

POINTS TO NOTE:

The way that the Palestinian struggle for freedom is framed and described in the mainstream is often misleading and disingenuous. Language is crucial when it comes to Palestine because it influences what version of the reality on the ground we adopt. Here are some things to remember when talking about Palestine:

- Talk of "ancient" and "mutual" hatred between ethnic and religious groups is dishonest and historically inaccurate. What we are seeing is not a long-standing hostility between Jewish and Arab or Muslim people. It is a relatively modern political struggle for self-determination against colonial and apartheid rule that has its roots in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. At its core, this is a struggle for land.
- Talking about "conflict" is disingenuous. It suggests different sides that are comparable to one another in power and in political aims. In reality there is a deep power imbalance and each side is pushing for two completely different things.
- Palestinians have been subjugated to ongoing occupation which means dispossession, displacement and ethnic cleansing for over 70 years since the establishment of the state of Israel in 1948. Their goal is self-determination, freedom, justice and equality.
- The Israeli state and the Zionist project, on the other hand, has had the support and military financing of major global powers, including the US and Europe. It has one of the most powerful militaries in the world and a sense of absolute immunity at the diplomatic level. Israel's goal is to take over as much Palestinian land as possible, and either remove Palestinians entirely from that land or fully control those Palestinians that remain on it.

The Palestinian struggle is an anti-colonial, anti-apartheid struggle. There are no two equal sides. There is the occupier, the apartheid and settler-colonial state, and there is the occupied, the dispossessed and the oppressed.

HISTORICAL OVERVIEW

A historical account of the Palestinian rights struggle from the late 19th century to present day

Pre-1948
Indigenous People & Emerging



1948-1967

Fragmentation & Occupation



1967-2000

Resistance & Representation



2000 to Today

Peace Process & Post-Oslo Era



GLOSSARY

An introduction to keywords and language



Palestinian Citizens of Israel

During the Nakba, over 750,000 Palestinians were expelled from what was Mandatory Palestine in order to create the state of Israel. Around 150,000...

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Second Intifada

The Second Intifada, also known as the Al-Aqsa Intifada, lasted from 28th September 2000 to 8th February 2005. This second mass resistance movement...

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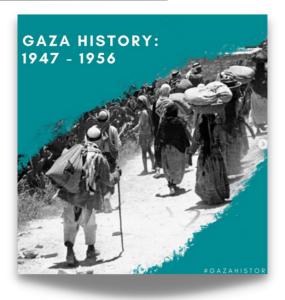


Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT)

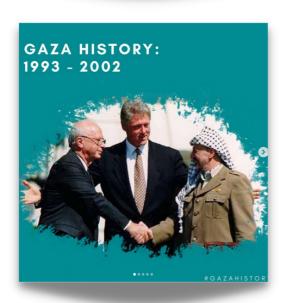
The Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT) is a term that refers to the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and the Gaza Strip. These territories...

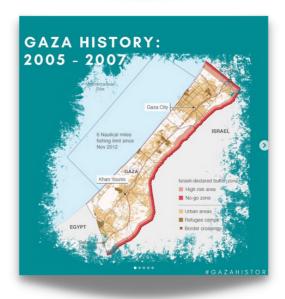
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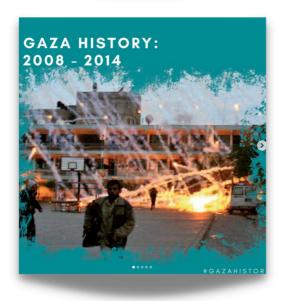
GAZA HISTORY

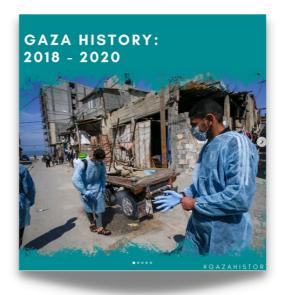












GAZA





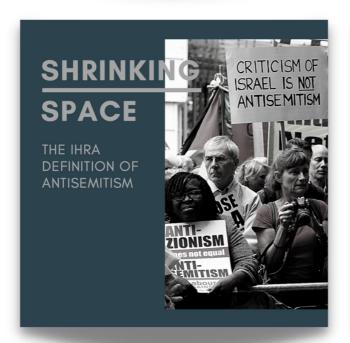




GROWING REPRESSION









If you are facing pushback from institutions as a result of campaigning for Palestine, the European Legal Support Center (ELSC) is a great organisation where you can seek support and find resources, or even report an incident where you have felt your advocacy for Palestine have been repressed.

PALESTINE: A STORY OF COLONIALISM AND RESISTANCE

What comes to mind when you think of Palestine? The rich culture? The people? Or a long troubled history? Our short video explores the history of injustice faced by the Palestinian people, from colonialism to displacement to present-day apartheid.



ONLINE COURSE: UNDERSTANDING PALESTINE

Our free online course, 'Understanding Palestine', gives you a cohesive and complete story of Palestine through the lens of history, identity, and politics.



VIRTUAL TALK: THE USES & LIMITS OF HUMAN RIGHTS AS A FRAMEWORK FOR PALESTINIAN LIBERATION

In this virtual discussion, we examine the role of human rights in international solidarity with Palestinians and evaluate its effectiveness. You can watch all our virtual talks here.



BOOKS

Read your way across Palestine with these 10 book recommendations.

The Book of Disappearance by Ibtisam Azem

This novel portrays the dispossession of Palestinians, and the Israeli reaction to it by imagining what would happen if all Palestinians in Israel simply disappeared.

Passage to the Plaza by Sahar Khalifeh

In the West Bank city of Nablus a young woman's home unexpectedly becomes a sanctuary for the neighbourhood when the first intifada breaks out in 1987.

Rifqa by Mohammed El-Kurd

Written while his family was fighting to stay in their Sheikh Jarrah home in Jerusalem, it draws from his life in Jerusalem to expose the cruelty of Israeli settler-colonialism and the never-ending horrors of the Nakba.

Light in Gaza: Writings Born of Fire ed. by Jehad Abusalim, Jennifer Bing and Michael Lotze

A wide-ranging anthology centring Palestinian writers and artists imagining what the future of Gaza could be.

The Forgotten Palestinians by Ilan Pappe

In this non-fiction work, the complex relationship between the often forgotten Palestinian citizens of Israel, their homeland and the State of Israel is analysed.

Salt Houses by Hala Alyan

The novel examines identity in the diaspora through the chronology of a family and their constant search for somewhere to call home after becoming refugees in 1948.

The Book of Gaza: A City in Short Fiction ed. Atef Abu Saif

This anthology brings some of the pioneers of the short story in Gaza from the '70s and '80s together, as well as more recent writings, that offer glimpses of life in Gaza beyond the headlines.

Palestine Is Throwing a Party and the Whole World Is Invited by Kareem Rabie

This book examines the economic and political practices that moved Palestinian state-based politics toward neoliberal globalization rather than Palestinian liberation.

Jerusalem: Arab Social Life, Traditions, and Everyday Pleasures in the 20th Century by Subhi S. Ghosheh

An account of Palestinian life in Jerusalem, this book seeks to study and preserve the Arab customs of Jerusalem through its analysis of twentieth-century Jerusalem.

The Politics of Denial: Israel and the Palestinian Refugee Problem by Nur Masalha

An analysis of Israeli policies towards Palestinian refugees and the ideology behind the atrocities and links between Israeli policies from 1948 to the present day.

