

One Book, Many Communities: *The Book of Disappearance*

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 media below for more about *The Book of Disappearance* and Palestinian citizens of Israel, as well as some recommendations for recently published Palestinian literature in translation.

More about *The Book of Disappearance* and Palestinian citizens of Israel

“The Book of Disappearance by Ibtisam Azem,” *Arabic Literature Today*

In case you want to share a sample of *The Books of Disappearance* with interested friends, this site has three short excerpts from the novel.

<https://arabicliteraturetoday.com/the-book-of-disappearance-by-ibtisam-azem-2/>

“Ibtisam Azem on the ‘Power of the Silenced Story,’ *Arablit Quarterly* (2019)

In this interview, author Ibtisam Azem reflects on her writing process, seeing her novel translated into English, and the themes of loss and violence represented in *The Book of Disappearance*. <https://arablit.org/2019/08/07/ibtisam-azem-on-the-power-of-the-silenced-story/>

“‘The Book of Disappearance’: a novel that imagines what would happen if Palestinians vanished,” *The National* (2019)

Another interview with Ibtisam Azem in which she relates growing up in Jaffa, feeling invisible as a Palestinian, and discussing politics with liberal Zionists.

<https://www.thenational.ae/arts-culture/books/the-book-of-disappearance-a-novel-that-imagines-what-would-happen-if-palestinians-vanished-1.893952>

Palestinian citizens of Israel: A Primer, Adalah: The Legal Center for Arab Minority Rights in Israel (2019)

A concise, two-page guide outlining the history of Palestinian citizens of Israel, related statistics, and discriminatory laws. <https://www.adalah.org/en/content/view/9271>

“Palestinian Citizens of Israel,” Institute for Middle East Understanding

A regularly updated page with news, infographics, and op-eds related to Palestinian citizens of Israel. <https://imeu.org/topic/category/palestinian-citizens-of-israel>



The Mossawa Center's Briefing on the "Deal of the Century," Mossawa Center: The Advocacy Center for Arab Citizens in Israel (2020)

A briefing on President Trump's "Deal of the Century," specifically regarding Palestinian citizens of Israel and with historical context. Note: since this is an ongoing political issue, parts of this briefing may quickly become outdated. Nonetheless, it provides good background information.

<http://www.mossawa.org/Public/files/The%20Mossawa%20Center%20Briefing%20on%20The%20Deal%20of%20the%20Century.pdf>

The Forgotten Palestinians: A History of the Palestinians in Israel by Ilan Pappé (2013)

If you're interested in a more detailed history of Palestinian citizens of Israel, this book by Ilan Pappé (author of *The Ethnic Cleansing of Palestine*) is an excellent place to start. Originally published in 2011, link is to the 2013 edition.

<https://yalebooks.yale.edu/book/9780300184327/forgotten-palestinians>

Recommended reading and viewing: Palestinian Literature, Archives and Libraries

Palestine + 100, edited by Basma Ghalayini (2019)

An innovative anthology that asks Palestinian writers to imagine Palestine in the year 2048. Featuring genres from noir to dystopia, *Palestine + 100* won the 2018 PEN Translates Award.

<https://commapress.co.uk/books/palestine-100>

Trees for the Absentees by Ahlam Bsharat (2019)

The latest in translation from 2018 One Book author Ahlam Bsharat. *Trees for the Absentees* tells the story of a university student in Nablus exploring the mysteries of life and death.

<https://neemtreepress.com/book/trees-for-the-absentees/>

Salt Houses by Hala Alyan (2017)

This debut novel by Palestinian-American writer Hala Alyan follows a family displaced by the Six-Day War of 1967 who end up spread between Beirut, Paris, and Boston. A heartbreaking story that will also lift your spirit. <https://www.halaalyan.com/salt-houses/>

The Blue Between Sky and Water by Susan Abulhawa (2016)

Written by 2015 One Book author Susan Abulhawa, this multigenerational story follows a family that flees their village during the Nakba. *Publishers Weekly* says "Abulhawa's characters' lives vividly depict resiliency in the face of adversity."

<https://www.bloomsbury.com/us/the-blue-between-sky-and-water-9781632862228/>

"A Report on the Librarians and Archivists to Palestine Delegation," *Progressive Librarian*, Issue No. 42, Summer 2014 (page 153). Summarizes the history of Israeli control of Palestinian libraries and archival records, with an account from a 2013 delegation of information workers to Palestinian libraries. http://progressivelibrariansguild.org/PL_Jnl/pdf/PL42_summer14.pdf

The Great Book Robbery (dir. Benny Brunner, 2012) Recounts of the removal of Palestinian libraries and archival records into Israeli repositories.

<http://www.aljazeera.com/programmes/witness/2012/05/20125915313256768.html>

Issue no. 21, *Progressive Librarian*, Winter 2002 (page 49) A collection of articles about the destruction of Palestinian libraries and archives in the West Bank after the Israeli invasion of 2002. http://progressivelibrariansguild.org/PL_Jnl/contents21.shtml



Through the lens of voting rights, this infographic from the Institute for Middle East Understanding illustrates how Palestinians' relationship with the State of Israel differs depending on their status. It also shows how Palestinian citizens of Israel live in a liminal space between Jewish Israelis and Palestinians in the occupied territories.

librarianswithpalestine.org/onebook