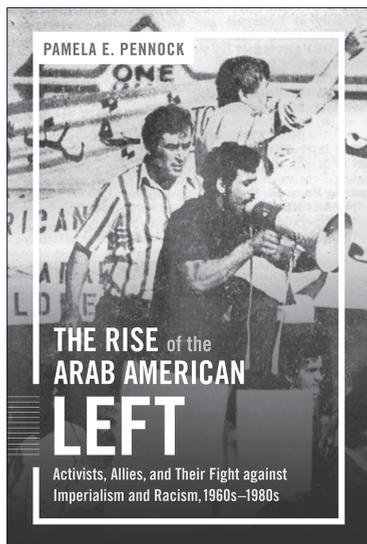


unlivable. The author shows, page by page, how the continuous punishment of Gaza, the multiple wars, and the Israeli- and Egyptian-imposed siege all aim to stifle Palestinian resistance through collective punishment.

Gaza: An Inquest into Its Martyrdom is destined to be Norman Finkelstein's magnum opus. His forensic treatment of what has been done to Gaza is accusatory, and deservedly so. One may compare its tone to Emile Zola's "J'accuse," in which he lambasts French officials for their cowardice, anti-Semitism, and complicity in the Dreyfus affair. Finkelstein calls out international commissions and human rights organizations for their elisions and cowardice, and in so doing, he is right on the mark.

Nubar Hovsepien, chair of political science at Chapman University, is the author of *Palestinian State Formation: Education and the Construction of National Identity* (Newcastle, UK: Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2008).



The Rise of the Arab American Left: Activists, Allies, and Their Fight against Imperialism and Racism, 1960s–1980s, by Pamela E. Pennock. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2017. 328 pages. \$85.00 cloth, \$29.95 paper, \$19.99 e-book.

REVIEWED BY YOUSEF MUNAYYER

This year marks fifty years since 1968, perhaps the most transformational and tumultuous year in the modern history of American domestic politics; and our current political moment is a tumultuous one of its own. It is thus fitting that Pamela Pennock makes her contribution on Arab American activism at a moment when many of the themes she covers are resurfacing. Pennock's book is part of the University of North Carolina series "Justice, Power and Politics" which, according to its website, "publishes

new works of history that explore questions of social justice and political power and struggles for justice in the twentieth century." Situated in the series alongside a range of titles featuring various minority ethnic, racial, and political groups in the United States, Pennock focuses on Arab American activism and its relationship to other movements during this particularly mobilized moment in American history.

The author, a professor of history at the University of Michigan–Dearborn, became interested in Arab American history after her curiosity was piqued during reviews of historical texts she assigned her classes on the politics of the 1960s. Those writings failed to mention any Arab Americans other than Sirhan Sirhan, who was convicted of murder in the death of Senator Robert F. Kennedy. She writes that "the genesis of this book was my interest in learning more about [Sirhan's] place in American history, a pursuit that evolved into my captivation with the connections between the Arab world and American activism of the 1960s and '70s" (p. ix).

Being based in Dearborn gives the author easy access to a wealth of information on Arab Americana and she does well taking advantage of it. While much has been written on Arab American activism, including in this period, Pennock does an impressive job of bringing a wide range of resources to bear in telling her unique story. Along with the extensive collection of archives and papers on Arab American groups that she taps, she also conducts a number of interviews. These conversations with key figures, including Ismael Ahmed, Barbara Aswad, Abdeen Jabara, George Khoury, and more, support her narrative throughout.

Along with the primacy of the impact of the 1967 war on Arab American life and activism, one of the key themes covered in the book is the persistent choice by Arab American activists and organizers to form coalitions with partners across various issues because “they understood that a coalition strategy in America, even if limited and halting, was important to advancing their causes” (p. 232).

Throughout the 1960s, 1970s, and 1980s, Palestine was as unifying to Arab American organizing as other Arab world issues—from Egypt, to Yemen, to Iraq, to Lebanon, and beyond—were divisive. Even as the politics of the key groups she surveys over time tempers from the so-called radical Organization of Arab Students in the 1960s, to the leftist and Third World–focused Association of Arab American University Graduates in the 1970s, to the even more moderate groups that formed in the 1980s, division around the internal politics of the Middle East continued to be a challenge for Arab American activists. Nevertheless, Pennock argues, “the activist seeds planted in the 1960s and 1970s have begun to bear fruit, especially in pursuing coalitions with American peace and civil rights groups that were set in motion a generation earlier” (p. 236), pointing to the growing, if still incomplete, acceptance of Palestine among progressives today and the continued cross-movement organizing being undertaken in the present.

Pennock set out to fill a void in the understanding of Arab American activism in the historiography of this period. Her focus on the Left and Arab American organizing during the 1960s and ’70s is a fitting complement to the Salim Yaqub’s recent *Imperfect Strangers* (Cornell University Press, 2016), which looks at macro-political events, as well as Hani Bawardi’s *The Making of Arab Americans* (University of Texas Press, 2014), which looks at previous decades of organizing. *The Rise of the Arab American Left* offers valuable lessons not only for students of history but for current practitioners of intersectional organizing and coalition building who seek to build upon the work of those who came before them.

Yousef Munayyer is the executive director of the U.S. Campaign for Palestinian Rights and a member of the *JPS* editorial committee.

On the Arab-Jew, Palestine, and Other Displacements: Selected Writings, by Ella Shohat. London: Pluto Press, 2017. 480 pages. \$115.00 cloth, \$28.00 paper, \$28.00 e-book.

REVIEWED BY TILDE ROSMER

Ella Shohat dedicated this volume of her selected writings to Tikva Amal Levi and Naeim Khaschi Giladi, two Iraqi Jewish activists and citizens of Israel. The dedication underscores the