

The Question Of Palestine Edward Said

The Question Of Palestine Edward Said The Question of Palestine Edward Said The question of Palestine, as examined through the lens of Edward Said, remains one of the most compelling and enduring issues in contemporary geopolitics and cultural discourse. Edward Said, a renowned Palestinian- American scholar, literary critic, and public intellectual, dedicated much of his life to analyzing the historical, political, and cultural dimensions of the Palestinian struggle. His insights have shaped perceptions around the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, emphasizing the importance of narrative, representation, and justice. This article delves into Edward Said's perspective on the question of Palestine, exploring his contributions, core ideas, and why his work continues to resonate today. We will examine how Said's thoughts challenge prevailing narratives, advocate for Palestinian rights, and inspire ongoing debates about justice, sovereignty, and human dignity.

Understanding the Context: The Palestinian Issue in Historical Perspective Before exploring Said's viewpoints, it's essential to understand the broader context of the Palestinian question. The roots of the conflict trace back to the late 19th and early 20th centuries, with the rise of Zionism and Arab nationalism amid the decline of Ottoman control. Tensions intensified during the British Mandate period, leading to waves of immigration, land disputes, and violent clashes. Key historical milestones include:

- The Balfour Declaration (1917): British support for a Jewish homeland in Palestine.
- The UN Partition Plan (1947): Proposal to divide Palestine into Jewish and Arab states.
- The Nakba (1948): Palestinian displacement following Israel's declaration of independence.
- The Six- Day War (1967): Israeli occupation of the West Bank, Gaza Strip, and East Jerusalem.
- Ongoing conflicts, settlements, and debates over Palestinian statehood.

The Palestinian question involves issues of displacement, statelessness, human rights, and sovereignty. For many Palestinians and their advocates, it is a question of justice and self- determination; for others, it remains a complex geopolitical challenge.

Edward Said's Perspective on the Question of Palestine

Said's Critique of Western Narratives One of Edward Said's most influential contributions is his critique of how Western media, academia, and political discourse have shaped the narrative surrounding Palestine. He argued that Western representations often dehumanize Palestinians and promote a biased view that justifies Israeli policies. Key points include:

- **Orientalism and Power Dynamics:** Said's seminal work, *Orientalism*, posits that Western intellectuals have historically constructed an exoticized and inferior image of the East, including Palestine, to justify colonialism and imperialism.
- **Media Bias:** He highlighted how Western media tends to portray Palestinians as terrorists or victims without

acknowledging their agency or historical grievances. - The Impact of Misrepresentation: Said believed that controlling the narrative is crucial for justice, and Western misrepresentation perpetuates injustice. The Importance of Narrative and Voice Said emphasized the importance of giving voice to the oppressed. He believed that the Palestinian narrative has been marginalized and distorted, and that reclaiming their story is essential for achieving justice. His advocacy included: - Supporting Palestinian writers, artists, and intellectuals. - Challenging dominant narratives that ignore Palestinian suffering. - Promoting a more nuanced understanding of Palestinian history and culture. Palestine as a Question of Justice and Human Rights For Said, the Palestinian question is fundamentally about justice. He insisted that the right of Palestinians to self-determination and return must be recognized, aligning with international law and human rights principles. He argued: - That Palestinian dispossession and displacement are injustices needing redress. - That Israel's occupation of Palestinian territories violates international statutes. - That peace can only be achieved through acknowledgment of Palestinian rights. Said's Vision for a Just Solution Two-State Solution and Its Challenges While Said was initially supportive of a two-state solution, he was critical of how it has been implemented and its limitations. He recognized the importance of Palestinian self-determination but also pointed out the obstacles posed by settlement expansion and political realities. Key challenges he identified: - Continued Israeli settlement building. - Restrictions on Palestinian movement and sovereignty. - The need for international pressure and justice-based policies. Alternative Perspectives: A One-State Solution Said also engaged with the idea of a one-state solution—where Jews and Palestinians share equal rights within a single democratic state—as a potential path forward. He saw this as a way to ensure equality and end discriminatory policies. He emphasized: - The importance of ending apartheid-like conditions. - The need for political will and international support for such a vision. - The potential for a shared, inclusive homeland. 3 Said's Cultural and Literary Contributions to the Palestinian Cause Beyond political analysis, Said's work as a literary critic and scholar reinforced his activism. He believed that culture and literature play vital roles in resisting oppression and fostering understanding. Some notable contributions include: - His analysis of Palestinian literature and poetry. - Promoting Palestinian writers and artists on global platforms. - Highlighting the role of cultural identity in the struggle for justice. Legacy and Continuing Relevance Edward Said's ideas continue to influence scholars, activists, and policymakers. His insistence on justice, human rights, and the importance of narrative remains central to debates about Palestine. Impacts of Said's work: - Inspiring a new generation of Palestinian advocates. - Challenging Western narratives and policies. - Shaping discussions about decolonization and cultural representation. Why Said's Perspective Matters Today In the current geopolitical climate, where conflicts persist and narratives evolve, Said's insights remain vital. His emphasis on understanding history, challenging stereotypes, and advocating for justice provides a

foundation for constructive dialogue. His work encourages: - Critical engagement with media and political discourse. - Recognition of Palestinian rights and dignity. - A commitment to peace rooted in justice. Conclusion The question of Palestine, as viewed through Edward Said's lens, is a complex interplay of history, narrative, justice, and human rights. Said's critique of Western representations, his advocacy for Palestinian self-determination, and his cultural activism have left a lasting legacy. Understanding his perspective enriches the ongoing dialogue about peace, justice, and the future of Palestine. As the Palestinian issue continues to unfold, Said's call for honesty, justice, and respect for human dignity remains a guiding light. His work reminds us that resolving the question of Palestine requires not only political solutions but also a profound acknowledgment of history, narrative, and human rights. Embracing his insights can help foster a more equitable and compassionate approach to one of the most enduring conflicts of our time.

Question Answer 4 What is the central argument of Edward Said in 'The Question of Palestine'? Edward Said argues that the Palestinian plight has been misunderstood and misrepresented, emphasizing the importance of acknowledging Palestinian rights, identity, and the need for justice amidst the ongoing conflict. How does Edward Said critique Western narratives about Palestine in his work? Said critiques Western narratives for often depicting Palestinians as terrorists or obstacles to peace, instead of recognizing their legitimate rights and struggles, and calls for a more honest and ethical engagement with the Palestinian cause. In what ways does 'The Question of Palestine' connect to contemporary issues in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict? The book's themes of justice, displacement, and the right of return remain highly relevant today, as ongoing conflicts, settlement expansions, and debates over Palestinian statehood continue to shape the region's dynamics. What role does Edward Said see for the international community in resolving the Palestinian question? Said advocates for a more active and ethical international involvement that recognizes Palestinian rights, challenges biases, and promotes a just and equitable resolution based on self-determination and human rights. How does Edward Said's background influence his perspective in 'The Question of Palestine'? As a Palestinian-American intellectual and critic of Orientalism, Said's background informs his critical stance against Western stereotypes, and his emphasis on cultural identity, justice, and the importance of Palestinian self-representation. Why is 'The Question of Palestine' considered a significant work in understanding Middle Eastern politics? The book offers a nuanced analysis of the historical, political, and cultural dimensions of the Palestinian struggle, challenging simplistic narratives and fostering greater awareness of the complexities involved in Middle Eastern conflicts.

The Question of Palestine Edward Said: An In-Depth Exploration of Identity, Power, and Resistance The question of Palestine has long stood at the intersection of history, politics, and identity, shaping global discourse for over a century. Among the most influential voices to interpret and articulate the complexities surrounding this issue is

Edward Said, whose seminal work "The Question of Palestine" offers a profound critique of Western narratives, imperialism, and the struggles of the Palestinian people. This article provides a comprehensive analysis of Said's perspectives, contextualizing his arguments within the broader landscape of Middle Eastern politics and cultural critique. ---

Understanding Edward Said and His Perspective on Palestine

Who Was Edward Said?

Edward Said (1935–2003) was a Palestinian-American scholar, literary critic, and public intellectual renowned for his work on postcolonial studies, orientalism, and cultural critique. His most influential book, "Orientalism" (1978), challenged Western stereotypes about the East, arguing that Western representations often served imperial interests. Building on this foundation, Said turned his critical gaze toward the Palestinian cause, producing "The Question of Palestine" (1979), which remains a foundational text for understanding the Palestinian narrative in the context of colonialism and resistance.

What Is "The Question of Palestine"?

"The Question of Palestine" is a collection of essays and speeches that articulate the historical and political struggles faced by Palestinians. Said critically examines the Western and Israeli narratives that have been used to justify dispossession, occupation, and the marginalization of Palestinians. His work seeks to humanize the Palestinian experience, emphasizing themes of identity, exile, and the right to self-determination. ---

Key Themes in Edward Said's "The Question of Palestine"

1. Colonial Roots and Historical Context

Said emphasizes that the Palestinian question cannot be understood in isolation from the history of colonialism and imperialism. He traces the roots of the conflict back to the British Mandate period and the Zionist movement's pursuit of a Jewish homeland, which he views as intertwined with Western imperial interests.

Main Points:

- The Balfour Declaration (1917) as a pivotal moment that promised British support for a Jewish homeland in Palestine.
- The displacement and dispossession of Palestinians during the British Mandate and subsequent Israeli state formation.
- The denial of Palestinian national identity and rights in international diplomacy.

2. The Narrative of Dispossession

Said critiques the dominant Western narratives that depict Palestinians as terrorists or obstacles to peace, arguing that these portrayals ignore the history of dispossession and exile. Key arguments include:

- Palestinians as victims of colonial and settler colonial projects.
- The importance of recognizing Palestinian narratives and experiences.
- The need to challenge stereotypes and Western misconceptions.

3. The Role of Western and Israeli Power

A significant aspect of Said's critique involves analyzing how Western powers and Israel have maintained dominance over Palestinian land and identity.

Discussion points:

- The role of international institutions, such as the United Nations, in perpetuating or ignoring Palestinian rights.
- The impact of military occupation, settlement expansion, and legal manipulation.
- The influence of American foreign policy and media in shaping perceptions.

4. Cultural and Literary Resistance

Said underscores the importance of culture, literature, and intellectual resistance as tools for Palestinian self-expression and

global awareness. Examples include: - Palestinian writers and artists who challenge narratives of victimhood. - The role of exile and diaspora in maintaining Palestinian identity. - The importance of language and storytelling in resisting erasure. 5. The Right to Self-Determination and Return Central to Said's analysis is the assertion that Palestinians have an undeniable right to self-determination and return to their homeland. Key principles: - Recognition of Palestinian sovereignty. - The right of refugees to return or receive compensation. - The pursuit of a just and equitable solution based on international law. --- Critical Analysis of Edward Said's Approach Strengths of Said's Perspective - Humanizing the Palestinian Experience: By emphasizing narratives of exile and dispossession, Said brings empathy and complexity to The Question Of Palestine Edward Said 6 the issue. - Challenging Western Narratives: His critique of orientalism and Western stereotypes is instrumental in decolonizing the discourse. - Advocating for Justice: His unwavering support for Palestinian rights underscores the moral and legal imperatives for justice. Limitations and Criticisms - Idealism versus Political Realism: Some critics argue that Said's emphasis on cultural critique may overlook the pragmatic aspects of political negotiations. - Focus on Narrative: While powerful, some suggest that Said's approach may underplay the need for concrete political solutions. - Limited Engagement with Israeli Perspectives: Critics note that Said's analysis primarily centers Palestinian narratives, potentially underrepresenting Israeli concerns or perspectives. --- The Legacy and Relevance of Edward Said's "The Question of Palestine" Influence on Scholarship and Activism Said's work has profoundly shaped academic and activist approaches to the Palestinian issue. His emphasis on narrative, culture, and history continues to inspire: - Postcolonial and cultural studies scholars. - Palestinian activists and grassroots movements. - International human rights advocates. Contemporary Significance Today, the question of Palestine remains unresolved, with ongoing issues such as settlement expansion, Gaza blockades, and diplomatic stalemates. Said's critique provides a lens for understanding these developments: - Recognizing power asymmetries. - Challenging narratives that justify occupation. - Advocating for a rights-based approach grounded in justice. --- Practical Takeaways for Engaging with the Palestinian Question For Students and Scholars - Engage critically with Western narratives and media representations. - Explore Palestinian literature, art, and history to gain a nuanced understanding. - Analyze the role of colonialism and imperialism in shaping current realities. For Activists and Advocates - Center Palestinian voices and experiences. - Promote awareness of legal rights, including the right of return. - Support initiatives that advocate for justice and peaceful resolution. For Policy Makers - Recognize the importance of international law and human rights. - Facilitate dialogue that respects Palestinian sovereignty. - Address root causes of the conflict, including displacement and occupation. --- Conclusion: The Ongoing Relevance of Edward Said's "The Question of Palestine" "The Question of Palestine" remains a vital text for

understanding the complex history and enduring struggles of the Palestinian people. Edward Said's incisive critique of Western narratives, colonial histories, and cultural representations provides essential tools for anyone seeking to comprehend the deeper dynamics of the conflict. His call for justice, acknowledgment of Palestinian identity, and resistance through culture continue to resonate in contemporary discussions, reminding us that the quest for peace must be rooted in truth, dignity, and respect for human rights. --- Whether you are a student, scholar, activist, or curious reader, engaging with Said's work offers a pathway to understanding the layered realities of Palestine—an essential step toward fostering empathy, justice, and informed advocacy. Palestine, Edward Said, colonialism, postcolonialism, Arab-Israeli conflict, Middle East, Orientalism, Palestinian liberation, nationalism, cultural critique

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author of the groundbreaking the question of palestine edward said has been america s most outspoken advocate for palestinian self determination as these collected essays amply prove he is also our most intelligent and bracingly heretical writer on affairs involving not only

palestinians but also the arab and muslim worlds and their tortuous relations with the west solidly imbued with historical context and geopolitical conjecture fresh unpredictable personal and incorruptible writing boston globe in the politics of dispossession said traces his people's struggle for statehood through twenty five years of exile from the plo's bloody 1970 exile from jordan through the debacle of the gulf war and the ambiguous 1994 peace accord with israel as frank as he is about his personal involvement in that struggle said is equally unsparing in his demolition of arab icons and american shibboleths stylish impassioned and informed by a magisterial knowledge of history and literature the politics of dispossession is a masterly synthesis of scholarship and polemic that has the power to redefine the debate over the middle east

winner of the new yorker book award for nonfiction from one of the most important intellectuals of our time comes an extraordinary story of exile and a celebration of an irrecoverable past a fatal medical diagnosis in 1991 convinced edward said that he should leave a record of where he was born and spent his childhood and so with this memoir he rediscovers the lost arab world of his early years in palestine lebanon and egypt engrossing said has an almost proustian feel for smells sounds sights and telling anecdotes the new york review of books said writes with great passion and wit about his family and his friends from his birthplace in jerusalem schools in cairo and summers in the mountains above beirut to boarding school and college in the united states revealing an unimaginable world of rich colorful characters and exotic eastern landscapes underscoring all is the confusion of identity the young said experienced as he came to terms with the dissonance of being an american citizen a christian and a palestinian and ultimately an outsider richly detailed moving often profound out of place depicts a young man's coming of age and the genesis of a great modern thinker

the edward said reader presents key selections from said's works from his groundbreaking 1966 study of joseph conrad through culture and imperialism to the recent critically acclaimed memoir out of place

in this unflinching cry for civic justice and self determination said promotes not a political agenda but a transcendent alternative the peaceful coexistence of arabs and jews enjoying equal rights and shared citizenship eloquent impassioned and beautifully written foreign affairs soon after the oslo accords were signed in september 1993 by israel and palestinian liberation organization edward said predicted that they could not lead to real peace in these essays most written for arab and european newspapers said uncovers the political mechanism that advertises reconciliation in the middle east while keeping peace out of the picture said argues that the imbalance in power that forces palestinians and arab states to accept the concessions of the united states and israel prohibits real negotiations and promotes

the second class treatment of palestinians he documents what has really gone on in the occupied territories since the signing he reports worsening conditions for the palestinians critiques yasar arafat s self interested and oppressive leadership denounces israel s refusal to recognize palestine s past and in essays new to this edition addresses the resulting unrest

john randolph leblanc examines the political oeuvre of critic and activist edward said and finds that said preferred reconciliation to segregation in palestine israel leblanc argues that said s criticism speaks to the importance of negotiating the troubling proximate and unsettling presence of our most perplexing others

this original and deeply provocative book was the first to make palestine the subject of a serious debate one that remains as critical as ever a compelling call for identity and justice anthony lewis books such as mr said s need to be written and read in the hope that understanding will provide a better chance of survival the new york times book review with the rigorous scholarship he brought to his influential *orientalism* and an exile s passion he is palestinian by birth edward w said traces the fatal collision between two peoples in the middle east and its repercussions in the lives of both the occupier and the occupied as well as in the conscience of the west he has updated this landmark work to portray the changed status of palestine and its people in light of such developments as the israeli invasion of lebanon the intifada the gulf war and the ongoing middle east peace initiative for anyone interested in this region and its future the question of palestine remains the most useful and authoritative account available

edward wadie said 1935 2003 palestinian american literary theorist

edward said was born in jerusalem and brought up in cairo spending every summer in the lebanese mountain village of dhour el shweir until he was banished to america in 1951 this work is a mixture of emotional archaeology and memory exploring an essentially irrecoverable past as ill health sets him thinking about endings edward said returns to his beginnings in this personal memoir

edward said is one of the foremost thinkers writing today his work as a literary and cultural critic a political commentator and the champion of the cause of palestinian rights has given him a unique position in western intellectual life this new book is a major exploration and assessment of his writings in all these main areas focusing on said s insistence on the connection between literature politics and culture kennedy offers an overview and assessment of the main strands of said s work drawing out the links and contradictions between each area the book begins with an examination of *orientalism* one of the founding texts of post colonial studies kennedy looks at the book in detail probing both its strengths

and weaknesses and linking it to its sequel culture and imperialism she then examines said's work on the palestinian people with his emphasis on the need for a palestinian narrative to counter pro israeli accounts of the middle east and his searing criticisms of us israeli and even arab governments the book closes with an examination of said's importance in the field of post colonial studies notably colonial discourse analysis and post colonial theory and his significance as a public intellectual this book will be of great interest to anyone studying post colonialism literary theory politics and the middle east as well as anyone interested in said's writings

this the first full length intellectual biography of the groundbreaking author of *orientalism* reveals some startling observations hussein argues that underneath said's carefully constructed eclecticism there is a global method in his work

edward said has long been considered one of the world's most compelling public intellectuals taking on a remarkable array of topics with his many publications but no single book has encompassed the vast scope of his stimulating erudition quite like *power politics and culture* a fascinating oblique entry into the mind of one whose own writings are a brilliant questioning chronicle of contemporary culture and values nadine gordimer in these twenty eight interviews said addresses everything from palestine to pavarotti from his nomadic upbringing under colonial rule to his politically active and often controversial adulthood and reflects on austen beckett conrad naipaul mahfouz and rushdie as well as on fellow critics bloom derrida and foucault the passion said feels for literature music history and politics is powerfully conveyed in this indispensable complement to his prolific life's work

fifty essays examine the consequences of the middle east peace process discussing how stability in the occupied territories is undermined by the expansion of israeli settlements and arafat's repressive leadership

edward said is perhaps best known as the author of the landmark study *orientalism* a book which changed the face of critical theory and shaped the emerging field of post colonial studies and for his controversial journalism on the palestinian political situation looking at the context and the impact of said's scholarship and journalism this book examines said's key ideas including the significance of worldliness amateurism secular criticism affiliation and contrapuntal reading the place of text and critic in the world knowledge power and the construction of the other links between culture and imperialism exile identity and the plight of palestine a new chapter looking at said's later work and style this popular guide has been fully updated and revised in a new edition suitable for readers approaching said's work for the first time as well as those already familiar with the work of this important

theorist the result is the ideal guide to one of the twentieth century's most engaging critical thinkers

an intimate portrait critical generous and heartfelt ahdaif soueif guardian an intriguing account of an alluring but evasive character daily telegraph drawing on extensive archival sources and hundreds of interviews timothy brennan's places of mind is the first comprehensive biography of said one of the most controversial and celebrated intellectuals of the 20th century in brennan's masterful work said the pioneer of post colonial studies a tireless champion for his native palestine and an erudite literary critic emerges as a self-doubting tender and eloquent advocate of literature's dramatic effects on politics and civic life places of mind charts the intertwined routes of said's intellectual development revealing him as a study in opposites a cajoler and strategist a new york intellectual with a foot in beirut an orchestra impresario in weimar and ramallah a raconteur on national television a palestinian negotiator at the state department and an actor in films in which he played himself brennan traces the arab influences of said's thinking along with his tutelage under lebanese statesmen off beat modernist auteurs and new york literati as said grew into a scholar whose influential writings changed the face of university life forever with both intimidating brilliance and charm said turned these resources into a groundbreaking counter tradition of radical humanism set against the backdrop of techno scientific dominance and religious war with unparalleled clarity said gave the humanities a new authority in the age of reaganism that continues today drawing on the testimonies of family friends students and antagonists alike and aided by fbi files unpublished writing and said's drafts of novels and personal letters places of mind captures said's intellectual breadth and influence in an unprecedented intimate and compelling portrait of one of the great minds of the twentieth century

one of the most famous literary critics of the twentieth century edward said's work has been hugely influential far beyond academia as a prominent advocate for the palestinian cause and a noted music critic said redefined the role of the public intellectual in his books as scholarly as they are readable he challenged conventional critical demarcations between disciplines his major opus *orientalism* is a key text in postcolonial studies that continues to influence as well as challenge scholars in the field conor mccarthy introduces the reader to said's major works and examines how his work and life were intertwined he explains recurring themes in said's writings on literature and empire on intellectuals and literary theory on music and on the israel palestine conflict this concise informative and clearly written introduction for students beginning to study said is ideally set up to explain the complexities of his work to new audiences

an exploration of the political thought of one of the twentieth century's most influential

thinkers and the foremost advocate for the palestinian cause in the west edward said was one of the most influential intellectuals of the twentieth century a literary scholar with an aesthete's temperament he did not experience his political awakening until the 1967 arab israeli war which transformed his thinking and led him to forge ties with political groups and like minded scholars said's subsequent writings which cast light on the interplay between cultural representation and the exercise of western political power caused a seismic shift in scholarly circles and beyond in this intimate intellectual biography by a close friend and confidant nubar hovsepian offers fascinating insight into the evolution of said's political thought through analysis of said's seminal works and the debates surrounding them edward said the politics of an oppositional intellectual traces the influence of foucault on said and how said eventually diverged from this influence to arrive at a more pronounced understanding of agency resistance and liberation he consequently affiliated more closely with raymond williams antonio gramsci and more contemporaneously with his friends the late eqbal ahmad and ibrahim abu lughod said held that it is the intellectual's responsibility to expose lies and deceptions of the holders of power a passionate advocate for the palestinian cause his solidarity did not prevent him from launching a sustained critique of the palestinian leadership hovsepian charts both said's engagement with the palestinian national movement and his exchanges with a host of intellectuals over palestine arguing that said's interventions have succeeded in changing the parameters of the discourse in the humanities and among younger jews searching for political affiliation drawing on his diaries in which he recorded his meetings with said as well as access to some of said's private letters hovsepian illuminates in rich detail the trajectory of said's political thinking and the depth and breadth of his engagement with peers and critics over issues that continue to resonate to this day

from sartre to levinas continental philosophers have looked to the example of the jew as the paradigmatic object of and model for ethical inquiry levinas for example powerfully dedicates his 1974 book *Otherwise than Being* to the victims of the holocaust and turns attention to the state of philosophy after auschwitz such an ethics radically challenges prior notions of autonomy and comprehension two key ideas for traditional ethical theory and more generally the greek tradition it seeks to respect the opacity of the other and avoid the dangers of hermeneutic violence but how does such an ethics of the other translate into real everyday life what is at stake in thinking the other as jew is the alterity of the jew simply a counter to greek universalism is a rhetoric of exceptionalism with its unavoidable ontological residue at odds with shifting political realities within this paradigm what then becomes of the arab or muslim the other of the jew the other of the other so to speak this line of ethical thought in its desire to bear witness to past suffering and come to terms with subjectivity after auschwitz arguably brackets from analysis present operations of power

would then a more sensitive historical approach expose the palestinian as the other of the israeli here zahi zalloua offers a challenging intervention into how we configure the contemporary

zahi zalloua provides the first examination of palestinian identity from the perspective of indigeneity and critical black studies examining the palestinian question through the lens of settler colonialism and indigeneity this timely book warns against the liberal approach to palestinian indigeneity which reinforces cultural domination and urgently argues for the universal nature of the palestinian struggle foregrounding palestinian indigeneity reframes the palestinian israeli conflict as a problem of wrongful dispossession a historical harm that continues to be inflicted on the population under the brutal occupation of the west bank and gaza at the same time in a global context marked by liberal democratic ideology such an approach leads either to liberal tolerance the minority is permitted to exist so long as their culture can be contained within the majority order or racial separatism that is appeals for national independence typically embodied in the two state solution solidarity and the palestinian cause not only insists that any analysis of indigeneity's purchase must keep this problem of translation in mind but also that we must recast the palestinian struggle as a universal one as demonstrated by the palestinian support for such movements as black lives matter and the reciprocal support palestinians receive from blm activists the palestinian cause fosters a solidarity of the excluded this solidarity underscores the interlocking global struggles for emancipation from racial domination and economic exploitation drawing on key palestinian voices including edward said and larissa sansour as well as a wide range of influential philosophers such as slavoj Žižek frantz fanon and achille mbembe zalloua brings together the palestinian question indigeneity and critical black studies to develop a transformative anti racist vision of the world

this book examines the distinction between literary expatriation and exile through a contrapuntal reading of modern palestinian and american writing it argues that exile in the palestinian case especially is a political catastrophe it is banishment by a colonial power it suggests that unlike expatriation a choice of a foreign land over one's own exile is a political rather than an artistic concept and is forced rather than voluntary while exile can be emancipatory it is always an unwelcome loss in addition to its historical dimension exile also entails a different perception of return to expatriation this book frames expatriates as quintessentially american particularly intellectuals and artists seeking a space of creativity and social dissidence in the experience of living away from home at the heart of both literary discourses however is a preoccupation with home belonging identity language mobility and homecoming

the renowned literary and cultural critic edward said was one of our era's most provocative

and important thinkers this comprehensive collection of his work draws from across his entire four decade career including his posthumously published books making it a definitive one volume source said is a brilliant and unique amalgam of scholar aesthete and political activist he challenges and stimulates our thinking in every area washington post book world the selected works includes key sections from all of said s books including his groundbreaking orientalism his memoir out of place and his last book on late style whether writing of zionism or palestinian self determination jane austen or yeats or of music or the media said s uncompromising intelligence casts urgent light on every subject he undertakes the selected works is a joy for the general reader and an indispensable resource for scholars in the many fields that his work has influenced and transformed

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