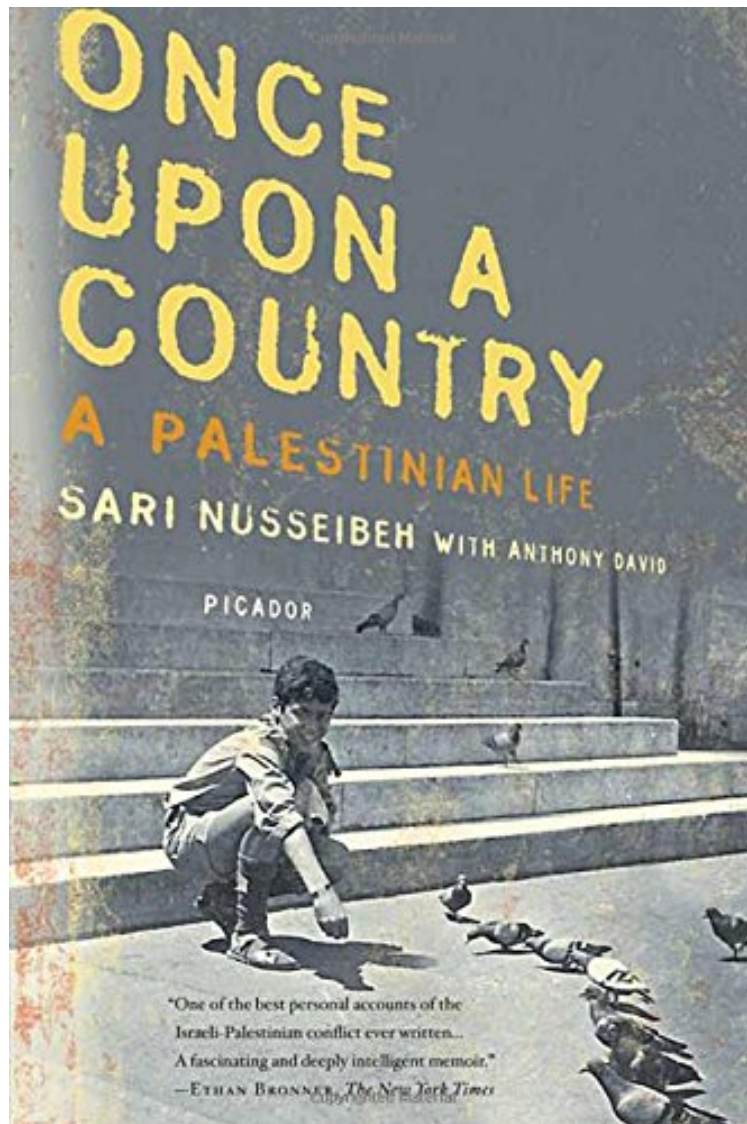


[Download free ebook] Once Upon a Country: A Palestinian Life

## Once Upon a Country: A Palestinian Life

*Sari Nusseibeh*

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#574149 in Books Sari Nusseibeh 2008-04-29 2008-04-29 Original language: English PDF # 1 8.50 x 1.30 x 5.50l, 1.20 #File Name: 0312427107584 pages Once Upon a Country A Palestinian Life | File size: 55.Mb

**Sari Nusseibeh : Once Upon a Country: A Palestinian Life** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Once Upon a Country: A Palestinian Life:

7 of 7 people found the following review helpful. A moderate palestinian's story By Joey L. This is a memoir written by a professor of philosophy who is also the current president of Al Quds university in East Jerusalem. After getting through his father's history in the early chapters, University professor Sari Nusseibeh realizes the central problem between the Israeli and Palestinian coexistence: neither sides understanding of the other side. It takes him meeting

Israeli students at college, and flying on an Israeli airline, and teaching at Hebrew University before he begins to see the similarities between the two. And that's where he evolves his ideas about peace. A central concept of his is that both sides are allies, NOT enemies. He even goes as far to say that the two are more like allies than the United States/Israel and Palestinians/Arab states are allies. Unfortunately as the occupation of the West Bank and Gaza continues throughout the 60s, 70s, and 80s, he sees a different kind of Arab majority emerging from the areas, that is bent on the concept of eradicating the Jew, instead of working with. As his story progresses we see how the author gets involved in politics and attempts to keep the two-state solution as a viable option, while trying to maintain his own logical understanding of what was transpiring. But as we come to the 2000s, Hamas gains most of the support of the Palestinians, wins elections and violence ensues. The author is not hopeless. He does speak of trying to advocate a peaceful two-state solution by teaming up with Israelis in the Peace Now movement and in the government, to get the peace that both sides seek. He writes up a two-state solution, that would allow Palestinians to have the borders from pre-1967, and allows Palestinian refugees to return to Palestinian areas, and Jews to Jewish areas. Only concerns I have with his memoir book are of misrepresentations of Israeli actions. He states that the Israelis invaded Lebanon in '82 without "any bullets being shot from Lebanon." That's misleading. The PLO were launching rockets into Kiryat Shmonah and nearby cities which was provoking the Israelis during this turbulent time for the Lebanese people, to maintain peace in southern Lebanon. In a few other places he tries to place more blame on Israel rather than sharing it with the Palestinian people, a product of his upbringing more than malicious intent. However Sari Nusseibeh is not Hamas and not an Islamic fundamentalist. He is a two-state solution advocate who writes mostly about using non-violent disobedience. As the reader I wondered, if more Palestinians were like Nusseibeh perhaps the world opinion would change towards them? But Nusseibeh DIDN'T grow up in a refugee camp, was educated at Oxford and Harvard, and lived a different life than the majority of Palestinians. So perhaps Palestinians as a whole don't see life as he does? And maybe this book is as much a minority view as that of the suicide bombers? Hopefully not, because Nusseibeh portrays himself as a peace seeker. And that's what is needed in Israel and Palestine. 4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. An important book. By Sandy Richard I am a middle-aged American Jew who lived in Israel for two years during the 1970's and who supports Israel's right to exist within secure borders. I found that this book helped me to be able to put myself in the position of the Palestinian people and to understand their experiences and struggles. It is very well written and was well worth reading. I highly recommend it for anyone who would like to believe that a peaceful solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is possible. It will help you to tear down whatever stereotypes you may have in your mind. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. An honest look at an incredibly complex conflict. By Customer A fascinating and informative look at the Israeli-Palestinian conflict from a seemingly objective Palestinian viewpoint. As someone with no personal stake in the conflict, I found this to be a refreshing perspective (compared to the decidedly pro-Israel perspective I'm more typically exposed to here in America). These are intensely complex issues. I hope everyone -- on both sides -- continues to explore both narratives and work towards a peaceful resolution.

A New York Times Book Review Editors' Choice A teacher, a scholar, a philosopher, and an eyewitness to history, Sari Nusseibeh is one of our most urgent and articulate authorities on the conflict in the Middle East. From his time teaching side by side with Israelis at the Hebrew University through his appointment by Yasir Arafat to administer the Arab Jerusalem, he has held fast to the principles of freedom and equality for all, and his story dramatizes the consequences of war, partition, and terrorism as few other books have done. *Once Upon a Country* brings rare depth and compassion to the story of his country.

From Publishers Weekly Starred . Philosophy professor and political leader Nusseibeh, as the Oxford and Harvard-educated descendant of an ancient and influential Jerusalem family, draws on deep roots in his account of a dramatically displaced life. That's one reason why, despite his relative privilege, his autobiography dovetails persuasively with the larger story of Palestinian dispossession and struggle in the 20th century. Nusseibeh, as a former PLO representative, also has the vantage of a political insider. Equally instructive are his differences from his fellow Palestinians, many of whom he encountered as his students in the classrooms and cafes at Birzeit University in the West Bank, and later as president of Al Quds University in Jerusalem. These interactions, among others, give shape to the story of this curious but reticent loner's immersion into national politics, which is overshadowed by the memory of his father (a fiercely independent former Jordanian minister and governor of Jerusalem). In relating the Palestinian perspective on the expulsions, expropriations and deprivations during and after the wars of 1948, 1967 and beyond, Nusseibeh convincingly interweaves personal experience and tectonic historical shifts, while charting his own political evolution and eventual and resolute insistence on a two-state solution to the Israel-Palestine conflict. (Apr.) Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. From Bookmarks Magazine Sari Nusseibeh is the ultimate insider, and he draws on that vast experience to shed light on the prospects for peace in the Middle East. He patiently examines complex issues and offers enough nuances to please readers who want to understand the ongoing conflict on a deeper level. The author's relatively evenhanded stance (despite a less-than-flattering portrayal of former Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, as well as some contested historical details)

distinguishes *Once Upon a Country* from other, more agenda-driven efforts, as does its call for nonviolent resolution and compromise. Nusseibeh, echoing Voltaire's notion that "the wisest course of action is surely to tend to your own garden," casts a critical eye on both sides. The result is "a deeply admirable book by a deeply admirable man" (New York Times Book Review). Copyright 2004 Phillips Nelson Media, Inc. From Booklist

Nusseibeh is head of the only Arab university in Jerusalem. His ancient family roots in Palestine go back 1,300 years. Without histrionics, this detailed insider's account blends Nusseibeh's personal experience as son, husband, father, intellectual, and activist leader with the raging politics of his homeland over the last 40 years. Striving for a two-state solution, he calls for civil disobedience against the Israeli Occupation, never for violence. He is close to the Israeli Peace Now movement, always believing that Palestinians and Jews are natural allies: " Hamas and the Wall both slam the door shut on dialogue." He is unflinching, however, in detailing instances of Israeli torture and children shot dead, and he quotes Sharon's references to creating apartheid-type Bantustan barriers. His campaign against arrests, torture, and expulsions of his people eventually landed him in prison. He recounts his experiences there with sorrow and anger, but also with the bitter humor of the privileged activist under arrest who welcomes the peace of solitary confinement. Anyone concerned with the Middle East will want to read this important and sure-to-be-controversial book. Hazel Rochman

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