

One last minor quibble concerns referencing. The sources employed by MacLean are diverse and extensive, but at times the referencing could be more helpful to the reader hoping to follow up a particular point: for example, MacLean mentions that Queen Elizabeth was referred to in correspondence from the Ottoman court as 'Queen of the Lutherans' and 'Queen of Mary's way', yet there are no citations for these usages.

Overall this is an interesting collection of articles which not only does much to further our knowledge of interactions between England and the Ottoman Empire in the early modern period, but also explores the impact this had on constructions of English identity.

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The Shifting Boundaries of Palestinian Identity

Sari Hanafi (ed.), *Crossing Borders, Shifting Boundaries: Palestinian Dilemmas* (Cairo: The American University in Cairo Press, 2008). 163pp. Paperback. ISBN 978-9774161841.

Books on the history of Palestine and Palestinian struggle for self-determination are abundant. However, the same could not be said about sociological and anthropological writings on the Palestinian communities/society, let alone the impact of displacement and migration on this people and their ways of living. From this perspective, I found *Crossing Borders, Shifting Boundaries* to be an interesting and highly informative book consisting of a collection of well-researched papers. The other interesting point about this edited collection is the fact that it accords extreme importance to fieldwork in its study of the Palestinian people, and in so doing, it helps to fill the gap between the grand narrative about the plight and the struggle of the Palestinians (i.e. the structural context of their existence) and their every day life experience at the micro-level.

The uprooting of the Palestinians in 1948 was not a uniform process. Apart from its extremely violent character, it entailed displacing Palestinians from their villages either to the West Bank and Gaza Strip, or to neighbouring Arab countries. In some cases, the Green Line separating post-1948 Israel from the rest of historical Palestine, fell in the middle of some villages (as in the case of Barta'a) which, as a result, were divided between the formal state of Israel and the West Bank, and then in 1967 were occupied by Israel to find themselves reunited with their older parts after many years of being subjugated to the rule of the Jewish state. Most Palestinians who were forced to leave their original homeland did not only settle in neighbouring Arab countries, but many of them migrated also to the Gulf states and Iraq in search of work and were later forced one more time out of these countries because of war (e.g. the first Gulf War of 1991) and internal political conflicts. Furthermore, many Palestinians ended up in Western countries (e.g. United States and Australia). They emigrated either directly from their home of origin or were forced to re-emigrate from Arab countries due to internal wars and economic, social and political difficulties.

The book tackles the issue of the relationship between the dispersed Palestinians inside and outside of historical Palestine and their homes of origin. In so doing, the book manages to examine the relationship between these dispersed communities and their communities

of origin revealing their differences and their similarities depending on the locations of the dispersed groups and their distance from their original homes.

What strikes me most in reading this collection is the enormous amount of information, based on qualitative fieldworks, about the social, economic and, to a lesser degree, political relationships between the dislocated and dispersed Palestinians and members of their original communities back home. In this context, many variables are discussed: distance between the two groups, their different cultural, social and political trajectories depending on whether the displaced Palestinians were inside Israel, in Arab or Western countries or those who returned to the territory of the Palestinian National Authority (PNA), especially by second generation Palestinian youth who were born in the US. More remarkably, the book demonstrates the impact of displacement on the differentiation of the social structure of the Palestinian communities, including the erosion of traditional family values, class mobility due to education and better economic opportunities in Western countries, and the impact of this differentiation on traditional gender relations.

Another interesting aspect discussed in the book is the attempt by the various authors, especially Mary Totry and Tamara Tamimi, to explore the issue of Palestinian identity resulting from their specific experience of displacement, migration and Israeli occupation. The articulation of the local (clannish), ethnic and religious identity in the case of the Palestinians who are living in the state of Israel provides an interesting observation, let alone the discussion by Totry of the 'conflict', 'accommodation' and the 'accentuating' models in the context of analysing the changes in their identity. At this point, I felt that the book failed to concentrate equally on the transformation that the Palestinian identity had undergone in countries outside of historical Palestine (except the Chapter by Tamimi on second generation Palestinian Americans who returned to the West Bank). Also, in this regard, one should examine the differential impact that the host countries are having on the Palestinian diaspora. In the light of these changes inside and outside of historical Palestine, the crucial question remains: How is the Palestinian identity being reconstructed in every day living in opposition to its experience of continuous displacement and exile? A question that has been reflected upon superbly by the late Edward Said at the intellectual level, and on the other hand, has been profusely discussed by political scientists and historians, but most certainly it has not been sufficiently dealt with and examined by sociologists and anthropologists. *Crossing Borders, Shifting Boundaries* makes an interesting contribution in this regard.

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1948 Revisited

Rosemary M. Esber, *Under the Cover of War: The Zionist Expulsion of the Palestinians* (Alexandria, VA: Arabicus Books & Media, 2008). 423pp. Hardback. ISBN 978-0-9815131-7-1.

The Nakba – a mini-holocaust for the Palestinian people – is a key point in the history of Palestine and Israel. That year, a country and its people disappeared from international maps

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