

## UJIA Resources for Israeli-Palestinian Conflict – May 2021

*This collection of sources and resources was initially collated on 14/05/21 for our Israel Fast Track Fellowship participants. Updated as a resource to support educators and parents in discussing current events on 19/05/21.*

‘Me’ or ‘Him’ –  
Thus begins the war.  
But it Ends with an awkward encounter:  
‘Me and him.’

*Mahmoud Darwish, Palestinian poet, ‘State of Siege’, translated by Fady Joudah, 2002*

‘Who are the good guys? That’s what every well-meaning European, left-wing European, intellectual European, liberal European always wants to know, first and foremost. Who are the good guys in the film and who are the bad guys? In this respect Vietnam was easy: The Vietnamese people were the victims, and the Americans were the bad guys...

‘The Israeli-Palestinian conflict is not a Wild West movie. It is not a struggle between good and evil, rather it is a tragedy in the ancient and most precise sense of the word: a clash between right and right, a clash between one very powerful, deep, and convincing claim, and another very different but no less convincing, no less powerful, no less humane claim.’

*Amos Oz, Israeli novelist, ‘How to Cure a Fanatic’*

UJIA’s mission is to develop informed, confident Jews who are inspired by Israel. As part of our educational work, we educate towards a critical engagement with multiple narratives of the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict. We view this as a core part of working towards our vision of a strong British Jewry with a lifelong commitment to Israel. We support young people to develop their Jewish identities and connection to the people of Israel. We stand in solidarity with the people of Israel and are hope for peace and security for all its citizens.

A narrative is a story that people tell about themselves. It is an interpretative framework that allows people to understand, construct and negotiate reality, by contemplating core questions, ideas, and conflicts. Narratives are ubiquitous, unavoidable, and not the same thing as biases. Narratives are at the core of ideology and are fundamentally about: History, identity, culture, memory, sociology, psychology, self-image, self-projection, and meaning.

As educators we believe it is important to welcome a range of perspectives into any conversation on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Although many students and young people may have a clear answer about who is right and who is wrong, there may also be various perspectives in the room. We strive to ensure everyone feels comfortable asking questions, and that we explore the more difficult areas with them. As educators, youth workers and parents we must resist the temptation to prove that we are “right.” Some students might be alarmed by the violence in the streets of Israel; some students might have family or friends affected; some may be distressed by the painful images of those who have been injured or killed. There are a variety of emotions that young people may be experiencing at the moment and there might be a range of narratives that young people might identify with at times like this.

The sources included below are a range of voices and perspectives to help you and your students wrestle with narratives – their own and other peoples. The resources below come from a range of political perspectives – right, left and centre and represent a broad gamut of conversation and debate within Israel and Diaspora communities. We know that we haven't included everything we possibly could, we may also be missing voices that you or your students find important.

This resource is offered with no expectation that this should be the resource. Please read widely and from sources with a range of experiences and expertise. Above all aim for an approach that is nuanced, multi-vocal and come to your own conclusions.

As part of our educational approach, we encourage students and young people to examine a range of voices from both Israelis and Palestinians with a variety of perspectives. We believe that engaging with these voices and perspectives helps students and young people develop their own narratives and beliefs. This also enables them to build empathy with and understanding of others, which is a crucial step towards building a shared society and peaceful resolution to the conflict.

The voices and perspectives below are offered with no specific endorsement of their viewpoints or opinions expressed.

If you would like to discuss these resources, would like further links, or would appreciate support in discussing Israel, Zionism and the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict please contact either:

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## What is Happening Right Now?

### **Articles:**

Factsheet: what's behind the violence in Jerusalem and Gaza rockets (AIJAC)  
<https://aijac.org.au/fact-sheets/factsheet-whats-behind-the-violence-in-jerusalem-and-gaza-rockets/>

How did this start? We answer your questions on what's going on in Israel (Jewish Unpacked)  
<https://jewishunpacked.com/why-did-this-start-we-answer-your-questions-on-whats-going-on-in-israel/>

The fighting in Gaza, Jerusalem and across Israel, explained (The Jewish News)  
<https://jewishnews.timesofisrael.com/the-fighting-in-gaza-jerusalem-and-across-israel-explained/>

What's behind the violence in Israel and Gaza? (Washington Post)  
<https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/2021/05/10/what-is-happenin0in-jerusalem-israel-gaza-clashes-faq/>

The fighting in Gaza, Jerusalem and across Israel, explained (JTA)  
<https://www.jta.org/2021/05/10/israel/the-fighting-in-gaza-jerusalem-and-across-israel-explained>

What Is Happening in Jerusalem Right Now? May 10, 2021 (HeyAlma)  
<https://www.heyalma.com/what-is-happening-in-jerusalem-right-now/>

The perfect storm for Israelis and Palestinians (Brookings)  
<https://www.brookings.edu/blog/order-from-chaos/2021/05/15/the-perfect-storm-for-israelis-and-palestinians/>

### **Briefings (more substantial):**

The escalation between Israel and Hamas (BICOM)  
<https://www.bicom.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/The-escalation-between-Israel-and-Hamas-May-2021-1.pdf>

From Jerusalem to Gaza: The Unfolding Israeli-Palestinian Crisis (Israel Policy Forum)  
<https://israelpolicyforum.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/Gottesman.Jerusalem.GazaIPF.May2021.pdf>

### **Focusing on Sheikh Jarrah:**

Sheikh Jarrah: The Story Behind the Story, May 10, 2021 (Unpacked.Education)  
<https://unpacked.education/sheikh-jarrah-the-story-behind-the-story/>

In Sheikh Jarrah, Palestinian youth are leading the struggle to defend their homes (+972 Mag)  
<https://www.972mag.com/sheikh-jarrah-palestinian-youth/>

Note: These two are long reads:

Understanding the Current Sheikh Jarrah (Jerusalem) Property Dispute (Kohelet Policy Forum)

<https://en.kohelet.org.il/publication/understanding-the-current-sheikh-jarrah-jerusalem-property-dispute>

Absentees against Their Will – Property Expropriation in East Jerusalem under the Absentee Property Law (Ir Amim)

[https://www.ir-amim.org.il/sites/default/files/Absentees\\_against\\_their\\_will.pdf](https://www.ir-amim.org.il/sites/default/files/Absentees_against_their_will.pdf)

### **StandWithUs resources:**

StandWithUs have produced a load of resources, videos, FAQs that address recent events (and don't fit into one of the sub-categories above). They can all be found here:

<https://www.standwithus.com/situationroom>

## **Educational Resources and Approaches to Israel Education**

As you explore more broadly about educating and discussing Israel, Zionism and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict we recommend and highlight the following key, general resources:

UJS Digital Israel Portal: <https://www.ujs.org.uk/israelportal>

The Union of Jewish Students D.I.P is your one stop for everything you need to know about Israel. UJIA is pleased to support UJS in bringing you resources from around the globe. Whether it is Politics or Tourism, Culture or History, or simply learning more about this small nation, DIP in and explore this entire country at your fingertips.

Centre for Israel Education, <https://israeled.org/> (An incredible collection of resources, materials, lesson plans, bibliographies, reading lists, documents and sources.)

The iCenter for Israel Education, <https://theicenter.org/> (Lots of good resources). In particular, a very robust approach to Israel Education, found here: [https://theicenter.org/profiles/icenter/themes/custom/bootstrap\\_subtheme/pdfs/The.Aleph.Bet.of.Israel.Education.v2.-.complete.pdf](https://theicenter.org/profiles/icenter/themes/custom/bootstrap_subtheme/pdfs/The.Aleph.Bet.of.Israel.Education.v2.-.complete.pdf)

MAKOM (Jewish Agency for Israel): <https://makomisrael.org/>

Deepen your engagement with your students with premium videos and educational resources about Israel and Judaism. <https://unpacked.education/>

## Talking About the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict

The current situation in Israel is complex and there are many narratives, viewpoints and resources filling our news and social media channels. Many of us may be feeling a range of different and at times contradictory emotions as we consume and process everything that we're seeing and hearing. This section offers a range of articles and guides on some possible ways to talk about what is going on in Israel and the Palestinian Territories.

10 Ways to Discuss the Current Situation in Israel With Your Students

<https://unpacked.education/10-ways-to-discuss-the-current-situation-in-israel-with-your-students/>

For all teachers, educators, and youth workers we highly recommend this resource. It provides some excellent tips and guidance on how to discuss the current situation in Israel, with nuance, empathy and understanding.

Solutions not Sides Learning Resources and Teacher Handbook

<https://solutionsnotsides.co.uk/learning-resources>

These free resources have been developed in-house by the SNS team to offer teachers & their students resource materials that can be used in class or by students learning remotely. They are themed and are designed to be interactive, with multimedia elements, questions, time for reflection, and scope for further reading & learning. These resources, in particular the Teacher Handbook is particularly recommended by the UJIA education team.

Welcome to the Israeli Rollercoaster

(Podcast with Donniel Hartman, Yossi Klein Halevi, and Elana Stein Hain)

<https://www.hartman.org.il/no-23-welcome-to-the-israeli-rollercoaster/>

The podcast above is highly recommended for parents, educators and youth workers as an excellent example of how to engage with the multiplicity of conflicting emotions we might be feeling right now. It provides some useful frameworks for addressing what is taking place.

Matti Friedman, Eight Tips for Reading About Israel

<https://sapirjournal.org/social-justice/2021/04/eight-tips-for-reading-about-israel/>

Jerusalem of Glue: Social media narratives fuel conflict and excite childish ideologues, but they ignore the forces that hold our city together

<https://www.tabletmag.com/sections/israel-middle-east/articles/jerusalem-glue-matti-friedman>

What do my children understand – and what should I tell them – about the Israeli-Palestinian violence? Sivan Zakai, May 13, 2021

<https://forward.com/opinion/469510/what-do-my-children-understand-about-israeli-palestinian-violence/>

[Natan Sharansky's 3D Test of Antisemitism](#)

[How to tell when criticism of Israel is actually anti-Semitism: calling out human rights violations shouldn't stray into bias against Jews.](#) (Rabbi Jill Jacobs, Washington Post)

## On Social Media:

Israel-Palestine: Avoiding Antisemitic and Islamophobic Hate Speech

<https://www.facebook.com/solutionsnotsides/posts/4325115610840895>

or <https://solutionsnotsides.co.uk/blog/2021/avoiding-antisemitic-islamophobic-hate-speech>

A really helpful resource from Solutions Not Sides (a UK based org): “Talking about what’s happening in #IsraelPalestine is vital, now and always. But we have to do it without falling back on Antisemitic and Islamophobic tropes and speech. Our 10-point guide to speaking with empathy and kindness”:

BICOM Guide to the Debate: Israel and the Palestinians, Professor Alan Johnson

[https://d3n8a8pro7vhmx.cloudfront.net/webelieveinisrael/pages/99/attachments/original/1599557796/zionism\\_israel\\_and\\_the\\_palestinians\\_July\\_2020\\_doc.pdf?1599557796](https://d3n8a8pro7vhmx.cloudfront.net/webelieveinisrael/pages/99/attachments/original/1599557796/zionism_israel_and_the_palestinians_July_2020_doc.pdf?1599557796)

## General Resources on Online Bias and Antisemitism:

Helping Students Make Sense of News Stories about Bias and Injustice

<https://www.adl.org/education/resources/tools-and-strategies/helping-students-make-sense-of-news-stories-about-bias-and>

Dealing with Online Antisemitism (OSCE ODIHR – Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe, Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights)

<https://www.osce.org/files/f/documents/2/1/441134.pdf>

Don't Feed the Trolls: A Practical Guide to Dealing With Hate on Social Media

<https://www.counterhate.com/dont-feed-the-trolls>

Learning for Justice: Hate Speech Overheard

<https://www.learningforjustice.org/magazine/hate-speech-overheard>

## Security Notice:

If you experience antisemitism, please report to police on 999 (urgent) / 101 (non-urgent) and then CST.

CST’s 24-hour national emergency number is 0800 032 3263, please put this number in your contacts so it is available if you need it.

For more information visit: <https://cst.org.uk/> and for information on recent events see: <https://cst.org.uk/news/blog/2021/05/19/cst-stands-against-anti-jewish-hate>

## Voices and Perspectives

We are grateful to Makom (JAFI) educator Ittay Flescher for some of the material on this section.

### In the News:

There is no single news site, tweet, Instagram graphic or article that will provide a fair and balanced perspective on everything you need to know. This means that if you are keen to understand the whole story, you are going to need to invest more time reading news sites written by actual journalists that are fact-checked and cite sources rather than scrolling through Tiktok and Facebook for hot takes.

### **Israeli News sites (in English)**

+972mag [www.972mag.com/](http://www.972mag.com/)  
 Haaretz [www.haaretz.com/](http://www.haaretz.com/)  
 Times of Israel [www.timesofisrael.com](http://www.timesofisrael.com)  
 Jpost [www.jpost.com](http://www.jpost.com)  
 Arutz 7 <http://www.israelnationalnews.com/>

### **Arab and Palestinian News sites (in English)**

<https://www.aljazeera.com/middle-east/>  
<https://www.al-monitor.com/>  
<http://english.wafa.ps/>

### Books

As and when the situation calms, we encourage you to engage with long-form works to inform and develop your understanding of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

For extensive reading lists on a wealth of topics we recommend the bibliographies found here: <https://israeled.org/bibliographies/>

To explore the role of narratives in the Israel-Palestinian conflict and works that specifically address the competing narratives we recommend the four books below:

*The Israel-Palestine Conflict: Contested Histories*, Neil Caplan  
*Israeli and Palestinian Narratives of Conflict: History's Double Helix*, Robert Rotberg  
*Israel/Palestine (Hot Spots in Global Politics)*, Alan Dowty  
*Side by Side: Parallel Histories of Israel-Palestine*, Sami Adwan

The two tables below are a selection of books (fiction and non-fiction) that our educators at UJIA have highlighted. They are by no means exhaustive.

### Israeli Narratives:

<b>Title</b>	<b>Author</b>
Letters to My Palestinian Neighbour	Yossi Klein Halevi
The Making of Modern Zionism: The Intellectual Origins of the Jewish State.	Shlomo Avineri
A History of Zionism	Walter Laqueur
Israel: A History	Anita Shapira
The Zionist Ideas: Visions for the Jewish Homeland—Then, Now, Tomorrow.	Gil Troy
Israeli Poetry: A Contemporary Anthology	Bargad, Warren, Chyet, Stanley F.
The Road Not Taken: Early Arab-Israeli Negotiations	Itamar Rabinovich

### Palestinian Narratives:

<b>Title</b>	<b>Author</b>
Where the Line is Drawn: Crossing Boundaries in Occupied Palestine	Raja Shehadeh
Palestinian Walks: Notes on a Vanishing Landscape	Raja Shehadeh
A Land Without Borders: My Journey Around East Jerusalem and the West Bank	Nir Baram
I Shall Not Hate: A Gaza Doctor's Journey on the Road to Peace and Human Dignity	Izzeldin Abuelaish
If I Were Another: Poems	Mahmoud Darwish
I Saw Ramallah	Mourid Barghouti
The Lemon Tree	Sandy Tolan
Mornings in Jenin	Susan Abulhawa
Ishmael's Oranges	Claire Hajaj
Dancing Arabs	Sayed Kashua
The Lady from Tel Aviv	Raba'l Al-Madhoun
Palestine +100: Stories from a century after the Nakba	Basma Ghalayini

## Multimedia

### Recommended Resources from MAKOM

Podcasts are one of the best ways to connect to the stories, ideas, and people that animate modern Israel. No matter your political persuasion or interest, there will always be one that speaks to you. Check out these essential Podcasts about Israel for 2021, <https://makomisrael.org/essential-podcasts-about-israel/>

Exploring Jerusalem through film, <https://makomisrael.org/exploring-jerusalem-through-two-short-films/>. Against the backdrop of rising tensions in Jerusalem, Makom have put together educator guides to two short Israeli movies – Dear God and Nur. Each film presents a different perspective on Jerusalem and inspires us to think about the city in new ways.