A Bibliography on the Black Radical Tradition and the Middle East

The Columbia University African American and African Diaspora Studies Department and Institute for Research in African American Studies understands the university as a site of critical engagement toward social transformation. Manning Marable, the founding director of IRAAS, argued that Black Studies scholarship and the Black intellectual tradition from which it emerges is characterized by work that is “descriptive,” “corrective” of a white supremacist record, and “prescriptive” toward human dignity and equity. We are a department and institute rooted in a rich Black intellectual tradition, which has always engaged the world’s most pressing moral and political issues. And we have done so with a moral and scholarly commitment to affirm and defend the dignity, safety, and equality of every human life.

In that spirit, we offer the following bibliography to help our students and members of our diverse intersecting communities better understand the broader context in which the recent events in Israel and Palestine emerged; and to interpret this ongoing crisis within the long tradition of Black intellectual thought and praxis. The best of the Black freedom struggle has always stood in solidarity with the most vulnerable and found common cause with people across space and time: from Jewish and Palestinian activists during the long civil rights movement, to Palestinian and Jewish freedom fighters within the current movement for Black lives. Our aim as scholars representing a broad spectrum of intellectual interests is to create space for critical thinking and thoughtful action rooted in the values of love, freedom, and justice for all.

Read

Books

Single volume history of Palestine:
Rashid Khalidi, The Hundred Years’ War on Palestine

General historical works that engage questions of race, racism, colonialism, Black-Jewish solidarity and Black-Palestinian solidarity:

Sohail Daulatzai, Black Star; Crescent Moon: Black Radicalism and the Muslim International (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2012)

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Angela Davis, *Freedom Is a Constant Struggle: Ferguson, Palestine, and the Foundations of a Movement*

Noura Erakat, *Justice for Some: Law and the Question of Palestine*


Michael R. Fischbach, *Black Power and Palestine: Transnational Countries of Color*

Marc Lamont Hill and Mitchell Plitnick, *Except for Palestine: The Limits of Progressive Politics*


*The Autobiography of Malcolm X, as told to Alex Haley. 1965*

**Essays**

*See especially the entire issue of Journal of Palestine Studies 48 no. 4 (2020):*

Noura Erakat & Marc Lamont Hill, “Black-Palestinian Transnational Solidarity: Renewals, Returns, and Practice,” pp. 7-16

Maha Nassar, “Palestinian Engagement with the Black Freedom Movement prior to 1967,” pp. 16-32


Russell Rickford, “To Build a New World”: Black American Internationalism and Palestine Solidarity,” pp. 52-68

Robin D. G. Kelley, “From the River to the Sea to Every Mountain Top: Solidarity as Worldmaking,” pp. 69-91

Susan Abulhawa, “Confronting Anti-Black Racism in the Arab World,” Al Jazeera, 7 July 2013.


Rana Baker, “Palestinians express ‘Solidarity with the People of Ferguson’ in Mike Brown Statement.” The Electronic Intifada (August 15, 2014), ;


Ajamu Dillahunt, “The Interconnectedness of Black and Palestinian Struggles”. 2019


Shirley Graham DuBois, Imperialism, Neocolonialism, and Africa. 1970


Noura Erakat and Marc Lamont Hill, Black-Palestinian Transnational Solidarity: Renewals, Returns, and Practice


Robin D.G. Kelley, *Yes, I Said ‘National Liberation’*

Audre Lorde, *Oberlin College Commencement Address* (29 May 1989)


Russell Rickford, *African Americans, Palestine, and Solidarity*


Therese Saliba, *June Jordan’s Songs of Palestine and Lebanon*

Timothy Seidel, “‘Occupied Territory Is Occupied Territory’: James Baldwin, Palestine and the Possibilities of Transnational Solidarity,” Third World Quarterly 37, no. 9 (2016), 1644-1660.

Olga Solombrino, “When I see them I see us”: Palestinianness, Blackness, and New Geographies of Resistance,” From the European South 2 (2017), 71-87,


Jaime Omar Yassin, “The Shortest Distance Between Ferguson and Palestine,” Counterpunch (August 15-17, 2014)

**Poetry**

June Jordan, *Apologies to All the People in Lebanon*

June Jordan, *Moving Towards Home*

Ntozake Shange, *Bocas: A Daughter's Geography*

**Explore Letters, Statements, & Other Resources**

A Letter from 18 Writers. (2006)

A Dangerous Conflation: An Open Letter from Jewish Writers (November 2023)
Institute for Middle East Understanding

Justice for Palestine: A Call to Action from Indigenous and Women of Color Feminists. (2011)

Solidarity with Palestine—A Radical Black Feminist Mandate: A Reading List. (October 2023)

Statement in Solidarity with the Palestinian People of Gaza. (2014)

Third World Round Up: The Palestine Problem: Test Your Knowledge

Watch/Listen

Angela Davis on Black Liberation and Palestinian Solidarity

Archiving Black Palestinian Solidarity: Visions of Liberation 1968-2021

Black Feminist Writers and Palestine

Justice for Palestine: A Call to Action from Indigenous & Women of Color Feminists

Israel’s New Racism: The Persecution of African Migrants in the Holy Land

The Limits and Possibilities of Black-Palestinian Transnational Solidarity

This Week in Palestine: Barbara Ransby and Ali Abunimah discuss 'The Battle for Justice in Palestine'. 2015

When I See Them, I See Us. 2015