

## **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<sup>1</sup>. 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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<sup>1</sup> Manning Marable. 2000. Black Studies and the Racial Mountain. Souls, 2:3, 17-36.

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*

Keith P. Feldman, *A Shadow over Palestine: The Imperial Life of Race in America*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2015

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*

Cornel West & Michael Lerner, *Jews and Blacks: A Dialogue on Race, Religion, and Culture in America*. Plume, 1996.

*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

Taurean J. Webb, “Troubling Idols: Black-Palestinian Solidarity in U.S. Afro-Christian Spaces,” pp. 33-51

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

Ahmad Abuznaid, Phillip Agnew, Maytha Alhassen, Kristian Davis Bailey & Nadya Tannous, “Roundtable: On Solidarity Delegations,” pp. 92-102

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

Michelle Alexander, "Time to Break the Silence on Palestine," New York Times, 19 January 2019,  
<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/01/19/opinion/sunday/martin-luther-king-palestine-israel.html>

Sa'ed Atshan and Darnell L. Moore, "Reciprocal Solidarity: Where the Black and Palestinian Queer Struggles Meet," Biography 37, no. 2 (Spring 2014), pp. 680–705.

Kristian Davis Bailey, Black-Palestinian Solidarity in the Ferguson-Gaza Era. American Studies Association. 2015

Rana Barakat, Reading Audre Lorde in Palestine: Exploring Differences between Generative and Extractive. Kohl: A Journal for Body and Gender Research Vol. 9 No. 1 (18 January 2023): pp. 25-31.

Rana Baker, "Palestinians express 'Solidarity with the People of Ferguson' in Mike Brown Statement," The Electronic Intifada (August 15, 2014), ;

Diana Block, "Reflections on a Delegation to Imprisoned Palestine," Counterpunch, 13 May 2016,  
<https://www.counterpunch.org/2016/05/13/reflections-on-a-delegation-to-imprisoned-palestine/>

Fabiola Cineas. "The Long, Complicated History of Black Solidarity with Palestinians and Jews: How Black support for Zionism morphed into support for Palestine." Vox (Oct 17, 2023)

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

Bruce A. Dixon, "Why Our Black Political Class is Paralyzed and Silent on Gaza Massacres and Israeli Apartheid," Black Agenda Report, 23 July 2014

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

Noura Erakat, "The Nakba and Anti-Blackness," Jadaliyya, 19 May 2016

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

Maryam S. Griffin, "Freedom Rides in Palestine: Racial Segregation and Grassroots Politics on the Bus," Race & Class 56, no. 4 (2015), 73–84.

Robin D. G. Kelley, "Apartheid's Black Apologists," in Jon Soske and Sean Jacobs, eds., *Apartheid Israel: The Politics of an Analogy* (New York: Haymarket Books, 2015).

Robin D. G. Kelley, "Letter from a West Bank Refugee Camp," in Sohail Daulatzai and Junaid Rana, eds., *With Stones in Our Hands: Writings on Muslims, Racism, and Empire* (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2018).

Robin D. G. Kelley, "Another Freedom Summer." *Journal of Palestine Studies* 173, no. 1 (Autumn 2014), 29-41

Robin D. G. Kelley, "When the Smoke Clears in Gaza," *Mondoweiss* (August 8, 2014), <http://mondoweiss.net/2014/08/when-smoke-clears.html>

Robin D. G. Kelley, "Defending Zionism Under the Cloak of Academic Freedom," *Mondoweiss* (January 4, 2014), <http://mondoweiss.net/2014/01/defending-zionism-academic>

Robin D. G. Kelley and Erica Lorraine Williams, "Madiba in Palestine," *Counterpunch* (December 10, 2013), <http://www.counterpunch.org/2013/12/10/madiba-in-palestine/>

Robin D. G. Kelley, "Gaza: What Would Lincoln Do?" *Counterpunch* (November 29, 2012), <http://www.counterpunch.org/2012/11/29/gaza-what-would-lincoln-do/>

Robin D.G. Kelley, Yes, I Said 'National Liberation'

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

Saree Makdisi, "Things in Palestine May Never Be the Same Again," *The Nation* (October 12, 2023), <https://www.thenation.com/article/world/gaza-israel-conflict-future/>

Megan French Marcelin, "Linking Violence in Solidarity: Ferguson, Gaza, and the US State," *Jadaliyya* (August 18, 2014), <https://www.jadaliyya.com/Details/31113>

Bassem Masri, "The Fascinating Story of How the Ferguson-Palestine Solidarity Movement Came Together," *Alternet* (February 18, 2015), <https://www.alternet.org/2015/02/frontline-ferguson-protester-and-palestinian-american-bassem-masri-how-ferguson2palestine;>

Nadine Naber, Arab and Black Feminisms: Joint Struggle and Transnational Anti-Imperialist Activism. *Departures in Critical Qualitative Research* (2016) 5 (3): 116–125.

Russell Rickford, [African Americans, Palestine, and Solidarity](#)

“Roundtable on Anti-Blackness and Black-Palestinian Solidarity,” Jadaliyya, 3 June 2015,  
<http://www.jadaliyya.com/pages/index/21764/roundtable-on-anti-blacknessand-black-palestinian>

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,

Greg Thomas, “[Blame It on the Sun: George Jackson and Poetry of Palestinian Resistance](#),” *Comparative American Studies An International Journal* 13, no. 4 (2015), pp. 236–253.

Philip Weiss’s interview with Zellner, “From Mississippi to Gaza – Dorothy Zellner Reflects on 50 Years of Struggle,” *Mondoweiss*, 24 June 2014,  
<http://mondoweiss.net/2014/06/mississippi-reflects-struggle/>

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