



Model Arab League

Annotated Bibliography for Palestine

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This annotated bibliography was created to serve as a research resource for students taking part in the National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations' Model Arab League Program. With the understanding that research can be intimidating and time consuming, an effort was made to find a set of scholarly articles that give a detailed background and thorough account of the current situation for this League of Arab States member. Included are annotations designed to give a description of the source with the intention of students completing the research on their own. There has been an attempt to focus on more contemporary scholarship, specifically post-9/11 and post-2011 (so-called "Arab Spring") where possible, as these are two phenomena that fundamentally changed politics in the Arab world. These sources should provide students with a solid basis for understanding the country they are representing in both regionally and globally significant issues as well as the interests of other countries within the League of Arab States.

1. Issam Al-Khatib, Sana' Kamal, Basem Taha, Jamil Al Hamad, and Hatem Jaber, "Water – Health Relationships in Developing Countries: A Case Study in Tulkarem District in Palestine," *International Journal of Environmental Health Research*, Volume 13, Number 2, June 2003, pp. 199-206. •• The WHO says that water should be "easily accessible, adequate in quantity, free of contamination, inexpensive and readily available." While access to water is an issue in Palestine, even more pressing of an issue is access to clean, potable water. Groundwater is the main source of water for Palestinians, and a lack of proper sewage infrastructures leads to large amounts of waste dumping in open pits and/or on the side of roads. In consequence, Palestinian water sources are becoming contaminated with fecal coliform bacteria, causing many health problems in the population from gastro-intestinal to skin disorders. This article explains the extent to which some Palestinian water sources are contaminated and provides recommendations for improving their condition.
2. Harald D. Frederiksen, "A Federation of Palestine and Jordan: A Chance for Peace?" *Middle East Policy*, Volume 14, Number 2, Summer 2007, pp. 30-43. •• The creation of Israel after World War II fundamentally changed political, social, and resource dynamics in the Middle East. Palestinian refugees fled in huge numbers to neighboring Jordan, Syria, and Lebanon, and subsequent local wars would lead Israel to establish buffer zones for its security in southern Lebanon and the Golan Heights. As time went on and population demographics shifted, many began to see the emergence of what would become an apartheid state if the Israeli-Palestinian issue was not resolved. This article explains the issues that need to be addressed before any solution to the Israel-Palestinian conflict can be resolved, and covers the various historical legal frameworks that can be used as a basis for resolution and reparation.

3. Victoria Brittain, "A Palestine That Might Have Been," *Race & Class*, Volume 53, Number 3, January-March 2012, pp. 99-105. •• Mostly unknown in Western and/or American circles are the great number of journalists and academics who are publicly critical of Israel. This short article introduces the reader to some of these writers, and in doing so, familiarizes the reader with key figures on the Palestinian side of the issue. These include leaders of HAMAS, Fatah, and other leaders of civil society organizations including some focused on women. Finally, the author explains some of the unknown political maneuverings that have taken place, like the Israelis original stance on HAMAS, namely that the group would serve as a good counter to Fatah, a stance that would later come back to haunt them.
4. Walid Salem, "Civil Society in Palestine: Approaches, Historical Context and the Role of the NGOs," *Civil Society Challenges*, Volume 18, Number 2 & 3, 2012, pp. 17-23. •• Many believe that civil society is a prerequisite to the creation of a viable Palestinian state. With this established as a basis, there are three points of view regarding civil society in the Palestinian territories. Specifically, they are that Palestinian civil society does not really exist yet due to the many divisions among Palestinians, Palestinian civil society does exist already but is under-represented, and finally, that Palestinian civil society is established but is not at the level it should be. This article traces the history of Palestinian civil society (if there is any), and explains how these organizations have interacted with the Palestinian Authority over time.
5. Adnan Enshassi, "Construction Projects and the Environment in Palestine," *Building Research & Information*, Volume 25, Number 2, 1997, pp. 111-114. •• The Gaza Strip is in desperate need of development and especially in terms of housing, sewage, and shipping infrastructures. All development comes at a cost to the environment however, and this author is advocating for more environmental assessment and protection to be allocated for development projects in the Strip. While these assessments would be a great feature, one has to question the cost/benefit of conducting environmental assessments when people living there are so much in need, and the amount of control Gazans have over their development initiatives.
6. Timothy Seidel, "Development, Religion, and Modernity in Palestine-Israel," *CrossCurrents*, Volume 62, Issue 4, December 2012, pp. 424-441. •• The Israeli-Palestinian conflict is often framed in religious terminology, coloring it as a remnant of the so-called "Clash of Civilizations". Western aid organizations will go into Palestine to carry out their aid work, but because of their secular nature, they can perpetuate the clash of civilizations idea and be seen as secularizers more than aid workers. This article makes the case that much of aid work in Palestine runs into this issue from the outset, and that religious aid organizations, even if they are from the West, are better equipped to carry

out their work in Palestine because of the shared belief in God. So, while religion undoubtedly plays a role in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, it is by far more of a political struggle, demonstrated by these accounts in which Western but Christian religious aid organizations are given more legitimacy and freedom to work inside Palestine by Palestinians themselves.

7. Steven J. Rosen, "Kuwait Expels Thousands of Palestinians," *Middle East Quarterly*, Volume 19, Issue 4, September 2012, pp. 75-83. •• While Palestinian treatment at the hands of Israel has been very harsh, most people do not know that Palestinian treatment at the hand of other Arab countries has been nearly as bad. Palestinian refugees have been expelled from nearly every Arab state they fled to, and the worst expulsion to have taken place was that of Kuwait when Iraq invaded. In a "reckless move", the PLO endorsed Iraq's occupation of Kuwait and subsequently the Kuwaiti government embarked on an inter-Arab ethnic cleansing of Palestinians residing there. Without consensus from the international community, the UN, or even the Arab League, this expulsion went largely unnoticed and/or ignored. This author argues that this event reveals the "cynical Arab manipulation of the Palestinian cause."
8. Gordon A. Babst and Nicole M. Tellier, "One State or Two in Israel/Palestine: The Stress on Gender and Citizenship," *Arab Studies Quarterly*, Volume 34, Issue 2, March 2012, pp. 70-91. •• The division between Israel and Palestine has had a significant negative impact on human rights, and within human rights, the division has had an even worse impact on women's rights. In both Palestinian and Israeli societies, women have taken on a symbolic role as "makers of the nation". In this sense, women have become victims of reproductive politics, wherein the governments of both sides have made increased birthrates and fertility equivalent to nationalism and patriotism. This issue is exacerbated by the fact that the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is often framed as a religious conflict, and both sides use increasingly conservative scriptural interpretation to reinforce these policies. This article gives an overview of the manner in which the division between Israel and Palestine affect women, and argues that with increased political instability come decreased women's rights.
9. Ayman S. Hussein, "Prevalence of Intestinal Parasites Among School Children in Northern Districts of West Bank- Palestine," *Tropical Medicine and International Health*, Volume 16, Number 2, February 2011, pp. 240-244. •• Intestinal parasites are a global health problem, but their adverse effect on health is multiplied in developing countries lacking adequate healthcare. In Palestine, a wide range of intestinal parasites are found and cause severe health problems and possible death, especially among children. This study found that about 20-30% of Palestinian children in various areas of the West Bank and Gaza were infected with intestinal parasites, and that infection rates

were correlated to urban or rural living situation and levels of education. The author suggests implementation of health and sanitation education for both children and parents.

10. Hussein Al-Rimmawi, "Spatial Changes in Palestine: from Colonial Project to an Apartheid System," *African and Asian Studies*, Volume 8, Number 4, November 2009, pp. 375-412. •• Zionism is a political movement that dates back to the mid to late 1800's, well before the creation of the modern state of Israel in 1948. The colonization of Palestine by Jews initially began in small numbers and in relative peace, but in the wake of international persecution and Nazism, the number of Jews fleeing to Palestine would increase exponentially and cause social conflict. For a long time, Jewish colonization was politically acceptable because Palestine had been viewed by the West as "a land without people". The reality of the situation is becoming more widely known and accepted however, and Israel is quickly becoming what many would describe as an apartheid state. This article traces the long history of Zionism up to the present day and shows through a series of maps how the borders of Israel and Palestine have changed over time.
11. Chris Shinn, "Teacher Education Reform in Palestine: Policy Challenges amid Donor Expectations," *Comparative Education Review*, Volume 56, Number 4, Special Issue on the Local and the Global in Reforming Teaching and Teacher Education, November 2012, pp. 608-633. •• Throughout history, Education in Palestine has been administered by an outside source. Currently, Palestine is almost entirely dependent on international donor funding in order to finance its education system. While there is a vast array of education ministry regulations and standards for education, these are often very complex, contradictory, not localized, and may be different than those set by international donor organizations. Also lacking is an effective means of monitoring and evaluating teachers and professors, as well as a form of continuing education that would help education progress. This article details the various organizations that are responsible for education in the Palestinian territories, the projects they fund and work on, and the regulations and standards they set. It concludes by recommending that education policy shift from increasing access to improving quality.
12. Paul McCann, "The Role of UNRWA and the Palestine Refugees," *Palestine-Israel Journal of Politics, Economics and Culture*, Volume 15, Number 4, 2008, pp. 83-89. •• The condition of Palestinians was determined to be bad enough that a separate UN organization was created on their behalf: the UN Relief Works Agency (UNRWA). Unlike other UN agencies at the time of its creation, UNRWA delivered services directly and was meant to provide employment for refugees through various public works projects. Lack of development in terms of resolving the Israeli/Palestinian conflict however forced UNRWA to become a "quasi-governmental" organization without legislative powers. This article examines the history of UNRWA's presence in Palestine

and neighboring countries where Palestinian refugees are present, and argues that any peace settlement will need to be endorsed by the refugees themselves.

13. Kjell-Åke Nordquist, "Contradicting Peace Proposals in the Palestine Conflict," *Journal of Peace Research*, Volume 22, Number 2, June 1985, pp. 159-173. •• No study of Palestine would be acceptable if it did not contain an understanding of the various proposals that have arisen as possible solutions to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Both sides of the conflict appear to have irreconcilable demands, and so those proposals that have had any traction are worthy of note. This article critiques and categorizes these proposals and finds that there are four aspects of the conflict that must be addressed if a solution is to be durable, and among the various proposals, determines there to be four overarching ideas. These overarching ideas include Greater Israel, a Canton State, the Two State Solution, and Greater Palestine. The author examines the merits and drawbacks of each, and assesses their sustainability.