

peal of Israel's Law of Return and other laws "that reflect a concept of Israel as a Jewish state and those that grant benefits based on IDF service" (p. 210–13). In addition, he suggests that a Nuremberg-style tribunal might be held to try leaders of the Jewish Agency for the 1948 war and Israeli government leaders for the wars of 1956, 1967, and 1982.

His prescription amounts, in effect, to a call for a secular democratic state in all of Mandate Palestine, and a restoration insofar as possible of the status quo before 1947. This is, of course, a position very much at odds with the dominant trend in the Palestine National Council (PNC), a difference that Quigley acknowledges by implicitly criticizing the PNC for basing its 1988 declaration of Palestinian independence in part on the 1947 UN partition resolution. The PNC's mention of resolution 181 "amounted to a recognition of a right for a Jewish state in Palestine," he notes with evident disapproval (p. 231).

Despite the political implausibility and the less than conciliatory nature of the approach Quigley advocates as a means to resolve the Palestine conflict, *Palestine and Israel* is a useful primer on the injustice that keeps the conflict alive. While it is neither an exhaustive legal treatise nor a comprehensive historical survey, it nonetheless makes the reader aware of the main events and issues that have fueled nearly a century of conflict in Palestine.

THE UPRISING THROUGH INTERVIEWS

The Palestinian Uprising: A War by Other Means, by F. Robert Hunter. Berkeley and Los Angeles: University of California Press, 1991. xx + 237 pages. Chronology and notes to p. 267. Bibliography to p. 276. Index to p. 292. \$24.95 cloth.

Reviewed by **Rex Brynen**

This book is a welcome addition to what continues to be a growing literature on the Palestinian uprising. After two initial chapters devoted to the impact of Israel's occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip and mounting Palestinian resistance in the 1980s,

the author devotes the remainder of the volume to examining the initial eruption of the intifada; Israel's response in the occupied territories; political and diplomatic developments through 1988–89; and the uprising's internal difficulties. An epilogue and postscript bring the account up to mid-1990.

As he himself notes in the foreword, Robert Hunter's academic training is that of historian rather than political scientist, and his previous specialization is North Africa rather than the Arab-Israeli conflict. A visiting researcher at Hebrew University when the uprising began in December 1987, Hunter began his research on this book in an effort to "explain the intifada to myself" and document "history in the making" (p. xi). In many ways, that impulse relates directly to weaknesses and strengths of the volume.

With regard to the former, those who closely follow Palestinian politics will find very little new in this volume. For the most part Hunter describes very well events that are themselves well known; he provides an analysis that is solid but unexceptional. In other words, this is not the sort of volume to which one is likely to turn for a detailed and original treatment of (for example) Palestinian trade unions, the rise of the Islamic movement, the policies of the main PLO factions, or indeed most other components of the uprising. His discussion of the political impact of the uprising on the PLO, on Israel, and within the broader international community is sketchy at best. Because of his heavy dependence on interview material, Hunter's account sometimes reflects the generalized romanticism that oral history often imparts in its treatment of events—a tendency most noticeable in his discussion of the success of Palestinian boycott and self-sufficiency campaigns (pp. 128–36) and the role of popular committees (pp. 136–42). In the last quarter of the book, however, his evaluation is rather more pessimistic, suggesting a serious decline in the effectiveness of the intifada after its first year. Generally, readers may find themselves wishing that the author had inserted his analytical evaluations more extensively and forcefully throughout his account. The "epilogue" and "postscript" that stand at the end of the volume aggravate this deficiency: they do not really substitute for an overall conclusion, and instead have the effect of subordinating the text to ever-changing political developments.

At the same time, the extent to which Hunter's account is explicitly or implicitly narrated by its subjects represents its greatest strength. In relying so heavily on indigenous sources—the Palestinian and Israeli media,

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and extensive interviews with Palestinians and Israelis from a broad political and social spectrum—he has succeeded in producing a history of the intifada that is both scholarly and sensitive. He thus very effectively captures the essence of what is important about the intifada, what sustains it, and how it has changed. This is particularly evident in the attention he pays to the dynamic interaction between Palestinian mass mobilization and Israeli counter-measures; in the weight he places on the central importance (as well as failures) of popular and factional organization; and in his useful evaluation of Palestinian civil disobedience campaigns.

The net result is a book that, while breaking little new ground, is very good nonetheless. Those seeking a general introduction to the intifada in its first two and a half years will find that Robert Hunter's *The Palestinian Uprising: A War by Other Means* successfully provides an effective and fair overview. It combines this, moreover, with a very valuable portrait of how the uprising's participants themselves perceive their own continuing struggle for self-determination. Given the extent to which Palestinians have been excluded from effective participation in the writing of their own history, this in itself is no small accomplishment.

RARE ACCOUNT OF GAZA

The Uzi and the Stone, by Rhona Davies and Peter R. Johnson. Calgary: Detselig Enterprises Ltd., 1991. 256 pages. \$19.95 (Canadian) paper.

Reviewed by **Sara Roy**

Many books have been written on the intifada but few provide as compelling and unique an insight into Palestinian life during the uprising as this one does. It is especially important because it addresses the Gaza Strip, an area that continues to remain a social and political enigma even to those with an understanding of Palestinian affairs. *The Uzi and the Stone* is a journal and series of essays written by the authors during their two-year stay in Gaza, where they worked as instructors in a training program for teachers of special education run by the University of Calgary in

conjunction with the Society for the Care of the Handicapped in Gaza City. Davies and Johnson came as close as any outsiders can to living the life of a Palestinian, which is no small achievement in Gazan society. They shared a house with an Arab family in Gaza City rather than live within the safer grounds of the Calgary project. They socialized almost entirely with the local community in the local dialect, and came to understand the intricacies of a new and different culture. Their acceptance by those around them was not immediate, but once it came, it was total.

In their book, the authors do not simply record what they see in Gaza, but they discuss the impact of what they are experiencing as foreigners in a strange land. Unlike other works on the subject, this one is not a polemic or political tract defending the Palestinian cause. It is, rather, a deeply personal and thoughtful account of daily life under conditions of extreme difficulty, that is both gentle and critical at the same time. Davies and Johnson make it clear that oppression comes in different forms. In Gaza, it is not only the brutality of military occupation that tears apart the human spirit, but the cultural norms of the society itself, which do much to restrict personal freedom and individual growth, especially for women. Their account, however, is not a critique, but a poignant representation of a people for whom the authors have profound regard and their struggle.

The book successfully conveys the surreal qualities of daily life in the Gaza Strip, the absurdities and horrors which have come to define "normal" living in this tiny corner of the world. In a tone that is quietly understated at times, the authors describe the almost daily regimen of curfews, strikes, shootings, and deaths, which one is brutalized into accepting as normal after just a short time inside the territory. Where else would one listen to volleys of gunfire and try to guess the kind of bullet being used? Harassment by the Israeli army is a constant problem, but so is the fear of stoning by Palestinian teenagers. With great sensitivity, Davies and Johnson relate that what makes life so difficult in Gaza is its randomness, its lack of pattern, routine, and predictability. Individual control has been excised from personal existence, and the result is frustration, anger, and despair.

There are certain themes that run through the book: gratuitous violence against children and by children; collective punishment as a response to opposition; the insensibility of outsiders to the victimization of a people; the constant kindness of Palestinians and their desperate need to be heard; the class distinc-

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