Debating Palestine and Israel
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While the Jews strove for statehood and national identity as a result of their claim to their ancient homeland, the Palestinians were denied both, leading to their marginalisation and the ongoing conflict in the Middle East. This book seeks to uncover and explore the central issues of this crisis through the dialogue and debate of a pro-Palestinian Christian and a pro-Zionist Jew. Clashing viewpoints are expressed as the authors trace the history of the Palestinian–Israeli conflict from the end of the nineteenth century until the present. By outlining past and present events in an accessible manner, the difficulties, rationales and emotions encountered in the creation of the Jewish state are confronted, with the hope that a greater understanding and sympathy between Jews, Christians and Muslims is engendered as well as making a contribution to a peaceful solution to what appears to be an intractable conflict. This concise history appeals to students of the conflict wishing to engage with the material in a creative way, presenting the cases of opposing positions side by side.

**Dan Cohn-Sherbok** is Emeritus Professor of Judaism at the University of Wales and Honorary Professor at Aberystwyth University. He is the author of a number of books dealing with this topic including *Israel: The History of an Idea; The Palestinian–Israeli Conflict* (with Dawoud El-Alami); *An Introduction to Zionism and Israel: From Ideology to History*, and *The Palestinian State: A Jewish Justification*.

**Mary Grey** is Emeritus Professor of Theology at the University of Wales. She is the author of numerous books concerning social justice, including *The Resurrection of Peace: A Gospel Journey to Easter and Beyond*. 
We have a problem right now in America with the way we are debating issues surrounding Israel and Israel's security. My commitment right now is affirming Israel's right to exist and affirming Israel's right to defend itself against enemies which they have virtually surrounding them, but also to affirm the dignity and self-determination of the Palestinian people. It should call for a gradual demilitarization of Israel and Palestine, and should be clear with the Israeli government that the days of Israel-right-or-wrong are over. And the U.S. should refuse to take unconstitutional steps to stifle BDS. Israel won the war and yet as behaved amicably in the face of international support and disdain. There is no reason that Israel could not forcibly remove the Palestinians from Gaza and force them into the Sinai or elsewhere, but they have yet to do so. Israel won the war and 60 year later has the right to their land and territory. Palestine is Legitimate and Israel is wrongly based. I am not only Arab, but I am Muslim, and a native born Palestinian from the city of Al-Bireh of the house of Abed. I have been displaced, and my family ties into the land and has been tied to the land for thousands of years.
On Monday 13 October MPs took part in a debate on a motion relating to Palestine and Israel. This debate was scheduled by the Backbench Business Committee following representations from Grahame M. Morris, Crispin Blunt, Sir Bob Russell, Caroline Lucas and Jeremy Corbyn. MPs voted 274 to 12 on division (Division 54) to approve the amended motion: 'That this House believes that the Government should recognise the state of Palestine alongside the state of Israel, as a contribution to securing a negotiated two state solution.' Watch the debate and read the transcript. The debate was open HAVE YOU HEARD about the bitter debate over boycotting Israel and the bristling, sometimes boorish, Delegate Assembly meeting of the Modern Language Association (MLA) that took place in early January in Chicago? For those involved, it’s a daily struggle over competing claims and histories. To those remote from the conflict, the drama often proves puzzling. At the heart of the matter are real world tensions over Israel and Palestine, and what has now become an explosive intersection between politics and higher education that is roiling the academic community. Here’s the short version of the eve