



The New Intifada: Resisting Israel's Apartheid

By Roane Carey, Noam Chomsky, Gila Svirsky, Alison Weir

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Frustrated by the failure of the peace process to end the Israeli occupation, and outraged by Ariel Sharon's invasion, with one thousand armed guards, of the Al-Aqsa holy site in East Jerusalem, the Palestinian population of Israel and the Occupied Territories rose up in September 2000. A new intifada has raged ever since.

In these pages, a group of writers and analysts, many of them directly involved in the conflict, trace the origins of the uprising, its consequences for the Palestinian people and the Israeli state, and its likely impact on the future of peace in the Middle East. They discuss the role of the United States in the conflict, pick apart the fraudulence of the Oslo accords, examine the brutal response of the Barak and Sharon governments, and critically appraise the strategy of the Palestinian leadership. In addition, several contributors provide eloquent first-hand reports from the front-line of the intifada—from the streets of Jerusalem and Gaza, to refugee camps in Lebanon and schools on the West Bank. Photographs provide searing testimony to the heroism and costs of the resistance. Maps illustrate the stranglehold Israel continues to exert over the Palestinian territories. The case for an international grassroots movement in support of Palestinian rights is made with urgency and persuasive clarity.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Even as the latest unrest in the Middle East passes its one-year anniversary, the war of words continues as well. As the South African comparison in the subtitle makes clear, the essays in this book (edited by the Nation's copy chief Carey), written mainly by journalists and activists, mostly but not all Palestinian, take an unabashedly pro-Palestinian (and largely anti-Israeli and anti-U.S.) perspective. Articles address the outbreak of the violence last fall, the history of the now-moribund Oslo peace accords and the "U.S. media bias" against the Palestinians, among other topics. Palestinian terrorism is explained as the only resort of a powerless population, while in one instance former U.S. officials are referred to as "Israel lobbyists." While the articles are expressly written to increase sympathy for the Palestinians, the careful reader can discover some nuances: in some essays, the Palestinian Authority and its leader, Yassir Arafat, are defended as having done all they could for peace; while in other pieces, the P.A. is charged with corruption and authoritarianism. Taken together, the essays boil down to one argument: the U.S. and Israel have been the main obstacles to a solution to the Israeli-Palestinian problem. As well-known intellectual and activist Chomsky writes in his introduction: "the United States and Israel have labored for thirty years to construct a system of permanent neo-colonial dependency." If this one-sided collection is any indication, there appears to be little hope of jump-starting the Middle East peace process any time soon. Photos and maps. (Oct.) Forecast: The tragedy at the World Trade Center will make most readers shudder at any attempt to justify terrorism which may cut into the book's already limited audience of confirmed leftists and perhaps the curious looking for an alternative view of the Middle East.

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From Library Journal

This is a timely story of the Al-Aqsa Intifada, the Palestinian uprising that began after the current Israeli prime minister's controversial visit to the Haram al-Sharif/Temple Mount in September 2000. Edited by Nation copy chief Carey, the book tells a compelling story of repression and resistance and of the triumphs and tragedies of ordinary Palestinians with extraordinary resolve to bring dignity to their daily lives. Contributors to this volume include distinguished activist academics, such as Edward Said and Noam Chomsky, as well as a number of other writers with a long history of either academic, journalistic, or activist involvement in Middle Eastern affairs, such as Robert Fisk, Sara Roy, and Azim Bishara. Although supportive of the plight of the Palestinians, the essays in this volume provide critical analyses of the Palestinian leadership and its tactics and strategies in the conflict. Vivid photographs and a very useful resource guide are also included. A balanced and up-to-date picture for today's world; highly recommended for academic and public libraries. Nader Entessar, Spring Hill Coll., Mobile, AL Psychology Cohn, Sanford J. & Barbara A. Kerr.

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Review

"The first time Beit Jala was shelled, people were surprised and wondered what had happened ... now Israel is threatening to blockade the Palestinian areas and prevent us from getting water, electricity, or fuel ... Children are the first victims of all this. No wonder they don't laugh from their hearts anymore. They've lost their childhoods, and their crime is that they are Palestinian."—Patricia Al-Teet, school student, Beit Jala, the West Bank

Users Review

From reader reviews:

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