

Delve Deeper into *The Law in These Parts*

A film by Ra'anán Alexandrowicz and Liran Atzmor

This list of fiction and nonfiction books, compiled by Brandy Sanchez of the Daniel Boone Regional Library, provides a range of perspectives on the issues raised by the POV documentary *The Law in These Parts*.

In *The Law in These Parts*, acclaimed Israeli filmmaker Ra'anán Alexandrowicz has pulled off a tour-de-force examination of the system of military administration used by Israel since the Six Day War of 1967 — featuring the system's leading creators. In a series of thoughtful and candid interviews, Israeli judges, prosecutors and legal advisers, who helped devise the occupation's legal framework, paint a complex picture of the Middle East conflict and the balance among political interests, security and human rights that has come with it.

ADULT NONFICTION

Bennis, Phyllis. *Understanding the Palestinian-Israeli Conflict: A Primer.* Northampton, MA, Olive Branch Press, 2007. The conflict in the Middle East, with its long history and many intricacies, can seem overwhelming to those with little knowledge of the underlying issues in this part of the world. This succinct primer provides the answers in straightforward language to some of the most confounding questions regarding this well-known yet poorly understood conflict.

Bowen, Jeremy. *Six Days: How the 1967 War Shaped the Middle East.* New York: St. Martin's Press, 2005. This BBC correspondent uses extensive interviews to tell the story of the Six Day War in which Israel successfully battled the armies of Egypt, Jordan and Syria for control of the Gaza Strip, the Sinai Peninsula, the West Bank, East Jerusalem, and the Golan Heights.

Myre, Greg and Jennifer Griffin. *This Burning Land: Lessons from the Front Lines of the Transformed Israeli-Palestinian Conflict.* Hoboken, NJ: John Wiley & Sons, 2011. This husband-and-wife team has been reporting on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict for over a decade. Their book discusses the strengths and weakness of both sides and commentates on why peace has eluded this region in an era of modern warfare.

Adwân, Sâmî Abd al-Razzâq, Bar-On, Dan, et al. *Side By Side: Parallel Histories of Israel/Palestine.* New York: The New Press, 2012. Troubled by the differences found in Israeli and Palestinian textbooks regarding the same historical events, teachers from both nations gathered in 2000 in an attempt to remedy these discrepancies. This book is the result of that meeting; two narratives published side by side that allow the reader to easily spot the differences, as well as the similarities, between the two histories.

Benvenisti, Eyal. *The International Law of Occupation.* Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2004. Benvenisti delineates the international responsibilities and obligations of governments that gain control over foreign territories through the use of force and examines the conduct of various occupying powers of the twentieth century, beginning with the German occupation of Belgium during World War I.

Hajjar, Lisa. *Courting Conflict: The Military Court System in the West Bank and Gaza.* Berkeley: University of California Press, 2005. Israel's military court system, a centerpiece of Israel's apparatus of control in the West Bank and Gaza since 1967, has prosecuted hundreds of thousands of Palestinians. This authoritative book provides a rare look at an institution that lies both figuratively and literally at the center of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Lisa Hajjar has conducted in-depth interviews with dozens of Israelis and Palestinians—including judges, prosecutors, defense lawyers, defendants, and translators—about their experiences and practices to explain how this system functions, and how its functioning has affected the conflict.

Kretzmer, David. *The Occupation of Justice.* Albany: State University of New York Press, 2002. *The Occupation of Justice* presents the first comprehensive discussion of the Supreme Court of Israel's decisions on petitions challenging policies and actions of the authorities in the West Bank and Gaza since their occupation during the 1967 Six-Day War. Kretzmer addresses issues including: the basis for the Court's jurisdiction; application and interpretation of the international law of belligerent occupation; the legality of civilian settlements and highway construction; and security measures such as curfews, deportations and housing demolitions.

ADULT FICTION

Grossman, David. *To the End of the Land.* New York: Knopf Doubleday, 2010. When Ora's son volunteers for another tour of duty in the Israeli army, she runs away to Galilee to escape the inevitable news of his death. Her former lover, Avram, joins her to escape the trauma inflicted upon him when he was a POW of the Yom Kippur War.

Sacco, Joe. *Footnotes in Gaza.* New York: Henry Holt, 2009. This highly-acclaimed graphic novel presents an unflinching account of genocide within two Palestinian communities at the hands of the Israeli military shortly after their 1956 Sinai campaign.

Wiesel, Elie. *Hostage.* New York: Knopf Doubleday, 2012. Shaltiel Feigenberg, an Orthodox Jewish man, is



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kidnapped and held hostage by two terrorists demanding the release of three Palestinian prisoners. If their comrades aren't delivered, then Feigenberg will pay with his life.

NONFICTION FOR YOUNGER READERS

Barakat, Ibtisam. *Tasting the Sky: A Palestinian Childhood*. New York: Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 2007. In this memoir, Barakat shares what it was like to grow up in the aftermath of the Six Day War. Her family is forced to leave their home in Ramallah for a refugee camp in Jordan.

Marx, Trish. *Sharing Our Homeland: Palestinian and Jewish Children at Summer Peace Camp*. New York: Lee & Low Books, 2010. This photo essay shares the experiences of Israeli and Palestinian children at a summer camp. Marx frequently segues into the history of turmoil in this region of the world, providing young readers with a context for the continuing conflict.

FICTION FOR YOUNGER READERS

Rattah-Abdel, Randa. *Where the Street had a Name*. New York: Scholastic, 2010. Thirteen-year-old Hayaat and her friend Samy set out from Bethlehem to Jerusalem to gather dirt from the homeland of Hayaat's dying grandmother. Throughout their journey, readers learn of the everyday heartache faced by all living in a society torn apart by violence.

Kass, Pnina. *Real Time*. New York: Houghton, Mifflin, Harcourt, 2004. Travelers from all backgrounds board a bus that is bombed while heading to Kibbutz Broshim, near Jerusalem. Kass presents the stories of both the survivors and those who lost their lives in this character-driven narrative.

