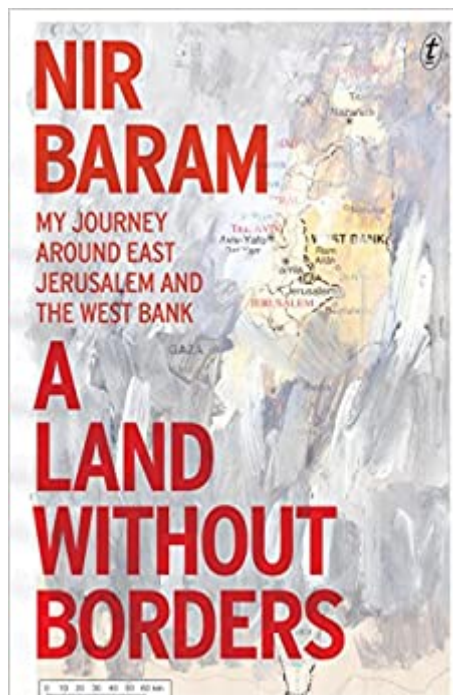




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A Land Without Borders: My Journey Around East Jerusalem And The West Bank



Synopsis

"From horror to fatigue to indifference, an important look forward and back that provides a grass-roots sense... An honest and troubling snapshot of Israel's both Palestinian and Israeli; that reveals the creeping realization that a two-state solution may no longer be possible." Kirkus (starred review) Throughout their youth Nir Baram's generation were bombarded with news about the Israeli-Palestinian conflict; the injustices, the wrongdoings, the killings. Over the decades, the horror and despair had become habit; he noticed people had begun to give up on the possibility of resolution. Yet, as Baram notes, "the vast majority of Israelis; as well as international onlookers; know next to nothing about life on the West Bank, the area at the heart of the conflict they have spent their adult lives dissecting". Most have never visited the occupied territories, and thus "the debate revolves around a theoretical, ill-defined area sketched out in our political imagination." This book of reportage emerged from the author's realization that Israel is separated from the West Bank not only by checkpoints but also, more significantly, by a cognitive barrier. And so began his quest to understand the occupation from both sides. The result is an essential and nuanced journey through places and experiences that receive little coverage. Baram, widely considered one of the most important intellectual voices in Israel today, faces painful challenges to his personal political views and his hopes for a more peaceful future. Nir Baram has worked as a journalist, editor, and advocate for Palestinian rights. He is the author of five novels in Hebrew. In 2010 he received the Prime Minister's Award for Hebrew Literature.

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Customer Reviews

'An honest and troubling snapshot of Israel – both Palestinian and Israeli – that reveals the creeping realization that a two-state solution may no longer be possible. A leftist Israeli journalist and novelist, Baram (Good People, 2016, etc.), who grew up in the 1980s, confronted his own long-held biases by spending an extended length of time penetrating the Green Line (the 1949 demarcation of Israel's borders) and visiting the West Bank and East Jerusalem. In a series of hard-hitting chapters, he recounts his journeys to Palestinian refugee camps, Israeli settlements, kibbutzim, and border crossings like Kalandia – underscoring the enormous fatigue that has settled around the Israeli occupation and the essential desire for the Palestinians to enjoy equal rights and move freely within the country. The sad, stunning truth is that most Palestinians and Israelis have no contact with each other.... From horror to fatigue to indifference, an important look forward and back that provides a grass-roots sense that one state needs to satisfy sovereignty for all.' Kirkus (starred review)

Nir Baram was born in Jerusalem in 1976. He has worked as a journalist, editor, and as an advocate for equal rights for Palestinians. He's the author of five novels. Good People (Text, 2016) is the first to be translated into English. Baram received the 2010 Prime Ministers Award for Hebrew Literature. He now lives in Tel Aviv. Jessica Cohen is a freelance translator based in Denver. Born in England – and raised in Jerusalem, she translates contemporary Israeli fiction, nonfiction and poetry, as well as commercial material from and into Hebrew. Her published translations include David Grossman's award-winning To the End of the Land, as well as critically-acclaimed works by Yael Heday, Ronit Matalon, Amir Gutfreund and Tom Negev.

In the tradition of Amos Oz and David Grossman, Nir Baram is visiting Palestinian villages and inquires about what future stays ahead for the relations between Israel and the Palestinians. Unfortunately he doesn't look necessarily to answer his questions with new questions, but there are interesting facts revealed that may help to do your own further research. Like, for instance, how happened that in Betlehem the percentage of Christian Arabs decreased, a fact noticed by the author but not worth the effort of a serious journalistic research. The book is less ideological than expected though therefore, especially if you are curious to gather arguments and even get a sociological overview of the profile of the Palestinian leaders and their background there are some good information to take from it, although parsimoniously. Disclaimer: Book offered by the publisher in exchange for an honest review.

Seems a little superficial and naive at times. Seems to gloss over a lot of the fundamental issues on both sides. Does lead to a better understanding of some of the conflict and its history.

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