

A New Literary Look At The Middle East

About This Issue

In 1977, The Link devoted an entire issue to "A Literary Look at the Middle East." 14 years later, we're back for an update.

The '77 issue proved a turning point in A.M.E.U.'s Book Program. It led to major financial support for the program, to the publication of an annual catalogue, and to a 1400%-plus increase in book sales between then and now.

In this issue we'd like to tell you about some of these books: which ones have become our 'classics' [See our 1,000-Plus List on page 5], which are today's Best Buys [page 3], which are popular with teachers [page 7], with church groups [6], and which are hot off the press [page 4]. Among the latter, two are reviewed: Michael Palumbo's *Imperial Israel*, reviewed on page 12 by Muhammad Hallaj, and Gloria Emerson's *Gaza: A Year in the Intifada*, reviewed on page 13 by Grace Halsell. Our videocassette offerings—a category not around in our pre-VHS '77 issue—is on page 15.

One of our 'competitors' in this 'book business' is the American Educational Trust, publishers of The Washington Report. Truth to tell, they do have *some* good books. Well, OK, several good books. But their best buy of all is The Washington Report itself. Had you to pick two Middle East publications to subscribe to, The Washington Report would have to be your second pick! For all the necessary information, see page 11.



The Executive Director of A.M.E.U. in 1977 was the Rev. John Sutton, a Methodist minister, who served as A.M.E.U.'s Executive Director from 1967 to 1978 and on its Board of Directors from 1978 until his death this past March. This is one of those times for me when words get in the way of feelings. Be that as it may, on page 2 are a few words in memory of my friend.

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In Memoriam

John Marshall Sutton, 1925-1991



John Sutton was A.M.E.U.'s Executive Director from 1969 to 1978.

The organization was two years old at the time, a nucleus of supporters who esteemed the culture and peoples of the Middle East and wanted to share their knowledge with other Americans. During his nine years here, John increased the Link's readership to 35,000 and laid the foundations for all of A.M.E.U.'s other information programs.

From 1978 to 1984, John served as President of the Near East Foundation, America's oldest private organization providing technical assistance and rural development overseas. In 1984, he and his wife, Ann, went to Tantur, in Palestine, where he worked on the staff of the Ecumenical Institute for Theological Research. On his return in 1988, he was appointed minister of the First Methodist Church of Greenfield, Massachusetts.

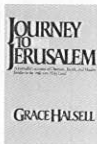
Those who knew John, knew he was so much more than the sum of his jobs. He actually felt the pain of others—and their joy. "When does the service begin?" a stranger is said to have asked a Quaker on entering a meetinghouse. "When we leave the church," came the reply. John knew that, too.

He is survived by his wife, Ann, and four children.

And he leaves behind a host of friends, many on our mailing list, and all of those listed on this page.

CURRENT BEST PRICES

In 1979, a woman came to AMEU's office with a manuscript of her book that was to be published by the McMillan Co.



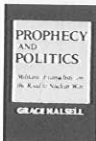
I recall reading the box of pages on my train ride home and was so caught up in Grace Halsell's *Journey to Jerusalem* I nearly missed my stop.

A few years later, Grace wrote a second book, *Prophecy and Politics*, showing the links between right-wing Israelis and U.S. televangelists. This book was to become our alltime best seller, with *Journey* placing third. Our combined distribution of her two books is now over 25,000.

Both are still available and at substantial discount prices. *Journey*, in paperback, goes for 70% off the retail price, and *Prophecy*, of which we have less than 50 cloth copies left, for 33% off.

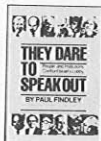
A note in passing: all A.M.E.U. prices quoted in this issue include postage and handling.

Another good buy that has been largely overlooked by our readers is Robert Friedman's book, *The False Prophet: Rabbi Meir Kahane: From FBI Informant to Knesset Member*. This book is as much about the Rabbi's movement as it is about the life of the founder of the Jewish Defense League and his racist Kach party. Friedman exposes the U. S.



businessmen and politicians who support Kahane's policies, plus he has an important chapter on the killing of the American, Alex Odeh. We believe it is a significant work and are offering the hardcover edition at a 60% reduction.

Number #6 on our 1,000-Plus List is Paul Findley's *They Dare To Speak Out*. I remember listening to the radio on May 18, 1985 and hearing CBS correspondent Mike Wallace quote the former Illinois



congressman as saying that it had been hard to find a publisher for his book: "The big houses wouldn't touch it. They didn't want trouble with the book distributors, the wholesalers and the book chains." Wallace said he checked out Findley's allegations with publishers and was told, off the record, "What Findley says is true."

One of AMEU's goals since 1967 has been to make such books accessible and affordable for the general public. Paul Findley's case study of pro-Israeli attempts to stifle American criticism of Israeli policies, now with an 1989 update, is still enormously popular, and we are pleased that we can still offer it at a reduced price.

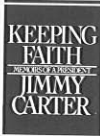
Two years ago, we ran out of David Hirst's *The Gun and the Olive Branch*. It had been another of our top sellers—#4th on our 1,000-Plus List—with a proven record among college teachers who found the prose readable and the history balanced. In its place, we have been recommending David McDowall's



Palestine and Israel: The Uprising and Beyond, published last year by the University of California Press. It's in hardback, lists for \$24.95 and we have slightly over 100 copies left. Our price, again including postage and handling, is \$12.95.

Nine years ago, President Jimmy Carter published his memoirs, *Keeping Faith*, in which he accuses Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin of breaking his Camp David promises on Jerusalem, the settlements and the Palestinian refugees. 20 of these books remain in stock, 10 with the President's own signature. We will send the autographed copies to the first ten who order them, with the hope that customers eleven and up won't be too upset.

Later in this issue we will talk about a recent publication from Temple University Press on the history of organized American Jewish opposition to Zionism. One who played—still plays—a monumental role in that opposition is Rabbi Elmer Berger. Recently some of his friends—including international lawyer W. Thomas Mallison and Human Rights activist Israel Shahak—contributed to a volume in his honor. *Anti-Zionism: Analytical Reflections*, edited by Rosette Tekiner, et. al., contains timeless essays



on Zionism vs. democracy in Israel, the 'Who is a Jew' controversy, the Freedom of Information Act vs. U.S. closure of P.L.O. offices, and the Israel-South Africa alliance. Retailing at \$19.95, our price for this hardcover edition is \$8.50.

Dr. Israel Shahak, a survivor of the Nazi concentration camps, is chairperson of the Israeli League for Human and Civil Rights. When the Palestinian uprising began, the atrocities committed by the Israeli army of occupation were so barbarous that the League feared that most people wouldn't believe them. So, it decided to translate the eyewitness accounts by Israelis themselves that appeared in the mainstream Hebrew press. These translations, edited by Professor Norton Mezvinsky of Central Connecticut State University, with an introduction by Dr. Shahak, were published by our organization under the title: **1988-1989 Report: Human Rights Violations During the Palestinian Uprising.** Thousands of copies were sold, making it #10 on our Best Sellers List. Copies of the 87-page Report are still available at \$3.00.



Finally, we still have in stock two 'classics', both twenty or so years old, both out of print and both milestones in the popular literature on Palestine: **The Evasive Peace: A Study of the Zionist/Arab Problem** by Dr. John Davis, appointed by President Eisenhower as the first Commissioner General for Palestine and **The Unholy Land**, by A. C. Forrest, a prominent Canadian columnist and author. Both are available for \$4.15 each, while they last.

Another note in passing: some of A.M.E.U.'s books, for example, **Halsell's Journey to Jerusalem,**

Friedman's False Prophet, and **Findley's They Dare To Speak Out** are available in quantity orders at even lower prices.

NEW OFFERINGS

We transported some of our books to Alexandria, Virginia this past May for the annual convention of the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee. We decided to take three cartons of Albert Hourani's new work, **A History of the Arab Peoples.**



After all, we reasoned, it had 'made' it to the New York Times Best Sellers List. We went through all three cartons and took orders for four more

which we mailed out from our New York office. Years from now, in our *third* literary look at the Middle East, I suspect that this volume by the distinguished Oxford University historian will be enshrined as one of the definitive works on Middle East history.

One historian, whom I have had the pleasure of meeting, is Michael Palumbo. While uncovering the Waldheim files in the U. N. archives, Michael came across reports by neutral observers in 1948 confirming Ben-Gurion's plan for Zionists to 'expel the Arabs and take their place.' Palumbo has reported all this in his book, **The Palestinian Catastrophe: The 1948 Expulsion of a People from their Homeland.**

Now Palumbo has written another equally fine work, **Imperial Israel: The History of the Occupation of the West Bank & Gaza.** It is a disturbing book which shows how the '67 war, far from being forced on Israel, was but the next stage in its long planned colonization of the West Bank and Gaza. Through an

agreement with the London publisher, A.M.E.U. is the sole U.S. outlet for this book. See review by Muhammad Hallaj on page 12.

The application of international law to Israel's occupation is presented in John Quigley's **Palestine and Israel: A Challenge to Justice**, published by Duke University Press. Link readers may recall that Quigley, a law professor at Ohio State University, authored our September-October 1989 issue on "The International Crimes of Israeli Officials."

Quigley, in his discussion of the ancient claims of Jews to Palestine, makes reference to Arthur Koestler's **The Thirteenth Tribe: The Khazar Empire and its Heritage.** A.M.E.U.



carried this book by the renowned Jewish author when it first appeared in 1976; we are now pleased to reintroduce it in its paperback reprint.

We also have two new entries

in children's literature: **The Arabs:**

Activities for the Elementary School Level, a spiralbound edition by Audrey Shabbas, et. al., providing hands-on projects for empowering children to value themselves and others; and **The Flag Balloon** by Frances Stickle, with illustrations by Janet Townsley, an inspiring story of freedom set amid the Palestinian uprising. The latter makes a fine gift for younger members of the family; the former, by a highly



continued on page 6

A.M.E.U.'s 1,000 - Plus List

* 1. PROPHECY AND POLITICS
Grace Halsell

* 2. BLOOD BROTHERS
Elias Chacour

* 3. JOURNEY TO JERUSALEM
Grace Halsell

4. THE GUN AND THE OLIVE BRANCH
David Hirst

* 5. WHOSE PROMISED LAND
Colin Chapman

* 6. THEY DARE TO SPEAK OUT
Paul Findley

* 7. THE T.V. ARAB
Jack Shaheen

8. JEWS AND AMERICAN POLITICS
Stephen Isaacs

* 9. THE ZIONIST CONNECTION II
Alfred Lilienthal

* 10. THE ISRAELI LEAGUE FOR HUMAN AND CIVIL
RIGHTS 1988-1989 HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT
Norton Mezvinsky, ed.

11. ASSAULT ON THE LIBERTY
James Ennes

12. THE LOBBY: JEWISH POLITICAL POWER
AND AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY
Edward Tivnan

* Still available through A.M.E.U.

regarded educational consultant, is like for K through grade 6, across the curriculum.

A.M.E.U. tries to keep its book prices under \$20. Occasionally, we break that barrier when we feel a book contains documentation particularly useful for teachers and libraries. The *Population of Palestine: Population History and Statistics of the Late Ottoman Period and the Mandate* by Justin McCarthy is such a book. Published in 1990 by Columbia University Press, it authoritatively refutes the claims made a few years ago by Joan Peters [Link, vol. 18, 1]. According to McCarthy, the Ottoman citizen population of Palestine in 1914 was somewhat larger than assumed (722,000 vs. 650,000), while the citizen and non-citizen Jewish population was smaller than believed (60,000 vs. 85,000), of whom about 33,000 were recent Zionist settlers. McCarthy also refutes Peters's contention that a large part of the Arab population of Palestine at the end of the Mandate was composed of recent illegal immigrants.

Jews who criticize Israeli policies have their own stories to tell of difficulties encountered all along the U.S. publishing route, from getting into print to getting the print into bookstores. We estimate that 20% of all books we've carried over the past 24 years have been by Jewish authors. Two new ones are introduced in this issue:

Tough Jews, by Professor Paul Breines of Boston College, is a tough love look at Jewish justification for brutalizing Palestinians. Put bluntly, writes Breines, this is a strat-



egy that "evokes the Holocaust's Jewish corpses in order to rationalize Israel's Palestinian corpses." Breines goes on to show how this post-Holocaust, pro-Israel machismo is corroding traditional Jewish values.

Those Palestinian corpses Breines speaks of are poignantly resurrected in *Gaza: A Year in the Intifada: A Personal Account from an Occupied Land* by Gloria Emerson. This book first came to my attention when a friend told me it brought him near to tears. My friend, an Irishman well versed himself in Israel's occupation, ordered five copies. A review of the Emerson book appeared in the May 18th New York Times. We asked Grace Halsell to review it for us. Both Emerson and Halsell prefer living with the people they write about and both came to Palestine via their Vietnam reporting. The Halsell review appears on page 13.

Finally we have two new books on U.S.-Middle East Relations:

In the mid-'80s, Professor George Lenczowski conducted a seminar at the University of California, Berkeley, in which he focused on the pivotal role played by successive U.S. presidents from Truman to Reagan in the formulation of America's Middle East policy. Encouraged by the response, Professor Lenczowski has now written *American Presidents and the Middle East*, published by Duke University Press. It is easy to see why the students liked the seminar. Few studies have traced the linkage between America's domestic politics and its Middle East foreign policy so lucidly, or so readably.

If Professor Lenczowski gives us the story of U.S.-Israeli relations, An-

drew and Leslie Cockburn give us the story-behind-the-story in *Dangerous Liaison: The Inside Story of the U.S.-Israeli Covert Relationship*. One of the book's revelations, particularly intriguing for those of us here in New York, is that, in 1980, the National Security Agency intercepted conversations between then-Mayor Ed Koch and former Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin, who "was advising" Koch "on the best means of defeating the president of the United States" when President Carter campaigned in the city.

Which seems like a good place to conclude this section on New Offerings.

RELIGIOUS THEMES

Yet another note in passing: The Link has a general mailing of just under 50,000. Not all are paid subscriptions and, unfortunately, with costs in printing and postage skyrocketing, we are unable to send every issue to the entire mailing list. We estimate that 25% of our readers have some educational affiliation and that 25% to 30% have a church-related interest in the Middle East and in human rights concerns. A.M.E.U. works closely with these churches and groups and this is reflected in the books we carry.

The book that placed second on our 1,000-Plus list is Colin Chapman's *Whose Promised Land?*, a paperback first published by a small London press back in 1983. Without our ever reviewing it, *Whose Promised Land?* became one of those word-of-mouth books that continues each year to sell well. The

reason, we think, is because of its approach. The first half presents the Palestine-Israel conflict in a concise Question & Answer format in which advocates for both sides are allowed to state their case in their own words; the second half focuses on the question whether Jews have a divine right to Palestine. At present, the book is being reprinted. We are told it will be available by year's end.



Already, we have 25 orders on back-order and will accept new ones. We cannot promise, however, exactly when *Whose Promised Land?* will be delivered.

Last November, the editor of *God's Word Today*, a Catholic Monthly, called to say he was preparing an issue on the Book of Joshua and would we mind if he recommended to his readers five of our books. When his issue came out in February we sold over 1,400 books. One was Chapman's (which explains why it is now out of print); another was Father Elias Chacour's

Blood Brothers

Father Chacour, a Palestinian priest, whose village was destroyed on Christmas Day 1951, offers a gripping account of what really happened at the birth

of Israel. This is another word-of-mouth book, whose strong sales year after year have made it our second all-time best seller. Recently, Chacour has come out with a new book, *We Belong To The Land*, which updates his compelling quest for reconciliation between Palestinian Arabs and Jews. Both books are available from A.M.E.U.

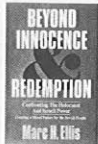
Marc Ellis is a Jewish theologian who directs the Justice and Peace

Program at the Maryknoll School of Theology in Maryknoll, New York. [Contrary to identification given in our last issue of *The Link* which he wrote for us, Marc is not a Rabbi.] This past May, I had the opportunity to hear Marc speak at Fordham University. He is, I believe, one of the most articulate and brave voices challenging Israeli policies in America today. His first book, *Toward a Jewish Theology of Liberation*, confronts the scandal between the ethical ideas embedded in the prophetic tradition and the sins committed in the name of Israeli empowerment. His latest book, *Beyond Innocence & Redemption: Confronting the Holocaust and Israeli Power*, published by Harper & Row, examines how 'Holocaust theology' has served Zionism as a tool for victimizing others. Marc's



Link article, by the way, turned out to be one of our most popular issues ever.

Marc has declared his views in Israel itself. One who heard him, an Episcopal Canon, approached him and invited him to his home. The two have since become friends and, with Marc's help, the Palestinian priest, Canon Naim Ateek, found a publisher for his own book, *Justice and only Justice: A Palestinian Theology of Liberation*. The first part of this book is on the political-historical background and is particularly useful for readers unfamiliar with Palestine's history. His following chapters on the biblical promises, the demands of justice and the basis for peace are excellent.



Another work that covers much the same ground but from a Catholic tradition is *The Wrath of Jonah: The Crisis of Religious Nationalism in the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict* by Rosemary Radford Ruether and Herman Ruether.

Brother Patrick White is a Catholic who writes of the Palestinian uprising from within. White, a teacher at Bethlehem University on the West Bank, gives a moving account of what it is like to live under Israeli occupation in his *Let Us Be Free: A Narrative Before and During the Intifada*.

The Palestinian Christian community, which traces its roots back to the apostles, is today being destroyed. A popular history of this community, and of all the churches in the Middle East and North Africa, is presented in Norman Horner's *Guide to Christian Churches in the Middle East*. The Guide also includes the latest population figures that attest to the dwindling Christian presence in the Holy Land.

Finally, we have three books on Islam: *God Is One: The Way of Islam* by R. Marston Speight offers a readable introduction to Muslim faith and practice; *Striving Together: A Way Forward in Christian-Muslim Relations* by Charles Kimball is ideal for interfaith discussions; and *Islam the Straight Path* by John Esposito provides both an introduction to Islam and an overview of Islamic influence on contemporary politics.



SCHOOLS/ TEACHERS

A.M.E.U. is listed in several national resource guides for teachers. Since last August, the number of requests has quadrupled. Often the questions are about history: Kuwait's links to Iraq; Lebanon's ties to Syria; Jordan's relation to Palestine. One of the most fascinating



books to explore these questions is David Fromkin's *A Peace To End All Peace: The Fall of the Ottoman Empire and the Creation of the Modern Middle East*. It is an intriguing tale of diplomatic double-dealing, military incompetence and political chaos.

The essence of this information has been distilled in Malcolm Russell's *The Middle East and South Asia 1990*, an imprint in The World Today Series. This is particularly useful for social studies teachers on the primary and secondary levels. The introductory sections offer a good survey of Middle East history from the dawn of civilization, followed by individual profiles of today's states and territories, plus maps and illustrations.

For students in the intermediate grades, a delightful introductory survey is found in Juanita Soghikian's *Lands, Peoples and Communities of the Middle East*. It includes 30 lesson topics, 156 clear line-drawings of people and places, and 13 maps.

Readers looking for more in-depth works on individual Middle East countries might consider the

following:

On Iran: This country continues to haunt the U.S. media. In May, Gary Sick, former national security advisor under President Carter, wrote in a *New York Times* *op. ed.* piece that he had come to take seriously reports that Reagan campaign operatives had struck a deal with Iranian officials to delay the release of U. S. hostages until after the 1980 elections. Also, in May, a former Israeli intelligence officer, Ari Ben-Menashe, told House Judiciary Committee investigators that Robert McFarlane, President Reagan's national security advisor who first proposed the Iran-Contraband deal, was a paid agent of Israel and the contact person for convicted Israeli spy Jonathan Pollard. For the historical background to these stories I know of no better single volume than James Bill's *The Eagle and the Lion: The Tragedy of American-Iranian Relations*, published by Yale University Press. At \$25 [\$16.75 from A.M.E.U.], it's on the expensive side—most



University books are. But for scholarship, prose and intrigue, this work by the director of The College of William & Mary's Center for International Studies is masterful. "Essential reading," is what Rep. Lee Hamilton, Chairman of the Subcommittee on Europe and the Middle East, has called it.

For a view of life inside Iran as lived during the Khomeini rule, we also recommend Robin Wright's perceptive chronicle, *In the Name of God: The Khomeini Decade*.

On Lebanon: The seeds of this country's bloody civil war, the Israeli occupation in the south and the search for a fragile peace are intelligently set forth in Tabitha Petran's

The Struggle Over Lebanon. It "provides valuable and shocking information, as well as searching analysis, not available elsewhere," says M.I.T. Professor Noam Chomsky.

On Palestine: For junior high-school and up (as well as armchair readers) we recommend *Palestine Today*, a collection of nine easy-to-read booklets, edited and designed by the artist, Kamal Boullata. Each booklet focuses on a particular aspect of Palestine: its history, people, culture, resources, international relations, and its divisions since 1948.

A more comprehensive volume on Jerusalem itself is found in *Jerusalem in History*, edited by K. J. Asali. It covers nine periods in the history of the Holy City, from 3000 BC up to 1987.

Yet another note in passing: A.M.E.U. has a Matching Gift Program whereby we will match a gift of \$75.00 and send a collection of books worth \$150.00 to the library of the donor's choice.

AUDIO/VISUALS

Episcopal Bishop Charles Vache of the Diocese of Southern Virginia wrote in his diocesan paper last May that Israel's treatment of Palestinians "approaches genocide of the type which the Jews experienced in the late 30s and early 40s in Germany. Churches were sinfully silent then and millions suffered. We must speak out now."

The bishop came under strong criticism from Jewish leaders. But



then, an unprecedented thing happened. Three other Virginia bishops came to his defense. Bishop Thomas B. Stockton, head of the Virginia Conference of the United Methodist Church said in a public letter that "not only does Israel violate action taken by the United Nations, but it violates fundamental biblical guidelines as to how human beings should treat other human beings." Next, Episcopal Bishop W. Heath Light of the Diocese of Southwestern Virginia spoke up: "I share the perception that there appears to be a considerable amount of injustice going on." Roman Catholic Bishop Walter F. Sullivan also declared publicly that Vache "had raised valid concerns for the welfare of the Palestinians."

What all three bishops had in common were their on-sight inspection. They had *seen* the violations with their own eyes. Now, several of these major Christian churches have produced the sights and sounds of the Palestinian tragedy on tape. These include:



Truth, Justice and Peace

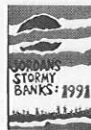
Truth, Justice and Peace, produced by Lois Pinneo and George Conklin of the Episcopal Diocese of California, is a 30-minute documentary of the beatings and daily

oppression of Palestinians living under Israel's military occupation. I will always remember the scene shot in Jerusalem's Maqassed Hospital of the blue inflated legs and pitiful cry of a young girl beaten with clubs. The film has been widely distributed to church groups throughout the country. An earlier 30-minute cassette by Pinneo & Conklin, *The Forgotten Faithful*, reminds Christians that their brothers and sisters in Palestine, representing an historic presence in the Holy Land, are being uprooted.



Built of Living Stones

documentary itself graphically tells the story of Palestinian churches—Catholic, Orthodox and Protestant—struggling for survival. A featured interview with Father Elias Chacour, author of *Blood Brothers* and *We Belong To The Land*, is also very moving.



Jordan's Stormy Banks: 1991 is a 30-minute production of the Presbyterian Church and is ideal for discussion groups, in part, because it

raises one of the moral issues that was also raised by the three Virginia bishops, namely, the fact that U.S. taxpayers are subsidizing the occupation and colonization of Palestinian land.



Amnesty International's educational home video "Israel and the Occupied Territories," presents a straightforward 20-minute documentary on Israeli human rights abuses during the Palestinian uprising. Produced in 1989, it features interviews with human rights lawyers, doctors, political prisoners and commentators such as New York columnist, Anthony Lewis.

Our office receives daily fax updates from Palestine. Usually, they begin with the names of the women that day who aborted from inhaling poison tear gas. Other intifada-re-

Built of Living Stones is a 57-minute documentary produced by Anne Burke of the Catholic Archdiocese of Oklahoma City. The photography here is outstanding and the

lated atrocities follow. How Palestinian medical services care for those living under military occupation is the subject of **A Letter from Palestine**, a 28-minute documentary that was barred from most public T.V. stations in the United States.



Children of Fire, a 50-minute video, was shown at the American-

Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee Convention we attended and we quickly sold all the ones we had brought with us. Commissioned by BBC television, it is about life under curfew. Having snuck into Nablus where they hid for a month, the film crew captures the real meaning of confinement in the faces and voices of the children. London's Daily Express reflected: "If you closed your eyes you could have been witnessing the Nazi occupation of the Warsaw ghetto."

In March of this year, A.M.E.U. sponsored an "Evening of Palestinian Heritage" in Fairfield, New Jersey. It was one of the most inspiring events I have ever attended. The highlight of the evening was a presentation of traditional Palestinian dresses from the Munayyer collection. At a time of despondency over events in Palestine, this was a moment to celebrate a noble history, recorded with needle and thread, dating back centuries. That legacy has now been presented on video-cassette by Farah and Hanan Munayyer and is available through A.M.E.U. If one picture is worth a thousand words, then Palestinian



Costumes and Embroidery: A Precious Legacy speaks volumes.

OTHER BOOKS

Our full catalogue appears at the end of this issue. It includes books, remainders of books we have carried over the years, and pamphlets. In some cases the supply is limited. We do have a number of the following, however, which deserve special mention.

The Zionist Connection or its update, *The Zionist Connection II*, is the reference work on Zionist influence in America. The leaves of my own copy attest to the number of times I have thumbed its index for a particular name or event. I doubt I'm alone. Alfred Lilienthal's encyclopedic work—a 1,000-Plus A.M.E.U. listing—continues to sell well.

For a superb history of the early anti-Zionist movement in America we recommend Thomas Kolsky's *Jews Against Zionism: The American Council for Judaism, 1942-1948*. Published by Temple University Press, The New York Times reviewer called it "absorbing and challenging." We agree with that reviewer of the newspaper of record. Retailing at \$39.95 we sell it for \$25.95.

Slightly lower in price is Izzat Tannous's *The Palestinians: Eyewitness History of Palestine under British Mandate*. I had the privilege of knowing Dr. Tannous, a Palestinian diplomat who negotiated with the British on the White Paper

of 1939 and who played a leading role in all the major events in Palestine up to 1949. This is a story-behind-the-story account that you will not find elsewhere.

Every so often a book sits on our shelf without moving. Then it soars. This happened with Simha Flapan's *The Birth of Israel*. First published in 1987, it wasn't until last year that we called Random House to reorder and were told it had been remaindered to a distributor in California. The distributor said he had 386

copies. We took 100. Six weeks later we had to order 100 more. Five weeks after that we called to take the last 186 copies and were told they were all gone. We now have about 60 copies left. Why the sudden interest? Flapan was one of the first Israeli scholars to draw upon recently declassified material that put the lie to the prevailing myths that the Zionists welcomed the partition of Palestine; that the Palestinians fled voluntarily in 1948; that the Arab states united to expel Jews from Palestine; that Israel has always sought peace but no Arab leader has ever responded. We hope this book is reprinted soon.

In the year 132, the Jewish Warrior, Bar Kokhba, led a revolt that resulted in a monumental calamity for his people. In the year 1983, Major General Yehoshafat Harkabi, former Israeli Chief of Military Intelligence, analysed the Bar Kokbar revolt and concluded that today's Jewish leaders may be repeating yesteryear's mistake. As history, *The Bar Kokhba Syndrome: Risk and Realism in International Politics* is riveting; as a paradigm for modern Zionism it is most instructive.

Instructive, too, is Victor



Strotsky's best-selling *By Way of Deception: The Making and Unmaking of a Mossad Officer*. What happens when the Bar Kokhba syndrome guides Israel's elite intelligence service is narrated here in chilling detail: how the Mossad has penetrated the U.S. Jewish community; how its agents facilitate the international drug trade; how it withheld information on the whereabouts of American hostages, etc. Perhaps the only thing not surprising about this book is Israel's mid-night attempt to suppress its distribution in the United States.

A startling report by another Israeli



not afraid to ask fundamental questions is found in *The Yellow Wind* by David Grossman. Portions of this book first appeared in *The New Yorker*. After spending three months on the West Bank in Palestinian camps and Israeli settlements, Grossman telegraphs his conclusions in the title of his book: the yellow wind, according to Arab myth, is a hot and terrible east wind from the gate of hell which comes once in a few generations, sets the world afire, finds those it seeks, those who have performed cruel and unjust deeds, and exterminates them, one by one. This is a respected journalist's version of the Bar Kokhba syndrome at work.

Viewers of the recent PBS series by Bill Moyers on Arab stereotyping will recall Jack Shaheen, the soft-spoken, articulate professor of mass communications at Southern Illinois University. In 1980, Jack wrote one of the most frequently requested is-



uses of The Link on "The Arab Stereotype on Television." Four years later, he came out with his book, *The TV Arab*. Now in paperback, it is one of the standard works on Arab stereotyping. (It is also #7 on our 1,000-Plus List, and still going strong.)

Prime Minister Begin reportedly once told President Reagan, "You take care of the White House, I'll take care of Congress." The situation has not changed under President Bush. Writing in the Sunday New York Times of June 16, 1991, correspondent Joel Brinkley reports: "Congress, ever sensitive to powerful interest groups, usually goes along with the American Jewish groups' demands." And, notes Brinkley, despite Prime Minister Shamir's scuttling of Secretary Baker's peace plan last year, U. S. aid to Israel actually went up by more than 50% in the following months.

The workings of this pro-Israel lobby are documented in Richard Curtis's *Stealth PACs: How Israel's American Lobby Seeks to Control U.S. Middle East Policy*. Written by a former U.S. foreign service officer,

this research identifies the 124 pro-Israel PACs established since 1976, of which only six mention the Middle East, Israel, Judaism or Zionism in their titles.

For readers looking ahead to December we have several books that make thoughtful gifts. In addition to the Hourani book noted on page 4, we suggest:

Faithful Witnesses: Palestinian Children Recreate Their World, a 9 3/4" x 5 3/4" illustrated collection of sketches by Palestinian school children. The commentary is by Kamal Boullata, a well known Palestinian artist, whose prose reads like poetry. Life Magazine called it "touching, often disturbing."

The Palestinians: Oppression and Resistance of a Disinherited People, by photojournalist, Georg Stein, is a 9 1/4" x 10 1/2" collection of 129 photographs of Palestinian women, men and children from the refugee camps in Jordan and Lebanon and the occupied lands of the West Bank and Gaza. The text is also in German, French and Spanish.

For the history buffs we have the

three volume work by former Time Magazine editor, Donald Neff. This includes: **Warriors at Suez: Eisenhower Takes America into the Middle East in 1956; Warriors for Jerusalem: The Six Days That Changed the Middle East in 1967; and Warriors Against Israel: How Israel Won the Battle to Become America's Ally 1973.**

Also available is the two volume



work by Stephen Green: **Taking Sides: America's Secret Relations with a Militant Israel; and Living By the Sword: America and Israel in the Middle East.**

The Genius of Arab Civilization: Source of Renaissance is a 6 1/2" x 9 1/2", handsomely illustrated survey of the Arab contribution to civilization. Edited by John Hayes, it contains splendid articles by authorities in the fields of history, philosophy, art, technology, music, medicine, trade and commerce.

Lastly, to leave this literary survey with a good taste in our mouths, we recommend *Food From Biblical Lands: A Culinary Trip to the Land of Bible History*. This is an 8" x 10" illustrated collection of 250 recipes adapted for the American kitchen by Helen Corey, author of a previous award-winning cookbook. Here are not just recipes; they are recipes sprinkled with wonderful anecdotes and savored with insights into that culture we have come to call Middle Eastern or Near Eastern.

A final note in passing: If you're in New York City, come visit us. We're located up by Columbia University. Browse among the books we've talked about. Have a cup of tea. Good books, after all, are said to make good friends.

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Book Views

IMPERIAL ISRAEL: The History of the Occupation of the West Bank and Gaza

by Michael Palumbo

Bloomsbury Publishing Ltd, 1990

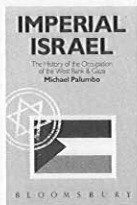
\$39.95

Reviewed by Muhammad Hallaj

Like most Americans, Michael Palumbo began his education about the Arab-Israeli conflict with stereotypes which have nothing to do with reality. "I accepted the image of Israel," he writes in his most recent book, "as a country founded by determined Holocaust survivors who were bravely attempting to build a nation despite being surrounded by sinister and treacherous Arabs." During a visit to Israel in the autumn of 1970, he relates in the prologue to *Imperial Israel*, he saw enough disturbing signs that, like most of his fellow Americans, he had been deceived. He witnessed Israeli militarism and anti-Arab racism. That first trip to Israel, he writes, "planted in me seeds of doubt about the wisdom of America's unquestioned support of Israel."

Palumbo's curiosity led him to study the Palestinian exodus of 1948, resulting in his earlier book, *The Palestinian Catastrophe*, about the expulsion of the Palestinians from their country in 1948. The present book is a sequel, in the sense that it follows a continuing story, the story of unending Zionist colonization, and dispossession and expulsion of the Palestinians from their homeland, this time in the occupied West Bank and Gaza.

The Israeli occupation of the remnants of Palestine in 1967 is generally portrayed as the unintended consequence of a war forced on Israel, and Israel's continued presence in occupied Palestine is generally understood as an unpleasant imperative of Israel's security requirements.



People who, unlike Palumbo, have not yet grasped the 1948 events which the Palestinians call their catastrophe, find it difficult to see that the 1967 occupation is an act of establishing a second Israel in Arab land. The merit of Palumbo's new book is that it goes beyond the seemingly confusing details of Israeli occupation and Palestinian resistance by putting them in their context, the context of continuing Zionist colonization and usurpation of Palestine on one hand, and the continuing struggle to preserve Palestinian nationhood on the other.

Palumbo shows that the 1967 occupation of the West Bank and Gaza was not simply the unintended result of a defensive war by bringing out the expansionist ideological drives in Israeli society, propelled by ideological proclivities and religious beliefs. The annexation of Jerusalem and the beginning of the Jewish settlement process soon after the 1967 war are further indications that the occupation was meant from the start to be another act of usurpation of Palestinian land.

Israel's relentless efforts to make the occupation irreversible through demographic changes such as the "encouragement" of about 45,000 Palestinians from the Gaza Strip (recently corroborated by Israeli accounts) in the first year and a half of the occupation, the establishment of a colonial economy in the West Bank and Gaza, and the repressive

policies now known as the "iron fist," all attest to Israel's intent to de-Arabize the remnants of Palestine.

Palumbo places the Palestinian uprising and the PLO peace initiative of 1988 in the context of the Israeli effort to de-Arabize the occupied territory, and in that sense correctly explains them as a Palestinian struggle for national survival. But given Israel's repressive response, the relentless tightening of its grip on the land and lives of Palestinians, and its political inflexibility toward the peace process leave little hope for a peaceful resolution of the conflict, and Palumbo is understandably pessimistic about the future. The current influx of Soviet colonists may be closing the last peaceful way out of the conflict.

Imperial Israel is a timely book because it alerts those who strive to initiate a Palestinian-Israeli peace process to re-examine their assumptions. The erroneous assumption on which "peace initiatives" have been based, that what is needed to bring peace to the Middle East is to persuade the Arabs to coexist with Israel, is challenged by *Imperial Israel*, which makes clear that peace initiatives ought to be based on the more valid premise that what is needed is to persuade Israel to coexist with its Arab environment.

The one important oversight in Palumbo's analysis, in my view, is the fact that he makes only passing references to U.S. policy and its role in encouraging Israel into believing that a "final solution" of the Palestinian problem is feasible. Zionist ideology explains much about Israeli behavior, but limitless U.S. tolerance of Israeli arrogance is also an essential part of the story.

Muhammad Hallaj is editor of *Palestine Perspectives* and frequent lecturer on *The Middle East*.

GAZA. YEAR IN THE INTIFADA:
A Personal Account from an
Occupied Land.

By Gloria Emerson
Atlantic Monthly Press, 1991
\$19.95 cloth

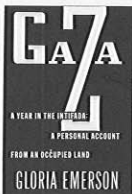
Reviewed by Grace Halsell

Gloria Emerson, a respected journalist who has covered four wars, including Vietnam for The New York Times, has written a moving account of the Palestinian-Israeli war inside occupied Gaza, a rectangular slice of land 28 miles long and barely five miles wide, on the Mediterranean Sea. Her book is extremely valuable because of her eye witness stories of the killing and beating of Palestinians inside this sliver of land with its huge refugee camps—and heavily-armed Israeli soldiers, “with the greatest swagger that any army ever chose to have.”

Many of her stories have a triumphant ring: Israeli soldiers ordered Palestinians to remove a large Palestinian flag hanging from power lines. A Palestinian mother, Fatmah, fearing for her sons, stepped forward, a volunteer. She found a pole, took down the cloth as an Israeli officer and soldiers from the Givati Brigade watched. Taking her time she neatly folded the flag, held it in her hands for a second and lowered her head to kiss it. Only then did she hand it over to the officer.

The Israelis moved to strike. Fatmah stood, frozen, awaiting the blows. In that instance, “a miracle happened”—a U.N. van stopped and out stepped UNRWA Refugee Affairs Officer Fred Brauer. Was there a problem? While he engaged them in conversation, Fatmah raced home. Safe for the moment.

But as Emerson makes plain, there are few such miracles, the Israelis shooting and beating with little or no interference. She quotes the Anglican



Archbishop of South Africa Desmond Tutu who visited Jerusalem and said a prayer for the Palestinian victims of the Sabra and Shatila massacre. “I am a black South African and if I were to change the names, a description of what is happening in Gaza and the West Bank could describe events in South Africa.”

Emerson went to live awhile in Gaza, one fifteenth the size of the West Bank—because the intifada began there. As she learned, each stone the Palestinians threw “was the answer to the long years when they were kept on their knees.”

She reports on the long curfews by which the Israelis penned in Palestinians “like barnyard animals” in the refugee camps. Palestinians could not conduct any business, buy food, go to work, send the children to school, visit a relative, seek help for the sick or so much as move a few feet outside the door.

Emerson pays special tribute to Raji Sourani, a Gaza lawyer, repeatedly arrested, jailed and beaten—“but that only made him a more powerful presence for the best men were put in prison and it was expected of male patriots.” She quotes the 36-year-old lawyer: “When they put this hood on your head, saturate it with water and close it—well, if it is closed for 40 seconds you are deeply thinking you are going to die. They expel tear gas inside it too.”

Once after the Israelis momentar-

ily removed the hood, Sourani saw a Shin Bet officer sitting with his feet up on a desk, the picture of a man completely relaxed and confident.

“Crucify him,” the Israeli said to the others. “It was the order to shackle the prisoner on an iron door with bars, one arm manacled high above his head and the other arm below his waist so the body could not be straightened. And this is how he stayed until he fainted and found himself back in his cell.”

“You bloody Nazi, this is barbarous,” Sourani recalled saying to one Shin Bet officer, who had given orders to keep Sourani on his feet, not to allow him to rest for a second. Sourani told Emerson: he wanted to survive in order to do honor to the men who had gone before him in that grimy, desolate room: “It was only to be borne if you thought of all of those who had gone before you, the others who had crawled through every inch of it.”

Grace Halsell is author of *Journey to Jerusalem*.



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