

***The Iron Wall*** -- DVD (52 minutes)

Teacher's Note:

The first 35 minutes of this DVD give excellent background and analysis of the settler movement in Israel and the Occupied Territories.

The next ten minutes (35-45) give good maps and analysis about the Wall.

The final seven minutes (45-52) show the “disappearing Palestine map” and discuss whether two states (as opposed to one state with equal rights for all) is possible any more.

The DVD does not give background about how the conflict started, or what happened in 1967. It does not start with maps. Thus, this is not an introductory film. We suggest that you show this in two segments to accompany a lesson on settlements and a lesson on the Wall.

On the following page, you will find a study guide for students to use as they watch the film. Since visuals are important, we have written the main points of the film and asked students to jot down a detail or two for each main point (so they won't spend much time looking at their page, and can focus on the film). You may want to read over the main points first, so that students can look out for details as they appear. After watching the film, you can use the study guide questions as a discussion guide for the film. However, be sure to ask students a general question, such as “how did you feel while watching the movie” or “what did you think while watching the movie?” before you launch into particulars.

Finally, the DVD ends with David Rovics singing his song “Occupation”. The lyrics are included here. The song could generate an interesting discussion.

## **THE IRON WALL**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Watch the film and add a detail to each of the main points below.

### **Settlements:**

1. Settlements have been the policy of the Israeli government, not one particular political party.
2. To Palestinians, the Oslo Peace Process was clearly not working because settlement growth increased during this time.
3. Settlements and the by-pass roads comprise 42% of the future Palestinian state.
4. There were many negative impacts of settlements on Palestinians besides taking their land.
5. "Economic" settlers (80%) are often manipulated into buying homes in the Occupied Territories.
6. "Religious" settlers (20%) can be very violent and believe that it is their right to live in the Occupied Territories.
7. Israeli soldiers sometimes criticize settlers and settlements.
8. Palestinians in Hebron are subject to closures, curfews, and attacks because of settlers.

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**The Wall:**

1. The Wall is not for Israeli security. The border with the Occupied Territories is 315 km long and the Wall is 670 km long.

2. Palestinian villages are losing land and livelihood.

3. Jerusalem and Bethlehem are also severely impacted.

4. The Wall annexes more than 80% of the settlers and settlements into Israel.

5. The International Court of Justice ruled the Wall illegal in 2004.

**Conclusion:**

6. The “disappearing Palestine” map shows that “land for peace” is becoming increasingly impossible.

7. The “two-state solution” may be in jeopardy.

8. The song at the end of the movie (“Occupation” by David Rovics) notes that peace will only come when settlers return to Tel Aviv. What do you think?

**“Occupation” by David Rovics**

([http://lyrics.wikia.com/David\\_Rovics:Occupation](http://lyrics.wikia.com/David_Rovics:Occupation))

You ask me how it is  
That I dare to take a side  
You say I loathe myself  
For pointing out that you have lied  
You say it's tribal warfare  
But I disagree  
For the dynamics of the situation  
Are not difficult to see  
On one side is the fighter jet  
On the other side the stone  
On one side is the slave  
On the other is the throne  
For the many there are checkpoints  
While foreign soldiers rule the street  
For one side there is victory  
But the people don't accept defeat

(Chorus)

The word you need to know is occupation  
The very definition of a land without a nation  
And if peace is what you're after then let us not deceive  
It will come on the day the tanks return to Tel Aviv

On one side there is hunger  
And bulldozed olive trees  
On the other is the Army

Ruling by decrees  
Caterpillars maul the streets  
And destroy entire city blocks  
While children swallow shrapnel  
For the crime of throwing rocks  
Fences are erected  
Around the towns they flatten  
And Herzl's own fanatics  
Sleep on sheets of satin  
And they water their plantations  
Drilling ever-deeper wells  
While the displaced children of the hopeless  
Are filled with bullet shells

(Chorus)

...It will come on the day the settlers return to Tel Aviv

On one side there is the Mossad  
Rounding up the men  
Thrown in jail with no trial  
Being tortured once again  
On the other there is rage  
Helplessness and fear  
And a growing realization  
That another holocaust is near  
On the outside there are prisons  
Inside detainees  
Being stripped of their humanity

Beaten naked to their knees  
Outside ghetto prison walls  
There are stormtroopers all around  
While inside the hungry people  
Yearn for liberated ground

(Chorus)

...It will come on the day the jailguards return to Tel Aviv

All across the world  
You can hear the people say  
The children of Jerusalem  
Will be free one day  
In overcrowded camps  
Amidst the stench of death and flies  
To the suburbs of Detroit  
You can hear the anguished cries  
While in the land of Israel  
With God ever on their side  
Walls and fences are constructed  
And papers are denied  
People fight for their existence  
While the world turns a blinded eye  
And those who should know better  
Insist on asking why

(Chorus)

...It will come on the day the refugees return to Tel Aviv