

O Jerusalem -- Postscript

Kudos to the Tacoma Sister Cities and the Blue Mouse for this film festival. And kudos to the Kiryat-Motzkin Committee for selecting this film, as it may serve as a vehicle to begin a discussion locally of the issues presented in the film.

The film 'O Jerusalem' is based on a book written in 1972. In the 1980s, Israeli documents were declassified that give us more, and in some cases different, information about the events depicted in the film as well as other events leading up to the establishment of Israel.

Because "reconciliation and peace must stand on a bedrock of truth," ^[1] we hope you will look through some of the now-declassified history brought to us by the Israeli "new historians" and others.

- It was not just the Jewish terrorist organizations, like the Irgun depicted in the film, that participated in massacres of non-Jews in Palestine. In 1947, David Ben-Gurion and the Haganah, featured prominently in the film, worked out Plan Dalet, that a number of historians say was intended "to expel as many Palestinians as possible." ^[2]
- "We must expel Arabs and take their places." David Ben-Gurion ^[3]
- "Let us not ignore the truth... we are the aggressors and they defend themselves... The country is theirs, because they inhabit it, whereas we want to come here and settle down, and in their view we want to take away their country." David Ben-Gurion ^[4]
- "400,000 [Arabs] were chased out and expelled during the first stage of the war... before the Arab armies invaded the country." Tom Segev, Israeli historian ^[5]
- In all, an estimated 700,000 to 800,000 non-Jewish residents of Palestine were expelled, or fled the massacres and violence. ^[6] Israeli historian Benny Morris expressed regret that Israel did not completely expel Palestine of its Arab majority in 1948. ^[16]
- An estimated 500 Palestinian villages were completely destroyed and erased from the map. <http://www.zochrot.org/index.php?id=341>

Israel's dispossession of Palestinian land and human rights continues to this day.

- Israel has been destroying water cisterns that are the only source of water for some Palestinians. ^[7] Last year, Israel destroyed at least 27 cisterns... ^[8] (See Youtube of Israeli soldiers demolishing cisterns: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5CpvE9IFlyU>)
- Israel has moved more than 500,000 Jews into new and illegal (per UN) settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPT) since 1967; meanwhile, more than 24,000 Palestinian homes in the OPT have been destroyed since 1967. ^[9] ^[10] ^[11] ^[12]
- And within Israel, non-Jews are being expelled to make way for a Jewish park! ^[13]
- The extraordinarily circuitous route of Israel's illegal separation wall is, among other things, taking precious Palestinian water and land. The wall is deemed illegal by the UN International Court of Justice, because it's built almost entirely on Palestinian land, NOT on the pre-1967 border. ^[17]

WHAT YOU CAN DO

A few additional books not already listed: An Israeli in Palestine by Jeff Halper; Blood Brothers, by Elias Chacour; The Ethnic Cleansing of Palestine by Ilan Pappé, Broken Promises, Broken Dreams by Alice Rothchild; The Holocaust is Over, We Must Rise from the Ashes by Avraham Burg; Popular Resistance in Palestine by Mazin Qumsiyeh

Websites:

Two online primers from Jewish American sources: Understanding the Palestinian-Israeli Conflict: A Primer by Phyllis Bennis: <http://www.endtheoccupation.org/article.php?list=type&type=52>. The Origin of the Palestine-Israel Conflict Published by Jews for Justice in the Middle East. <http://www.ifamericansknew.org/history/origin.html>

Also: www.theonlydemocracy.org; www.electronicintifada.net; www.stopthewall.org;
www.jewishvoiceforpeace.org; www.endtheoccupation.org; www.palestineinformation.org;

Consider boycott, divestment and sanctions (BDS). In 2005 a number of Palestinian NGO's got together and called for BDS, similar to what was done to South Africa during Apartheid. www.bdsmovement.net

See writer Alice Walker in Olympia on Friday, April 8 at 7:30 pm at the Washington Center for the Performing Arts. She will talk about the trip she took to Gaza in 2009.

DVD, Palestine for Beginners: <http://www.palestineonlinestore.com/films/palestineforbeginners.htm>

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If you would like a pdf of this leaflet so that you can easily click on any of the internet citations or resources, go to www.ufppc.org and search for 'O Jerusalem.'

Footnotes

(some good reading and websites)

- [1] Israeli Linda Dittmar in "Lights Vanish from Lifta," an essay in Shifting Sands: Jewish Women Confront the Israeli Occupation
- [2] Israeli Professor Ilan Pappé's book, The Ethnic Cleansing of Palestine; http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Plan_Dalet
- [3] David Ben-Gurion quoted in Shabtai Teveth, Ben-Gurion and the Palestine Arabs (New York: Oxford University Press, 1985), p. 189
- [4] pp 91-2 of Noam Chomsky's Fateful Triangle, which appears in Simha Flapan's Zionism and the Palestinians pp 141-2 citing a 1938 speech
- [5] http://www.richardsilverstein.com/tikun_olam/2010/07/19/tom-segev-reviews-benny-morris-new-book-1948/
<http://www.salem-news.com/articles/may172010/nakba-holocaust-em.php>
- [7] <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5CpvE9IFlyU> (total of 2:25; you can fast forward to 1:01)
- [8] UN condemns Israeli destruction of Palestinian water sources: <http://www.imemc.org/article/60580>
see also Thirsting for Justice: <http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/asset/MDE15/.../mde150282009en.pdf> and <http://cesr.org/search.php?AMPSearch=Search&fulltext=Occupied+Palestinian+Territories+and+water>
- [9] According to Israeli Committee Against House Demolitions: http://palestinechronicle.com/view_article_details.php?id=15740
- [10] Tacoma's Wayne Smith, volunteering with Ecumenical Accompaniment Program, blogging from the Occupied West Bank: <http://prayforthepeaceofjerusalem.wordpress.com/>
- [11] <http://unispal.un.org/unispal.nsf/47d4e277b48d9d3685256ddc00612265/d26069f9e56c29c38525783f00501c01?OpenDocument>
- [12] <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/02/13/AR2010021303451.html> and <http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5jDcVLN95US5vUWnPQ-xkeq7gtx-w?docId=CNG.0f2dd822954982bb57cab5b034071896.fd1>
- [13] <http://maxblumenthal.com/2011/02/tell-the-jewish-national-fund-to-stop-the-pogrom-against-al-arakib-call-them-now/>
- [14] <http://www.palestinemonitor.org/spip/spip.php?article1468>
- [15] <http://mondoweiss.net/2010/08/al-walaja-villagers-stop-construction-of-the-wall-while-soldiers-attack-protesters-including-children.html>
- [16] Ha'aretz - <http://www.haaretz.com/survival-of-the-fittest-1.61345>
- [17] <http://www.stopthewall.org>