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On Palestine



Synopsis

Operation Protective Edge, Israel's most recent assault on Gaza, left thousands of Palestinians dead and cleared the way for another Israeli land grab. The need to stand in solidarity with Palestinians has never been greater. Ilan PappÃ© and Noam Chomsky, two leading voices in the struggle to liberate Palestine, discuss the road ahead for Palestinians and how the international community can pressure Israel to end its human rights abuses against the people of Palestine. On Palestine is the sequel to their acclaimed book Gaza in Crisis. Noam Chomsky is widely regarded to be one of the foremost critics of US foreign policy in the world. He has published numerous groundbreaking books, articles, and essays on global politics, history, and linguistics. Since 2003 he has written a monthly column for the New York Times syndicate. His recent books include Masters of Mankind and Hopes and Prospects. Haymarket Books recently released updated editions of twelve of his classic books. Ilan PappÃ© is the bestselling author of The Ethnic Cleansing of Palestine: A History of Modern Palestine and The Israel/Palestine Question. Frank Barat is a human rights activist and author. He was the coordinator of the Russell Tribunal on Palestine and is now the president of the Palestine Legal Action Network. His books include Freedom is a Constant Struggle, Gaza in Crisis, Corporate Complicity in Israel's Occupation, and On Palestine.

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Customer Reviews

I became interested in the Middle East after 9/11. I first read the history of each country via my old Britannica encyclopedias circa 1970. Since I was friends with several engineering students sent by

the Shah of Iran in his efforts to modernize the country. Those people were very much like traditional Americans, respecting the girls they dated without trying to get sex, fun-loving, etc....They were abandoned upon the demise of the Shah. When the US decided to invade Iraq, I was stunned, as it reminded me of the old red coats against the hidden gorilla forces of the US. Washington said 8 Saudis caused the 9/11 destruction, and I wondered what that had to do with Saddam Hussein....The lie that weapons of mass destruction was eventually exposed, but only after the US military had destroyed most of the country, and killed untold numbers of innocents. No true Christian can approve of such barbarity, much less cause it...I read the history of Israel and "Against Our Better Judgment" gave the entire history of it. The US has now destroyed much of the Middle East in its 'War on Terror'.....Why? Why has such unhinged people as John McCain now demanded WW3 against Russia simply because Russia is supporting a legitimate government in Syria? The American people are now being led to believe all Arabs are evil, even though many in my area are average middle class families living in peace. Before Israel was created, Christians and Arabs had gotten along for centuries in Palestine. This book is a welcome addition to the warning bell being sounded around the world that the US is now the evil empire bent on total world dominance.

Human rights activist and coordinator of the Russell Tribunal on Palestine Frank Barat has brought together Noam Chomsky and the Israeli dissident historian Ilan Pappé for a follow up to their 2010 collaboration Gaza in Crisis. This time Barat has decided to change the format from being a collection of essays to a mix of interviews with both Chomsky and Pappé as well as individually authored essays. I'm not the greatest fan of the use of the interview format in book form (it works on radio/television: unfortunately places, but marginal stations, where Pappé and Chomsky don't get much if any airtime). Even for two authors as articulate and knowledgeable as Chomsky and Pappé undoubtedly are, the need to adlib produces a less direct and articulate text than the more studied and concise essays. Having both formats side by side in this edition clearly underlines that. Having said that the exchanges are still worthwhile reading with the differences in the two interviewees' opinions on the merits of the one/two state solution, and the limitations of using the Apartheid experience to describe relations between the Israelis and the Palestinians, keeping it interesting. Amongst the essays the highlight is Chomsky's address to the United Nations General Assembly last year which is a succinct account of developments in Palestine/Israel between the so called Israeli withdrawal from Gaza and last year's brutal assault on Gaza, and the US's role as the perennially dishonest broker.

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