

# One Book, Many Communities: *Sharon and My Mother-in-Law*

The “One Book, Many Communities” project by Librarians and Archivists with Palestine aims to introduce readers to the richness of Palestinian literature, and create a broader awareness and understanding of Palestinian history and the struggle for self-determination. Explore the recommended books and films below for more about the themes and events in Suad Amiry's memoir *Sharon and My Mother-in-Law*.



## Books and Articles

*This Side of Peace: A Personal Account* (Hanan Ashrawi, 1996)

Legislator Ashrawi's memoir discusses her own experience during the Oslo negotiations and the way that the Oslo Accords were stacked against Palestinians from the beginning. Also deals with First Intifada.

*I Saw Ramallah* (Mourid Barghouti, 2001)

What does it mean to return to your homeland after 30 years? A poet's reflections on his decades in exile from his native city of Ramallah after the 1967 war.

*Palestinian Walks: Forays into a Vanishing Landscape* (Raja Shehadeh, 2008)

Lawyer Shehadeh draws on legal cases and the tightening boundaries of his local geography to make sharp observations about Israeli repression as optimism following the Oslo Accords wanes.

*Palestine Inside Out: An Everyday Occupation* (Saree Makdisi, 2008/2010)

Makdisi pulls together timelines, statistics, and individual stories to highlight the bureaucratic horror of Israel's policies affecting internal borders and permits, particularly in Jerusalem and the West Bank.

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([http://progressivelibrariansguild.org/PL\\_Jnl/contents21.shtml](http://progressivelibrariansguild.org/PL_Jnl/contents21.shtml))

A collection of articles about the destruction of Palestinian libraries and archives in the West Bank after the Israeli invasion of 2002.

*The Secret Life of Saeed: The Pessoptimist* (Emile Habibi, 1974)

A hapless Palestinian experiencing the vagaries of Israeli repression transitions from collaboration with the occupier to redemption of a kind in this absurdist and satirical tale.

*Golda Slept Here* (Suad Amiry, 2014)

Amiry's latest assemblage of anecdote, memory, and history focuses on the reverberations of the Nakba. In Jerusalem, what became of some of these homes, and the Palestinian families who lost them in 1948?

## Films

“Divine Intervention” (dir. Elia Suleiman, 2002)

An inventive and surreal portrayal of families and lovers under Israeli occupation.

“Five Broken Cameras” (dir. Emad Burnat and Guy Davidi, 2011)

What resistance looks like in one among many West Bank towns.

[librarianswithpalestine.org/onebook](http://librarianswithpalestine.org/onebook)

from "Identity Card" (Mahmoud Darwish [trans. Denys Johnson-Davies], 1964)

Put it on record.  
 .....I am an Arab.

You stole my forefathers' vineyards  
 .....And land I used to till,  
 .....I and all my children,  
 .....And you left us and all my grandchildren  
 .....Nothing but these rocks.  
 .....Will your government be taking them too  
 .....As is being said?

So!  
 .....Put it on record at the top of page one:  
 .....I don't hate people,  
 .....I trespass on no one's property.

And yet, if I were to become hungry  
 .....I shall eat the flesh of my usurper.  
 .....Beware, beware of my hunger  
 .....And of my anger!

**The West Bank, April 3, 2002**

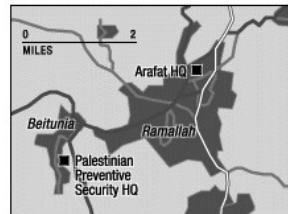
**Israel Widens Offensive**

*On the fifth day of Israel's military offensive, troops backed by tanks and helicopter gunships fought running battles with Palestinian gunmen in Bethlehem, bombed the Palestinian Preventive Security agency headquarters on the edge of Ramallah and moved into a fifth Palestinian-controlled town.*

**RAMALLAH**

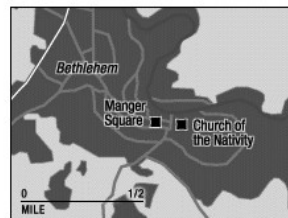
Israeli forces yesterday shelled and rocketed the headquarters of the Palestinian Preventive Security agency in Beitunia, near Ramallah. Under a deal brokered by U.S. officials, about 250 Palestinians surrendered to Israeli forces. Several holdouts remained inside the building.

- Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat remained under siege in his office building in Ramallah, with the Israeli prime minister suggesting permanent exile. He refused.
- Israeli troops have detained about 700 Palestinians over the past few days.



**BETHLEHEM**

Israeli and Palestinian gunmen fought pitched battles in Bethlehem, which Christians hold to be the birthplace of Jesus. Scores of Palestinians took refuge in the Church of the Nativity as Israeli helicopter gunships hovered over Manger Square.



source: [www.washingtonpost.com/wp-srv/world/daily/graphics/mideast\\_040302.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-srv/world/daily/graphics/mideast_040302.html)