

Documentary Films about Palestine/Israel - On YouTube

Historical Context

1948: Creation & Catastrophe (2017, 1:25)

Through riveting and moving personal recollections of both Palestinians and Israelis, 1948: Creation & Catastrophe reveals the shocking events of the most pivotal year in the most controversial conflict in the world. It tells the story of the establishment of Israel as seen through the eyes of the people who lived it. It is simply not possible to make sense of what is happening today without an understanding of 1948.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Bwy-Rf15UIs&t=22s>

The Settlers (inside the Jewish settlements) (2016, 1:50)

Israeli filmmaker, Shimon Dotan traces the history of Israeli settlements in the West Bank since Israel's decisive victory in the 1967 Six Day War. While government leaders and the Israeli public initially saw the military victory as an opportunity for a negotiated peace, Jewish religious zealots saw it as a divine calling to redeem the Biblical land of Israel. Jewish settlements have grown to more than 500,000 inhabitants surrounded by a Palestinian population of 2.5 million.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=prqtXMSdeUw&list=PLW45CTDZridTZqOfvF3-nGHyVxV7FqgKD&index=657&t=83s>

Miko Peled: The General's Son (2014, 1:01)

As an Israeli peace activist from a military family, Miko Peled gives an insightful perspective on the Palestine/Israel issue. Miko Peled is a clear voice calling for justice in Palestine, support of the Palestinian call for Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) and the creation of a single democracy with equal rights in all of historic Palestine.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L9_OcXvT6Y&t=1199s

Palestinian Life Under Israeli Military Occupation

Roadmap to Apartheid (2012, 1:34)

The film compares apartheid South Africa to Israel's military occupation and systemic racism against Palestinians, giving context to why Palestine/Israel has been described as an apartheid state. The South African experience offers hope that peace is possible between Palestinians and Israelis.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3psMGQE0iW4&t=3s>

The Law and the Prophets (2022, 1:54)

In Israel, East Jerusalem, and the West Bank, the law is whatever Israel deems to be in the best interest of Jewish Israelis and to the detriment of Palestinians. Israel violates the civil and human rights of Palestinians as a matter of standard, accepted policy. However, there are brave, determined individuals who are trying to expose the destructive and unjust ways in which Israel exploits and oppresses Palestinians. The Law and the Prophets explains the mechanisms of control that Israel deploys to subjugate Palestinians within Israel, and in East Jerusalem and the West Bank.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F_kF35IgF40&list=PLW45CTDZridTZqOfvF3-nGHyVxV7FqgKD&index=637

Stone Cold Justice: Arrest and Detention of Palestinian Children by the Israeli Military (2014, 0:45) 'Stone Cold Justice' documents how Palestinian children, who have been arrested and detained by Israeli forces, are subjected to physical abuse, torture and forced into false confessions. A 2014 report by the United Nations International Emergency Children's Fund or UNICEF concluded that Palestinian children are often targeted in night arrests and raids of their homes, threatened with death and subjected to physical violence, solitary confinement and sexual assault.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cvOSv2fGJ5w&list=PLW45CTDZridTZqOfvF3-nGHyVxV7FqgKD&index=622>

Rooted in the West Bank – 25 Years of Resistance | Witness Documentary (2024, 0:47)

Atta Jaber's family has farmed the Baqa'a Valley in the illegally occupied West Bank for hundreds of years, but since Israel's 1967 occupation, their land has been confiscated piecemeal by Israeli settlers and their homes

demolished. The film spans 25 years in a farmer's struggle to stay steadfast and features Israeli peace activists who try to help. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xhXIYns7ZeM>

Understanding the Plight of Palestinians in the Gaza Strip

Gaza: Between Fire and Sea - Gaza's Great March of Return (2018, 0:35)

"What would happen if thousands of Gazans, most of them refugees, attempted to peacefully cross the fence that separates them from their ancestral lands?" That was Ahmed Abu Artema's Facebook statement, the rallying cry that launched the "Great March of Return" protests in 2018. Frustrated with the restrictions, walls and borders that surround Gaza, the poet decided to advocate for change. Ahmed wanted to break the more than 10-year-old siege in Gaza through non-violent means with Palestinians from all factions. Ahmed dreams of a world with no borders. He wants to be free to leave the Gaza Strip. "The March of Return is a scream for life so that we may leave the walls of our prison."

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ecrbhD8l1SE>

The Truth: Lost At Sea - What Happened to the Gaza Freedom Flotilla (2017, 0:56)

In 2010, the Gaza Freedom Flotilla, a convoy of ships carrying humanitarian aid, attempted to break Israel's blockade of Gaza. While in international waters, Israel launched a night-raid, boarding the ships. On one of the six ships, ten activists were shot and killed by Israeli commandos. The film lays out the details of what happened that night and how the story was spun by the media.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XXgc6hFKqzI&list=PLW45CTDZridTZqOfvF3-nGHyVxV7FqqKD&rco=1>

The Night Won't End: Biden's War on Gaza | Fault Lines Documentary (2024, 1:18)

As Israel's bombing campaign continues in Gaza and the humanitarian crisis deepens to catastrophic levels, the Biden administration has not wavered in its support for Israel. United States weapons transfers - from 2,000-pound bombs to artillery shells and tanks - have been a crucial part of the Israeli military campaign. Fault Lines worked with journalists in Gaza to profile three families as they try to survive the war. From air strikes to field executions, Fault Lines investigates the killings of civilians by the Israeli military in Gaza and the role of the United States in the war.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ECFpW5zoFXA&t=6s>

October 7 | Al Jazeera Investigations (2024, 1:00)

Al Jazeera's Investigative Unit (I-Unit) has carried out a forensic analysis of Hamas's incursion into Israel on October 7 – examining seven hours of footage from CCTV, dashcams, personal phones and headcams of dead Hamas fighters. The I-Unit reveals widespread human rights abuses by Hamas fighters and others who followed them through the fence from Gaza into Israel. But the investigation also found that many of the worst stories repeated by politicians in Israel and the West to justify the bombardment of the Gaza Strip, such as the mass killing of babies and allegations of widespread and systematic rape, were false.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_Oatzea-mPY&list=PLW45CTDZridTZqOfvF3-nGHyVxV7FqqKD&rco=1

Jewish Americans and Palestinian/Israel Issue

Israelism: The awakening of young American Jews (2023, 1:19)

When two young American Jews raised to support Israel unconditionally witness the way Israel treats Palestinians, it changes their lives. They join a movement of young American Jews campaigning to redefine Judaism's relationship with Israel and reveal a deepening generational divide over modern Jewish identity. Israelism sparked huge debate on American campuses.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lq6J7Q6L0yw&list=PLW45CTDZridTZqOfvF3-nGHyVxV7FqqKD&index=797&t=117s>

Being Jewish After the Destruction of Gaza: A Reckoning (2025, 1:34)

Peter Beinart in conversation with Juan Cole

In Peter Beinart's view, one story dominates Jewish communal life: that of persecution and victimhood. It is a story that erases much of the nuance of Jewish religious tradition and warps our understanding of Israel and Palestine. After Gaza, where Jewish texts, history, and language have been deployed to justify mass slaughter and

starvation, Beinart argues, Jews must tell a new story. Beinart imagines a story in which Israeli Jews have the right to equality, not supremacy, and in which Jewish and Palestinian safety are not mutually exclusive but intertwined.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PTr9xSKHee0&t=264s>

Christian Zionism

Til Kingdom Come (2020, 1:17)

This film traces this unusual relationship, from rural Kentucky to the halls of government in Washington, through the moving of the American Embassy in Jerusalem and to the annexation plan of the West-Bank. The film exposes a stunning backstory of the Trump and Netanyahu administrations, where financial, political and messianic motivations intersect with the apocalyptic worldview that shapes American foreign policy toward Israel and the Middle East. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gSmlQKyluw8>

With God on Our Side (2010, 1:21)

With God on Our Side takes a look at the theology of Christian Zionism, which teaches that because the Jews are God's chosen people, they have a divine right to the land of Israel. Aspects of this belief system lead some Christians in the West to give uncritical support to Israeli government policies, even those that privilege Jews at the expense of Palestinians, leading to great suffering among Muslim and Christian Palestinians alike and threatening Israel's security as a whole.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NahTjAsDThs&list=PLW45CTDZridTZqOfvF3-nGHyVxV7FqqKD&index=749&t=2259s>

Mainstream US News Media and the Palestine/Israel Issue

The Occupation of the American Mind (2016, 1:24)

Israel's ongoing military occupation of Palestinian territory and repeated invasions of the Gaza strip have triggered a fierce backlash against Israeli policies virtually everywhere in the world -- except the United States. The Occupation of the American Mind takes an eye-opening look at this critical exception, zeroing in on pro-Israel public relations efforts within the U.S. The film explores how the Israeli government, the U.S. government, and the pro-Israel lobby have joined forces, often with very different motives, to shape American media coverage of the conflict in Israel's favor. the film provides a sweeping analysis of Israel's decades-long battle for the hearts, minds, and tax dollars of the American people.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dP0-YohJR-g&t=1s>

Peace, Propaganda, & the Promised Land (2003, 1:20)

The documentary exposes how political, military and corporate interests work in combination with Israeli public relations strategies to exercise a powerful influence over how news from the region is reported. Scholars, media critics, peace activists, religious figures, and Middle East experts explain how Israel's military occupation of the West Bank and Gaza remain hidden in news reports, framing Israeli military action in the occupied territories as defensive rather than offensive.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MiiQI7QMj8w>

Impact of the Israel Lobby on US Middle East Policy

The Israel Lobby in the U.S. - Documentary by Al Jazeera (Part 1 of 4) (2018, 0:48)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6CNSpeQYplk&list=PLW45CTDZridTZqOfvF3-nGHyVxV7FqqKD&index=148&t=5s>

The Israel Lobby in the U.S. - Documentary by Al Jazeera (Part 2 of 4) (2018, 0:49)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F0n_Dke18Co&list=PLW45CTDZridTZqOfvF3-nGHyVxV7FqqKD&index=145

The Israel Lobby in the U.S. - Documentary by Al Jazeera (Part 3 of 4) (2018, 0:50)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R4gh2IRjKwU&list=PLW45CTDZridTZqOfvF3-nGHyVxV7FqqKD&index=146>

The Israel Lobby in the U.S. - Documentary by Al Jazeera (Part 4 of 4) (2018, 0:49)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qtcNfD6SwC4&list=PLW45CTDZridTZqOfvF3-nGHyVxV7FqqKD&index=147>