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# **Resources on Israel and Occupied Palestine**

The impact of the war between Israel and Hamas, and the terrible loss of Palestinian and Israeli life, has been deeply felt throughout our union. These are emotional and personal issues for our members, students, their families and their communities; issues that reach directly into American homes.

# MTA president speaks out on union democracy and free speech

"I am proud to lead a democratic organization that wrestles with the world as it is, so we may build the world we all deserve." - MTA President Max Page

As a democratic union, we believe in engaging in respectful and informed dialogue so we can better understand each other. We have a responsibility to teach our students about what's happening in the world and how to think critically about what they hear from all media sources and in society around them. We are also obligated to make schools safe places for all our students. We can only do so when we are equipped with knowledge, skills and support to navigate social issues.

In that spirit, we have compiled several resources and curricula together to help educators engage with their students on this crucial and difficult topic. We encourage all members to engage in respectful dialogue and condemn hate speech and discrimination of any kind. Antisemitism and Islamophobia have no place in our union.

Note: The resources reflect diverse positions and are meant to aid pedagogy. Each resource should be used thoughtfully, considering the source and the age of the students. It is a reality that virtually all sites that house these materials constantly change, given the nature of the content and context. Some links may be dysfunctional at the time of member entry. The MTA will occasionally revise the site in response to these changes and developments in our knowledge of the conflict.

# HOW TO TALK ABOUT THE CONFLICT AND SUPPORT STUDENTS



• How to Talk About the Israel-Hamas War: Resources for Educators (https://www.edweek.org/teaching-learning/how-to-talk-about-the-israel-hamas-war-resourcesfor-educators/2023/10), Education Week

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#### Resources on Israel and Occupied Palestine

- How to Talk to Children About the Violence in Israel and Gaza (https://www.npr.org/2023/10/11/1205017249/how-to-talk-to-children-violence-israelipalestinian-gaza-hamas), NPR
- How to Talk with Kids About Violence, Crime, and War (https://www.commonsensemedia.org/articles/how-to-talk-with-kids-about-violence-crime-and-war),
  Common Sense Media
- <u>Resilience in a Time of War: Tips for Parents and Teachers of Teens (https://www.apa.org/topics/resilience/teen-war)</u>, American Psychological Association
- Understanding and Countering Antisemitism and Islamophobia in Schools (https://www.learningforjustice.org/magazine/understanding-and-counteringantisemitism-and-islamophobia-in-schools), Learning for Justice
- Discussing War and Conflict: Resources for Educators, Parents, and Caregivers (https://www.learningforjustice.org/discussing-war-and-conflict-resources-foreducators-parents-and-caregivers), Learning for Justice
- Antisemitism and Religious Intolerance Resources (The package contains tools, protocols, and practical advice for making your school more open and welcoming to all students. Like all of our materials, these resources are FREE to download, print, and use in your school. Each has an on-demand professional development webinar.), Facing History & Ourselves

This site includes a variety of resources including addressing online antisemitism; understanding the Christian roots of antisemitism; racialized antisemitism; current antisemitism and how to combat it; teaching about hate crimes; and addressing the Holocaust.

- <u>Resources to Counter Antisemitism and Holocaust Denial (https://www.nea.org/professional-excellence/student-engagement/tools-tips/resources-counter-antisemitism-and-holocaust-denial)</u>, NEA
- <u>Trauma-Informed Care/Systems for Schools (https://www.nctsn.org/trauma-informed-care/trauma-informed-systems/schools/nctsn-resources?page=1</u>), a collection of resources offered by The National Child Traumatic Stress Network
- Supporting and Educating Migrant Refugee Children (https://www.nea.org/resource-library/supporting-and-educating-migrant-refugee-children), NEA
- Palestinian Students Thrive When They Feel Welcomed in Schools (https://www.nea.org/nea-today/all-news-articles/palestinian-students-thrive-when-they-feelwelcomed-schools), NEA
- <u>School Climate Resources (https://www.learningforjustice.org/moment/school-climate-resources</u>), Learning for Justice The package contains tools, protocols and practical advice for making your school more open and welcoming to all students.

#### TERMS

### What is Zionism?

### Definition of Zionism (https://www.britannica.com/topic/Zionism), Britannica, a reference website

The next two definitions come from organizations that have taken differing positions on the conflict and current war in Israel and Gaza. They should be used to expand member understanding and for pedagogical comparison.



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# Resources on Israel and Occupied Palestine

- Zionism (https://www.jewishvoiceforpeace.org/resource/zionism/) defined by Jewish Voice for Peace
- Zionism (https://www.adl.org/resources/backgrounder/zionism) defined by the Anti-Defamation League

# What is Islamophobia?

• Definition of Islamophobia (https://www.oic-oci.org/page/?p\_id=182&p\_ref=61&lan=en), Organisation of Islamic Cooperation

# What is Antisemitism?

• Antisemitism Explained (https://www.ushmm.org/antisemitism/what-is-antisemitism/explained), United States Holocaust Memorial Museum

# What is Orientalism?

• Author Edward Said, professor and writer, on Orientalism (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fVC8EYd Z g)

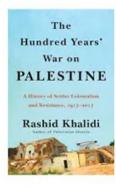
### HISTORY

This section contains diverse historical perspectives. The MTA recommends reading books to explore the topic more fully. The titles below are recommendations.

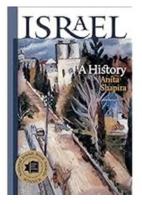
# "Gaza: An Inquest into its Martyrdowm" by Norman Finkelstein



# "The Hundred Years War on Palestine" by Rashid Khalidi



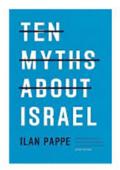
# "Israel: A History," by Anita Shapira



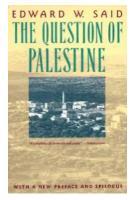
"A Kids Book About Israel and Palestine," by Reza Aslan



#### "Ten Myths About Israel," by Ilan Pappe



### "The Question of Palestine," by Edward Said



Here are some articles and short videos to further deepen your knowledge of the conflict and current war.

- "Settler Colonialism in the Middle East and North Africa: A Protracted History (https://merip.org/2022/05/settler-colonialism-in-the-middle-east-and-north-africaa-protracted-history/)," Middle East Research and Information Project
- "The Balfour Declaration: Enduring Colonial Criminality (https://www.middleeasteye.net/opinion/balfour-declaration-enduring-colonial-criminality)," Middle East Eye
- "The Unfinished History Between America and the Muslim Brotherhood," (https://www.hudson.org/national-security-defense/the-unfinished-history-betweenamerica-and-the-muslim-brotherhood). Middle East Research and Information Project
- "Connections with Muslim Brotherhood (https://www.aljazeera.com/features/2017/10/12/hamas-and-fatah-how-are-the-two-groups-different)."
- "PLO/Fatah vs. Hamas (https://www.aljazeera.com/features/2017/10/12/hamas-and-fatah-how-are-the-two-groups-different)," Aljazeera
- "What is Israel, What is Palestine, and What is the Nakba? (https://gazaforparents.wordpress.com/what-is-israel-what-is-palestine-and-what-is-the-nakba/),
  Visualizing Palestine
- "Independence or Catastrophe? Teaching Palestine through Multiple Perspectives (https://rethinkingschools.org/articles/independence-or-catastrophe/)," Rethinking Schools
- "Palestine 101 (https://uscpr.org/activist-resource/palestine-101/)," US Campaign for Palestinian Rights

#### Edward Wadie Said (1935-2003) was a Palestinian-American philosopher, academic, literary critic and political activist.

#### Who was Edward Said? (https://www.britannica.com/biography/Edward-Said), Britannica, a reference website

- <u>Two Views of Said. The Question of Palestine (https://merip.org/1981/11/two-views-of-said-the-question-of-palestine/)</u>, Middle East Research and Information Project: Critical Coverage of the Middle East Since 1971
- Edward Said discusses Palestine, history of and struggles in the Middle East (https://studsterkel.wfmt.com/programs/edward-w-said-discusses-palestine-historyand-struggles-middle-east)

In a radio interview recorded in 1984, Said talks about the importance of language in shifting perceptions of Middle Eastern people, refutes some opinions about Palestine, identities and overlapping Eastern and Western cultures.

Edward Said and Palestine (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7g1ooTNkMQ4).
 Recorded in 1988. An excerpt from the BBC2 series, "Exiles."

 This War Did Not Start a Month Ago (https://www.nytimes.com/2023/11/14/opinion/israel-gaza-war-history.html? unlocked article code=1.LU4.TLdN.QUDitX8cGOLz&smid=url-share), The New York Times

### **GRASSROOTS ORGANIZATIONS**

- <u>Standing Together (https://www.standing-together.org/en)</u> is a progressive grassroots movement mobilizing Jewish and Palestinian citizens of Israel against the occupation and for peace, equality and social justice.
- New Israel Fund (https://www.nif.org/)'s mission centers on equality for all the citizens of Israel and a vision of Israel that is democratic and egalitarian.
- Jewish Voice for Peace (https://www.jewishvoiceforpeace.org/) is a self-described progressive anti-Zionist advocacy organization.

### **CURRICULUM RESOURCES**

• Teach Palestine (https://rethinkingschools.org/issue/volume-38-no-3/)

Rethinking Schools, the preeminent source for social justice curriculum nationally, published these lesson plans to deepen knowledge on issues of Palestine in Spring 2024. This resource is directed at the elementary and secondary levels. It also includes poems, examples of teach-ins, and plenty of additional resources to aid teaching.

Antisemitism Resource Collection (https://www.facinghistory.org/resource-library/antisemitism-resource-collection)

Facing History and Ourselves partners with educational leaders, civil society organizations, departments and ministries of education, and intergovernmental organizations worldwide to address historical injustices and their legacies, social divisions, racism, sectarianism, antisemitism and other forms of identity-based hatred. This link brings you to Facing History's entire catalog of materials on antisemitism, designed to help students and educators identify and stand up to antisemitism at school and in our communities. These resources are appropriate for students and educators at all levels of education.

- Antisemitism and its Impacts (https://www.facinghistory.org/resource-library/antisemitism-its-impacts).
- Facing History's resources included this explainer and tropes chart to help students understand what antisemitism is, how it shows up in contemporary settings, and why it persists, etc.



• Teach Palestine Project (https://teachpalestine.org/)

The Teach Palestine Project website is a resource by and for K-12 educators and teacher educators focused on bringing Palestine into our classrooms and schools. This resource has background materials, submissions by current teachers, and curriculum resources.

Sitti's Bird: A Gaza Story (https://teachpalestine.org/sittis-bird-a-gaza-story-an-introduction-to-gaza-for-children/): An Introduction to Gaza for children, a lesson for grades 3-5, based on a children's book by Malak Mattar. Mattar's story is based on her own life as a young girl in Gaza.

- Books Recommended by Teach Palestine (https://teachpalestine.org/resources/books/): This list includes books for students appropriate at all Prek-12 educational levels.
- Teaching About the Israel-Hamas War
- (https://www.nytimes.com/2023/10/13/learning/teaching-about-the-israel-hamas-war.html)The Learning Network, from The New York Times, published this

#### Resources on Israel and Occupied Palestine

collection of resources to help students learn about Hamas's recent attack on Israel, the dire situation in Gaza, the conflict's roots, media literacy and more. These resources represent a variety of viewpoints and are appropriate for educators at all levels.

 <u>New Resources for Teaching About the Israel-Hamas War</u> (<u>https://www.nytimes.com/2024/01/25/learning/lesson-plans/new-resources-for-teaching-about-the-israel-hamas-war.html</u>)An updated collection of New York Times articles, essays, podcasts and videos to help students learn about the war, media literacy, dueling historical narratives and more.

### Share My Lesson

(https://sharemylesson.com/blog/israel-palestine-conflict). This resource from the American Federation of Teachers includes lesson plans and resources for educators. The site features materials on processing antisemitism, terror and war and materials specific to the Israeli-Hamas War (including a timeline.)

#### • Zinn Education Project (https://www.zinnedproject.org/)

This organization was co-founded by Rethinking Schools and Teaching for Change and inspired by the work of Howard Zinn, whose work, "A People's History of the United States," challenged dominant narratives in American history. The project offers free resources to help educators teach lessons that are "engaging, accurate, and complex." This resource includes lessons and suggestions for teaching in the K-12 setting. The following articles may be of particular interest.

- "Teaching About Palestine-Israel and the Unfolding Genocide in Gaza (https://www.zinnedproject.org/news/violence-in-israel-and-gaza/)."
- "Teaching the Seeds of Violence in Palestine-Israel (https://www.zinnedproject.org/materials/teaching-the-seeds-of-violence-in-palestine-israel/)."
- "Teaching Media Literacy on Palestine and Israel (https://www.zinnedproject.org/news/teaching-media-literacy-on-palestine-and-israel/)."
- "Independence or Catastrophe? Teaching Palestine Through Multiple Perspectives (https://www.zinnedproject.org/materials/independence-orcatastrophe/)"

#### <u>Critical Media Literacy Rooted in Ethnic Studies Curriculum Toolkit</u>

(https://docs.google.com/document/d/1w8Mkl5YSO1alt1KxwiJobqHMRrmdXA7exU2cWr5GCAl/edit)

This resource is from the Coalition for Liberated Ethnic Studies and the Liberated Ethnic Studies Model Curriculum Consortium. The resource was developed by educational practitioners, faculty, and scholars. This link includes a variety of resources that could be used at a variety of educational levels.

#### • Resources on Israel-Palestine (https://solutionsnotsides.co.uk/learning-resources/)

These are free resources for educators developed by Solutions Not Sides. This United Kingdom-based organization brings together teenagers from all walks of life and creates "safe spaces" for difficult conversations about Israel-Palestine. These resources are focused on students 14-18 years old.

- Taking on Antisemitism on College Campuses (https://www.nea.org/nea-today/all-news-articles/taking-antisemitism-college-campuses). This article on the NEA's website focuses on educators' experiences of antisemitism on campus and provides tools for conversations that don't confuse critique of Israel with criticism of Jewish people. This article is mostly aimed at higher education members, but it would be useful for all grade levels.
- How to Support Palestinian Students in the Classroom

(https://drive.google.com/file/d/1M-SnelOP8WUuzojY91nqwZJkv-ipGgmj/view)This resource comes from the organization Teaching While Muslim. It guides educators create spaces for students of Palestinian descent. This resource will help educators in all grade levels.

<u>Combatting Anti-Semitism In The Classroom Should Not Fall To Jews (https://forward.com/opinion/426018/combatting-anti-semitism-in-the-classroom-should-not-fall-to-jews/)</u>

For more than 100 years, The Forward media organization has worked to create a better-informed, more deeply engaged American Jewish community. To that end, it acquires and publishes informative, enlightening content that expresses its enduring commitments to social justice, Yiddish and Jewish culture, and the welfare of the Jewish people worldwide." This link includes helpful background information, and articles/resources for classroom conversations in all grade levels.

• Palestinian Nakba Curriculum (https://project48.com/curriculum-overview/)

Published by Project 48, the Palestinian Nakba curriculum offers us the opportunity to learn about the robust Palestinian society that existed before the Nakba (catastrophe), the critical events leading up to and during 1948, and a prism through which to understand the ongoing nature of the Nakba and its impact on Palestinian lives. This set of resources is most appropriate for secondary and higher education students but would serve as a useful background for elementary-level educators.

#### • "Handala's Return: A Children's Story and Workbook" (https://palestinianfeministcollective.org/handalas-return/).

This resource is a downloadable workbook published by the Palestinian Feminist Collective that features the history of Palestine told through Handala's struggle. The site contains interactive activities. This resource is most appropriate for the elementary level.

• Palestine 101 (https://imeu.org/basic\_page/355)

This resource is from the Institute for Middle East Understanding – a nonprofit organization that provides journalists with information about Palestine and Palestinians. The site includes a collection of additional resources for background information meant to deepen member knowledge. It is also appropriate for use with all grade levels.

• +972 Magazine (https://www.972mag.com/)

927 Magazine is an online, nonprofit magazine run by a group of Palestinian and Israeli journalists. The content represents a variety of views, with an emphasis on representing communities' experiences. This resource is meant to deepen member knowledge and is most appropriate for secondary and higher education students.

# **VISUALS & ART**

Materials from Visualizing Palestine that utilize data and research to communicate Palestinian experiences visually.

Visualizing Palestine uses data and research to visually communicate Palestinian experiences

- "Four Wars Old: Fourteen Years of Childhood in Gaza" (https://visualizingpalestine.org/visuals/four-wars-old?blm\_aid=11688961).
- "Israel's Closure of Gaza Started Long Before the Blockade" (https://visualizingpalestine.org/visuals/gaza-closure?blm\_aid=11688961)
- "Short Walk Home. Long Walk to Freedom" (https://visualizingpalestine.org/visuals/gaza-return-march?blm\_aid=11688961).
- "Gaza Health Access Under Israeli Siege" (https://visualizingpalestine.org/visuals/right-to-health?blm\_aid=11688961)
- "Undrinkable: 97% of Gaza's Water is Undrinkable" (https://visualizingpalestine.org/visuals/gaza-water-undrinkable).
- "Rising Israeli Settler Violence in the Occupied Territories" (https://visualizingpalestine.org/visuals/israeli-settler-violence)
- 100 posters made by artists from across the world in solidarity with Palestine (https://againstapartheid.art/downloads).
  Compiled by Art Against Apartheid, a group of artists and culture workers committed to a free Palestine.
- <u>Museum of the Palestinian People Virtual Tour (https://mpp-dc.org/TourSupport/)</u>
  The Museum of the Palestinian People, based in Washington D.C., is devoted to preserving and celebrating Palestinian history, arts and culture.
- <u>100 Revolutionary Posters Created over the past 50 years in support of a Free Palestine</u> (<u>https://docs.google.com/document/d/1ddCF3ZCWDtrfSyUaWlwt6lqhATgN7KnHJ1qYmGAX6bg/mobilebasic?</u> <u>fbclid=PAAabACJffPmciXc1p1so1qS6sfDVM Mpas x83jpH4V1lkFNN289qlqgf8Pk aem Afm40 W0gczqoNbrY6pu29SuuOcVHZDt3LuV9iU2Vgohn5xc1os8ws0539 U6Xdon0)</u> A collection of images from the Palestine Poster Project Archives.

#### NEA'S EFFORT TO COLLECT HUMANITARIAN AID FOR EDUCATORS AND STUDENTS IN GAZA

The impact of the armed conflict between Israel and Hamas has caused loss of human life in both Israel and Gaza and has left education communities and the whole world in shock. **NEA (https://www.nea.org/international)** extends its unwavering support to all students and educators in the region, and we are committed to advocating for a peaceful resolution, the protection of schools, universities, and educational personnel, and the prioritization of education in relief efforts.

NEA is working with Education International and El affiliates in the West Bank to help provide support to meet the most urgent needs of educators and students in Gaza. This includes the distribution of food and blankets, as well as books and toys for children.

While EI affiliates primarily operate in the West Bank where their members actively engage in advocating for the rights and well-being of educators, they have forged connections with teachers in Gaza. These EI affiliates are collecting and will distribute resources.

All donations will benefit Education International's Solidarity Fund for Gaza.

## **DOCUMENTARIES & FILMS**

- "Where Olive Trees Weeps," (https://whereolivetreesweep.com) 2024 Directed by Maurizio Benazzo and Zaya Benazzo, "Where Olive Trees Weep" offers a searing window into the struggles and resilience of the Palestinian people under Israeli occupation. It explores themes of loss, trauma, and the quest for justice.
- "Paradise Now," (https://www.imdb.com/title/tt0445620) 2005 Directed by Hany Abu-Assad, this film follows two Palestinian friends who are recruited as suicide bombers. It provides a look into the motivations and pressures facing Palestinians in the context of the conflict.
- <u>"Omar,"</u>

(https://www.netflix.com/title/70285669#:~:text=With%20his%20girlfriend%2C%20Nadia%2C%20living.scales%20it%20to%20visit%20her.&text=Watch%20all% A film by Hany Abu-Assad, this film explores the life of a young Palestinian man caught between resistance and betrayal, highlighting the complexities of life under occupation.

- "The Gatekeepers," (https://www.imdb.com/title/tt2309788/) 2012 Directed by Dror Moreh, this documentary features interviews with six former heads of the Israeli Shin Bet security agency, offering a perspective on Israeli security policies and the impact of the conflict.
- <u>"5 Broken Cameras," (https://www.imdb.com/title/tt2125423/)</u> 2011 Directed by Emad Burnat and Guy Davidi, this documentary chronicles the non-violent resistance of a Palestinian village against Israeli settlement expansion through the lens of the filmmaker's own experiences.
- "Waltz with Bashir," (https://www.imdb.com/title/tt1185616/) 2008 Directed by Ari Folman, this animated documentary explores the 1982 Lebanon War and the Sabra and Shatila massacre, providing context for understanding broader regional conflicts involving Israel.
- "The Wanted 18," (https://www.imdb.com/title/tt3946020/) 2014 Directed by Amer Shomali and Paul Cowan, this documentary uses animation and interviews to tell the story of a group of Palestinians who started a dairy farm during the first Intifada and faced significant challenges from Israeli authorities.
- "Gaza," (https://www.amazon.com/Gaza-Andrew-McConnell/dp/B084CS9TJY) 2019 Directed by Andrew McConnell and Garry Keane, Gaza takes us to a unique place beyond the reach of news reports to reveal a world rich with eloquent and resilient characters, offering us an enriching portrait of a people attempting to lead meaningful lives against the rubble of perennial conflict.
- "A People Without a Land," (https://www.amazon.com/People-Without-Land-Eliyahu-Ungar-Sargon/dp/B078SHRNFY) 2014 Directed by Eliyahu Ungar-Sargon, A People Without a Land is a documentary that offers a completely new perspective on a subject that has been dominated by the same old rhetoric for decades. It challenges the stale ideas that have been the basis of the failed peace process and proposes a bold new way forward.
- "Roadmap to Apartheid," (https://www.amazon.com/Roadmap-Apartheid-AliceWalker/dp/B079VRGZ4X) 2012 Directed by Eron Davidson and Ana Nogueira, this documentary looks at the apartheid analogy commonly used to describe the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.
- "Gaza Fights For Freedom," (https://www.filmsforaction.org/watch/gaza-fights-for-freedom/) 2019 Directed by Abby Martin, this documentary was filmed during the height of the Great March Of Return protests, it features footage of demonstrations where Israeli snipers have killed 200 unarmed civilians since March 30, 2018.
- "Born in Gaza," (https://www.amazon.com/Born-Gaza-Hern%C3%A1n-Zin/dp/B01J9560C0) 2014 Directed and written by Hernán Zin, this documentary was filmed shortly after the 2014 Gaza war. It examines how violence has transformed the lives of 10 Palestinian children.
- "The Present," (https://www.imdb.com/title/tt11474480/) 2020 Written by Farah Nabulsi and Hind Shoufani, this story follows Yusef and his young daughter who set out in the West Bank to buy his wife a gift for their wedding anniversary.
- "Farha," (https://www.netflix.com/title/81612982) 2021 Directed by Darin Sallam, this documentary follows a 14-year-old girl in 1948 Palestine who watches from a locked pantry as catastrophe consumes her home.
- Al-Nakba Documentary Series, (https://www.aljazeera.com/program/featured-documentaries/2013/5/29/al-nakba) 2008 Directed by Benny Brunner and Alexandra Jansse, this is a four-part series on the Palestinian 'catastrophe' of 1948 that led to dispossession and conflict that still endures. "The Nakba did not begin in 1948. Its origins lie over two centuries ago ..." 'Nakba,' covers the history of the Palestinian exodus that led to the first Arab-Israeli war in 1948 and the establishment of the state of Israel.
- Teach Palestine's recommended videos, a project of the Middle East Children's Alliance (https://teachpalestine.org/resources/videos/) This resource from A Project of the Middle East Children's Alliance, features several films and educational resources.
- "I Am From Palestine," (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BAujeFizTi4) 2023 Directed by Iman Zawahry, this short film follows a young Palestinian-American girl who anxiously starts her first day of school. She finds her identity in question when faced with a world map that doesn't include her homeland.
- Just Vision (https://justvision.org/films)

A team of filmmakers, journalists, storytellers and human rights advocates make up Just Vision, which provide independent storytelling and strategic audience engagement. This site includes a description of and links to several films.



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