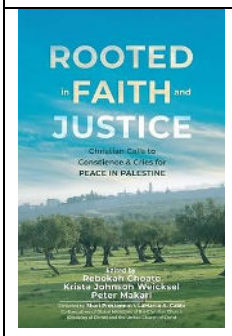
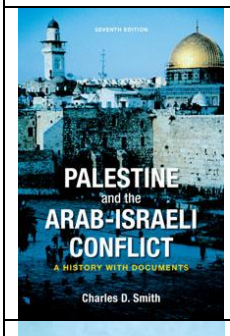
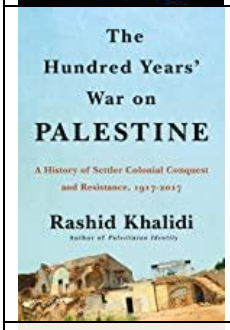
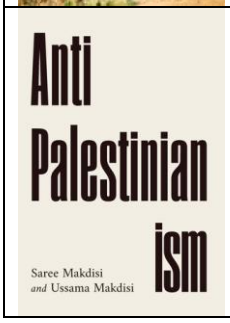
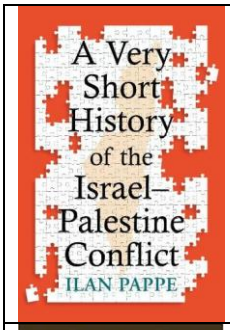
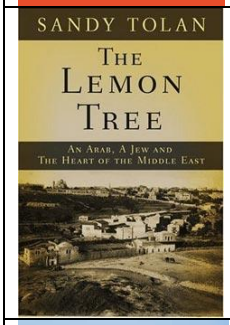
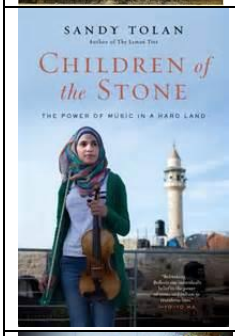
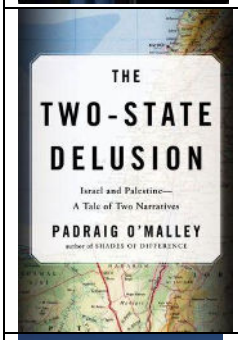
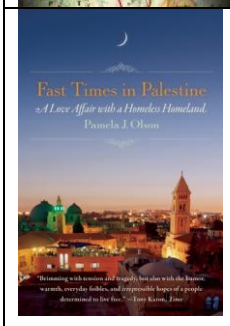
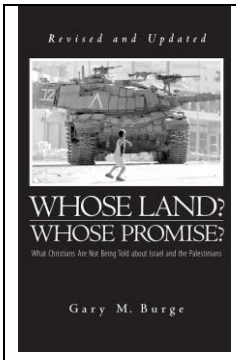
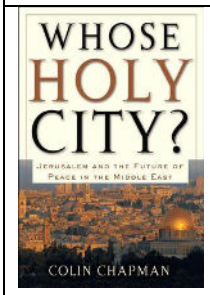
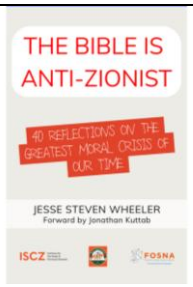
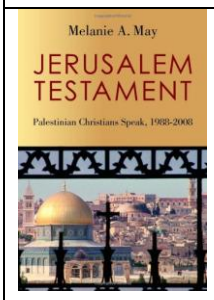
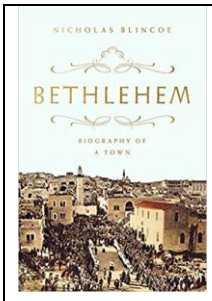
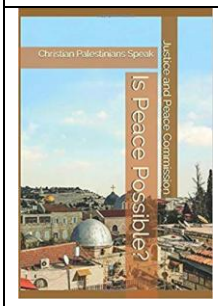
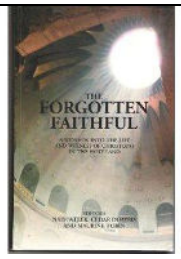
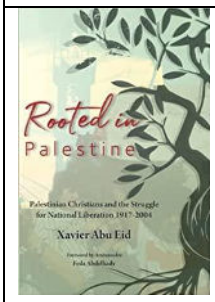
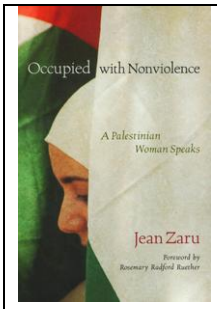
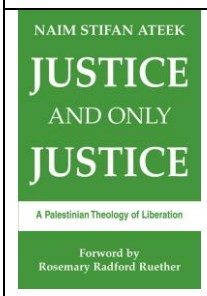
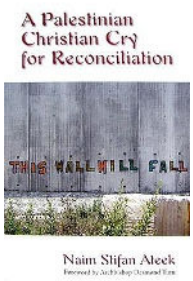
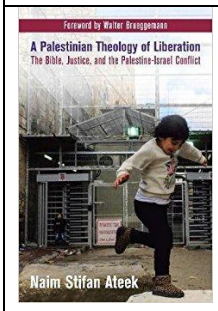
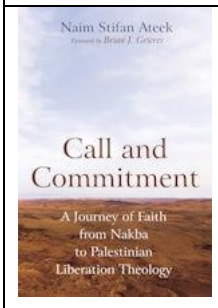
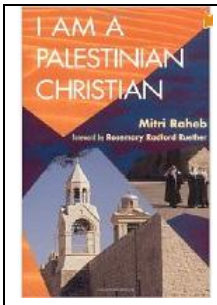
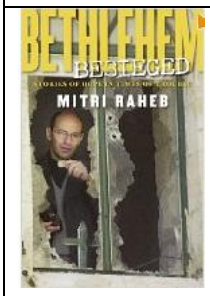
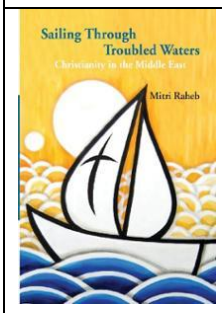
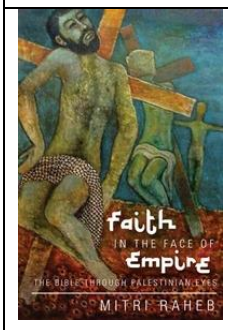
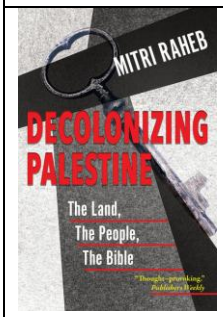
	Basic background reading
	*Rooted in Faith and Justice*, edited by Rebekah Choate, Krista Johnson Weicksel, & Peter Makari--Are you struggling to understand the complexities and injustices in Israel/Palestine? Rooted in Faith and Justice offers a powerful and enlightening perspective through the eyes of Palestinian Christian leaders and thinkers. This book includes chapters on basic history and context, religious and specifically Christian aspects, modern day realities, and ideas for the future. Chapters are short, designed for study in church groups and book clubs. The book incorporates contributions from Palestinian Christian leaders and partners with thematic chapters written by Global Ministries staff.
	*Palestine and the Arab Israeli Conflict: A History with Documents*, by Charles D. Smith, 7th ed.—Smith's work has long been considered a classic, and is a commonly utilized textbook in university courses. Smith has copiously kept the book up to date through re-issuing the text, with new history and documents. This is a standard and comprehensive examination of the history of the conflict.
	*The Hundred Years' War On Palestine*, by Rashid Khalidi—Focusing on the period from Balfour to Trump, Khalidi has written a engaging, thoughtful, and a helpful analysis of history, especially in light of the 2020 Trump proposal, "Peace to Prosperity." In examining the history of Jewish and Israeli settler-colonialism, organized by six periods of war, Khalidi exposes how no proposal for peace in the last century has adequately included Palestinian participation in its development, nor have they represented Palestinians' legitimate claims. He asserts that the circumstance today is a colonial reality in a post-colonial age. The narration is fused with personal stories intersecting with the history.
	*Anti-Palestinianism*, by Saree and Ussama Makdisi—In masterful and highly accessible prose, the Makdisis assert that a long-standing bias against Palestinian perspectives and voices in public discourse is unique – attributable neither to general anti-Muslim nor anti-Arab bias. Through an historical examination and contemporary realities in the midst of a genocide, the Makdisi make this important case at a time when Palestinian voices are especially necessary. This work is intellectual, historical, and critically timely.

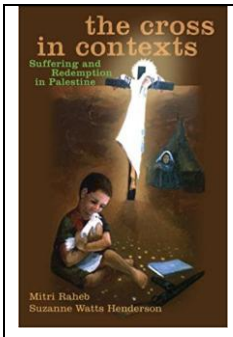
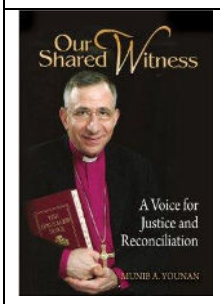
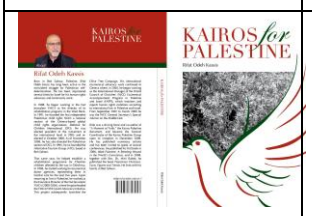
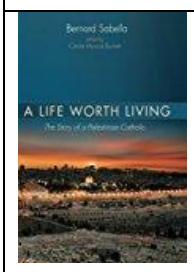
	*A Very Short History of the Israel-Palestine Conflict*, by Ilan Pappé—In a very efficient and expeditious, but yet complete, style, Pappé covers the broad and long history of this conflict from the emrgence of Christian Zionism in Europe to the post-Oct. 7, 2023 reality of today. The chapters are short and easy to digest. Pappé emphasizes a history centering the settler-colonial paradigm, so it is an activist history that is sure to challenge more common understandings.
	*The Lemon Tree,* by Sandy Tolan—If you have not read it already, this book tells the story of two individuals and their families, one Palestinian Muslim and one Israeli Jew, and how they managed to have important discussion over issues of the different and competing narratives. The work reads like a novel, but is full of very important history, in a highly readable form. It treats the issue of narratives and debate in a very helpful way.
	*Children of the Stone*, by Sandy Tolan—Tolan's second book about the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is as readable as his first. This book focuses on Ramzi Aburedwan, a Palestinian resident of the Amari refugee camp, and his life journey from a child during the first *intifada* to adulthood as a musician. The narrative is compelling, treating the more recent history of the conflict, efforts to promote joint projects through music, intellectual debates over such programs, and music—as therapy, refuge, politics, and expression. This humane and deeply personal account is a valuable perspective not often available.
	*The Two-State Delusion*, by Padraig O'Malley—Why have negotiations to bring about a two-state solution failed so markedly over recent decades? O'Malley offers a sobering analysis of Palestinian and Israeli narratives, demands, and developments that have inhibited progress towards such a resolution of the conflict. The incongruence of assumptions, negotiating positions and needs, and endgame make a two-state resolution highly unlikely, in addition to the changing reality on the ground. This valuable volume is far from hopeful, but is clear and honest in its description and analysis.
	*Fast Times in Palestine*, by Pamela Olsen—In a very well-written account, this book is one of discovery. Olsen chronicles her time spent in Palestine, and the process of learning and discovery of the reality of occupation. Through her discovery the reader learns much that reveals a perspective and narrative not often available. Olsen humanizes the conflict by recounting her experience, m her journey that much more compelling. [Pamela is interviewed on Rick Steves' travel show: http://www.ricksteves.com/radio/protected/descriptions.cfm?showID=447]

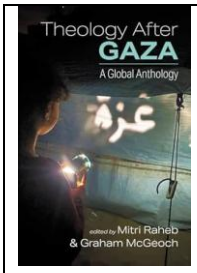
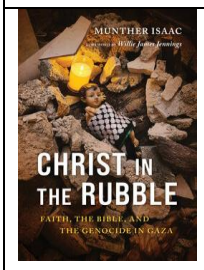
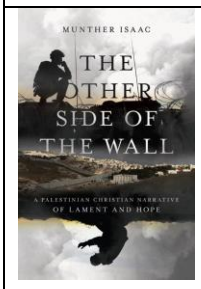
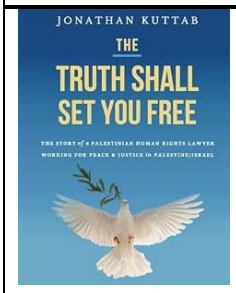
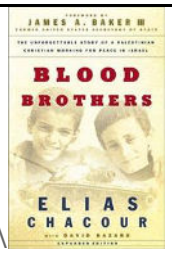
	*Whose Land? Whose Promise? What Christians are not being told about Israel and the Palestinians,* by Gary Burge (revised and updated)— A personal exploration of feelings about the crisis in the Middle East and seeks answers to questions such as: How do I embrace my commitment to Judaism, to which I am bound by the Bible, when I sense in my deepest being a profound injustice afoot in Israel? How do I celebrate the birth of Israel when I also mourn the suffering of Arab Christians who are my brothers and sisters in Christ? This book lays out the critical biblical and political issues that affect a modern Christian's perceptions of the Holy Land and its peoples. In this revised and updated edition, Burge further explores his personal emotions and opinions; and sharpens his theological argument in the context of the new developments surrounding the crisis in the Middle East. *Whose Land? Whose Promise?* offers insight on an explosive topic and challenges personal truths on peace. Study questions are now available here: http://globalministries.org/news/mee/pdfs/Whose-Land_StudyQuestions.pdf
	*Whose Holy City?* by Colin Chapman—This volume is a very readable history of Jerusalem from its Canaanite times up to the present, and beyond. The title's question is therefore addressed from an historical point of view, as well as a religious perspective, as it outlines the importance of Jerusalem to Jews, Christians, and Muslims. Chapman explores the modern political questions and issues pertaining to the city, and proposes a way forward for the future of the "city of peace."
	*The Bible is Anti-Zionist*, by Jesse Steven Wheeler—Written by an evangelical, this compilation of 40 Biblical reflections demonstrates a thoughtful and critical understanding of scripture – both the Hebrew scripture and the Christian New Testament. Each reflection includes a biblical passage and a decolonial and inclusive reflection, followed by three questions for further engagement, and a prayer from Sabeel's Wave of Prayer, then a recommendation for further reading. The book is available online free to download: https://www.fosna.org/antizionistbible.
	*Jerusalem Testament: Palestinian Christians Speak 1988-2008*, edited by Melanie May—A comprehensive collection of all of the statements and letters issued by the heads of churches in Jerusalem, together, over a period of 20 years, May enhances this presentation of the documents with historical context. This book is useful as a reference, as history, and as theological insight into life under occupation. Over the course of these two decades, the heads of churches have addressed their statements to a variety of audiences. Their message is consistent, though, and it is one that should be heard directly from them: Peace and Justice must prevail. This book allows that voice to come through clearly.

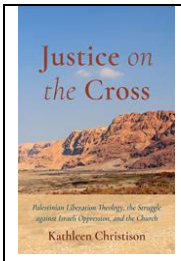
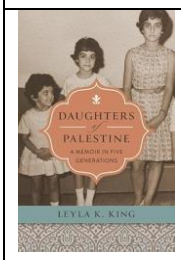
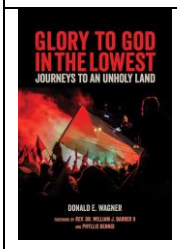
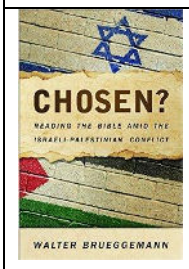
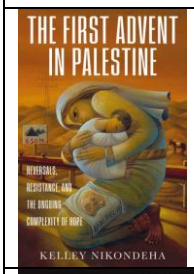
	*Bethlehem: Biography of a Town*, by Nicholas Blincoe—This is a fast-paced journey through the history of Bethlehem going back 11,000 years, running through the city's most famous event—the birth of Christ—and continuing through current times. It is a combination memoir, history, travelogue, and political narrative. Recounting stories, especially of church and Christian history and current politics, the narrative is sometimes marred by a choppy style, but is a helpful overview of this special city.
	Books by and about Global Ministries Partners and Friends
	*Is Peace Possible? Christian Palestinians Speak*, by the Catholic Justice and Peace Commission—In this concise volume, the Catholic Christian Palestinian community offers perspectives on a variety of topics, including their numbers, context, witness and presence, as well as their engagement in society with Muslims and Jews. This is a very clear and helpful deep introduction to the issues and perceptions (and misperceptions) often associated with the Palestinian Christian community, broadly and ecumenically speaking. The book also contains a set of statements issued by the Commission. This is an extremely valuable place to start to explore the Palestinian Christian community, in their own voice, and an excellent reference book.
	*The Forgotten Faithful: A Window into the Life and Witness of Christians in the Holy Land,* edited by Naim Ateek, Cedar Duaybis, and Maurine Tobin—This collection of presentations from the 2005 International Sabeel Conference is a trove of valuable insight about the history, demographics, and witness of the Palestinian Christian community. With special articles on various church histories and presence, and deep foci on the current realities Palestinian Christians face as part of the Palestinian community, this book is exceedingly valuable.
	*Rooted in Palestine*, by Xavier Abu Eid—This is a valuable historical presentation of the role that Christian Palestinians have played from the early 20th century to the early 2000s. Recounting important stages in Palestinian history over the last century, Abu Eid highlights the ways that Palestinian Christians have participated actively, demonstrating that Palestinian Christians are as much a part of Palestinian society and the Palestinian struggle as their Muslim neighbors. The book highlights especially the role of the Latin Catholic church, but is not limited to it.

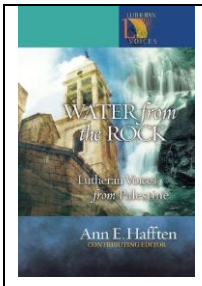
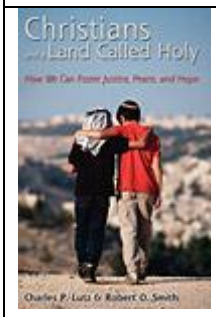
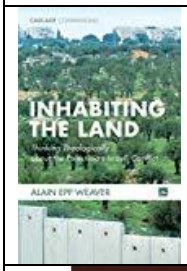
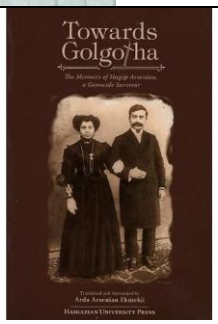
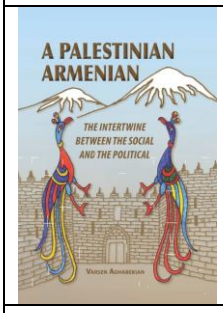
	*Occupied with Nonviolence: A Palestinian Woman Speaks*, by Jean Zaru. Mrs. Zaru is the Clerk of the Friends Meeting (Quaker), our partner in Ramallah. She has recently published a collection of speeches and papers. The book is highly readable, and is full of insightful content. It is an excellent treatment of a number of issues relating to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, with a greater vision at stake. Mrs. Zaru treats issues of interfaith relations, women's rights, human rights, Jerusalem, violence and nonviolence, and others in a way that some of us have come to know well.
	*Justice and Only Justice*, by Rev. Naim Ateek—Published first in 1989, this book is considered by many to be the foundational book of Palestinian liberation theology. It is seminal in that it addresses, from a theological and experiential point of view, the issues at stake in seeking justice and peace between Israelis and Palestinians.
	*A Palestinian Christian Cry for Reconciliation*, by Rev. Naim Ateek. Rev. Ateek is the founder and director for the Sabeel Ecumenical Liberation Theology Center in Jerusalem, a partner of Global Ministries. Ateek's new book is remarkable, provocative and challenging, and quite poignant. It is part personal narrative and part political commentary/observation, all framed through a theological lens.
	*A Palestinian Theology of Liberation*, by Rev. Naim Ateek—In his newest book, Rev. Ateek reflects on the development of Palestinian liberation theology; offers new insight and thought from a biblical perspective—focusing on the Hebrew Scriptures, Christ as the key to a hermeneutic of liberation, and justice; and shares some of the accomplishments of Sabeel. It is a helpful and fresh look at an area for which Rev. Ateek is recognized as the key figure among Palestinian theologians. [A good review is available here: https://www.wrmea.org/018-march-april/a-palestinian-theology-of-liberation.html]
	*Call and Commitment*, by Rev. Naim Ateek—In this moving and thoughtful memoir, Rev. Ateek traces his own life story as well as the development of Palestinian Liberation Theology. The two are intertwined and the book is a fine intermingling of the personal and the theological. From his early days in Beisan through the *Nakba* and beyond, Ateek gives the reader a sense of his own formation, and how the liberatory reading of the scriptures has been influenced by the context in Palestine.

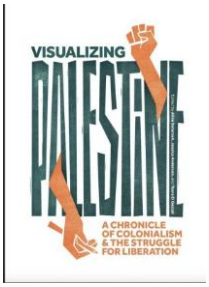
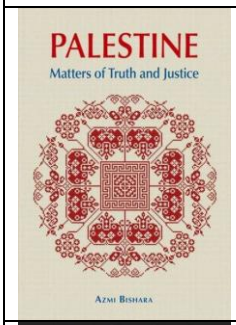
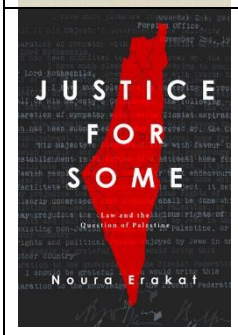
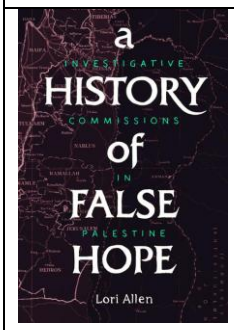
	*I am a Palestinian Christian*, by Rev. Dr. Mitri Raheb—Rev. Raheb is pastor of Bethlehem's Christmas Lutheran Church, and president of the *Diyar* Consortium. This book is a thorough examination of the issues faced by Palestinian Christians today, and is set in the context of history and theological reflection. Rev. Raheb's book has become a classic on this less-known community.
	*Bethlehem Besieged*, by Rev. Dr. Mitri Raheb—Written in the form of a journal, Rev. Raheb recounts the re-occupation of Bethlehem by Israeli forces in April 2002.
	*Sailing through Troubled Waters: Christianity in the Middle East*, by Mitri Raheb—In this collection of seven lectures and papers, Rev. Raheb offers historical and theological insight into the current reality of Christians in the Middle East. The chapters offer the current context of the Christian communities, including encounter with Islam and contextual scriptural readings of the Qur'an; the situation of Palestinian Christians; a brief history of the Lutheran Church in Palestine and Jordan; and reflections on revolution and human rights.
	*Faith in the Face of Empire*, by Mitri Raheb—This is an essential read to anyone who desires new insight into scripture, seeks a re-orientation of geopolitical perspective, and maintains hope for justice for Palestinians. Preeminent Palestinian contextual theologian Mitri Raheb has woven a profound biblical study and theological reflection on empire with contemporary realities and personal reflection in his new book. Inspired by the prophetic tradition and a liberating understanding of the Trinity, Rev. Raheb challenges accepted notions and offers a vision of imagination and hope that he is already making real.
	*Decolonizing Palestine*, by Mitri Raheb—Formalizing and gathering concepts that have not been previously connected, Raheb makes a strong case for the settler colonial reality that Palestinians have lived. He then discusses the ideological and theological "software" that has enabled the systems of colonialism to perpetuate. This is a book that will challenge the reader to re-think their understanding of the Bible and its texts, interpretations, and implications, as well as the realities in Israel/Palestine *UCC pastor and Global Ministries Board member, the Rev. Dr. Dale Ann Gray, has developed a study guide for Rev. Raheb's book, available online free here*: https://bit.ly/DecolonizingPalestineStudyGuide.

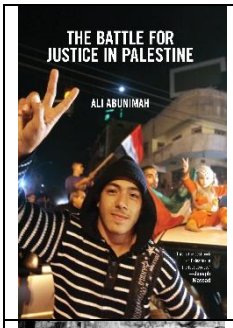
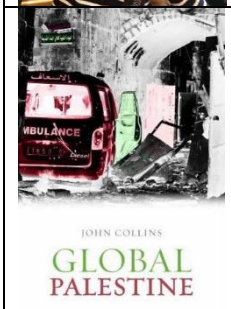
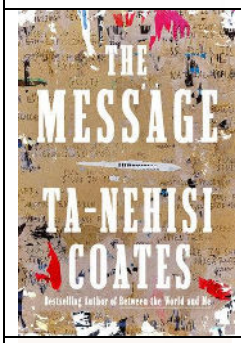
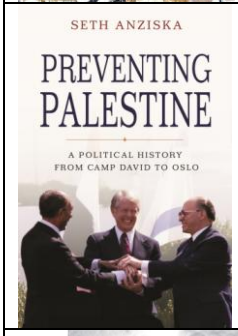
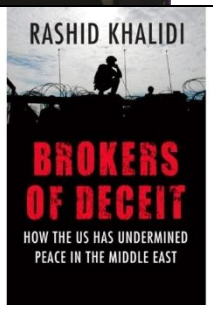
	"This unique book about contexts presents a profound reorientation of the meaning of the cross through a reflective conversation between the context of contemporary Palestine, voiced by the Rev. Dr. Mitri Raheb, and the context of the scriptural texts with universal explication, presented by the Rev. Dr. Suzanne Watts Henderson. Separately, they offer compelling insights and perspectives on Palestine and scripture that a person of faith likely does not commonly hear. Together, they make a strong case for a reexamination of the meaning of the cross for the marginalized, the oppressed, the poor, and the powerless, as well as for the privileged and powerful; and as a call to faithful action in this life by all people who take the pain, and the promise, of the cross to heart. This book is essential reading in the midst of challenging times." (From the jacket endorsement)
	*Witnessing For Peace in Jerusalem and the World*, by Bishop Munib Younan—Bp. Younan is the head of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land, based in Jerusalem. He writes this thoughtful and insightful book on the Christian concept of *martyriyya*, reclaiming it for its original meaning of witnessing. This book is theological but highly accessible to laypeople as well, and provides valuable insights on the situation in Israel/Palestine.
	*Our Shared Witness*, by Bishop Munib Younan—This volume is a collection of essays, articles, speeches, and sermons, all focusing on Israel/Palestine, interfaith relations, global issues, and peace, justice, and reconciliation. The compilation is instructive as well as thoughtful, demonstrating the Bishop's commitment to a range of issues and global concerns. It includes a helpful history of the Lutheran presence in Jordan and Israel/Palestine, and each piece offers Lutheran ideas and perspectives, so will be helpful for ecumenically-minded readers.
	*Kairos for Palestine*, by Rifat Odeh Kassis—Part memoir, part political history, part theological reflection, this volume examines the history of *Kairos* documents from Christians in various global contexts, shares the background of the Palestine *Kairos* document of December 2009, and demonstrates the importance and urgency of this voice and movement from Palestinian Christians. Kassis's contribution also answers some of the critique that the Palestine *Kairos* has received.
	*A Life Worth Living*, by Bernard Sabella—In this memoir, Bernard Sabella recounts life growing up in Jerusalem as a family dispossessed of their home, as refugees. He offers anecdotes of childhood, and later, analysis of the political situation as he grows. Dr. Sabella is today the Executive Director of the Middle East Council of Churches' Department of Service for Palestinian Refugees, and has done extensive research on Palestinian Christians as a sociologist. This book opens up his personal and family history and is a pleasurable read.

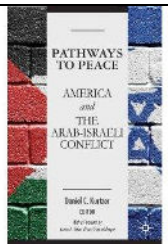
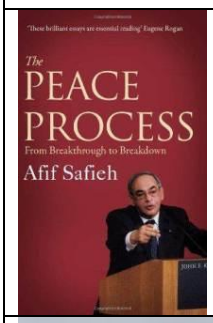
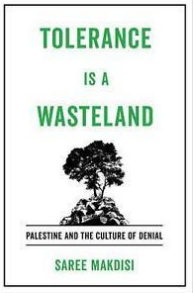
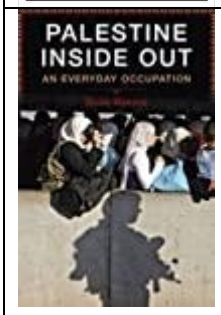
	*Theology After Gaza*, edited by Mitri Raheb and Graham McGeoch—In this anthology, Palestinian theologians and theologians from around the world write on the challenges and opportunities presented by the genocide in Gaza. They offer thoughts and perspectives that bring other global crises into the paradigm and reflect on what this tragic episode means from a faith perspective. The essays are valuable and important, written while the genocide was taking place in full force.
	*Christ in the Rubble*, by Munther Isaac—From its genesis in his Christmas sermon from December 2023, and the creche image created at the Christmas Lutheran Church in Bethlehem, Rev. Isaac has developed and re-presented ideas that challenge the global church and world in light of Israel's genocide in Gaza. The subtitle, "Faith, the Bible, and the Genocide in Gaza," neatly summarizes of what Rev. Isaac writes in this thought provoking and important book of contextual theology and personal journey.
	*The Other Side of the Wall*, by Munther Isaac—In this mix of personal story, biblical/theological reflection, political contextualization, Rev. Isaac offers hope and an uplifting message. The chapters read like "small sermons" embedded in the narrative and the pastor's theological work on various texts. His exposing the "other side of the wall" is an invitation to hear the voices of Palestinians and especially Palestinian Christians, who often ignored or denied voice so that they can reach our churches and members, inform our engagement, and frame our understanding of mission.
	*The Truth Shall Set You Free*, by Jonathan Kuttab—This is a moving memoir by one of the co-founders of Sabeel and Al-Haq, an international human rights lawyer who has lived through and participated in significant events throughout contemporary Palestinian history. Kuttab is an engaging writer, and this book contains stories of courageous engagement.
	*Blood Brothers* is Archbishop Elias Chacour's international best seller an addresses issues of Israeli-Palestinian peacemaking from within the context of Israel. Archbishop Chacour is the Melchite archbishop and is well-known globally as a prominent advocate for peace in the region. His writing style is smooth and lucid.

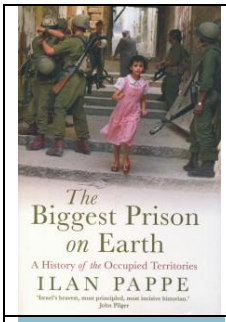
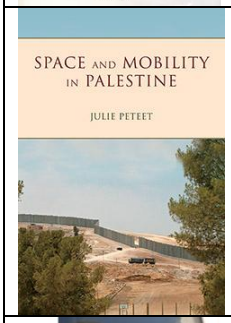
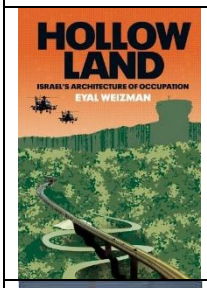
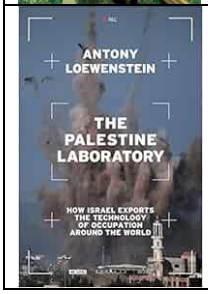
	*Justice on the Cross*, by Kathleen Christison—This book is a superb examination and analysis of Palestinian liberation theology. Offering an historical perspective—both on the context in Palestine and of liberation theology more generally—Christison captures in one volume the struggles of Palestinians as well as the emergence and evolution of Christian theological responses to the realities Palestinians face, and juxtaposes them with other theologies that have been harmful to Palestinians.
	*Daughters of Palestine*, by Leyla King—King, an Episcopal priest in Texas, explores her Palestinian heritage in this multi-generational family narrative. King includes the stories of her Palestinian women family and their experience of life growing up in pre-1948 Palestine, and then experiencing the *Nakba*, before concluding with her own story. This is a rich and brisk story of one Palestinian Christian family.
	*Glory to God in the Lowest*, by Donald Wagner—A retired Presbyterian pastor and long-time active advocate for peace and justice in the Middle East, Wagner offers his poignant and exciting autobiographical faith journey and encounter with Middle East Christians. Through significant times in Middle East contemporary history, Wagner shares his own personal stories of learning and teaching, as well as the challenges – and joys – he has experienced along the way.
	*Chosen? Reading the Bible amid the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict*, by Walter Brueggemann—In this slim but powerful volume, Brueggemann takes into consideration issues related to biblical interpretation, covenant, human rights, and the Israelis and Palestinians. He reads the scriptural texts in an inclusive way, rather than an exclusionary approach that has so often been used in the context of this conflict. The chapters are brief, with study questions, and would be ideal for group study, including church adult education classes.
	*The First Advent in Palestine*, by Kelley Nikondeeha—This volume is a reflection on the scriptures and stories of Advent, providing the context and struggles the people faced in Biblical times. It incorporates smoothly how those stories relate to the current reality of Palestinians, lifting up the interpretations and work of Palestinian Christians throughout the book.
	*Apartheid South Africa! Apartheid Israel?* by Brian J. Brown—Rev. Brown, a Methodist minister and native of South Africa, has spent a lifetime in struggle against apartheid, first in South Africa and now in Palestine. This book is part comparison of the two situations, part historical examination, part theological exegesis (for Palestine, referring heavily to the Kairos Palestine "Cry for Hope") and part documentation of realities on the ground in both places. This book is magisterial, thoughtful, clear, and comprehensive; grounded in faith and a lifetime of experience

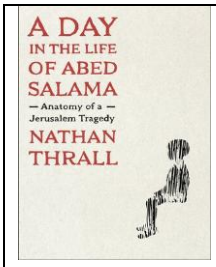
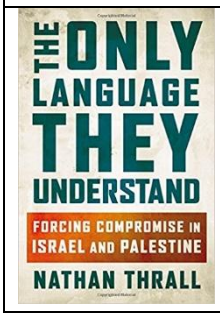
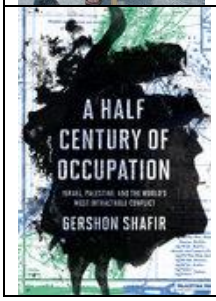
	*Water from the Rock: Lutheran Voices from Palestine*, edited by Ann Haften—In this short collection of articles, diary entries, and reflections, Palestinian and American Lutherans share the context of Palestine, from their perspectives. The selections include writings by Bishop Munib Younan, Rev. Mitri Raheb, his sister Viola Raheb, and Dr. Nuha Khoury, as well as some US Lutherans who have served in Palestine with partners there. Each section has study questions so this book can be used in an adult education class.
	*Christians and a Land Called Holy: How we can foster justice, peace, and hope*, by Charles P. Lutz and Robert O. Smith. Smith, the Middle East executive for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, and Lutz, have written this very helpful book introducing the conflict, the actors (including Christian Zionists), and church partners, and offering guidance on what church people (and others) can do to be agents of change. This compact volume is especially helpful for those eager to engage locally, and the final chapter lays out suggestions. The bibliography is extensive.
	*Inhabiting the Land*, by Alain Epp Weaver—In this short volume designed for individual and group study, Weaver traces the history of the conflict through a theological lens, and explores what a possible just outcome might look like. In four thoughtful chapters, he explores Zionism and Palestinian Nationalism; Palestinian Christian theologies of land and liberation; Christian theologies of Judaism and assessments of Zionism; and the possibility of a shared future for Palestinians and Israelis.
	*Towards Golgotha: The Memoires of Hagop Arsenian, a Genocide Survivor*, translated and annotated by Arda Arsenian Ekmekji—In this very personal chronicle of the period before, during, and after the Genocide, Arsenian records the events of his daily life. It is a poignant first-hand account, a personal story that so illuminates the tragedy. Beginning in Western Turkey, Arsenian's path is that of many others—some who survived, most who didn't—through central Anatolia. His resourcefulness help him survive with his immediate family, eventually arriving in mandate Palestine. His accounts of both the "deportations" and of Palestine are very insightful, and are complemented by the personal journey of his granddaughter, who translated the book, and who is today the Dean of Arts and Sciences at Haigazian University in Beirut.
	*A Palestinian Armenian*, by Varsen Aghabekian—This is a comprehensive history of the Armenian presence in Palestine. Two groups, some present since 300 CE and others since the Armenian Genocide at the beginning of the 20th century, have had significant impact on society in Palestine. Aghabekian explores that impact and involvement, looking at families, trade and métier, as well as the realities that Armenians face in the larger context of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. She continues by suggesting some ways forward to preserve the Armenian legacy and presence.

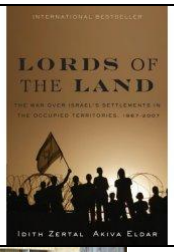
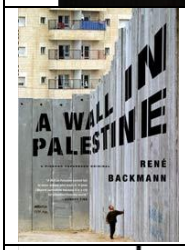
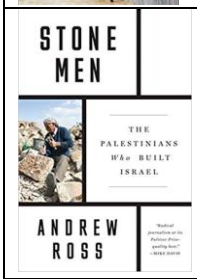
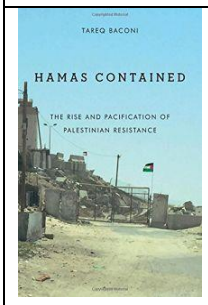
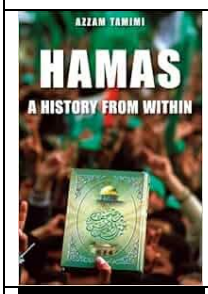
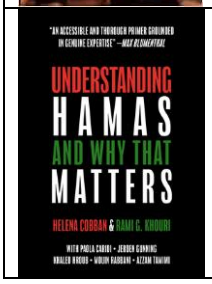
	On the Current Situation
	*Visualizing Palestine*, Edited by Jessica Anderson, Aline Batarseh, and Yosra El Gazzar—In this extensively researched collection of infographics, history, current realities, and resources for engagement are presented. The illustrations and insights are very helpful to inform and mobilize those interested in learning about the struggle for Palestinian rights. It is a companion book to the Visualizing Palestine website, which includes infographics and interactive resources for use (https://visualizingpalestine.org/).
	*Palestine: Matters of Truth and Justice*, by Azmi Bishara—This is a collection of essays that address several current and historical issues. Published during the Trump presidency, there is critique of the "Deal of the Century" and the normalization process, but Bishara also offers strong criticism of the way that Palestinian leadership has capitulated, no longer offering the Palestinian people hope. He looks closely at the "Arab Question" from a historical point of view.
	*Justice for Some*, by Noura Erekat—In this examination of the history of the conflict from the early 20th century until today, Erekat offers a clear analysis of the ways that the international and Israeli law have been used to advance Israeli aims. Starting with the assumptions that law has been developed by and used for the benefit of the colonial powers and the dominant, with no possibility for change by others, Erekat shows how appeals to law and convention by the Palestinians have only led to concessions with no tangible benefits; how Israel has used laws to expand its hold on Palestinian land while avoiding assuming responsibility for the people on the same land; and how a rights-based approach to discussion of the conflict is an important, but not sufficient, step toward justice.
	*A History of False Hope*, by Lori Allen—This book is a well-researched and comprehensive examination of several 20th and 21st century efforts to investigate the reality on the ground, demonstrating the challenges of applying an international legal paradigm when politics are clearly involved. An important companion to Erekat's book (above), Allen shows how Palestinians have, throughout the last century, demonstrated commitment to "liberal" principles and international law, but have been frustrated by those commissions and investigative bodies that purport to uphold those ideals. While offering a challenging and helpful analysis, the book also reaffirms in its own way the promise of international law despite its politicization.

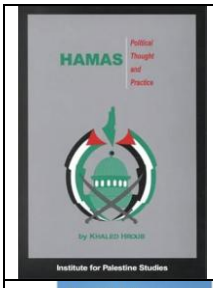
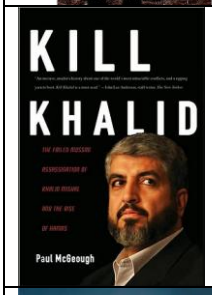
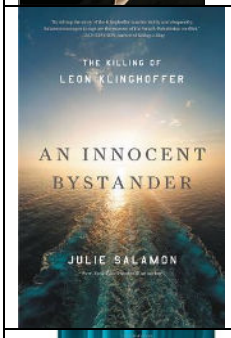
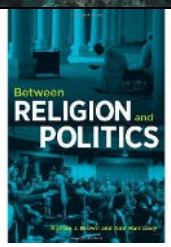
	*The Battle for Justice in Palestine*, by Ali Abunimah—This volume is a clear-headed and honest analysis of the current situation, with critique of various parties involved in the conflict. Abunimah cuts through mainstream discourse, making important observations on colonialism, analogies to race relations in the US and to conflict resolution in Northern Ireland. Unabashedly skeptical of the two-state solution, and Abunimah promotes a vision of peace with justice, concluding with thoughts on the imperative of self-determination.
	*Global Palestine*, by John Collins—Writing from a colonial framework, Collins explores the ways in which the situation of Palestinians is a microcosm for realities in other places in our time, and proposes that Palestine has been a laboratory for other countries' policies and practices. In addition, phenomena witnessed globally are manifest in Palestine as well. This book is conceptually rigorous and thoughtful. For anyone interested in connections between the Palestinian local and current global trends, this will be a stimulating read.
	*The Message*, by Ta-Nehisi Coates—In this collection of three long-form essays, written to young authors, Coates' third and longest essay is on Palestine. Following a trip he made to Israel/Palestine, Coates reports on what he saw and heard, and reflects on how it relates to struggles of justice, equality, and rights that he has seen in other places. Coates is thoughtful in his analysis and moral clarity, but clearly disturbed a segment of mainstream media based on the reception he has received. The book is surely worth reading, and the opportunity Coates has had to discuss it has also been important in breaking through.
	*Preventing Palestine*, by Seth Anziska—In this thoroughly research and deeply analytical volume, Anziska examines the diplomatic history from the 1970s to the 1990s that has denied the possibility of a Palestinian state. Beginning with Camp David and running through Oslo, the reader is taken inside the political process. A key concept in the book is the strategic difference that Israeli leadership made between Palestinian self-rule and self-determination, and the efforts made to focus on individual instead of geographic autonomy. The fruits of these efforts are visible in the Oslo outcomes, and even until today. This is a fascinating and well-written account.
	*Brokers of Deceit: How the US has undermined peace in the Middle East*, by Rashid Khalidi—An historian and participant in some of the negotiations discussed, Khalidi examines three "moments" in peacemaking efforts: the 1982 efforts and foundational documents; the Madrid/Oslo period; and Pres. Obama's first term. This is a much broader history, though, connecting the consistency and evolution of US involvement, identifying guiding US interests and their consequences, and showing the ultimately negative role the US has played. Khalidi's focus on language, describing it as Orwellian, is astute. This is a short, but quite valuable, contribution.

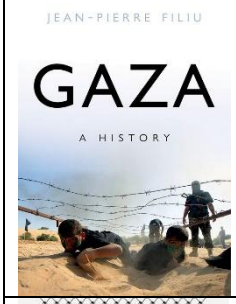
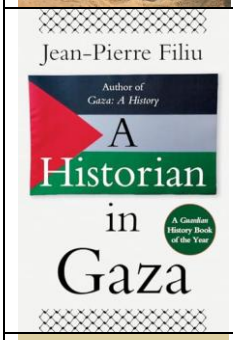
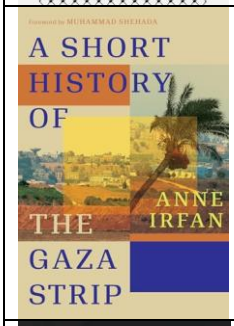
	*Pathways to Peace: America and the Arab-Israeli Conflict*, edited by Daniel Kurtzer—In this collection of chapters written by knowledgeable insiders and analysts, prospects for possible paths forward are examined. The book is divided into three sections: the regional dimension, the Israeli and Palestinian dimensions, and the United States and the peace process. Twelve experts present insight and suggestions. A fast read, this volume is a timely assessment. Every reader will not necessarily agree with each writer, thus adding value.
	*The Peace Process: From Breakthrough to Breakdown*, by Afif Safieh—It is striking, in reading this collection of essays, speeches, and interviews from 1981-2005, to what extent nothing has changed. A Palestinian Christian who has served as Palestinian head of mission in Washington and London, and who is a prominent Palestinian intellectual in his own right, Safieh's descriptions, analysis, and prescriptions for peace in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict hold true just as much today as they did when he made them. Safieh's book is a must-read.
	*The Way to the Spring*, by Ben Ehrenreich—This is at once an inspiring and painful book to read. Ehrenreich's presentation of daily life under occupation, as lived by ordinary Palestinians, gives a sense of the ways that Palestinians are able to cope with—even laugh in the midst of—a military occupation. His recounting of the treatment that Palestinians endure as victims is stark and difficult to imagine, but it is real. Through his own chronicling of neighboring and visiting with people in several West Bank towns and cities, the realities of daily life—and death—are brought to light.
	*Tolerance is a Wasteland*, by Saree Makdisi—This is an intellectual reflection on the physical removal of Palestinians and Palestine, and the assertion of Israel in the same location – the displacement and replacement. Makdisi discusses the denial of Palestinian presence, and the "denial of the denial" which continues to this day. Each chapter explores a particular aspect of this mode of historical process, focusing on real and current events. This book is revelatory and disturbing for what it reveals.
	*Palestine Inside Out: An Everyday Occupation*, by Saree Makdisi—Makdisi combines UN resolutions and reports with statistics, history and maps; Palestinian rights and multiple Palestinian and Israeli narratives; and individual stories and experiences to give a thorough and highly readable picture of the occupation. Makdisi offers clear analysis and fluid style to make this a must-read for people at different levels of familiarity with the facts on the ground. There is much to draw on from the book. One provocative quote, by a local Israeli school director, was, "Anyone who tells you that there was no ethnic cleansing here will be lying, and anyone who tells you that without the ethnic cleansing Israel would have been established will also be lying."

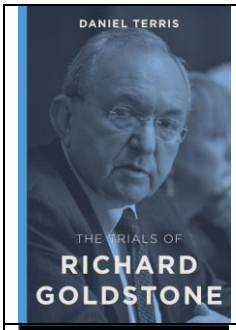
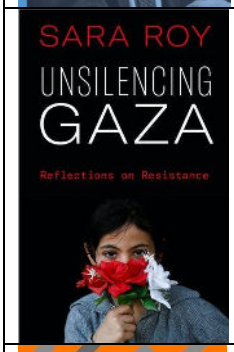
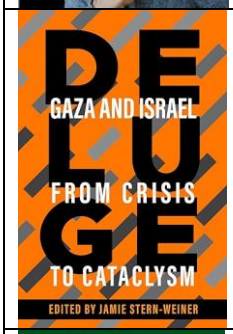
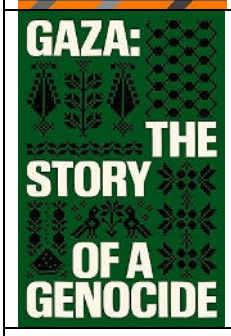
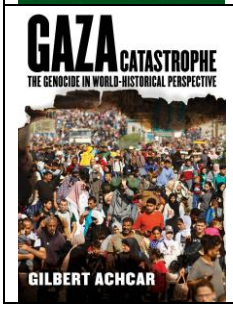
	*The Biggest Prison on Earth*, by Ilan Pappé—In his newest book, Pappé traces the history of the occupation using Israeli archival sources as well as firsthand accounts of Palestinians living under occupation. He asserts that the occupation alternates between an open-air prison and a maximum-security prison, as carrots and sticks, respectively. Beginning with 1948 and drawing on archival sources from 1958 and later, Pappé examines the plans for expanding the occupation from what was accomplished in 1948 into the West Bank and Gaza. This is a fascinating and illuminating historical study, leading to the implications for today.
	*Space and Mobility in Palestine*, by Julie Peteet—This is deeply detailed and close-up examination of the impact of Israel's occupation on Palestinian (in)ability to move about, and the constraints on Palestinian space and life. Taking an anthropological approach, Peteet intertwines Palestinians' personal narratives and descriptions with a theoretical framework. Issues of colonialization, separation, and closure, as well as structures of the wall, roads, and checkpoints are all treated in this volume. A stark conclusion is that such controls aim to force "voluntary" migration of Palestinians. This negative outlook is redeemed by lifting up examples of resistance and steadfastness.
	*Israel's Occupation*, by Neve Gordon—This is a more academic look at the occupation, and is written by an Israeli, the Senior Lecturer and head of the Department of Politics and Government at Ben-Gurion University of the Negev. Gordon considers modalities of control (temporariness, arbitrariness, invisibility, "restraint," and continuity) in analyzing decades of occupation of Palestinian lands and people through Foucaultian lenses. He draws on the simply complex matrices of biopower, sovereign power, and disciplinary power to trace the changes (and consistency) in Israeli policies of occupation, a defining moment of which was the creation of the Palestinian Authority as part of Oslo, by which Israel could cede Authority but retain authority of the occupation.
	*Hollow Land: Israel's Architecture of Occupation*, by Eyel Weizman—Weizman uses concepts of architecture to analyze Israel's practices of occupation. He most effectively looks beyond the maps, and adds the third dimension (both above and below ground) to the perspective he uses, and identifies the philosophical and conceptual bases for such an approach. This is an intelligent and complex analysis, but one that is worth the investment, as it covers Jerusalem, settlements, checkpoints, the separation barrier/wall, urban warfare, and targeted assassinations.
	*The Palestine Laboratory*, by Andrew Loewenstein—This is an important critical analysis and exposé of the Israeli arms and technology sectors that are immensely profitable. The title of the book indicates that Israel "tests" its weapons and surveillance technology on the Palestinians living under its control, and then markets those technologies to other countries as proven effective.

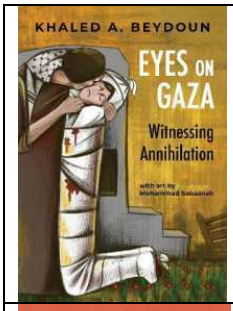
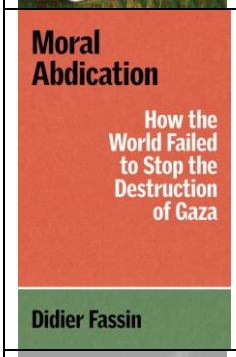
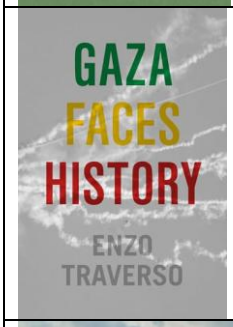
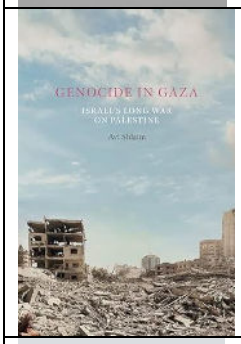
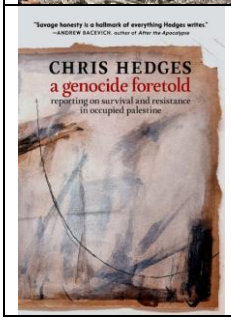
	*A Day in the Life of Abed Salama*, by Nathan Thrall—In this deeply personal narrative that enters the life of the Salama family in the West Bank, Thrall tells the story of a tragic traffic accident involving a school bus to illustrate the reality of occupation. The death and injury of children is a terrible consequence of the daily (mis)functioning of occupation. Thrall's very readable book grew from his essay of the same name in the New York Review of Books, from March 2021 (https://www.nybooks.com/online/2021/03/19/a-day-in-the-life-of-abed-salama/).
	*The Only Language They Understand*, by Nathan Thrall—In this collection of essays written over a half-decade, Thrall examines the conditions of the "peace process" in relation to diplomatic developments and relations between the Israeli and Palestinian factions. The most valuable essays are the opening, long essay on leverage asserted and the positive impact such leverage has had on moving things forward, and the final essay. Implied, but not stated explicitly, is that outside powers, including the United States, could use its leverage more helpfully to push toward a resolution to the conflict, or at least towards some progress.
	*Israel: Democracy or Apartheid State*, by John Ruebner—In this brisk but thorough book, Ruebner recounts the history of Israel/Palestine in very concise and digestible chapters. He demonstrates the injustices that have been visited upon Palestinians, and puts them in the larger context. Ruebner concludes by addressing the question posed in the title of the book. This is a valuable and clearly written book that will help to clarify questions many might have about the current dynamics.
	*Apartheid in Palestine*, edited by Ghada Ageel—Ageel has written a helpful book that includes sections on history, activism for justice, and academic analysis. From a uniquely Canadian perspective but still broad in its approach, this book offers first-hand insight from Palestinians and those who are allied with Palestinians. Not only does the book explore the apartheid framework, but it also provides legal analysis of Israel's violations of international law.
	*A Half Century of Occupation*, by Gershon Shafir—This book is comprised of three long essays: "What is the Occupation?" "Why has the Occupation lasted this long?" and "How has the Occupation transformed the Israeli-Palestinian conflict?" Each is a rigorous and sometimes technical analysis of various factors, combining to offer a very thoughtful and critical understanding of the policies and conditions of occupation, and efforts to end it. Shafir is a sociologist, and writes with an accessible tone.

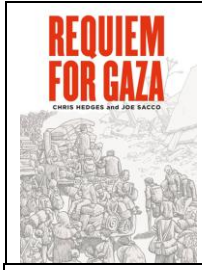
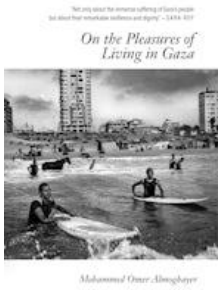
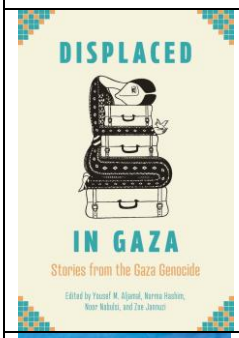
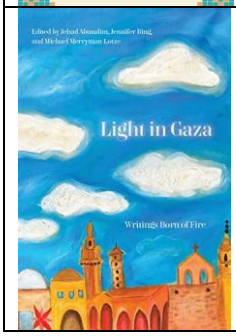
	*Lords of the Land*, by Idith Zertal and Akiva Eldar—Perhaps the most comprehensive and thorough history of the Israeli settlement movement, this book was originally published in Hebrew. The two authors, both journalists, track the history of the *Yesha* Council and movement and its interaction with the Israeli government authority. This book is indispensible in understanding Israeli settlement on occupied land.
	*A Wall in Palestine*, by René Backmann—If you want to know what impact the separation barrier/wall/fence has had on the people of the West Bank, and on Israeli society, you must read this book. Written in a facile narrative style, Backmann, a French journalist has done many interviews and tells in an easily comprehensible way the difficult issues associated with the wall. This book is translated from French, and is an important contribution to the literature on Israel/Palestine.
	*Stone Men*, by Andrew Ross—This unique book is part topography, part political economy, part anthropology, and wholly socio-political. Ross examines the history of the use of labor in the building of the State of Israel, including the myth of Israeli labor, and the reality of Palestinian labor to build the state, the settlements, and the separation barrier. It also is an homage to the art of Palestinian stonemasonry. "They demolish our houses as we build theirs" is an apt quote to summarize the labor relationship between Israel and the Palestinians.
	*Hamas Contained*, by Tareq Baconi—This book is an excellent history and analysis of Hamas, the Palestinian "Islamic Resistance Movement." Tracing its roots through the twentieth century, then presenting its history of political engagement, primarily in Gaza, since its emergence in 1987, Baconi explores the unique character, motivation, challenges, and aspirations of the movement. The introduction and conclusion are especially helpful analysis, and the main chapters of the book present a history of the movement's engagement, in the context of its relationships with the Palestinians, with Fatah, and with the Israeli authorities. This is a valuable and essential contribution.
	*Hamas: A History from Within*, by Azzam Tamimi—In this proximal narrative of the background and founding of Hamas, which concludes with the 2006-2007 Palestinian elections and struggle for power between Fatah and Hamas, Tamimi provides insight and analysis that is especially helpful to expand the perspective on what Hamas is, what it wants, and how it operates. The book is quite detailed, and includes important documents and articles as appendices to complement the narrative.
	*Understanding Hamas*, edited by Helena Cobban and Rami Khouri—This is a transcription of five separate interviews with experts on Hamas addressing a variety of topics and questions, including basic background and Hamas' role, as well as attitudes toward Hamas. It is a very useful primer on Hamas and how the movement fits in Palestinian politics. The interviews were all conducted following Oct. 7, 2023, so they are timely.

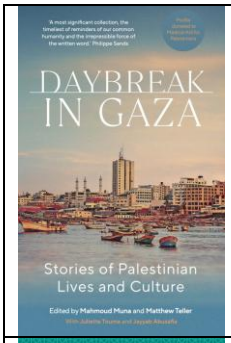
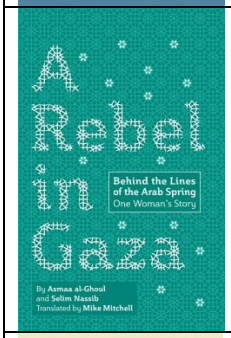
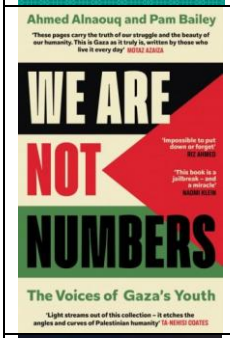
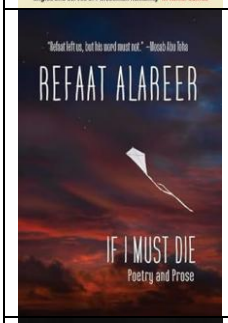
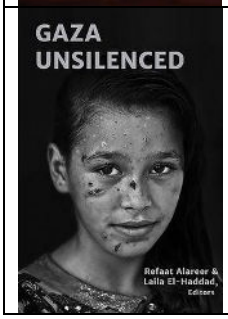
	*Hamas: Political Thought and Practice*, by Khaled Hroub—This is one of the first books to appear in English analyzing the history, ideology, and actions of Hamas. Hroub's work is translated from the original Arabic, and is an important contribution to understanding Hamas's foundations and approaches. Hroub is neither sympathetic nor overly critical, but presents Hamas through its own documents and leaders' statements. He also considers its engagement with Palestinians, other Arab states, and the Islamic world. While published in 2000, this book remains an essential source.
	*Decolonizing Palestine*, by Somdeep Sen—In this monograph that focuses on Gaza and Hamas following the Palestinian elections of 2006, Sen discusses postcoloniality in a colonial condition that demands an anti-colonial struggle. He speaks of Hamas' role as governing authority and as a resistance movement. He also analyzes the idea of liberation, not limiting it to a single point in time, but rather thinking of liberation as a long moment.
	*Kill Khalid: The Failed Mossad Assassination of Khalid Meshal and the Rise of Hamas*, by Paul McGeough—This is a page-turner, not just for the first half, which recounts the attempt on Meshal's life. McGeough has done his homework, and provides access as well as much insight into the role and internal politics of Hamas. This is a most helpful book to understand Hamas and the multiple contexts in which it exists.
	*An Innocent Bystander*, by Julie Salamon—This book goes deep into the background and stories of the Klinghoffer family as well as those involved in the hijacking of the Achille Lauro in October 1985. Not only does Salamon recount the events of the plot and the death of Leon Klinghoffer, but she also portrays the family, the ship captain, and the Palestinians who planned and carried out the hijacking and their families. The second part of the book focuses on the impact of the event, the fallout, and the court cases. Well-written with good character development and just enough detail, this book unfortunately is a record of a very tragic true episode that changed lives.
	*Between Religion and Politics*, by Nathan Brown and Amr Hamzawy—The emergence of Islamic groups and parties on the Middle East's political scene has been a cause of concern. Brown and Hamzawy analyze this emergence, focusing on the development of such groups' participation, their contexts, their platforms, and outlook. Each chapter deals with a different country in the region, including Egypt and the Muslim Brotherhood, Palestine and Hamas, and several others (Algeria, Morocco, Kuwait, Yemen, and Jordan). This book represents sound academic research and writing. (Interestingly, Hamzawy was elected to the Egyptian parliament from a Cairo district in December, 2011.)

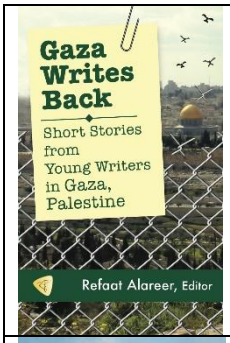
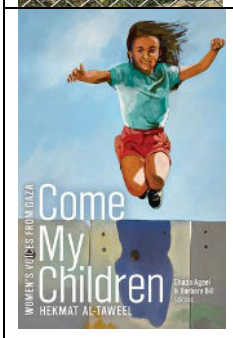
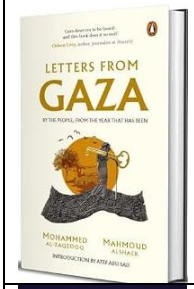
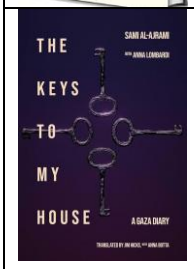
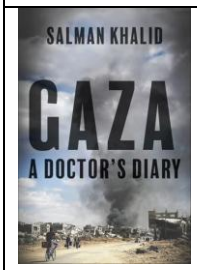
	Gaza
	*Gaza: A History*, by Jean-Pierre Filiu—In this most comprehensive and well-researched volume, Filiu traces the history of Gaza over the past few thousand years. His analysis of Gaza's place geographically and politically, as well as his attention to detail makes this an indispensable contribution, rare in its focus on Gaza. There is much detail in this book, especially about the most recent decades, but that should not discourage the reader. Gaza is often overlooked in the discussion of history, but the presence of refugees, its unique and separate geography, and its place in diplomatic and political engagement can better be understood through Filiu's telling.
	*A Historian in Gaza*, by Jean-Pierre Filiu—In this series of short chapters, Filiu writes of what he experienced having been permitted to enter Gaza with a humanitarian team. Filiu is an historian who has written on Gaza (see above), and his perspective therefore, as someone who has spent extensive time there, is unique. The contrast between writing history and living through the genocide is stark.
	*A Short History of the Gaza Strip*, by Anne Irfan—In this volume, Irfan presents a modern history of Gaza, covering the 20th and 21st centuries, including the post-Oct. 2023 period. She situates Gaza's history within broader Palestinian history, and gives attention to intra-Palestinian rivalries within Gaza as well as the Palestinian struggle against occupation and Israeli control of Gaza. The historical narrative is enhanced by personal perspectives of Palestinians who live or lived in Gaza, adding personal stories to the political history.
	*Gaza: An Inquest into Its Martyrdom*, by Norman Finkelstein—This is a detailed and searing deconstruction of the ways that Israel's three military operations in Gaza – Cast Lead (2008-09), Pillar of Defense (2012), and Protective Edge (2014) – as well as the *Mava Marmara* incident were whitewashed and manipulated by the institutions that should have held Israel accountable. The book is a rebuttal and an impassioned defense of the Palestinian people of Gaza, warning of what would continue to happen if accountability is not upheld.

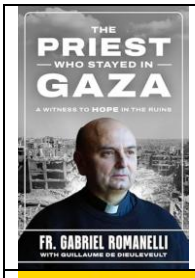
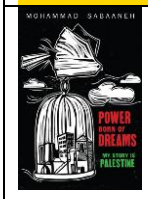
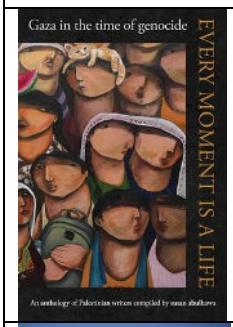
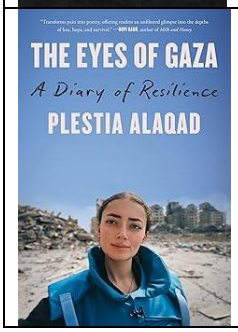
	*The Trials of Richard Goldstone*, by Daniel Terris—This book is a well-written biography of Richard Goldstone, international lawyer, judge, and human rights advocate. Goldstone is notorious for the report of the United Nations Fact Finding Mission on the Gaza Conflict, which came to be known as the Goldstone Report. The last third of the book focuses on Israel's 2008-09 Operation Cast Lead, how the commission came about, and Goldstone's leadership of the group, as well as the story of the responses to the report, and the impact on Goldstone himself.
	*Unsilencing Gaza*, by Sara Roy—Roy is a preeminent scholar of Gaza, life there, and the conditions. She has testified at the UN, and spoken in broad audiences around the world. In this collection of reports, papers, and reflections, Roy gives a grim assessment of the situation in Gaza over more than three decades, as well as moving personal encounters with the people there. Her empathy and advocacy come through clearly and with force. As a daughter of Holocaust survivors, her personal reflections on what Israel has done, and continues to do, to the people of Gaza are especially poignant.
	*Deluge: Gaza and Israel from Crisis to Cataclysm*, edited by Jamie Stern-Weiner—In this volume, many notable experts write on the crisis in the Middle East following October 7. Recounting history, providing perspectives not usually heard in commercial media, and offering analysis that is insightful and thoughtful, the several chapters provide alternatives to a simple approach that is more readily available. This is a valuable resource, written within months of the start of this most recent escalation.
	*Gaza: The Story of a Genocide*, edited by Fatima Bhutto & Sonia Faleiro—In this collection of essays, poems, and graphic art, the Israeli genocide of Palestinians is told, analyzed, and set in context. The title may well have been "Gaza: The Story of Resistance" as each entry is a statement of how the Palestinian community in Gaza and beyond have insisted on their presence and agency in the midst of attempts of dehumanization and delegitimization. Taken together, the chapters provide a panoramic and richly moving holistic view.
	*Gaza Catastrophe*, by Gilbert Achcar—In this collection of essays spanning several years, Aschar, an activist-academic, writes of the history of Gaza that led to Hamas' attacks on Oct. 7, 2023, and Israel's war of 2023-2025. The essays provide critical background and analysis, and are prescient in anticipating the realities as they are lived out between 2023-2025 and what will come beyond.

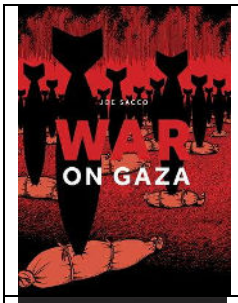
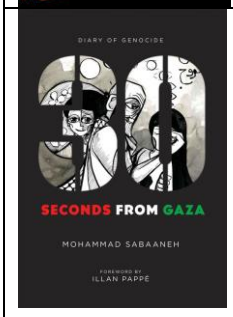
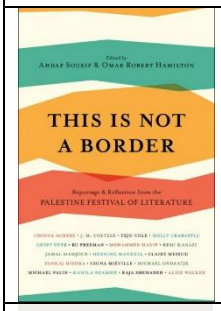
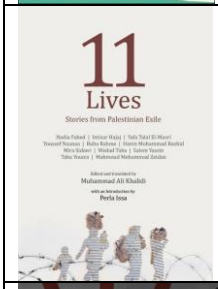
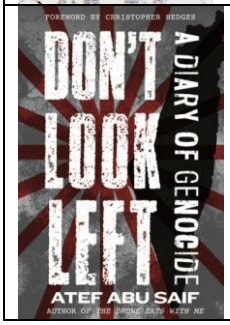
	*Eyes on Gaza*, by Khaled Beydoun—Since October 2023, Beydoun has written short essays on a variety of topics with Gaza as his subject. Beydoun, a Lebanese-American professor of law, thoughtfully presents perspectives on events as they occur, and offers an Saidian viewpoint to break down barriers of culture and society. The essays are often profound, and convey the frustration and anger Arab-Americans have felt. They are complemented by artwork by Mohammad Sabaaneh.
	*Moral Abdication*, by Didier Fassin—In a short but weighty book developed from an essay written originally in French, Fassin writes about the ways that global governments failed to stop the Israeli genocide of the Palestinian people in Gaza during the first half year of the war, following Oct. 7, 2023. He exposes the inconsistency in application of laws and principles between Gaza and Ukraine, and asserts that the West has lost any authority to speak about human rights or international law.
	*Gaza Faces History*, by Enzo Traverso—This short book is a long essay written by an Italian professor of history and political theory, now at Cornell. It is written following the events of Oct. 7, 2023, and the continuing war. Traverso makes historical connections between discourse, attitudes, and actions taking place now and earlier in the 20th century in Europe. His discussion will be provocative for some, but clear and accessible.
	*Genocide in Gaza*, by Avi Shlaim—In this collection of articles, essays, and testimonies, Avi Shlaim, who is one of the prominent and outspoken Israeli "new historians" advocating for Palestinian rights, shares important history of Israeli control and assaults on Gaza, as well as critical assessments of Israel occupation and closure of Gaza over time. As Shlaim makes very clear, the Israeli assault that started in 2023 is not the beginning of the matter, and this presentation of history, while sometimes redundant from one chapter/essay to the next, is important.
	*A Genocide Foretold*, by Chris Hedges—This volume is based on a collection of essays from Chris Hedges' regular blog, "The Chris Hedges Report," which has focused on Gaza since October 2023. These expanded essays convey stories of Palestinians in Gaza, examine the double standards at work by politicians and media as they pertain to the devastation there, and explore moral questions about who we are as humans to allow this destruction of life and place. Hedges draws on his experience covering the Middle East and places of other wars to speak in this time.

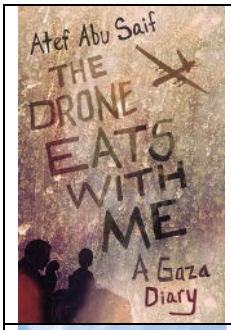
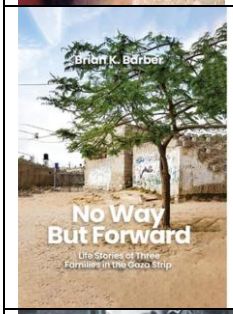
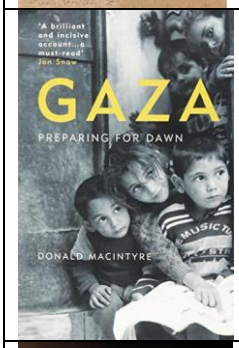
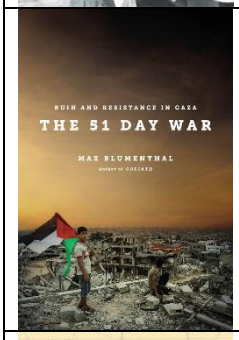
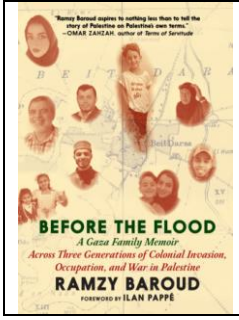
	*Requiem for Gaza*, by Chris Hedges and Joe Sacco—This is a searing and devastating look into the lives of Palestinians who have endured the genocide in Gaza and who are now in Egypt, as well as a meditation on the larger issues associated with Palestine and Israel – the Holocaust, antisemitism, universal values, international law. Hedges offers stories and reflections in prose, and Sacco presents parts of families' stories in his stunning graphic format. This book's authors do not spare the grim realities of Palestinian experience.
	*The Complicit Lens*, by Robin Andersen—In this extremely well-documented examination of the Western (mainly US) media coverage of the Israeli genocide in Gaza, Andersen exposes the ways that coverage between Oct. 2023 and early 2025 has demonstrated a clear bias against Palestinians. Focusing on specific examples and extrapolating from them, the book shows how traditional media has failed to convey the extent of Palestinian pain, and the extent of policy decisions to their detriment.
	*On the Pleasures of Living in Gaza*, by Mohammed Omer Almoghayer—If Gaza is only understood as a place that is repeatedly destroyed by Israeli military campaigns and blockades, or only seen as populated by Hamas, then much is terribly overlooked. Almoghayer takes the reader into daily life in Gaza to shed light on the dreams, aspirations, and daily activities of everyday residents of Gaza. The chapters focus on individuals who seek life, and live it, despite all that they continue to experience. The tragic realities Gaza are not overlooked, but they are complemented by a more humane presentation from one of Gaza's own.
	*Displaced in Gaza*, edited by Yousef Aljamal, Norma Hashem, and Noor Nabulsi—This is a powerful collection of stories of Palestinians in Gaza as they live the terror of the Israeli assault on Gaza following October 7, 2023. Many of the chapters are the stories of people who are survivors of the 1948 *Nakba*, and are refugees from that period, but who are now experiencing displacement once again. The book is a collaborative effort including the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC), which has been active in Gaza since the late 1940s.
	*Light in Gaza*, Jehad Abusalim, Jennifer Bing, and Mike Merryman-Lotze, eds.—In this collection of essays and poetry, the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) staff bring Gaza to life. The essays are political, economic, and social analysis of the current reality in Gaza, and they are interspersed with more personal reflections and verses of poetry. The contributions are valuable in themselves, and even more so since they bring voices of Gaza to the forefront.

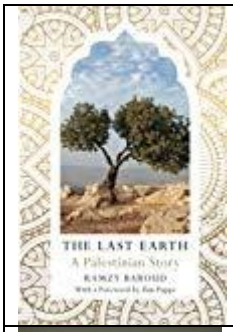
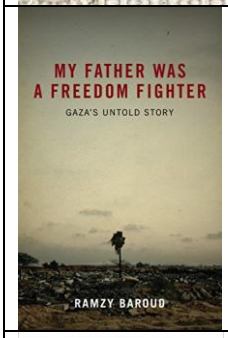
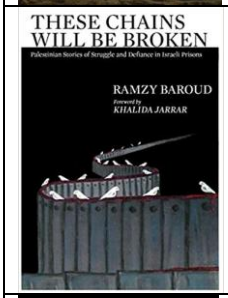
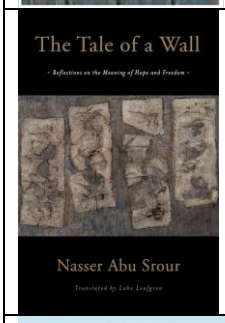
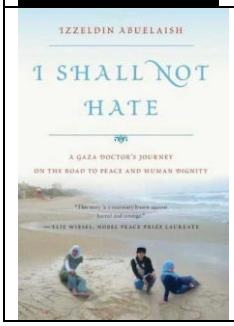
	*Daybreak in Gaza*, edited by Mahmoud Muna and Matthew Teller—In the midst of genocide and war, this collection of more than 80 stories and narratives helps give a ground-level perspective on what it is like to struggle to survive. These are poignant, inspiring, heartbreaking. It brings to life the people, culture, history, and circumstances of the Palestinian people in Gaza, humanizing them through their own words. This is essential reading. Each contribution is relatively short, but each is powerful.
	*A Rebel in Gaza*, by Asmaa al-Ghoul—In this moving memoir of a young woman's life growing up in Gaza, Asmaa al-Ghoul shares in short, crisp chapters her persistence and her challenges. Al-Ghoul is equally critical of Israel, the Palestinian Authority, and HAMAS, and has lived with threats as a result. A writer and journalist, as well as a mother and daughter, she has wrestled with dueling roles and the question of responsibility. The memoir takes the reader to the ground level in Gaza, and the complications of life there in nuance.
	*We Are Not Numbers: The Voices of Gaza's Youth*, Ahmed Alnaouq and Pam Bailey, eds.—This is a moving collection of personal stories written by the Palestinian youth from Gaza, as part of a larger project by the same name. This anthology includes short essays and memoirs from the last decade, organized by year, leading up the 2023-2024 genocide. From these first-hand narratives, the lives, hopes, dreams, and tragedies of the Palestinian people of Gaza are conveyed in rich prose (and some poetry).
	*If I Must Die*, by Refaat Alareer—This is a collection of essays, interviews, and poems written by Dr. Refaat Alareer, a professor of English Literature in Gaza who was killed by Israel in December 2023. The title of this book is also the title of Dr. Alareer's final poem, which spoke for so many Palestinians in Gaza. The prose and poetry in this collection are moving and capture the reality of life in Gaza as a father, brother, son in the midst of wars over more than a decade.
	*Gaza Unsilenced,* edited by Refaat Alareer and Laila El-Haddad—In this collection of essays, postings, poems, and even tweets, authors from Gaza and elsewhere bring the realities of Israel's 2014 assault on Gaza to life. Reading this in 2025, the realities of war and desperation have changed very little. This is a moving anthology of voices that should be read with a longer historical perspective in mind.

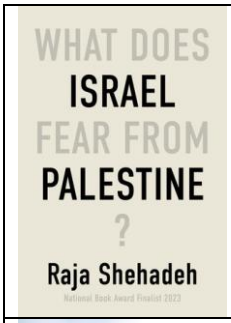
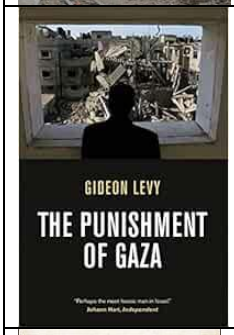
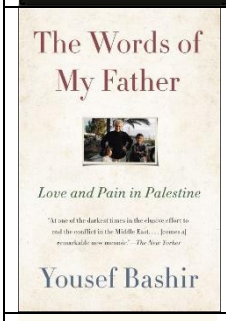
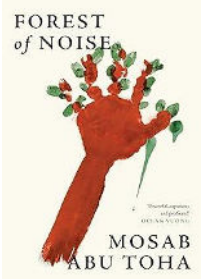
	*Gaza Writes Back*, edited by Refaat Alareer—This short volume is a collection of stories written by young Palestinians from Gaza, published to mark the 5th anniversary of the Israeli Operation Cast Lead (2008-09). The stories are poignant and bold, conveying what it is like to live in Gaza, and communicating on a human level hopes, dreams, aspirations, fears, and deep sadness. The stories are remarkable for their conveyance of profound emotion and humanity. It is a collection that is relevant far beyond a particular moment in history, and begs the end of the tragedy of Gaza's isolation.
	*Come My Children*, by Hekmat Al-Taweel—In this oral history of life in Gaza, the author relates what life was like growing up as a Palestinian Christian (a small community) and as a woman in Gaza. Interactions with her society were positive and this book gives voice to insight that is often lost in oversimplified media discussions of Gaza and Palestine. Starting during the British Mandate and continuing through the *Nakba*, this memoir is an important corrective. The book is part of a "Women's Voices from Gaza" series, published by the University of Alberta Press. (https://ualbertapress.ca/search/?series=womens-voices-from-gaza-series)
	*Letters from Gaza*, Mohammed al-Zaqzooq & Mahmoud al-Shaer, eds.—From the midst of a genocide in Gaza, this is a collection of essays, poems, and other short-form writings. Conveying the depth of suffering, the book offers a window into the lives and feelings of Palestinians in Gaza, as they reflect and journal, and communicate to the outside world.
	*The Keys to My House: A Gaza Diary*, by Sami al-Ajrami—For the first several months of the genocide in Gaza, al-Ajrami reported for the Italian newspaper, La Repubblica, as a journalist on the ground. His diary is translated here and reflects the experience of a caring and committed Palestinian who sought to get the word out, and to care for his family at the same time. After months of tragedy there, he made the difficult decision to leave for Egypt, where he currently resides. The departure is where this diary ends.
	*Gaza: A Doctor's Diary*, by Salman Khalid—In tight prose, Dr. Khalid shares an intimate account of his month of volunteering as an ER doctor in Gaza. He brings the cases he deals with to life, and offers reflections on how his experience as a Pakistani-Canadian doctor compares with that of his Gaza counterparts. He acknowledges his privilege, and his ability to access food, water, and to leave; and also offers ideas on what people can do. This is a poignantly difficult book to read, elevating both the people in Gaza and Dr. Khalid's humanity.

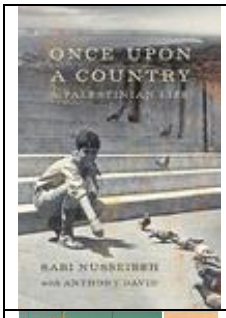
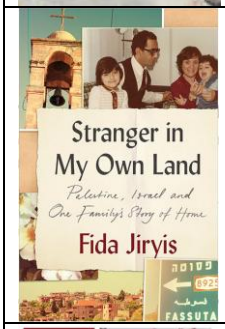
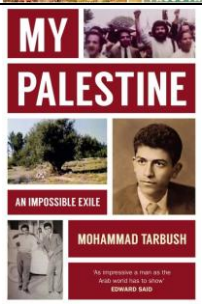
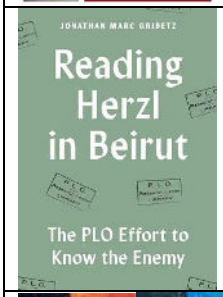
	*The Priest Who Stayed in Gaza*, by Fr. Gabriel Romanelli—Fr. Romanelli is an Argentinian Catholic priest who has served in Gaza since before 2023. This book is a collection of his observations, experiences, and reflections on what Palestinians in Gaza experienced in the months leading up to and following Oct. 2023. Fr. Romanelli recounts the suffering he witnessed around him, as well as the hope. This is a very ground-level narrative of the experience of the impact of the war.
	*Gaza in My Phone*, by Mazen Kerbaj—This is a short but powerful collection of Kerbaj's graphic commentary on the Israeli genocide in Gaza. Through his artwork, Kerbaj laments the awful tragedy, and calls upon the world to stop the war. Writing from Germany, Kerbaj pushes back against the hesitancy of that society to speak out, but by extension, calls out governments around the world. Cartoons and art are clearly effective in communicating clear messages.
 	*Power Born of Dreams* and *Welcome to Hell*, by Mohammad Sabaaneh—In these two graphic narratives, Sabaaneh writes from the West Bank and Gaza describing the condition of being imprisoned and the reality of torment that Palestinians experience on a daily basis, attempting a way out. *Welcome to Hell* focuses especially on post-Oct. 7, 2023. These are powerful stories and artwork to match.
	*Every Moment Is A Life*, compiled by Susan Abulhawa—This collection of personal stories from Gaza offers the reader a view into seep personal experiences of several Palestinian residents of Gaza during the 2023-2025 genocide. Each story, despite being short, brings alive the emotion, physical challenges, and context through a specific episode. To read about a particular experience of one person is to recognize how many experiences each person has every day and week, let alone for the months and now years, of Israel's assault on Gaza; and then multiply each of those by 2.3 million. This collection is raw and revealing.
	*The Eyes of Gaza*, by Plestia Alaqed—In this fast-paced but granular memoir, Alaqad tells of her experience as a Palestinian in Gaza and as a young journalist who feels the responsibility to tell the story. Written as a diary, this book is a chronicle of the first month and a half of Israel's war on Gaza. Her family was eventually forced to leave Gaza, and the memoir tells that story as well. Alaqad's reporting from Gaza reached the world through social media.

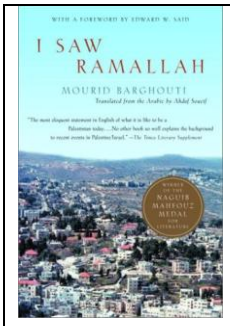
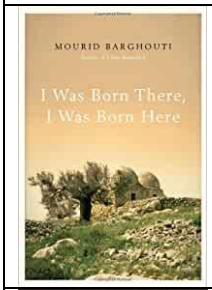
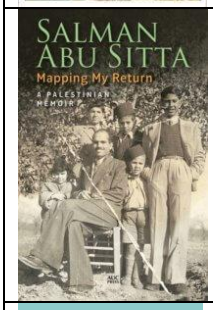
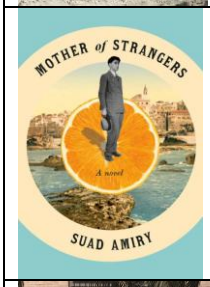
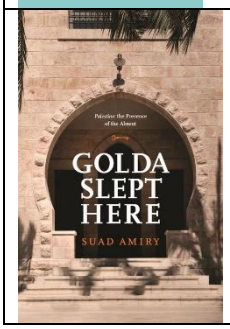
	*War on Gaza*, by Joe Sacco—In a new graphic art book, Sacco focuses on the Israel assault on Gaza 2023-2024. It is heavily observational and reflective, critical of the Biden administration's policies as well as the need Sacco feels to speak out. This book is shorter than other's Sacco has written but is clear and gets to the heart of the matter quickly.
	*30 Seconds from Gaza*, by Mohammad Sabaaneh—This book contains graphic art by Sabaaneh in his effort to preserve images of the genocide waged on Gaza by Israel since 2023. Noticing that posts by Palestinians documenting the reality people in Gaza were living were being censored and removed from social media, he decided to preserve images for the future. Sabaaneh's art is cubist in form, and he was deliberate in choosing a non-washable ink and paper to draw his art, to ensure that they would be preserved. The second section of the book is an especially poignant series of drawings portraying the story of young Hind Rajab as she was trapped alone in her family car, under fire.
	*This is Not a Border*, edited by Ahdaf Soueif and Omar Robert Hamilton—Published as a collection of reflections, reporting, poetry and literature presented at the Palestine Festival of Literature, this volume represents a remarkable effort to present the human side of the impact of the conflict. Some of the authors write based on their first encounter with the reality on the ground while others have visited regularly. All offer personal and moving critique of the inhumanity of the Palestinian experience.
	*11 Lives*, edited by Muhammad Ali Khalidi—In this collection of short biographical essays, Palestinians from several refugee camps share intimate personal, family, and community histories. The special perspective this collection offers is the direct access it affords to Palestinian exile. The style and formats vary, but the common theme is displacement and home.
	*Don't Look Left: A Diary of Genocide*, by Atef Abu Seif—Following Abu Saif's previous diary of 2014 (see below), this diary is of the first 85 days of Israel's assault on Gaza. Abu Saif, visiting Gaza with his son, is caught there when the war begins. Separated from his wife and family, he writes of daily life under siege, checking in on members of his extended family in Gaza, where he is from originally. Abu Seif's perspective is both reflective and mundane, offering a first-hand and personal witness to the horrors of displacement, damage (human and communal), and death in Gaza, with commentary about an imagined future.

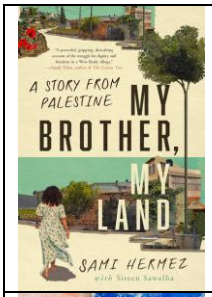
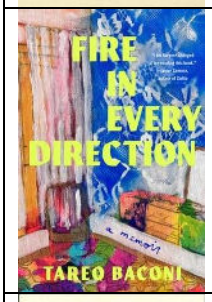
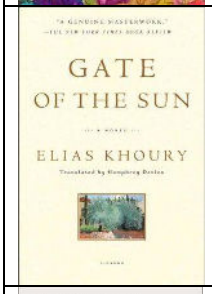
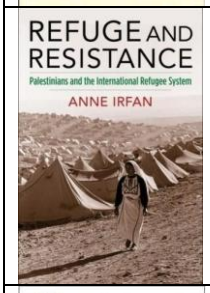
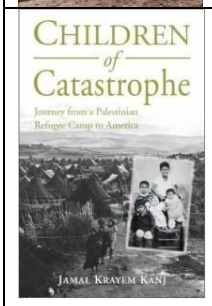
	*The Drone Eats With Me*, by Atef Abu Saif—Abu Saif's diary of the 51-day Israeli attack on Gaza in 2014 is remarkable for its descriptions of the daily routine, the feelings, the quest for life that he shares with his family and friends in Gaza. The state of dream-like consciousness that war imposes, the sense of presence of Israeli tanks, drones, warplanes, all are vividly portrayed in this book. While Gazans try to survive from hour to hour, even struggling to find food, the imagery of Israeli machines of war feasting on the people, land, and constructs of Gaza is stark and sobering. Nonetheless, this account offers hope, including Abu Saif's own description of hope (p. 143).
	*No Way But Forward*, by Brian Barber—In this intimate narration of the life stories of three Palestinians from Gaza and their families, Barber offers unique and moving access to what an individual's life has been like there for the past few decades. The first section is written as narrative biographies showing how Hammam, Hussam, and Khalil grow, seek to fulfill their dreams, and live their lives. The second section shifts to October 7, 2023, and following, as told through their text messages to the author. This book is well-written and a brisk read, even as it is painful.
	*Gaza: Preparing for Dawn*, by Donald MacIntyre—Going beyond the international media's stereotypes and over simplifications, MacIntyre tells the story of the Palestinian people of Gaza through his own direct and personal encounter with them. He complements such reporting with perspectives from Israeli and Palestinian politicians and other experts and commentators from around the world. This book offers a corrective perspective on Gaza and the Palestinian experience there.
	*51 Days of War*, by Max Blumenthal—Blumenthal's account of the 2014 Gaza invasion humanizes the people of the Gaza Strip and brings into focus the reality they experienced during the war. As a journalist who was there for most of the time, Blumenthal shares the stories of numerous Palestinian families. He illustrates the pain they felt and the fear and death that was pervasive. His account demonstrates the disparity in power, and lays bare who has control.
	*Before the Flood*, by Ramzy Baroud—In this family memoir, Baroud intersperses histories of Palestinian resistance to British and Zionist/Israeli colonization for over a century with hi own family's commitment and involvement in that same resistance. Focusing especially on specific members of his family, Palestinians in Gaza, Baroud tells their story as part of the broader Palestinian narrative. He also provides an historical timeline, and a second timeline of events since October 2023. It is helpful for the reader to know some Palestinian history, but that is not necessary to appreciate the very personal approach Baroud takes.

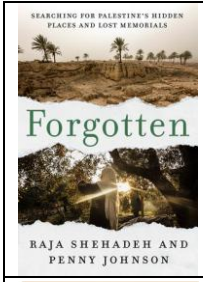
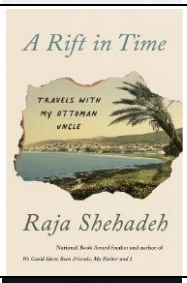
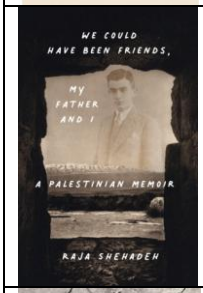
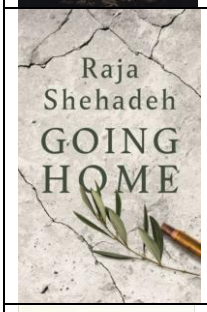
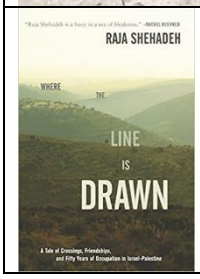
	*The Last Earth*, by Ramzi Baroud—In this intimate collection of personal stories, Baroud documents the reality of several Palestinians and their family history. Each chapter in the book recounts the experience of a family, told with a focus on one member, but tracing a few generations of fleeing and finding refuge, engaging in resistance, and participation in daily life. Baroud's writing style is especially descriptive, leaving the reader with a sense of close familiarity with each person, and each person's story is reflective of the lived experience of many.
	*My Father Was a Freedom Fighter*, by Ramzy Baroud—In this biography of the author's father, Baroud interweaves family history and that of Gaza, starting before the Palestinian *Nakba* and continuing up until hi father's death, soon after the Israeli blockade of Gaza began in 2007. Mixing personal family memories and stories with political events and commentary, this is rewarding and helpful perspective of Gaza that is unique.
	*These Chains Will Be Broken*, edited by Ramzi Baroud—In this collection of prisoner stories, Baroud offers a first-hand voice of experience of incarceration under occupation. The impact on individuals, families, and communities comes clear, just as the sense of resilience and steadfastness of Palestinians does as well. This is a powerful book of personal accounts that are quite moving.
	*The Tale of a Wall*, by Nasser Abu Srour—The story Abu Srour tells in this book is one of imprisonment, and of love. It is divided in two parts, each focusing on these expereinces. Abu Srour was jailed by Israel and given a life term. His reflections are deep and poignant, exploring many aspects of his imprisoned existence. The second part of the book is a love story between Abu Srour and Nanna. The prose (and poetry) is lyric, and the narrative is captivating.
	*I Shall Not Hate: A Gaza Doctor's Journey on the Road to Peace and Human Dignity*, by Izzeldin Abuelaish—A moving autobiography, Dr. Abuelaish has written an account of his life centered on the deep feelings of loss of his three daughters during the Israeli attack on Gaza in 2008-09. Beyond polemics, this book gives a picture of life in Gaza over the course of the last 60 years that is not often heard, but focuses on the work Dr. Abuelaish does to overcome sentiments of revenge and hatred, to build peace. This is an inspiring personal story that is a lesson in faith and hope.

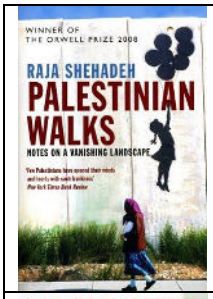
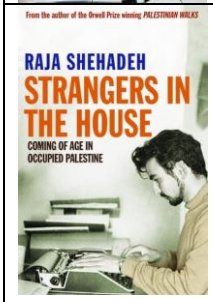
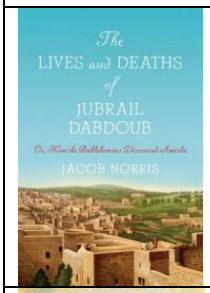
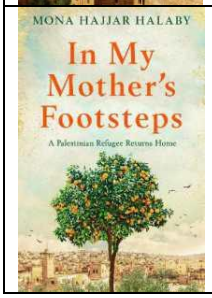
	*What does Israel fear from Palestine?* by Raja Shehadeh—This is an essay based on a lecture Raja Shehadeh gave at the School of Oriental and African Studies at the University of London and Kyoto University in 2017 ("How did we get here?"), updated in 2024 since Israel's recent war on Gaza began ("The Gaza War 2023-2024"). It is a brisk read, a critical examination of history and of contemporary circumstances, well worth studying. Shehadeh's voice is invaluable and quite clear.
	*The Killing of Gaza*, by Gideon Levy—Starting with 2014, this book offers selected columns by the Israeli journalist Gideon Levy. The first part f the book covers 2014-Oct. 2023, and the second part covers events since Oct. 7, 2023. Levy remains a voice of moral courage and a clear critic of Israeli policies. These columns convey personal stories and experiences of Palestinians under Israeli occupation, blockade, and siege in Gaza, as well as sharp criticism of Israeli policies, leaders, and society at large, asking questions about the conscience of the collective.
	*The Punishment of Gaza*, by Gideon Levy—Israel's canary in the coalmine, Levy presents in this slim volume several articles he wrote and that were published in Israel's Ha'aretz newspaper about Israel's assaults on Gaza from 2006-2009. Levy is himself in humanizing Palestinians, criticizing Israeli officials, and challenging the morality of Israeli attitudes vis-à-vis Palestinians. He offers perspectives on Gaza that he asserts most Israelis don't know, don't care to hear, or disagree with. Reading this book in 2024, it is clear that not much changes over time. These articles are as relevant today as they were when written.
	*Words of My Father*, by Yousef Bashir—This memoir is written by a Gazan who lived through the second *intifada*, imprisoned for the most part in his own home with his parents and siblings. Bashir's father believed in treating every person with respect, even his captives and occupiers. Bashir had to decide whether to follow that model or not, particularly when he was shot by Israeli soldiers, but saved by Israeli doctors, met other Israelis, and eventually joined the Seeds of Peace camp program. This is a moving and exceptional story that provides an important insight into life even in the midst of conflict.
	*Forest of Noise*, by Musab Abu Toha—In this slim volume, Abu Toha captures the reality of life in Gaza during the genocidal war of 2023-24 in poetry. This is a collection that will surely expand the reader's perspectives on what Palestinians have endured in Gaza, and is a testament to their presence and suffering, but also their personal histories and love for each other.
	Memoirs

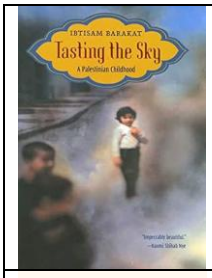
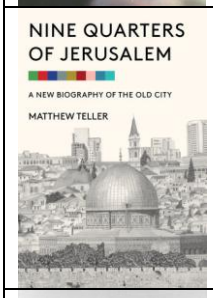
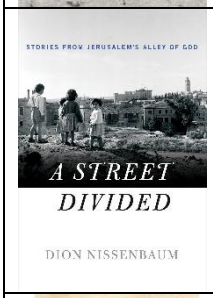
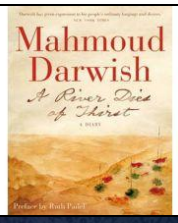
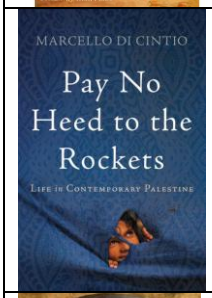
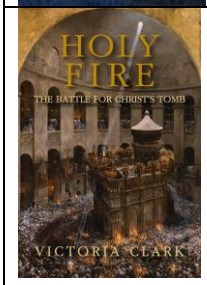
	*Once upon a Country*, by Sari Nusseibeh—A Palestinian intellectual, Nusseibeh has been involved in politics and society in Jerusalem and abroad for decades. This memoir is an intelligent reflection on the Palestinian reality. Nusseibeh is both honest and courageous in his approach with both Palestinian and Israeli officials. He plays close attention to historical detail, and is a gifted storyteller; this book is a very informative and well written account of recent Palestinian history from the perspective of one who has been actively involved in it.
	*Stranger in My Own Land*, by Fida Jiryis—What is it like to be an exile and return to one's home after it has been lost? In this poignantly written memoir, Jiryis writes the contemporary history of Palestine and overlays it with her own family's history, including that of her father, a prominent Palestinian intellectual. From Palestine to Beirut and beyond, Fida eventually is able to return with her family to historic Palestine, now Israel.
	*My Palestine*, by Mohammad Tarbush—Published posthumously with an introduction by Tarbush's daughter, Nada, this memoir covers personal and Palestinian history from the time of the British Mandate to the 2000s. Tarbush takes the reader on his long journey – geographically and over his lifetime – with personal stories that offer a detailed portrait of a Palestinian life, and commentary on the events in Palestinian history in an engaging and insightful way.
	*Reading Herzl in Beirut*, by Jonathan Marc Gribetz—This is a fascinating exploration of the story of the PLO Research Center in Beirut. Gribetz presents the story of the establishment of the Center, and how it was raided and looted by Israel during the 1982 invasion of Lebanon. He also presents how Palestinians studied and analyzed historical and contemporary books and documents related to Zionism, Jewish thought, and Israel's establishment and history. He concludes by an account of his attempt to track down the contents of the Center.
	*In Search of Fatima* and *Return*, by Ghada Karmi—These two memoirs of displacement and return are classic and poignant. Karmi shares her family's history of dispossession at the time of the *Nakba*, and their resettlement in England, and then writes of her coming back years later to work at the Palestinian Authority.

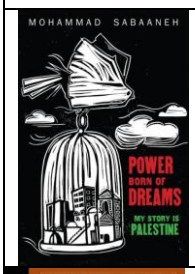
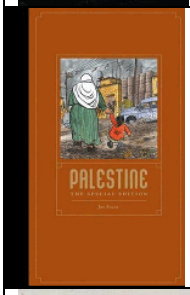
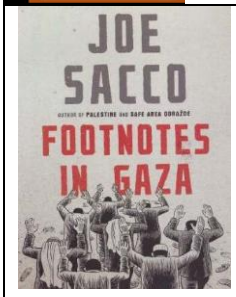
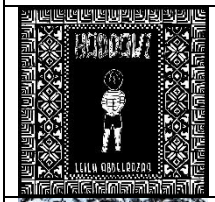
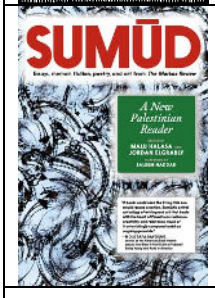
	*I Saw Ramallah*, by Mourid Barghouti—With lyrical brilliance, Barghouti describes in clear and evocative terms what it is like to return to Palestine after 30 years of exile. This book is part memoir, part observation on the situation of the West Bank post-Oslo, from an insider/outsider. The book is fairly short, but is rich in the telling of the story, as well as in the way the author is in touch with so much—political and social, as well as emotional. In addition to the main text, an excellent preface by Edward Said puts Barghouti's journey into perspective. Thoughtful and acute, Barghouti helps the reader to understand realities faced by Palestinians, in addition to offering insight into culture and customs.
	*I Was Born There; I Was Born Here*, by Murid Barghouti—In a second memoir, this time focusing more on his family life and the effort to bring his son to Palestine for the first time, Barghouti brings his literary charm and excellence in this moving account of re-placement indicated in the title, from being outside of Palestine to being in the village of his birth, and the juxtaposition of native places and homelands of himself and his son.
	*Mapping My Return*, by Salman Abu Sitta—Born in the late 1930s, Salman Abu Sitta witnessed the *Nakba* and has been involved in Palestinian movement and politics for much of his life in various ways. An engineer and intellectual, Abu Sitta relates memories of his life growing up in Palestine and as a refugee. With his village in Palestine as his focus, he writes with clarity and detail. He shares his life story with the reader as if the reader is part of his family. His plan is to return, and he works to make it possible.
	*Mother of Strangers*, by Suad Amiry—This is a historical novel focusing on Jaffa in the period around the time of the *Nakba*. It is the story of two young people in love, whose lives and fates are disrupted by the catastrophe of 1948. The book explores issues of interreligious relations, commercial realities, and class relations, but the main focus is the *Nakba* as it affects the lives of the main characters.
	*Golda Slept Here; Palestine: The Presence of the Absent*, by Suad Amiry—In this short but moving book, Amiry captures what it means for Palestinians to have been dispossessed of their homes, even as they try to catch another glimpse of them. Through oral history, poetry and prose, the experience of the *Nakba* ("catastrophe") of 1948 is made clear. Amiry offers the experiences of Palestinian families and reflects on the (lack of) rights that they have to reclaim their property. This is an easy, yet challenging, book.

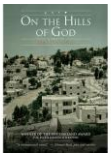
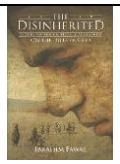
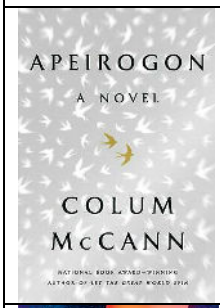
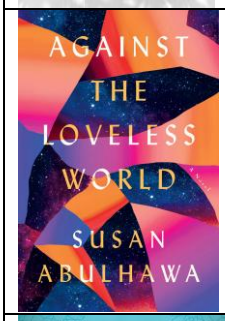
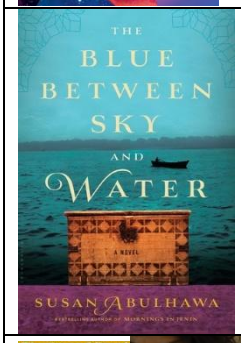
	*My Brother, My Land*, by Sami Hermez with Sireen Sawalha—This is the personal story of a family that experienced the *Nakba* and scattered, but remained deeply connected. It is also the story of two people: Sireen Sawalha (who is a co-narrator) and her brother, Iyad, whose life and activism shifts over time. The book offers Palestinian history, a family's experience of that history, an insight into more daily family relationships, and how the extended occupation pushes people to extremes.
	*Fire from Every Direction*, by Tareq Baconi—Written by one of the foremost Palestinians on Gaza, this volume is a personal memoir of family and of self. Baconi tells his family history of displacement since 1948 to the present, as well as his own story of coming of age. It is also an intimate portrait and powerful story of Baconi's own self-awareness as a gay man in a family and culture for which homosexuality is not accepted.
	*Gate of the Sun*, by Elias Khoury—Khoury shares, in epic form, the true-to-life realities of Palestinian refugees in Lebanon over the course of the history of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Through the words of a Palestinian "doctor" attending to a comatose patient in the Shatilla Camp, Khoury gives voice to stories of Palestinians he collected over the years. The novel is poignant in its tone, and hopeful in its inevitable outcome. The history of the conflict is background to personal memories.
	*Refuge and Resistance*, by Anne Irfan—What has the role of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) been? Both a service provider for the needs of Palestine refugees, and a source of ongoing debate about the perpetuation of the politics of Palestinian refugees, UNRWA's history up to 1982 is examined with clarity in this volume. Many have benefitted from its programs. Irfan foregrounds the intersection of activism and relief aid in this monograph.
	*Children of Catastrophe: Journey from a Palestinian Refugee Camp to America* by Jamal Krayem Kanj—Brilliantly combining personal family memory and historical socio-political writing, Kanj takes the reader to the Nahr al-Barid Palestinian refugee camp in northern Lebanon, where he was born and raised. Kanj conveys the sense of displacement a refugee living in this camp has felt, on many levels. He sheds helpful light on the last 60 years of history of the Lebanese relationship with Palestinian refugees, the Lebanese civil war, and the destruction of the Camp in 2007. His conclusion is poetic and profound.

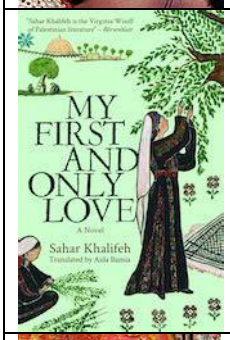
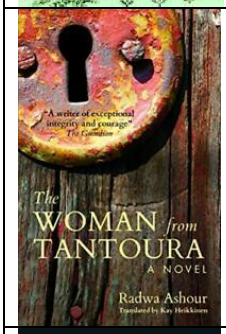
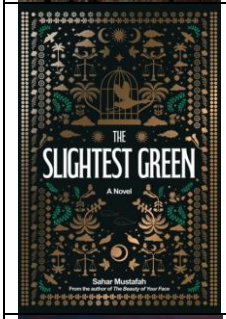
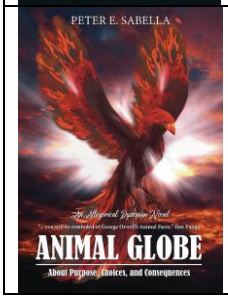
	*Forgotten*, by Raja Shehadeh and Penny Johnson—In this most recent book of hiking and exploration in Palestinian lands, Shehadeh and Johnson (spouses) explore places that are off the beaten path to discover histories that are less well-known. In writing about "forgotten" places and events, they are really in a process of recovering the stories, and by writing about them, bringing them to the readers' attention, therefore forcing them to be remembered and reminded. Spanning longer, more ancient history, the *Nakba*, and contemporary realities, this book accomplishes the act of memorialization.
	*A Rift in Time*, by Raja Shehadeh—Raja Shehadeh is known for his purposeful walking, hiking, and travels. In this book, a second edition of an earlier published volume, he follows (as best he can) the escape of his great-great-grandfather, Najib Nassar, who was an Ottoman journalist in the late 19th century. While Shehadeh cannot trace Nassar's steps exactly, due to current political restrictions, he recounts Nassar's story, overlaid with his own observations, and commentary on the reality of open borders and less sectarian Ottoman society.
	*We Could Have Been Friends*, by Raja Shehadeh—A memoir of generations, Raja writes of his father, Aziz's life and engagement in the struggle for Palestinian rights and statehood. Following his father's death, Raja begins to look more closely at Aziz's files and learns the extent to which his father was involved. They both practiced law, and so the discoveries Raja makes are especially informed. This is a story written with the history of Palestine interwoven, and with the care of a son.
	*Going Home*, by Raja Shehadeh—In this engaging book, Shehadeh takes the reader on a walk with him through Ramallah, through personal memory, and through fifty years of Israeli occupation. It is as if the reader is getting a personal tour of each, and walking along side Shehadeh. He offers very personal access to the city of Ramallah, in earlier days and now, with commentary on the social changes that have taken place over the course of his lifetime, and he shares very personal reflections on his relationship with family members as well as his work and career.
	*Where the Line is Drawn*, by Raja Shehadeh—Over time, Shehadeh reflects on a changing context and his relationship with a Jewish friend. This book gives insight to Shehadeh's internal debate on "where the line is drawn" in a friendship across a line. The book also gives important context. Shehadeh is a captivating writer, and this book reads easily while offering a challenge to the reader.

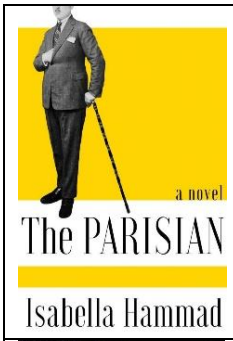
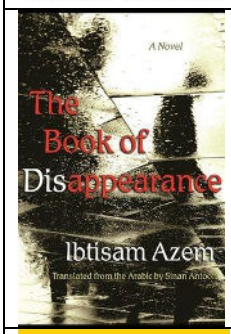
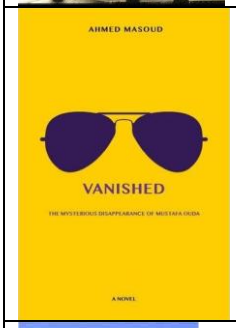
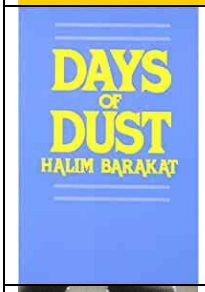
	*Palestinian Walks,* by Raja Shehadeh—This book is both nature and politics. Shehadeh is a Palestinian lawyer, who was instrumental in the establishment of Al-Haq, a legal agency and human rights organization in Ramallah. Shehadeh employs the vehicle of ambulating the landscape to reflect upon, and convey the experience of, occupation and changes over time.
	*Strangers in the House*, by Raja Shehadeh—In this family memoir, Shehadeh starts in his famikly home in Jeffa before 1948. Very young when he was born, Shehadeh tells the stories of life in Jaffa followed by dispossesion and exile of the *Nakba* through the eyes of grandparents and parents before focusing on his own childhood and adolescence in Ramallah. He takes us though his law school days and beyond, including the establishment of al-Haq. All the while, he focuses on the Jews/Israelis who came to Palestine and expelled Palestinians, as well as on his own search for self growing up – both were strangers in the house.
	*Seeking Palestine*, edited by Penny Johnson & Raja Shehadeh—This collection of fifteen essays convey, in prose and poetry, the experience of Palestinian diaspora. What does it mean to have been displaced? To have never lived in a place regarded as home? What is one's point of reference? These essays offer poignant insight on such questions, and morem including the challenge of "return."
	*The Lives and Deaths of Jubrail Dabdoub*, by Jacob Norris—This book, written in the style of mystical realism, is both a biography of the Dabdoub family and a study of the impact of Bethlehem's encounter with the world in the 19th and early 20th centuries. As more and more Bethlehem merchants travelled the world selling Holy Land artifacts, many of them settled abroad, including in Latin America. Told through the lens of the life story of Jubrail Dabdoub, this is good narrative and history. (Don't ignore the footnotes!)
	*In my mother's footsteps*, by Mona Hajjar Halaby—This is a memoir of the *Nakba* as related through the author's visit to Palestine, her memories of and correspondence with her mother, and her work as a teacher, focusing on conflict resolution, including during a time with the Friends School in Ramallah.

	*Tasting the Sky*, by Ibtisam Barakat—In this memoir, Barakat relates tales of her childhood in Palestine. Covering her early memories as a young child following the 1967 War through much of her schooling, Barakat offers a glimpse of life in a Palestinian family and household during an occupation that would endure. This book is accessible to young readers as well as others interested in such an intimate recounting of a life.
	*Nine Quarters of Jerusalem*, by Matthew Teller—This is an enthralling look at many of the "hidden histories" of Jerusalem. How did Jerusalem's Old City become quartered? Who has and does live there beyond those named in the traditionally named four quarters? The Old City is not as nicely divided as some maps might indicate. There is overlap and there is more to the Old City than one might immediately surmise. Teller offers voice to those whose stories are not often told, from the heart of the Old Coty of Jerusalem.
	*A Street Divided: Stories from Jerusalem's Alley of God*, by Dion Nissenbaum—Writing from the street on which he has lived, Nissenbaum delves into the issues of the divisions of Jerusalem through the lens of a neighborhood, and specifically a single street, outside of the Old City. Tracing the history of the city's division, and focusing on episodes of encounter and tension on the street, Nissenbaul illustrates the sadness of the conflict and how it has affected Palestinians, Israelis, and the international community.
	*A River Dies of Thirst*, by Mahmoud Darwish—This collection of poems by Darwish, a scion of modern Palestinian literature, is his final published works, most of which were written during the 2006 war. He focuses on that experience, the wars in the Middle East, and global politics, as well as more literary themes. This collection is both profound and impactful.
	*Pay No Heed to the Rockets*, by Marcello Cintio—This is a masterful and enlightening access point to Palestinian literature and culture, both classical and contemporary. Cinto visits various places in Palestine to encounter and connect with the rich literary tradition as it is lived. He brings the stories of important Palestinian authors—some well-known and others less so—to life, and illuminates the contexts in which they live(d) and write (wrote). A brilliant contribution to those eager to delve more deeply into Palestinian culture.
	*Holy Fire: The Battle for Christ's Tomb*, by Victoria Clark—The Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem is one of the most sacred Christian places in the world. The complex arrangements around custody, and the implications of the so-called *status quo* rules governing them, are the subject of Clark's fascinating book.

	*A Child in Palestine: The Cartoons of Naji al-`Ali*—Perhaps the most famous cartoonist in the Arab world, Naji al`Ali's works were cutting critique of so much, including the Israeli occupation, the role of Arab governments and leaders, and the involvement of the global powers in Middle East affairs. All of the cartoons include the most famous Palestinian child, Handhala, who is always an 11-year-old, marking the age of al-`Ali when he was made a refugee at the time of the establishment of the state of Israel in 1948. A fascinating compilation; despite al-`Ali's assassination in 1987, many cartoons resonate today.
	*Power Born of Dreams*, by Mohammad Sabaaneh—In this graphic memoir, Sabaaneh offers a creatively illustrated insight into the prison of Palestine, from inside his prison cell and beyond the cage of a bird friend. The simple presentation of life for Palestinians is evocatively illustrated by the author-artist's work. The book has some prose background briefs as well. This is a valuable entry in a deeply personal memoir to Palestinian life.
	*Palestine: The Special Edition*, by Joe Sacco—Actually, *Palestine: The Special Edition* is a collection of nine graphic art books that Sacco did during the first *intifad*a and captures life in the Occupied Territories quite well. Sacco is gifted, and committed to issues of war and peace, and more than that, to capturing the human side of conflict. His cartoon books (I hesitate to call them "comic" books) are excellent, and worth the quick read—and longer reflection.
	*Footnotes on Gaza*, by Joe Sacco—In the medium of cartoon, in this book, nothing is comic. Sacco decided to go to Gaza over a couple trips and research the massacres of Khan Younis and Rafah in 1956. In interviews with survivors and relatives who have heard the stories, Sacco attempts to re-create the massacres at the hands of the Israeli army through his drawings and the eye-witness accounts, which are central. In researching, though, he also conveys through the book the continuing isolation and attacks on Gaza by Israel, and the sentiment among some that 1956 is irrelevant as injustice is contemporary. A striking book, Sacco writes and draws well.
	*Baddawi*, by Leila Abdelrazaq—A graphic novel that explores what it is like to have grown up in a Palestinian refugee camp in Lebanon. This is a personal story with references to the history of the conflict that led to the presence of refugees in Lebanon, and is likely the first in a series of memoir-like books.
	*Sumūd: A New Palestinian Reader*, edited by Malu Halasa and Jordan Elgrably—In this literary and cultural anthology, the editors of *Markaz Review* have brought together a variety of pieces—poetry, visual art, memoir, political essay, short stories, reviews—to amplify the voices of Palestinians and allies of the Palestinian cause. It is a diverse collection that is engrossing and illustrative of the realities that Palestinians face, not just the reality on the ground, but especially in the world of culture.

	Literature/Fiction
 	*On the Hills of God* and *The Disinherited*, by Ibrahim Fawal—In Fawal's first novel and its sequel, the story of the Palestinian *Nakba*, or "catastrophe," is told with poignancy and clarity. Following the narrative of one fictional family leading up to the events of the late 1940s and beyond, Fawal offers an important contribution of historical fiction that is written with an eye to the political dynamics at play and the personal realities and impacts of the end of the British mandate and the establishment of the State of Israel.
	*Apeirogon*, by Colum McCann—Evan as this book identifies as a novel, it is "true fiction" in that it relates the experience of two real people, Bassam and Rami, two fathers of murdered children, who speak together about their pain and preach reconciliation and peacebuilding. The book interweaves their stories with literature, science, music, and other related references and stories resulting an extremely creative and connected narrative that is moving, inspiring, and both hopeful and tragic. The reader will learn a lot, and find many moments of reflection and wisdom.
	*Against the Loveless World*, by Susan Abulhawa—In her third novel, Abulhawa writes a poignant and sharp story about Nahr, a Palestinian woman who has lived in exiled for much of her life, but as the story opens, the reader finds her in an Israeli jail cell. The book is written with an activist's bent, and is a profound rejection of traditional patriarchy—in the family, society, and politics. But it is also about love—for family and for Palestinian heritage, as well as the struggle for justice. Drawing on personal knowledge and family experience, Abulhawa is a brilliant storyteller, and the weaving of threads in this story illustrates that ability.
	*The Blue Between Sky and Water*, by Susan Abulhawa—A novel focusing on several generations of a 1948 refugee family now living in Gaza and in the diaspora, this novel is a haunting look at what it means to have been dispossessed of home, but is a hopeful ode to family. Forced to flee from their village, the Baraka family now lives in Gaza but with strands of the family elsewhere. The intergenerational connections are strong, and the familial ties resonate in this poetic novel.
	*Mornings in Jenin*, by Susan Abulhawa—This is an historical novel that focuses on the lives and experiences of several generations of a Palestinian family, going back to the mandate period and stretching to the 2000s. It employs a multiple-narration technique to convey the reality of the Palestinian experience. It has some very unexpected twists that add to its readability. This book was originally published as *Scar of David*.

	*Miral*, by Rula Jebreal—This auto-biographical novel spans mid- to late-20th century history in Palestine and Israel and is the gripping fictional story of Miral, a boarding student at Dar al-Tifl, a real school/orphanage in Jerusalem established by Hind Husseini following the Deir Yassin massacre in 1948. Through the narrative of Miral and those she comes in contact with, Jebreal treats a variety of issues in their historical context, especially the first *intifada*, leading up to the Oslo Agreements in 1993. It is hard to put down as the reader engages in making choices along with the protagonist and the other characters. [This novel has been made into a movie.]
	*My First and Only Love*, by Sahar Khalifeh—Alternating between time and narrators, this novel recounts the story of Nidal, a young/aging Palestinian woman who witnesses the events leading up to the *Nakba* as a child and then learns more about them as an adult after her return to her family home. This is historical fiction done very well, interspersing the Palestinian struggle against the British and the armed Jewish groups, and the story of an individual looking back and reflecting on it, on her live, and learning about her family.
	*The Woman from Tantoura*, by Radwa Ashour—In this epic novel, we meet Ruqayya in her youth, and follow her through her life, which mirrors Palestinian history. As a child, she witnesses (and is a victim of) the *Nakba*, and her displacement and family saga takes us through various places and times in the Palestinian story up until current times. This is a compelling read, and one that could be assisted by having a map of pre-1948 Palestine handy.
	*The Slightest Green*, by Sahar Mustafah—Telling to story across generations of a Palestinian family, the narrative centers around a land transaction and claim for inheritance. To do so, Mustafah introduces the reader to a grandmother in Palestine, a father in Palestine and the US, and a daughter, brought up and living in the US who visits Palestine. As the story unfolds, the Palestinian narrative of the *Nakba*, the 1967 war and further displacement, and then emigration are all told, and the experience of a young woman, Intisar, who by visiting reconnects with her family roots and people's history.
	*Animal Globe*, by Peter Sabella—"This is a complex historical, political-economic, socio-political, sociological story, written as a wonderfully readable allegorical, story. In it, Mr. Sabella addresses the history of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, as well as larger issues such as social status, class, race, and even climate change. It concludes with an especially thoughtful theological/spiritual/Biblical message, holding up Jerusalem as a hopeful place. Written for an audience and begging engagement with the narrative, the book is challenging and provocative." (from the published book)

	*The Parisian*, by Isabella Hammad—In this multi-generational novel spanning decades, Hammad has produced an important piece of literature that focuses on identity, displacement, and personal narrative. Set mostly in the early 20th century, this is a story of the relationship between the Middle East—and Palestine in particular—and the European West. It is also the story of an individual's soul torn between places and ideas. The character development is rich, and the narration is engrossing.
	*The Book of Disappearance*, by Ibtisam Azem—This story imagines the Israeli Jewish reaction if, one day, the Palestinian Israeli population simply disappeared, without warning and without any information. How would the Israeli Jewish population react? What would the Israeli government do? The novella is creative and leaves the reader with much to ponder. And while the story is about contemporary times, there is much in the narrative about the *nakba*, or the "catastrophe" of 1948, when Palestinians were forced from their homes, dispossessed of property and dispersed to neighboring countries and places.
	*Vanished*, by Ahmed Masoud—In this eloquent and humanizing novel, Masoud conveys the story of one man's quest to learn the fate of his father, by recording his story for his son. While fiction, the novel gives a clear sense of life in Gaza over the past few decades, and the internal Palestinian tensions and politics that have existed. Through the ties of family, neighbors, and friends, Masoud provides a moving and highly informative lens through which to glimpse a place whose access is highly restricted to much of the world today. In doing so, he helps the reader think of Gazans as people with aspirations and feelings, as opposed to statistics and generalized caricatures.
	*Days of Dust*, by Halim Barakat—Written by a prominent professor of sociology, this novel offers a very intimate perspective on the life of Palestinians during the 1967 War. Going to the level of the individual, the novel focuses on characters in different places in the Arab world during the days of the war itself. It is insightful and captivating.
	*Minor Detail*, by Adania Shibli—This is a short and harrowing story of the *Nakba* and of efforts to recover the history of the *Nakba*. Set in the Naqab Desert in 1949, the first half of the story recounts the fate of a young Palestinian woman who comes face to face with the nascent Israeli forces. The second half is from the point of view of a Palestinian woman who seeks to uncover what happened to the first Palestinian, 25 years to the day before she was born. This narrative illustrates a reality of the 1948-49 struggle, and later efforts to understand and preserve that history.

	*Khirbet Khizeh*, by Yizhar Smilansky—This novella tells the story of the expulsion of Palestinians during the 1948 war, from the point of view of an Israeli soldier. It is a haunting tale, and offers some insight on the refugee issue by a Jewish author who was born in Palestine before the establishment of Israel.