

Arab-Israeli Conflict Video Collection

500 Dunam on the Moon

(2002) 48 minutes/subtitled

Ayn Hawd is a Palestinian village that was captured and de-populated by Israeli forces in the 1948 war. It was transformed into a Jewish artists' colony, renaming it Ein Hod. The video tells the story of the village's original inhabitants, who, after expulsion, settled only 1.5 kilometers away in the outlying hills. A critical look at the art of dispossession and the creativity of the dispossessed.

Arab and Jew: Return to the Promised Land

(2001) 60 minutes

David K. Shipler returns to Israel to revisit some of the people featured in the 1988 award-winning Arab and Jew: Wounded Spirits in the Promised Land. The filmmakers reexamine the deeply emotional issues that have been most difficult to resolve—among them the right of return, the holy city of Jerusalem and the West Bank Jewish settlements.

Eastern Wind: Hamsin

Ergo Media, Inc., 1988

84 minutes, color

This film portrays the long-time tension between Arabs and Jews living in Israel. The story focuses on a relationship between a Jewish man by the name of Gedaliah and an Arab working for him named Haled. Haled is part of a family which is not hostile toward Gedaliah's family, but actually very cooperative and friendly. However, word quickly spreads that the government is prepared to confiscate some land in the village that is owned by Arabs. The consequences of the government's plans take their toll on the relationship between Gedaliah and Haled, who are planning to buy the land they are leasing together and build their own ranch. This film examines both the Jewish and Arab side of the situation and how both Gedaliah and Haled are influenced by their peers. Although this video was made in the 1980's, it manages to capture the ongoing struggle for land and respect in Israel between Jews and Arabs that is still evident today.

Forbidden Marriages in the Holy Land

Arab Film Distribution, 1995

65 minutes, color

This video discusses several marriages between individuals of different ethnic and religious groups in the Middle East. The first situation discussed is the relationship

between a Jewish woman and an Arab man. The woman discusses her difficulties in finding a job being a Jewish woman in an Arab state. The complications of the association between state and religion in many of the Middle Eastern countries is also discussed. The video explains the processes and the allowances in converting to different religions, and what is required of individuals when they marry. Next another couple is shown: an Arab woman who is married to a Jewish man. The woman explains her family's rejection of the marriage, while the husband discusses how differently his family reacted to their situation. The video also briefly discusses marriages between Arabs and Africans. Next, a discussion of marriage between different religions is discussed by several female Muslims in a classroom. This video is very informative and discusses a great number of uncommon marriages and situations between the diverse religious and ethnic groups of the Middle East.

Holy War, Holy Terror

Frontline (mid 1980's)

56 minutes, color/black & white

This video is an episode of Frontline taped off of the air in the mid-1980's. This video is based on the causes and effects of the revolution in Iran, and the origins of Islamic fundamentalism. The video begins with the thoughts of several Iranians on Ayatollah Khomeini, and how Islamic fundamentalism stemmed from his work. The video then explains the main divisions of Islam: Sunni and Shi'ite. Because Iran is a nation of Shi'ites, the origins or the division of the Shi'ite Muslims is discussed beginning with the death of the Prophet. The video emphasizes the importance of martyrdom in Shi'ite Islam and how it has affected the warfare between Iraq and Iran. The causes of this war are also discussed along with the causes and consequences of the revolution in Iran in the late 1970's. The video consists of older footage along with interviews with key figures in the conflicts. Terrorism in the region is also discussed along with who has been responsible for it and why. Finally, Islamic fundamentalism and terrorist acts inside the U.S. are also discussed along with how the U.S. government initially reacted to them. This video, although not very current, gives great information on the history of the conflict between Iraq and Iran. Also very useful is the information given on the history of the schism in Islam and the origin of Shi'ism.

Introduction to the End of an Argument

(1990) 45 minutes/English and subtitles

Takes on our accumulated (mis)impressions of the Palestinian intifada by tracing their genesis in film and television. Using images from the media the filmmakers have constructed an oddly wry narrative, mimicking the history of Middle East politics.

Journey to the Occupied Lands

Frontline, January 26, 1991

77 minutes, color

This video contains an episode of Frontline taped off the air. (The beginning of the tape contains an unrelated segment on syphilis, which lasts for an hour). The Frontline episode begins after this. The video shows the experiences one reporter has when journeying to the occupied Palestinian territories. The reporter interviews all different types of people living in the region and also talks to some government officials, regarding the problems the citizens are experiencing. One Palestinian family interviewed explains the land dispute they are having with the Israeli government. Although the family has old documents stating that the land belongs to them, the Israeli government has declared it state land. The reporter then interviews an Israeli family nearby that has settled in the territories. Both sides of the story are shown in the interviews. The reporter then speaks with several government officials about the problems that have been raised. Footage of Palestinian settlements that have been destroyed by the Israeli government are shown, along with Palestinians being interviewed about these events. This video shows the viewer how complex an issue is the dispute over the lands of Israel and Palestine, and manages to show both sides of the story.

The People and the Land

Color, 56 minutes

This video is made from footage shot by several men while they were traveling in Israel and the Palestinian territories. The video begins with footage of a protest in Washington D.C. against the government's financial support for Israel. In place of a narrator, the video is narrated by text on the screen. A brief history of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is given before the footage begins. The travelers try to show how Israelis and Palestinians are treated differently. A discussion of censorship in Israel is also included. The men discuss the difficulties they have while driving a vehicle with Palestinian license plates. Later they travel in a vehicle with Israeli plates and explain the differences in their treatment. This video includes several interviews with both Palestinians and Jews. Both groups share their grievances with each other and the Israeli government. Many Palestinians explain the difficulties they have while trying to get to several places within their own territories. Even Palestinian ambulances are shown having trouble getting where they need to go. The video includes footage of the violence that has taken place as a result of all of these problems. This video gives the viewer a good idea of both the background of the conflict, as well as what daily life consists of for both Jews and Palestinians in the region.

The Lemon Tree: The story of Bashir Al-Khayri and Dalia Landau

Homeland Productions, 1998

43 minutes (in four parts)

Audio/cassette

This is the tale of a young Palestinian man who visits his ancestral home, now in Israel and occupied by a Jewish family. For years his grandfather has told him stories of the wonderful lemon tree that stood in the family courtyard. At last the youngster has come to see this for himself. What follows is the remarkable story of his interaction with the young Jewish woman who now lives there. A special documentary produced for NPR's Fresh Air program, it raises important issues concerning the Palestinian-Israeli tragedy.

The Dividing Wall
DVD 23 minutes [2004]

Produced by the Mennonite Central Committee, it explores the humanitarian, social and political impact of the Israeli-built “security fence.”

Living Water
VHS

The story of Bethlehem Bible College.

Broken Wings
DVD, 84 minutes, 2003

An uncommonly powerful film, *Broken Wings* captures a family in mid-disintegration: A midwife at an Israeli hospital struggles to hold her children together in the wake of their father's death.

Close to Home
DVD, 99 minutes, 2005

In the nation of Israel military service is compulsory for all citizens. This award-winning drama offers an in-depth look at young women's lives in the service.

Rana's Wedding
DVD, 86 minutes, 2002

Rana's Wedding is a romantic drama about a Palestinian girl who wants to get married to the man of her own choice. With only ten hours to find her boyfriend in occupied Jerusalem, Rana sneaks out of her father's house at daybreak to find her forbidden love, Khalil. Facing barriers and occupation which have become an everyday reality, Rana overcomes her fears and doubts, deciding not to let anyone control her life.

Palestinian Writers

VHS, 50 minutes

This is a portrait of two important women writers from the West Bank: Sahar Khalifah and Liana Badr.
