

ADDITIONAL LESSONS

Table of Contents

1. ***Roots Run Deep*** -- a good photojournalist book to introduce the conflict to the younger years and ELL students p. 2
2. ***Three Wishes*** -- Israeli and Palestinian children talk about their lives. Paired with the *Promises* DVD and Role Play, this would be a good way to view the conflict through the eyes of youth p. 3
3. **Introductory Stations** (Combining Several Trunk Lessons into One Day of Stations) -- maps, language, embroidery, readings, dress p. 8
4. **Identifying Different Viewpoints** -- on 2012 Gaza Attack, UN vote & Settlements p. 12
5. ***The Scar of David/Mornings in Jenin*** -- novel about Palestinians and Israelis with study questions & some pre and post activity suggestions p. 29
6. **Empathy Poem & Map of Gaza and Seattle** p. 32

1. *Roots Run Deep*

Teachers have an increasing number of English Language Learners in their classrooms (more kids becoming bilingual -- how great!). Here's a book that is written simply enough for intermediate ELLs, deeply enough for all levels of English, and can spark a great discussion about Israel and Palestine.

Roots Run Deep by Hamde Abu Rahma (available at hamdeaburahma.com or on loan in the Trunk) is a book by an accountant from the Palestinian village of Bil'in. He became a photojournalist to document the impact of occupation after his brother was critically injured and his cousin was killed. Every page in this book has one intriguing photo and a paragraph of text.

Here's one way you could use this book in a lesson exploring Palestine.

First, use the Movement Grid lesson in the Trunk (in the Dig Deep CBA p. 6-9) so students discover what it is like to have their own community divided by a Wall.

Then, use *Roots Run Deep* to explore what is happening in Palestine (with the Wall, settlements, land confiscation, house demolition, etc.). Show a picture from the book. Ask students what they notice, what they think might be going on, why they think it might be happening, what they wonder.

Then read the paragraph of text to the students. Discuss.

Afterwards, ask students to search for another vivid image on the web that shows a different aspect of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. They can share with their classmates and/or write their own paragraphs about what is happening.

When you've finished reading the book and taking notes. Write the following observations and conclusions before discussing them with your classmates.

1. Describe the city of Jerusalem, its history and its significance to different religions.

2. What is a 'settlement'? Give a brief description of life in a settlement.

3. What is a 'camp'? Give a brief description of life in a camp.

4. Both the Israeli and the Palestinian children go to school. Their schools are very different though. In the columns below, write about a day spent in each school. Also include the trip to and from school and other events that may affect the day.

A day in an Israeli School	A day in a Palestinian school

5. What is a 'checkpoint'? From the stories you've read, relate three events that show how these checkpoints make life difficult for the Palestinians and how they are treated there.

6. Are all Israelis in favor of the occupation? How do they show their opposition to the Government (list at least three ways they do it and name some Israeli organizations which oppose the occupation)?

7. "Since 1967, more than 8,000 homes have been deliberately destroyed inside Palestinian territories." Summarize the story of one of the children whose house was destroyed several times. How has this changed her and her family's life?

6. Both the Israeli and Palestinian children are afraid. What are they afraid of?

7. The media has coined the word 'suicide bomber'. Who is a suicide bomber? What do you think leads one to become a 'suicide bomber'?

8. Both the Israeli and Palestinian children wish for a solution to the problem. What do you think would be the best solution to this problem and how do you think it can be achieved?

9. Of all the stories you have read, which one has touched you the most? Write a brief summary of that story below.

10. If you were a Palestinian child living in Palestine, what would be your three wishes?

11. If you were an Israeli child living in Israel, what would be your three wishes?

3. Introductory Activity Combining Several Trunk Lessons into One Day of Stations

adapted from a 10th grade lesson by Kirsten B.

Divide your class into 6 groups for 7 stations (stations 2&3 take more time, so start with no group at station 3; after that, rotate clockwise so that the group at station 2 is now working on station 3, etc). Give each student a KWL (Know, Want to Learn, Learned) chart from the Literature Circles CBA p. 7 and also a copy of the Stations Directions beginning on the next page. Tell them that today they are going to learn about Palestinians, a group of people who live in the Middle East; they will probably have many questions as well as answers by the time they finish the day. That's okay; the rest of this unit will help them answer their questions.

See the handout for each of the stations on the next page to set up each station. Below are additional notes for each station:

#1: Put out some of the Trunk books that have photos. Have enough books so that each person in a group can look at his/her own book. If you don't have the physical Trunk, then you'll have to provide these pictures some other way.

#2: Stations 2 & 3 both deal with maps and are very interrelated; you will want to have only 6 groups and tell students to stay at Stations 2/3 for two sessions. Post the maps from the Trunk near this station -- or print out some maps of the region (use the Maps folder online and more from [this](http://maps.oftheworld.com) (maps of the world.com) or other websites). Also, give the students access to some of the maps in your textbooks to ensure they have information about all the geographical places they need to mark on their blank map. Students will need a blank map of the Middle East to complete the two map stations. One of the entire region is on p. 17 of the Cause of Conflict unit.

#3: Students will need access to a computer for the Palestinian maps stations -- or you can print out some maps from the internet for them to use to complete information about refugee camps.

#4: You'll need copies of *Faces* magazine -- the Palestinians issue. Alternately, you could print out articles on the various topics mentioned.

#5: If you don't have *Faces* for this station, you can print out the half page of information about embroidery that is offered on p. 27 of the Cultural Interactions unit. Use the pictures of embroidered dresses in the Trunk or print out pictures of dresses online or print out the pictures of embroidered purses beginning on p. 30 of the Cultural Interactions unit online.

#6: Use the embroidered purses (or their online version beginning on p. 30 of the Cultural Interactions unit) and some Arabic alphabet cards. These are in the Trunk or

online in the same unit on p. 28-29. The key to the words on the purses is 1. Gaza (Ghaza) 2. Safad 3. Haifa 4. Jerusalem (al-Quds) 5. Hebron (al-Khalil) 6. Al-Ramla (Ramleh) 7. Tulkarm 8. Bysan (Bayson/Bisan) . These are all the names of Palestinians towns. All of these towns still exist; however, many or most Palestinians were driven out of Safad, Haifa, Ramleh and Bysan in 1947-49 when Israel was founded. These Palestinians became refugees in the camps.

#7: Use the pictures of Palestinian dress in the Trunk or print out pictures from [images of Palestinian dress](#)

Stations Directions

Station # 1 What do you see?

Part ONE: In your group, each person spends 3-5 minutes looking at the pictures in one of these books and reading the captions. Try to formulate questions you have about the pictures you see or reconcile it with your current view of the Middle East.

Part TWO: Share with each other what you see in the pictures. Write this in the Know section of your notes and formulate questions in your Want to Learn section.

Station # 2 Maps

Part ONE: Have one person be the leader who stands up and points to the various maps on the bulletin board. Discuss where Israel is geographically, where Palestine was during the Ottoman Empire (and until 1948), significant names of places and bodies of water. You may also need to refer to the maps on the tables to find this information.

Part TWO: Take a blank map of the region and write in the following places: Israel, West Bank, Gaza Strip, Mediterranean Sea, Dead Sea, Red Sea, Jordan River, Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, Gaza City, Ramallah, Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, Egypt.

Station # 3 (Maps, continued) Palestinian Refugee Camps

Part ONE: Use the [Map of Palestinian Refugee Camps](#) to show you these camps with their names listed on the left. Clicking on each name will reveal more information about the camp (and which one it is on the map). This [UNRWA](#) (UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East) site also tells about each of the major areas where they work and each of the camps. UNRWA gives statistics by country and camp about how many Palestinians live there and living conditions.

Part TWO: Using a different color on your map,

-- Mark the locations of all the Palestinian refugee camps in these five areas:

Gaza Strip, West Bank, Lebanon, Syria, Jordan.

-- Write the number of total refugees in each of those areas.

-- Read about the largest refugee camp in each of those 5 areas. Add information to the Know section of your KWL chart about living conditions in those camps. Formulate questions in your Want to Learn section.

Station # 4 *Faces* Children's Magazine

Part ONE: Each person in the group decides to read/skim one of the following articles: "Palestinian Food", "Design Your Own Mosque", "Seeds of Peace", and/or "Being Palestinian". Each person read a different article.

Part TWO: Share with your group what you learned from your article. Write this in the Know section of your notes and formulate questions in your Want to Learn section.

Station # 5 Palestinian Embroidery

Part ONE: Read the article "Messages in Thread" in the *Faces* magazine.

Part TWO: Look at the authentic embroidery. How does what you read about correspond to the embroidery? Write this in the Know section of your notes and formulate questions in your Want to Learn section.

Station # 6 Arabic Alphabet

Part ONE: Each member take a placard of Palestinian embroidery and one of the Arabic alphabet. On your own, try to decipher the word.

Part TWO: Share with your group members what you came up with! Write this in the Know section of your notes and formulate questions in your Want to Learn section.

Station # 7 Palestinian Dress

Part ONE: Each member take a placard of Palestinian dress and study it.

Part TWO: Share with your group members what you see and compare it to dress from your own background or from American culture. What is the same and different? Write this in the Know section of your notes and formulate questions in your Want to Learn section.

4. Identifying Different Viewpoints on 2012 Gaza Attack, UN vote & Settlements

Background:

1. Gaza: In November of 2012, Israel launched a large air attack (“Operation Pillar of Defense”) on Gaza. Over 140 Palestinians and 6 Israelis were killed.

The history: Despite the removal of illegal Israeli settlers in 2005, Israel still holds Gaza under occupation, siege and blockade. Israel controls Gaza’s airspace, water, electricity, seacoast, borders (in collaboration with Egypt), imports and exports. Israel sometimes loosens or tightens restrictions, but Gaza has become an open-air prison for over 1.5 million Palestinians.

During Operation Cast Lead, 2008-9, Israel killed 1400 Palestinians in Gaza, most of them civilians. Since the end of Operation Cast Lead, Israel has continued regular attacks on Gaza, killing 271 Palestinians between February 2009 and September 2012. Palestinians responded with rocket fire, killing 5 Israeli civilians over the same period. (Statistics from The Israeli Information Center for Human Rights in the Occupied Territories - www.btselem.org)

After a period of relative calm, Israel began an escalation of violence on November 5, 2012, when Israeli soldiers shot and killed an unarmed Palestinian man in Gaza, and then on November 8 fired indiscriminately into villages and killed a 13 year old boy. Palestinians in Gaza responded with rocket fire. Israel attacked again on November 10, killing seven more Palestinians, including three children.

A truce was arranged on November 13; but on November 14, Israel broke the tacit agreement with the extrajudicial murder of a Palestinian official. Palestinians responded with rocket fire, and Israel launched a major bombing campaign on Gaza, killing over 140 Palestinians. Six Israelis were killed during the same time.

2. UN Vote: Weeks later, the United Nations General Assembly voted to upgrade Palestine’s status from “observer entity” to “non-member state”. (One reason this is considered an “upgrade” is that Palestinians can now belong to the International Criminal Court and bring law suits against Israel there.)

3. Settlements: In response, Israel announced 3,000 more settlement homes to be built in an area that would seal the last entry to East Jerusalem for Palestinians in the West Bank.

Directions: Read the following articles analyzing these three moves (not all of the articles analyze all the moves; the articles have been chosen to show you different viewpoints). What does each article say? How does each article differ in its analysis of the values and meaning of the military, political, and economic actions? Fill out the table after you have read the articles. Finally, write three questions that you have about these issues. Be prepared to discuss them in class.

Article	One (A Palestinian perspective)	Two (An Israeli perspective)	Three (A different Israeli perspective)	Four (America's Pro-Israel Lobby)	Five (A different Palestinian Perspective)	Six (article with several perspectives)
Analysis of Israel's attack on Gaza:						
Analysis of the UN vote to make Palestine a non-member observer state:						
Analysis of Israel's plan to use settlements to block Palestinian access to East Jerusalem:						

Article 1: From the *New York Times* newspaper by a Palestinian

December 5, 2012

If Not Two States, Then One

By SAREE MAKDISI

ISRAEL did not wait long to reveal its first response to the United Nations General Assembly's [overwhelming recognition of Palestine as a non-member state](#), almost immediately announcing its intention to [push forward with plans to build housing for Jewish settlers in E1](#), an area of the West Bank just to the east of Jerusalem.

Although it is sometimes misleadingly referred to as “disputed” or “controversial,” settlement construction in E1 is no more and no less of a contravention of international law than settlement construction elsewhere in the West Bank or East Jerusalem. What makes this development significant is E1's location, sealing tight the gap between East Jerusalem and Israel's largest settlement, Maale Adumim, further to the east.

That gap is the last remaining link for Palestinians between the northern and southern parts of the West Bank; it also occupies the interface among and between the Palestinian communities of Ramallah, Bethlehem and East Jerusalem – which, apart from being the cultural, religious, social and economic focal point of Palestinian life, is also one day supposed to be the capital of Palestine.

In moving forward with long-threatened plans to develop E1, Israel will be breaking the back of the West Bank and isolating the capital of the prospective Palestinian state from its hinterland. In so doing, it will be terminating once and for all the very prospect of that state – and with it, by definition, any lingering possibility of a two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Oddly enough, the Palestine recognized by the United Nation is only an abstraction; the one that Israel is now about to throttle is much more real, at least insofar as the throttling will materially affect the lives of hundreds of thousands of Palestinians in a way that mere recognition does not.

However heavy the blow to Palestinian aspirations, an equally heavy political price for Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's E1 plan will be paid by Israelis. For by terminating the prospect of a two-state solution, Netanyahu will also be sealing the fate of an exclusively Jewish state.

As canner Israeli politicians (Ehud Olmert among them) have long warned, maintaining the existence of Israel as a Jewish state fundamentally requires perpetuating at least the idea of a Palestinian state, even if only as a deferred fiction kept alive through endless negotiations.

Once the fiction of a separate Palestinian state is revealed to have no more substance than the Wizard of Oz – which the E1 plan will all but guarantee – those Palestinians who have not already done so will commit themselves to the only viable alternative: a one-state solution, in which the idea of an exclusively Jewish state and an exclusively Palestinian one will yield to what was really all along the preferable alternative, a single democratic and secular state in all of historical Palestine that both peoples will have to share as equal citizens.

A campaign for rights and equality in a single state is a project toward which the Palestinians will now be able to turn with the formidable international support they have already developed at both the diplomatic and the grassroots levels, including a global boycott and sanctions movement whose bite Israel has already felt.

For Palestinians, in any case, one state is infinitely preferable to two, for the simple reason that no version of the two-state solution that has ever been proposed has meaningfully sought to address the rights of more than the minority of Palestinians who actually live in the territory on which that state is supposed to exist.

The majority of Palestinians live either in the exile to which they were driven from their homes during the creation of Israel in 1948, or as second-class citizens of Israel, where they face formidable obstacles as non-Jews in a state that reserves a full spectrum of rights only for Jews.

For Palestinians, the right to return home and the right to live in dignity and equality in their own land are not any less important than the right to live free of military occupation. A separate state addressed only the latter, but there can never be a just and lasting peace that does not address all those rights, even if it means relinquishing the prospect of an independent Palestinian state.

What must be added here is that if a one-state solution offers the last remaining key to a just and lasting peace, Israeli Jews will pay what will turn out to be only a short-term price in exchange for many long-term gains. Like Palestinians, they will lose the dream and the prospect of a state exclusively their own. But – also like Palestinians – what they will gain in turn is the right to live in peace.

Saree Makdisi is a professor of English and comparative literature at the University of California, Los Angeles and the author of “Palestine Inside Out: An Everyday Occupation.”

Article 2: From *Tikkun* e-magazine by an Israeli

Uri Avnery

December 1, 2012

The Strong and the Sweet

IT WAS a day of joy. November 29, 2012.

Joy for the Palestinian people.

Joy for all those who hope for peace between Israel and the Arab world.

And, in a modest way, for me personally.

The General Assembly of the United Nations, the highest world forum, has voted overwhelmingly for the recognition of the State of Palestine, though in a limited way.

The resolution adopted by the same forum 65 years ago to the day, to partition historical Palestine between a Jewish and an Arab state, has at long last been reaffirmed.

I HOPE I may be excused a few moments of personal celebration.

During the war of 1948, which followed the first resolution, I came to the conclusion that there exists a Palestinian people and that the establishment of a Palestinian state, next to the new State of Israel, is the [prerequisite](#) for peace.

As a simple soldier, I fought in dozens of engagements against the Arab inhabitants of Palestine. I saw how dozens of Arab towns and villages were destroyed and left deserted. Long before I saw the first Egyptian soldier, I saw the people of Palestine (who had started the war) fight for what was their homeland.

Before the war, I hoped that the unity of the country, so dear to both peoples, could be preserved. The war convinced me that reality had smashed this dream forever.

I was still in uniform when, in early 1949, I tried to set up an initiative for what is now called the Two-State Solution. I met with two young Arabs in Haifa for this purpose. One was a Muslim Arab, the other a Druze sheik. (Both became members of the Knesset before me.)

At the time, it looked like mission impossible. "Palestine" had been wiped off the map. 78% of the country had become Israel, the other 22% divided between Jordan and Egypt. The very existence of a Palestinian people was vehemently denied by the Israeli establishment, indeed, the denial became an article of faith. Much later, Golda Meir famously declared that "there is no such thing as a Palestinian people". Respected charlatans wrote popular books "proving" that the Arabs in Palestine were pretenders who had only recently arrived. The Israeli leadership was convinced that the "Palestinian problem" had disappeared, once and forever.

In 1949, there were not a hundred persons in the entire world who believed in this solution. Not a single country supported it. The Arab countries still believed that Israel would just disappear. Britain supported its client state, the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. The US had its own local strongmen. Stalin's Soviet Union supported Israel.

Mine was a lonely fight. For the next 40 years, as the editor of a news magazine, I brought the subject up almost every week. When I was elected to the Knesset, I did the same there.

In 1968 I went to Washington DC, in order to propagate the idea there. I was politely received by the relevant officials in the State Department (Joseph Sisco), the White House (Harold Saunders), the US mission to the UN (Charles Yost), leading Senators and Congressmen, as well as the British father of Resolution 242 (Lord Caradon). The uniform answer [from](#) all of them, without exception: a Palestinian state was out of question.

When I published a book devoted to this solution, the PLO in Beirut attacked me in 1970 in a book entitled "Uri Avnery and Neo-Zionism".

Today, there is a world consensus that a solution of the conflict without a Palestinian state is quite out of the question.

So why not celebrate now?

WHY NOW? WHY didn't it happen before or later?

Because of the Pillar of Cloud, the historic masterpiece from Binyamin Netanyahu, Ehud Barak and Avigdor Lieberman.

The Bible tells us about Samson the hero, who rent a lion with his bare hands. When he returned to the scene, a swarm of bees had made the carcass of the lion its home and produced honey. So Samson posed a riddle to the Philistines: "Out of the strong came forth sweetness". This is now a Hebrew proverb.

Well, out of the "strong" Israeli operation against Gaza, sweetness has [indeed](#) come forth. It is another confirmation of the rule that when you start a war or a revolution, you never know what will come out of it.

One of the results of the operation was that the prestige and popularity of Hamas shot sky-high, while the Palestinian Authority of Mahmoud Abbas sank to new depths. That was a result the West could not possibly tolerate. A defeat of the "moderates" and a victory for the Islamic "extremists" were a disaster for President Barack Obama and the entire Western camp. Something had to be found - with all urgency - to provide Abbas with a resounding achievement.

Fortunately, Abbas was already on the way to obtain UN approval for the recognition of Palestine as a “state” (though not yet as a full member of the world organization). For Abbas, it was a move of despair. Suddenly, it became a [beacon](#) of victory.

THE COMPETITION between the Hamas and Fatah movements is viewed as a disaster for the Palestinian cause. But there is also another way to look at it.

Let’s go back to our own history. During the 30s and 40s, our Struggle for Liberation (as we called it) split between two camps, who hated each other with growing intensity.

On the one side was the “official” leadership, led by David Ben-Gurion, represented by the “Jewish Agency” which cooperated with the British administration. Its military arm was the Haganah, a very large, semi-official militia, mostly tolerated by the British.

On the other side was the Irgun (“National Military Organization”), the far more radical armed wing of the nationalist “revisionist” party of Vladimir Jabotinsky. It split and yet another, even more radical, organization was born. The British called it “the Stern Gang”, [after its leader, Avraham Stern](#)”.

The enmity between these organizations was intense. For a time, Haganah members kidnapped Irgun fighters and turned them over to the British police, who tortured them and sent them to camps in Africa. A bloody fratricidal war was avoided only because the Irgun leader, Menachem Begin, forbade all actions of revenge. By contrast, the Stern people bluntly told the Haganah that they would shoot anyone trying to attack their members.

In retrospect, the two sides can be seen as acting as the two arms of the same body. The “terrorism” of the Irgun and Stern complemented the diplomacy of the Zionist leadership. The diplomats exploited the achievements of the fighters. In order to counterbalance the growing popularity of the “terrorists”, the British made concessions to Ben-Gurion. A friend of mine called the Irgun “the shooting agency of the Jewish Agency”.

In a way, this is now the situation in the Palestinian camp.

FOR YEARS, the Israeli government has threatened Abbas with the most dire consequences if he dared to go to the UN. Abolishing the Oslo agreement and destroying the Palestinian authority was the [bare](#) minimum. Lieberman called the move “diplomatic terrorism”.

And now? Nothing. Not a bang and barely a whimper. Even Netanyahu understands that the Pillar of Cloud has created a situation where world support for Abbas has become inevitable.

What to do? Nothing! Pretend the whole thing is a joke. Who cares? What is this UNO anyway? What difference does it make?

Netanyahu is more concerned about another thing that happened to him this week. In the Likud primary elections, all the “moderates” in his party were unceremoniously kicked out. No liberal, democratic alibi was left. The Likud-Beitenu faction in the next Knesset will be composed entirely of right-wing extremists, among them several outright fascists, people who want to destroy the independence of the Supreme Court, cover the West Bank densely with settlements and prevent peace and a Palestinian state by all possible means.

While Netanyahu is sure to win the coming elections and continue to serve as Prime Minister, he is too clever not to realize where he is now: a hostage to extremists, liable to be thrown out by his own Knesset faction if he so much as mentions peace, to be displaced at any time by Lieberman or worse.

ON FIRST sight, nothing much has changed. But only on first sight.

What has happened is that the foundation of the State of Palestine has now been officially acknowledged as the aim of the world community. The “Two-State solution” is now the only solution on the table. The “One-State solution”, if it ever lived, is as dead as the dodo.

Of course, the apartheid one-state is reality. If nothing changes on the ground, it will become deeper and stronger. Almost every day brings news of it becoming more and more entrenched. (The bus monopoly has just announced that from now on there will be separate buses for West Bank Palestinians in Israel.)

But the quest for peace based on the co-existence between Israel and Palestine has taken a big step forwards. Unity between the Palestinians should be the next. US support for the actual creation of the State of Palestine should come soon after.

The strong must lead to the sweet.

Article 3: From one of Israel's biggest newspapers. An editorial by the editors of the newspaper usually represents the main political opinion of the paper.

THE JERUSALEM POST

JPOST.com
Israel's best-selling English daily and most-read English website

Photo by: Reuters/Baz Ratner

Editorial: The logic of E1

By JPOST EDITORIAL

02/12/2012

Despite claims to the contrary, building in E1 would not necessarily undermine the contiguity of a future Palestinian state.

It can be argued that on a tactical level, our government's reaction to the Palestinian UN bid was a mistake.

The announcement of plans for 3,000 housing units in Jerusalem, Judea and Samaria less than 24 hours after the UN General Assembly vote to give "Palestine" non-member observer status might be interpreted by the US, Canada, the Czech Republic and the other five countries that voted against the Palestinian bid and the 41 states that abstained (not to mention the countries that voted in favor) as an unnecessary provocation.

Former prime minister Ehud Olmert, speaking Saturday at the Saban Forum in Washington, called the announcement a "slap in the face" for US President Barack Obama.

The move also unfairly paints Israel - at least in the eyes of the international community - as the guilty party in the ongoing deadlock in peace negotiations with the Palestinians.

More substantially, the idea that Jewish settlement construction can be used as a means of punishment against Palestinians is wrongheaded. We build in existing Jewish neighborhoods in Jerusalem such as Pisgat Ze'ev and Gilo or in consensus settlement blocs like Gush Etzion and Ariel out of a real need to supply housing for a fast-growing population. Unlike the vast majority of Western countries, Israel enjoys brisk natural population growth.

Indeed, our high fertility rate combined with our high standard of living is one of many signs of Israel's vitality and health.

Nevertheless, on a more principled level, the decision to move ahead with building in areas that a broad majority of Israelis expect to be a part of any future Jewish state - even after a two-state solution is implemented - is perfectly in line with our country's interests.

Even the decision to authorize zoning and planning for E1 follows in the footsteps of a long chain of governments - both left wing and right wing.

In October 1994, while in the midst of hammering out the Oslo Accords, then-prime minister Yitzhak Rabin declared that a "united Jerusalem" would include Ma'aleh Adumim as the capital of Israel under Israel sovereignty. As part of the effort to make sure Ma'aleh Adumim remained an integral part of a "united Jerusalem," Rabin provided then-mayor Benny Kashriel with annexation documents for the E1 area - a strip of land that connects the capital with Ma'aleh Adumim.

As prime minister in 1996, Shimon Peres reaffirmed the government's position that Israel will demand applying Israeli sovereignty over Ma'aleh Adumim in the framework of a permanent peace agreement. Dovish politician and co-author of the Geneva Initiative, Yossi Beilin, supported annexing Ma'aleh Adumim. And the 2000 Clinton Parameters called for Israel to be compensated for the partitioning of Jerusalem by annexing Ma'aleh Adumim.

During the 2008 Annapolis negotiations, then-prime minister Ehud Olmert and then-foreign minister Tzipi Livni demanded that Ma'aleh Adumim remain a part of Israel. And Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's declaration Sunday ahead of the weekly cabinet meeting that "the State of Israel will continue to build in Jerusalem and in all the places on the state's strategic map" is a continuation of the political tradition that views control over E1 as a cardinal Israeli interest.

Consecutive governments on the Left and on the Right have understood the strategic importance of maintaining control over Ma'aleh Adumim, as well as E1. Without control over E1, Palestinian building could cut off Ma'aleh Adumim - a city with a population of 40,000 - from the capital; it could also undermine Israel's access to the Jerusalem-Jericho road, of critical strategic importance for transport of troops and equipment from Jerusalem eastward and northward via the Jordan Rift Valley.

And despite claims to the contrary, building in E1 would not necessarily undermine the contiguity of a future Palestinian state. An access road could easily allow Palestinian traffic from the south and north to pass east of Ma'aleh Adumim and continue northward or southward.

While the timing of our government's announcement might result in negative diplomatic repercussions, building in Jerusalem and E1 protects integral Israeli interests recognized and protected by both left-wing and right-wing governments for well over a decade.

Article 4: From the American-Israel Public Affairs Committee which calls itself “America’s pro-Israel Lobby”

July 3, 2012 251 H Street, NW Tel 202-639-5200, Washington, DC 20001 Fax 202-639-0630 www.aipac.org

Attacks from Gaza, Sinai Mark Escalation Against Israel

More than 200 rockets and mortars were launched into Israel in the month of June, a sharp rise over previous months. Attacks against Israelis emanated not only from Hamas-controlled Gaza, but from the increasingly lawless Egyptian Sinai desert. The increase in violence comes in the wake of mounting regional instability and uncertainty, including the election of an Islamist president in Egypt. The United States should continue to work closely with Israel to help it expand its capabilities to defend against these growing threats. Hamas and other terrorist groups have stepped up rocket and other attacks against Israel during the past month.

- Hamas and other terrorist groups have escalated attacks on Israel, firing more than 200 rockets and mortars during the month of June.
- Two Israelis were killed—one in a June 1 attack along the Gaza border and the other in a June 18 attack launched from Sinai against workers building a security fence along the Egyptian-Israeli border.
- The indiscriminate rocket attacks have struck an Israeli school, a factory and numerous other civilian areas. Only the buildings’ armor and sheer luck prevented what may otherwise have been catastrophic casualties.
- The U.S.-designated terrorist group Hamas, which controls Gaza, claimed responsibility for some of the rocket attacks—a rare move in recent years. In previous attacks, other terrorist groups in Gaza have claimed responsibility while Hamas remained quiet so as not to provoke an Israeli response.
- In addition to the threat from Gaza, Israel must contend with the increased dangers from Sinai, which has experienced a marked uptick in lawlessness, an increased presence of global jihadist groups and a dramatic increase in the number and types of sophisticated weaponry. The new attacks come as Israel faces rocket and missile threats from multiple fronts. Millions of Israelis are within range of attack.
- Israel’s director of military intelligence, Major General Aviv Kochavi, recently estimated that 200,000 rockets and missiles are aimed at the Jewish state from Gaza, Lebanon, Syria and Iran.
- Israel has been hit with more than 8,000 indiscriminate rocket and mortar attacks since it withdrew from Gaza in 2005. Hizballah also launched 4,000 rockets at Israeli civilians during the Second Lebanon War in 2006.
- Earlier this year, terrorists in Gaza fired more than 300 rockets at Israel during one week in March. In early April, a rocket fired from Sinai hit the resort town of Eilat. Israeli police examine the site of a rocket attack near the southern Israeli town of Sderot.
- Weapons smuggling by Hamas and other terrorist groups has increased as a result of instability in the region and the availability of thousands of missiles from Libya.
- Hamas’ arsenal includes advanced Iranian made Fajr-3, Katyusha and Grad rockets, anti-tank missiles, and heavy mortar rounds. In March, a missile fired by Hamas

landed in a suburb of Tel Aviv, illustrating how the group's weapons can penetrate deeply into Israel.

- Iran also continues to advance its missiles capable of hitting Israel and U.S. troops in the region. On July 3, Iran said it successfully tested a series of Shihab missiles, which experts say could be used to carry a nuclear warhead.

The United States and Israel have worked closely together to counter the increasing threat of rockets and missiles.

- Israel, working closely with the United States, has developed a multi-tiered missile defense shield that is capable of protecting its citizens from Katyusha-style rockets, medium- and long-range rockets and ballistic missiles.

- Israel developed and, with support from the United States, is producing the Iron Dome rocket defense system to counter Katyusha rocket attacks. The Iron Dome, which uses missiles to intercept incoming rockets, has proven to be over 80 percent effective.

- After a successful track record of intercepting short-range rockets fired from Gaza, the United States is now exploring the feasibility of deploying Iron Dome technology to protect U.S. troops.

- Jointly developed by the United States and Israel, the Arrow 3 will intercept longer-range ballistic missiles. Among the world's most sophisticated missile shields, the currently deployed Arrow 2 is the only operational system that has consistently proven that one missile can shoot down another at high altitudes and supersonic speeds.

- Israel and the United States are also collaborating on the development of a quick-reaction defense system, known as David's Sling, to address the threats posed by short and medium-range missiles. The United States must continue its support for Israel's right to self-defense and its quest for peace.

- Congress has recognized Israel's unique role as a strategic partner, as well as the common threats faced by America and Israel. Congress' continued support for Arrow, Iron Dome and David's Sling is vital for the success of these programs.

- Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta announced on May 17 that the Obama administration will seek to provide an additional \$70 million toward the Iron Dome rocket defense system in the current fiscal year. This proposed aid would be part of a commitment for future funding of the Iron Dome that key congressional committees are currently considering.

- More generally, Congress has taken a leading role in fostering broad U.S.-Israel strategic cooperation. The House and Senate have passed the U.S.-Israel Enhanced Security Cooperation Act of 2012, which reaffirms that the U.S. commitment to Israel's security is unshakeable and that America is committed to providing Israel the means to defend itself by itself.

- In addition to the Iron Dome funding request, Congress this year is set to make significant contributions to U.S.-Israel cooperative programs funded within the National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2013 and the Defense Appropriations Bill for fiscal year 2013.

* Enhancing joint exercises is another important way for the two allies to strengthen cooperation. America and Israel are scheduled to hold their largest ever joint exercise this fall as a way to test both country's rocket and missile defense systems against a simulated missile attack against Israel.

Article 5: From al-Shabaka, the Palestinian Policy Network, reprinted in Aljazeera, an Arab news source. Al-Shabaka, The Palestinian Policy Network, says it is an independent, non-profit organization whose mission is to educate and foster public debate on Palestinian human rights and self-determination within the framework of international law.

The fine print of Palestinian statehood By Nadia Hijab 4 December, 2012
Congratulations are raining as friends of the Palestinians respond with delight to the United Nations' resounding "Yes!" to Palestine's non-member observer state status as of November 29, 2012. But before giving free rein to their excitement, the Palestinian people - and their allies - should read the actual text of the resolution.

Many Palestinians did not read the Oslo Accords Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) signed in the 1990s. If they had, they might have noticed that the Accords did not mention international law and human rights, did not provide for a state and did not even mention the "occupation". Plus, the accords tied the Palestinian economy into knots that Israel could tighten or loosen at will.

The same leadership that signed those accords now believes the UN upgrade will put the Palestinian struggle for self-determination, freedom, equality and justice back on track.

Perhaps. There may be some openings yet the reasons for apprehension are legion, as is shown by a reading of the text.

The resolution itself is a messy text (based on the penultimate copy of the document circulated the day before submission) stuffed with references to past UN resolutions, statements and peace processes. But that is not so worrying in and of itself.

Arab peace initiative

What is truly alarming is that, despite repeated assertions by the Palestinian leadership that they are determined to protect the rights of Palestinian refugees, the brief reference to the cornerstone UN Resolution 194 (III) is buried in the preambular paragraphs. In the operative paragraphs, "the Palestine refugees" are just one of the core issues that must be resolved, along with Jerusalem, settlements, border, security and water.

Resolved, how? The resolution enshrines the 2002 Arab peace initiative, which speaks of a "just and agreed upon" solution for the Palestinian refugees, in operative paragraph 5. This effectively reaffirms Israel's control of any solution, an Israel that has never allowed the refugees to return and that continues to this day to dispossess the Palestinians in pre-1967 Israel and the occupied territory. Thus, the UN resolution

gives ever-more formal sanction to disposing of the majority of the Palestinian people.

Another worrying factor is the repeated references to a peace process so discredited that it is long past time to bury and not to praise it.

Nevertheless, it is noteworthy that the operative paragraphs make no direct reference to the Oslo Accords. Rather, they refer to the "relevant United Nations resolutions, the Madrid terms of reference, including the principle of land for peace, the Arab peace Initiative and the Quartet Roadmap".

Is this a positive sign? Perhaps.

Another potentially positive sign is the affirmation, in operative paragraph 2, that the new status would be "without prejudice to the acquired rights, privileges and role" of the PLO at the UN. Many Palestinians feared that the UN bid would come at the expense of PLO representation of the entire Palestinian people, under occupation, refugees and in Israel.

Yet in practice can Palestinians be represented by both a state and the PLO? Despite the careful wording of the resolution, a Palestinian negotiator said in private exchanges that "state representation (entity)... overrides the PLO representation" and that an ambassador would be representing the state of Palestine. The negotiator also said the PLO is "the interim government representing the state and not the entity represented that is Palestine".

Clear? Not so much. It seems that the ambassador of Palestine would represent those Palestinians in the state of Palestine, that is, not all Palestinians, with the PLO's position unclear.

The Palestinians' political reality is even more worrying than the resolution's language. Not only did this same leadership sign the disastrous Oslo Accords, it stood helplessly by as Israel more than doubled its illegal settlers since 1993 with no signs of stopping its rampant colonisation.

Freedom from occupation

In addition, the Fatah-Hamas 2007 split has greatly weakened the Palestinian national movement. Even if they reconcile, as they seem determined to do in the wake of Israel's assault on Gaza this month, this is not necessarily cause for celebration. There is nothing democratic about either faction. Although Hamas does hold internal elections, both have brutally oppressed dissent rather than encouraging true Palestinian representation.

In the final analysis, it boils down to a question of trust. True, the PLO did not bend to British demands that, among other things, it did not agree to join the International Criminal Court for a "Yes" vote (Britain abstained.) But it has squandered the huge resources at its disposal to lead civil resistance to the Israeli trampling of Palestinian rights. It did not make use of the International Court of Justice Advisory Opinion to hold other states accountable for their support of Israel's occupation.

It tried to torpedo the Goldstone Report after Cast Lead. It adopted a weak, limited boycott of Israeli settlement goods only after the rest of the world responded powerfully to the Palestinian civil society 2005 Call for boycott, divestment and sanctions (BDS); and the Ramallah-based Palestinian Authority (PA) took on the role of Israel's policeman.

Can such a leadership really lead the Palestinians to freedom from occupation, justice for the refugees and equal rights for the Palestinian citizens of Israel? Can it take advantage of the ICC and ICJ, and other UN conventions and bodies to protect its waters, airspace and people? The jury is out.

The biggest ray of sunshine on the horizon is the virulent opposition to the UN bid by the Israeli and American governments. In fact, they have been boxed in. If Israel cuts aid to the PA, it will have to manage its own occupation. If the US cuts aid to the PA, it will lose its clout over the Palestinian agenda.

Furthermore, the PLO/PA's apparent interest in reviving itself provides opportunities for Palestinian civil society and its allies to hold the leadership accountable for Palestinian rights. But first, it would be good to read that document, to know just what to hold it accountable for.

Nadia Hijab is Director of Al-Shabaka: The Palestinian Policy Network.

<http://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/opinion/2012/12/201212312551221368.html>

Article 6: Article from a Reuters blog that reports several different viewpoints.

Hamas's Gaza jubilation proves Israel is at risk: Netanyahu

2:36pm EST

By [Dan Williams](#)

JERUSALEM (Reuters) - Hamas's vow to vanquish Israel after claiming "victory" in last month's Gaza conflict vindicates Israel's reluctance to relinquish more land to the Palestinians, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said on Sunday.

Khaled Meshaal, the leader of the Islamist Hamas movement, made a defiant speech before thousands of supporters in the Gaza Strip on Saturday, promising to take "inch-by-inch" all of modern-day Israel, which he said he would never recognize.

"Over the last day, we have again been exposed to the true face of our enemies. They have no intention of compromising with us. They want to destroy our country," Netanyahu told his weekly cabinet meeting.

The Israeli leader has faced fierce foreign criticism this week for announcing a wave of Jewish settlement building in the occupied West Bank and East Jerusalem following a de-facto recognition by the U.N. General Assembly of a Palestinian state.

But Netanyahu said Israel would never withdraw unilaterally from the West Bank as it had done from Gaza in 2005, arguing that this would risk creating another territory from which Palestinians could launch rockets at Israeli cities.

"I am always aghast at the delusions of others who are prepared to pursue this process and call it peace," he said.

"We want a true peace with our neighbors, but we will not close our eyes nor bury our heads in the sand," he said, adding that this required Israel to "stand up to international pressure".

Although Hamas refuses to recognize Israel or renounce violence, the Western-backed Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas has said he is ready to make peace on the basis of the lines that existed before the 1967 war, when Israel seized the West Bank, East Jerusalem and the Gaza Strip.

ABBAS UNITY

Direct talks broke down in 2010 over the issue of settlement building and Abbas, who holds sway in the West Bank, has since called for reconciliation with Hamas, which ousted his own forces from Gaza in a 2007 civil war.

Hamas's 1988 founding charter calls for the destruction of Israel and for recovering all mandate Palestine, although Hamas leaders have said in recent years the movement could live peacefully alongside Israel if it wins a state on all land occupied in 1967. Various Hamas officials have at times indicated a willingness to negotiate a ceasefire, possibly decades long, with Israel.

"What is interesting is that Abu Mazen (Abbas), of all people, did not condemn the (Hamas) words calling for Israel's destruction, just as previously he did not condemn the rockets fired at Israel (from Gaza)," Netanyahu said.

"And to my regret he is working for unity with this same Hamas, which is supported by Iran."

Hamas is celebrating the 25th anniversary of its foundation this week, turning the event into a "victory" party following its eight-day conflict with Israel last month in which some 170 Palestinians and six Israelis, mostly civilians, were killed.

Israel not only killed the group's military mastermind during the fighting, but also says it destroyed long-range Gazan rocket arsenals and secured a ceasefire that put an end to indiscriminate attacks from the coastal enclave.

As a first-time premier in 1997, Netanyahu sent Mossad assassins to kill Meshaal, then a mid-level Hamas figure, in Jordan in reprisal for a wave of Palestinian suicide bombings. They botched the mission, and the ensuing recrimination from Amman forced Israel to free the jailed spiritual leader of Hamas. The episode helped propel Meshaal to the top ranks.

A cabinet minister from Netanyahu's rightist Likud party, Yisrael Katz, said Israel could again target Meshaal should Hamas not keep the Egyptian-brokered Gaza truce of November 21.

"He said he wishes to die a martyr, and there is a high probability that this last wish would be realized, and he would become a legitimate target, should the quiet be violated," Katz told Israel Radio.

Meshaal is making his first visit to Gaza and is expected to return to Egypt on Monday. He lives between Doha and Cairo, and is the Hamas point person for all its foreign ties.

(Writing by Dan Williams; editing by Crispian Balmer and Jason Webb)

5. *The Scar of David/Mornings in Jenin*

by Susan Abulhawa

Study Questions

Activity Before You Read

This book is a novel, but it is also historical fiction which relates the history of Palestinians. Before you read, create a Timeline Page with a line dividing the page in half: a top half and a bottom half. On the top half of the page, note what is happening to the characters in the novel. On the bottom half of the page, note the date and what is happening in history at the same time (in Palestine, Israel, the West Bank, Gaza, Jordan, Lebanon, etc.).

El Nakba

Prelude: List five questions that you have after reading this section.

Chapter:

1. Briefly describe Yehya's Palestinian culture (food, dress, beliefs, traditions, etc.) and way of life prior to 1941.
 2. What do Ari and Hasan offer each other? What does this say about the relations between some Jews and Arabs in Palestine before 1941?
 3. Why don't the villagers like Dalia? How are the Bedouin families similar and different from the farming families in the village? How did Basima die? How was Ismael scarred?
 4. Who are the Zionists and what do they want? How does Israel react to the Ein Hod truce and feast? Which detail of the displacement and dispossession of the Palestinians of Ein Hod is most memorable to you?
 5. What happened to Ismael? Why?
 6. What happened to the U.N. mediator? What is the "Return"? In what ways did Yehya Return? In what ways did he not? How has Ein Hod changed? How does the Jenin refugee camp change? How does Yehya die? Do you agree with his decision to return a second time? Why/not?
- What job does Hasan get? Describe Amal's personality.

El Naksa

Chapter:

8. What job does Dalia have in the refugee camp? Why do you think that Dalia treat Amal the way she does? What does Amal learn from Baba/Hasan?
- What happens to Amal during the June 1967 war?
How did the 1967 war affect Mama/Dalia? Yousef? Baba? Who did Yousef see?
Zaman ya Zamaan

Chapter:

Who is David?

Why doesn't Jolanta want to tell David about his past?

What happened to Moshe? Why?

14. How and why does the word “example” change for Yousef? Are there words that have changed meanings for you?
15. What does David do when he meets Yousef in 1967? In what ways are his motives and actions like his superior, the New Yorker?
Why does Yousef hide?
17. Why do you think Fatima cries? What’s happening to Amal? Why do you think Huda says “not now”?
18. Why was Amal shot? Why does Yousef go?
19. Contrast Jolanta with Dalia? What does “Love cannot reconcile with deception” mean? Do you agree or disagree?
20. How does David feel toward Moshe and Jolanta? Why the difference?
21. What was the Battle of Karameh? What did the girls foolishly hope it meant? What are your three top dreams? How do they compare with these girls’ dreams?
22. Why did Mama’s actions as a midwife show she loved Amal? Write down all the trials you can remember that Dalia faced in her life.
23. Where does Amal go? What does Ammo Jack give her?
24. How might the orphanage be a symbol of the Palestinian plight? Who/What orphaned Muna? What is the author saying about the causes of the Palestinians’ problems? What would be the most difficult part of living at the orphanage for you? (cold? heat? cockroaches? lice?...?) What do you think was Amal’s hardest good-bye?

V. El Ghurba

Chapter:

25. What is the Arab-Western hybrid? How does Amal feel? How does Amal relate to the white and black neighborhoods of Philadelphia?
26. How is Amy different from Amal? What is Black September? What happened to Yousef and Fatima?

VI. Albi Fi Beirut

Chapter:

27. What do Yousef and Fatima name their baby? Who is Majid?
- 28-30. How does Majid propose?
31. Why does Amal leave Shatila Refugee Camp and Lebanon?
32. What happens to Lebanon in June 1982? What is Israel’s aim? What are the statistics in August? Why does Yousef leave Tunis? What does President Reagan promise?
33. What happens to Majid’s hospital? Where is Majid when he is killed?
34. What happens in Sabra and Shatila Refugee Camps? What is the (Christian Lebanese) Phalange role? What is the Israeli army’s role? Research a story by British journalist Robert Fisk online that deals with Palestinians; make a connection to something you’ve read in this book and the story he writes. What happens to Fatima and Falasteen?
35. How is Amal dealing with her grief? How is Yousef dealing with his grief? What do you think will happen to Yousef?

36-37. What did Yousef do? Why did he do it? How do the two photographs represent two sides of Yousef?

38. How does Amal act as a mother? How is this like Dalia? How is she also like her father?

39. What is the Intifada? What happens to Huda's six year old son? What happens to Jamal? Why did David get divorced? How does Jolanta react?

VI. Baladi

Chapter:

40. Why does Sara want to go to Palestine? How had Baba helped Ari in 1948?

41. How has Jenin changed? Why is Jenin tense? How has Israel's occupation shaped who Mansour and Jamil are? Why do you think Sara and Amal are able to talk so honestly now?

VII. Nihaya o Bidaya

Chapter:

42. What happened to Amal? What does the helpful soldier do? What will Sara and Ari do together?

43. How does Sara express her pain? Does the Israeli let Ari, Sara, and David into the house? Why/not? Where do Sara, Jacob, and Mansour end up? What might the author be saying about problems and solutions with this move?

44. Can you explain what Yousef did? Why do you think the author makes this the last chapter of the book? What might it say about her views?

Activities After You Read

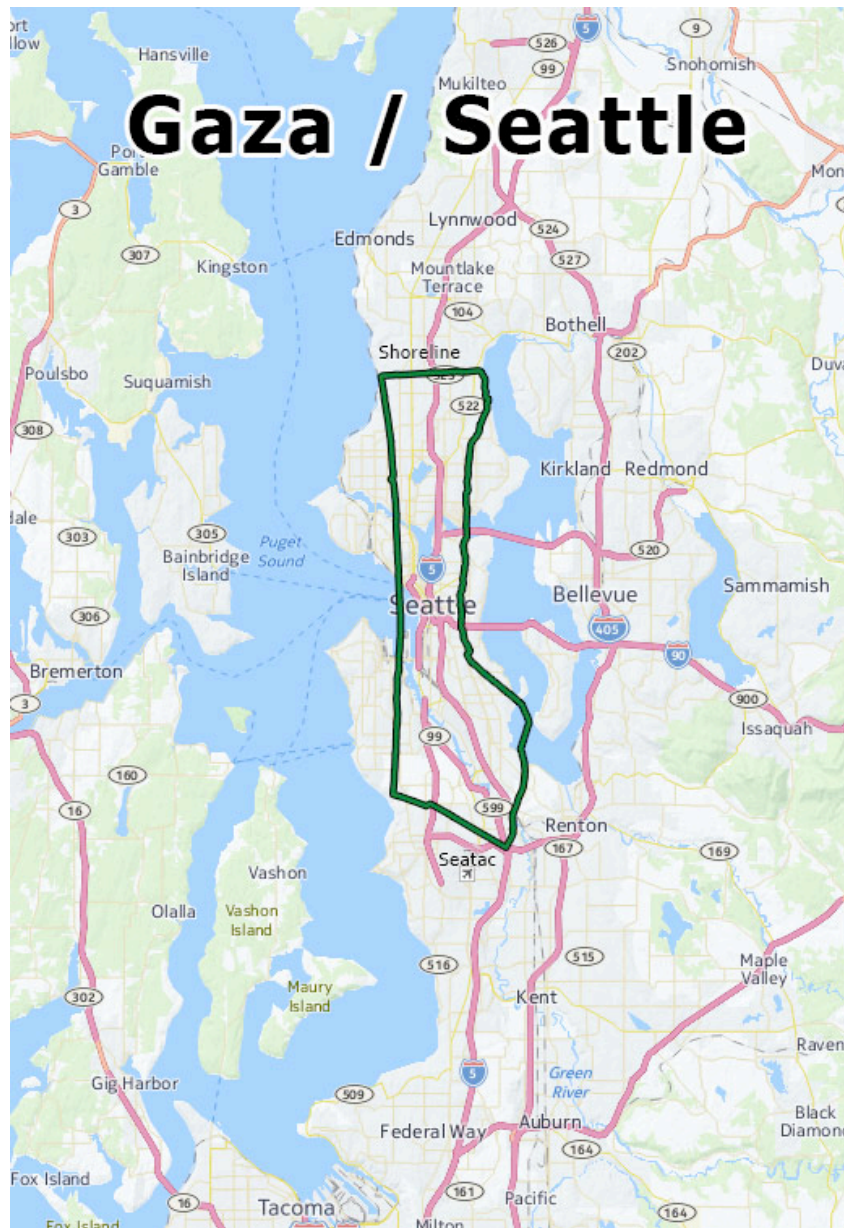
-- Research one aspect of the Palestinian story that interested you during this book. For instance, you could research: Palestine pre-1948, the Battle of Karameh, the invasion of the Jenin Refugee Camp, Sabra and Shatila, Palestinian refugees in diaspora, or the Intifadas.... Write or tell your group about what you discovered.

-- Research a current news story that deals with Palestinians; make a connection to something you've read in this book and the news article. Write or tell your group about what you discovered.

-- Research Susan Abulhawa, author of *Mornings in Jenin*. What else has she written? What is her personal story? OR: research another Palestinian author, such as Ghassan Kanafani, Ghada Karmi, Edward Said, Suheir Hammad, or Mahmoud Darwish. Write or tell your group about what you discovered.

6. Empathy Poem & Map of Gaza and Seattle

Research a conflict and write an empathy poem using your own community as the example. Here's an example comparing Seattle to Gaza. Gaza is approximately 40 km x 10 km. Try to compare the size of Gaza to your own community and draw your own map.



Map by Dennis Blum

If Seattle Were Gaza...

Imagine if the Seattle area of --say-- SeaTac to Shoreline were occupied by a foreign, hostile army who blockaded and besieged us.

Imagine if this occupation army wouldn't let us leave or return on any of our roads: I-5, 520, 90,...

And if this army stopped all ships from coming to Elliot Bay or Shilshole.

And if this army stopped us from fishing in Puget Sound.

And if this army refused to let us open or use SeaTac.

And if this army kept out the most basic goods to keep our economy going: gas for our cars, concrete and lumber for building, machine parts for Boeing, fair trade coffee, computers, ...

And if this army refused to let any food come in by road, railroad, air or sea -- or allowed just enough in to keep all of us on a near-starvation diet.

And if this army bombed Seattle City Light and our other utility companies -- so we had no light, little electricity, no sewer or garbage services.

And if this army bombed UW and SPU and Seattle Central College.

And if this army bombed UW Hospital and Swedish and Harborview.

And if this army bombed my child's elementary school and your child's middle school and her child's high school -- let's say John Stanford International School, Washington Middle School and Roosevelt High.

And if this army shot at us if we tried to farm our P-patches to grow our own food.

And if this army often sent soldiers in to arrest or kill activists -- or people suspected of resisting -- or people connected to resisters-- or people who were about the right age and gender for resistance -- or people who just got in the way, many of whom were our children.

And if this kind of killing was in between the massacres of over a thousand of us that happened every two years or so just to keep us devastated.

And if this army's government refused to recognize or negotiate with our democratically elected city council members and mayor.

If Seattle were occupied, blockaded and besieged like Gaza is now -- we would want Palestinians in Gaza to _____.