

PLS recommended viewing/reading list (Fall Semester 2018)

This is a shortlist of websites, films and books on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. You are encouraged to view/read a few (start with the yellow-marked items) BEFORE the semester begins – it will help you in the dialogue in PLS.

OVERVIEWS

Vox summary of Israel-Palestine conflict (10 minutes). Not bad, if you can follow the American accent!
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iRYZjOuUnlU>

Crash course on Conflict in Israel and Palestine (12 minutes). Similar to Vox, with some variations.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1wo2TLMhiw>

Wikipedia summary of the conflict. Good summary, with links to other Wikipedia descriptions of key terms (e.g. Oslo Accords, Arab League peace plan, Hamas, etc.).
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Israeli%E2%80%93Palestinian_conflict

BBC Maps. Eight maps tracing the history of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.
http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/shared/spl/hi/middle_east/03/v3_israel_palestinians/maps/html/

Zochrot "Nakba Map". Interactive map by Israeli NGO of Palestinian villages destroyed in the Nakba.
<http://www.zochrot.org/en/site/nakbaMap> Website also has Hebrew and Arabic versions.

DOCUMENTARY SERIES

Please watch a few episodes of one of the three series below (PBS, Al Jazeera and/or Israeli TV). Best to watch episodes showing a narrative of the side (Arab, Israeli) that YOU don't know.

Fifty Years War. PBS (American) documentary, covers the main events from 1948 to 1998, more-or-less neutrally.

Part 1: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fSAD9pS8Nlw>

Part 2: <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. Israeli TV series, presents the Israeli perspective on Zionism (as a national liberation movement) and events leading to the 1948 War of Independence. The English version has 7 episodes: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qjBSmggkxwE> For contents of each episode, check [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pillar_of_Fire_\(documentary\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pillar_of_Fire_(documentary)) , then choose which episode to watch.

DOCUMENTARY FILMS

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

<http://www.cultureunplugged.com/documentary/watch-online/festival/play/4981/Arna-s-Children>

Five Broken Cameras (חמש מצלמות שבורות ; خمس كاميرات محطمة) (2013). First-hand account of protests against the Separation Barrier in Bil'in, a West Bank village. An example of a successful non-violent action campaign by Palestinians with Israeli and international volunteers.

<http://x123movies.net/watch/gdVR43dD-five-broken-cameras.html>

Many documentary films have shown different angles of this conflict. For more films see:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Category:Documentary_films_about_the_Israeli%E2%80%93Palestinian_conflict

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 ("Catastrophe") and the Holocaust, and how do these echo through the political and physical landscapes of their country?"

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>

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."

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

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 Palestine: From the Ottoman Conquest to the Founding of the State of Israel.

Gudrun Kramer (2011). "Starting with the pre-biblical and biblical roots of Palestine, noted 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 of the mid-nineteenth century, the Ottoman reform era, and the British Mandate up to the founding of Israel in 1948. Focusing on the interactions of Arabs and Jews, A History of Palestine tells how these connections affected the cultural and political evolution of each community and Palestine as a whole.