Unsettled** מתנחלת (2018, Hebrew; English subtitles). Documentary by a self-proclaimed Tel Aviv left-winger who settles in a West Bank settlement and interviews its residents.
- **Jenin Jenin** (2002). Film documenting the IDF invasion of Jenin refugee camp, from which many suicide bombers originated, in the Second Intifada. Muhammad Bakri, Israeli-Palestinian actor-director, made the film to show the viewpoint of the Jenin camp residents. He was sued by IDF soldiers who claimed the film was distorted – the case reached Israel's Supreme Court which ruled that indeed some parts were factually false. Bakri claims he just gave the voiceless a voice.

- **Days of Awe ימים נוראים** (2019, Hebrew). Drama, based on true story of the 1995 assassination of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin. Focusing on the assassin Yigal Amir, it vividly portrays the atmosphere that led a right-wing Jewish Israeli to this extreme act.

Books:

- ***The Yellow Wind* הזמן הזהוב**. David Grossman (2002). A leading Israeli novelist's 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."
- ***The Question of Palestine***. Edward Said (1979). Said contextualizes the Palestinian struggle within the framework of European colonialism and Orientalism. Said argues that Zionism functioned as a settler-colonial project that displaced the indigenous Palestinian population, transforming them from a society with a distinct culture into a dispossessed people.

ZIONISM

Films:

- **Portrait of Victory (תמונת ניצחון)** (2021). Israeli fictional film based on the capture of kibbutz Nitzanim by the Egyptian army in 1948. Aspires to show the battle from both sides.
- **Turn left at the end of the world (סוף העולם שמאלה)** (2004 Hebrew, English subtitles). Israeli drama on the struggle of new Jewish immigrants in a small Negev development town in 1968, focusing on the relationship between two girls, one from Morocco, the other from India.

Books:

- ***My Promised Land – The triumph and tragedy of Israel***. Ari Shavit (2015). An Israeli journalist surveys Israel from his personal (Zionist-humanist) viewpoint. His account includes Zionism's "heroic" chapters, e.g. establishment of kibbutzim, and its dark sides, e.g. the destruction of Palestinian society, racism, etc.
- ***A History of Israel from the Rise of Zionism to Our Time***. Howard Sachar (2013). "This is a truly enriching and exhaustive history of a nation that holds claim to one of the most complicated and controversial histories in the world."

PALESTINIANS & JEWS IN ISRAEL

Films:

- **Ajami ענ'מי** (2010, Hebrew, Arabic, with English subtitles). Fiction drama on relations between Israeli Palestinians and Jews in a "mixed" neighborhood in Jaffa.
- **In Between לא פה לא שם** (2017, Arabic, with subtitles). Three young Palestinian-Israeli women sharing an apartment in Tel Aviv, find themselves torn between traditional culture and the modern world.
- **Sandstorm סופת חול** (2018, Arabic; Hebrew & English subtitles). Award-winning drama about a Negev Bedouin woman's struggle against patriarchy.
- **The Lemon Tree** (2008). Israeli fiction film about the "efforts of a Palestinian widow to stop the 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."

Books:

- ***In the Land of Israel*** פה ושם בארץ ישראל. Amos Oz (1993; Hebrew edition 1983). Israel's most famous novelist records his conversations with workers, soldiers, settlers, Orthodox Jews and Palestinians.
- ***The Lemon Tree***. Sandy Tolan (2016). "A true story of a remarkable relationship between two families [...] Bashir sees dispossession and occupation; Dalia, who arrived in 1948 with her family from Bulgaria, sees hope for a people devastated by the Holocaust. As both are swept up in the fates of their people, and Bashir is jailed for his alleged part in a supermarket bombing, the friends do not speak for years. They finally reconcile and convert their house in Ramle into a day-care center for Arab children of Israel, and a center for dialogue between Arabs and Jews. Read the preview [here](#).
- ***Sleeping on a Wire – Conversations with Palestinians in Israel***. David Grossman (2003). Through conversations with Palestinians in Israel, David Grossman explores the complex identity and belonging of non-Jewish Israeli citizens in a Jewish state.
- ***Letters to My Palestinian Neighbor***. Yossi Klein Halevy (2018). Read the Arabic version [here](#). American-Israeli journalist "...frames his chapters as a series of letters to an [imagined Palestinian] neighbor that include both concise, balanced histories—of such topics as the history of modern Zionism and the occupation of the West Bank and Gaza—and his own memories of growing up an American Jew afraid that Israel would be destroyed in 1967, moving to Israel, and how his 'romance with the settlement movement ended.'"
- ***Out of Place – A Memoir***. Edward Said (2000). "Said writes with great passion and wit... 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." "Richly detailed, moving, often profound, *Out of Place* depicts a young man's coming of age and the genesis of a great modern thinker."
- ***Nakba and Survival 1948-1956 – The story of Palestinians who remained in Haifa and the Galilee***. Adel Manaa (2022). A historical study examining how ~120,000 Palestinians survived the 1948 catastrophe to become Israeli citizens. Using oral histories and archives, Manna details their resilience, the impact of military rule, and their efforts to resist displacement.

ACTIVISM, RESISTANCE & DIALOGUE

Documentaries:

- **[Five Broken Cameras](#)** (2013, Arabic, English subtitles). Oscar nominated documentary depicting a personal account of one village's determination to stop the Separation Barrier. The residents of Bil'in, a West Bank village, became famous for their weekly demonstrations against the Barrier, aided by international and Israeli activists.
- **[Arna's Children](#)** (2003). Documentary about the Freedom Theater in Jenin that was led by an Israeli woman committed to the Palestinian cause. Filmed by Arna's son, Juliano Mer-Khamis, an activist-film maker who was assassinated by extremists in Jenin in 2011.
- **[Budrus](#)** (2009, Arabic & Hebrew; English subtitles). Israeli-Palestinian documentary about Ayed Morrar, a Palestinian leader who unites Fatah, Hamas and Israelis in an unarmed movement to save his village from destruction. Success eludes them until his 15-year-old daughter jumps into the fray.
- **[The Field](#)** (2017, Hebrew & Arabic; English subtitles). Ali Abu Awwad dedicates his family's field between Jerusalem and Hebron as a meeting place for Palestinians and settlers. Despite

his years in an Israeli prison and a brother killed by the IDF, he creates “Roots-Juduur” with local Israelis to try to create dialogue with his Jewish neighbors. Watch the trailer [here](#).

- **Within the Eye of the Storm** (2012 Hebrew, English subtitles). *Bereaved Families Circle* is an organization established by Israelis and Palestinians who lost family members in the Conflict, to promote dialogue. The film follows Bassam Aramin, whose daughter was killed by a soldier, and Rami Elhanan, whose daughter was killed in a suicide bombing. [English subtitles](#), [Arabic subtitles](#).
- **Disturbing the Peace** (2017, Arabic & Hebrew; English subtitles). *Combatants for Peace* is a joint Israeli-Palestinian NGO that began as a dialogue between ex-combatants. The film explores what motivated these Israelis and Palestinians to take up arms against each other (IDF soldiers, Fatah activists, a suicide bomber) and the personal transformations that led them to eventually join a non-violent, bi-national peace movement. The film reflects their hesitations, and the resistance they encounter in their homes, as the group developed.
- **Objector** (2019). Israeli film about Atalya, a high school student who refuses to enlist in the IDF for conscientious reasons.