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Side By Side: Parallel Histories Of Israel-Palestine



Synopsis

In 2000, a group of Israeli and Palestinian teachers gathered to address what to many people seemed an unbridgeable gulf between the two societies. Struck by how different the standard Israeli and Palestinian textbook histories of the same events were from one another, they began to explore how to "disarm" the teaching of the history of the Middle East in Israeli and Palestinian classrooms. The result is a riveting "dual narrative" of Israeli and Palestinian history. Side by Side comprises the history of two peoples, in separate narratives set literally side-by-side, so that readers can track each against the other, noting both where they differ as well as where they correspond. The unique and fascinating presentation has been translated into English and is now available to American audiences for the first time. An eye-opening and inspiring "new approach to thinking about one of the world's most deeply entrenched conflicts, Side by Side is a breakthrough book that will spark a new public discussion about the bridge to peace in the Middle East.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"Innovative... A small but important step, if not toward peace, then perhaps toward understanding... Developed by a group of Israeli and Palestinian teachers, this text will prove useful not just to the young, but to anyone who quails at the thought of even attempting to unravel the knotty history of the Middle East." Kirkus Reviews "The battle lines of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict extend to the classroom, where the two sides' versions of their shared history diverge sharply. Now, two

university professors aim to change the way the conflict is taught by exposing Palestinian students to Israeli history lessons and Israeli students to the Palestinian version of history.USA Today

Peace Research Institute in the Middle East (PRIME) is a nongovernmental organization established by Palestinian and Israeli researchers with the help of the Peace Research Institute in Frankfurt, Germany. A co-founder with the late Dan Bar-On of PRIME and its current co-director, Sami Adwan has published widely on the role of education in peacebuilding. PRIME co-director Eyal Naveh is a professor of U.S. history at Tel Aviv University and teaches history and history education at the Kibbutzim College of Education.

I had to order this book for on honor's seminar on the Palestinian conflict. At first I was overwhelmed by the stories - a different side of the conflict is told on either side of the book. The left hand is the view point of Israeli, while the right hand is the view point of Palestinians. At first it is slow but the book picks up and if you are very knowledgeable or new to the conflict (as I was) you will like the book as long as you take the time to read it, and are interested in political/social/cultural affair. This book is not meant to be a text book. This book is not meant to be give one simple facts or to make one side look better or worse than the other. This book is meant to show the reader how the conflict may be analyzed by Israeli and Palestinian citizens - side by side. It is meant to give the reader an understanding of how this struggle came to be and how it has evolved over the years and the reason for the strife that exist between the two ethnic groups today.

Very interesting perspective on the conflict presented in an innovative format. This book was for a class and it was my favorite out of all the books we used. It was fascinating to see the way narratives differ, and to get more of a personalized account of the conflict. I would recommend pairing this with the Very Short Introduction by Martin Bunton so you can get all the facts first, which should help you look critically at the narratives presented here. I would also recommend not always reading the Israeli narrative first (that is how the book is written). Switching what narrative you read first helps you make sure your thoughts aren't being affected by the order in which the information was presented -- very important if you're trying to be neutral.

This book is intended for students, but should be read by everyone, especially all those one-sided screamers and blamers that can be relied on to ruin any semi-sane discussion of the Palestinian issue by jumping in and repeating ad nauseam a few (often questionable) old claims that they think

support their particular point of view. Buy one and give it to your public library. It might just educate a few people--if they read both sides--as they are presented here by a team from both sides.

Extremely well laid out. It is fascinating to read these narratives side by side. I read this during my birthright trip. I felt so much more informed of the issues and people's feelings about them. This deeply enriched my experience and allowed me to have much more meaningful conversations with people on all sides of the spectrum.

This is a remarkable book. Not only is it a good quick history of Palestine/Israel, but it shows how accounts of the same events vary depending on one's outlook. And, given the high emotions on each side, it is remarkable that the authors were able to work together. For a balanced account of the history of the region it is excellent and there is little else like it to be read.

Thank you.

This came so fast! I am surprised how great the book looks. No wear or tear at all. Great quality; Like new!

This is an informative approach to learning about and then comparing and contrasting very different perspectives and narratives about the same incidents.

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