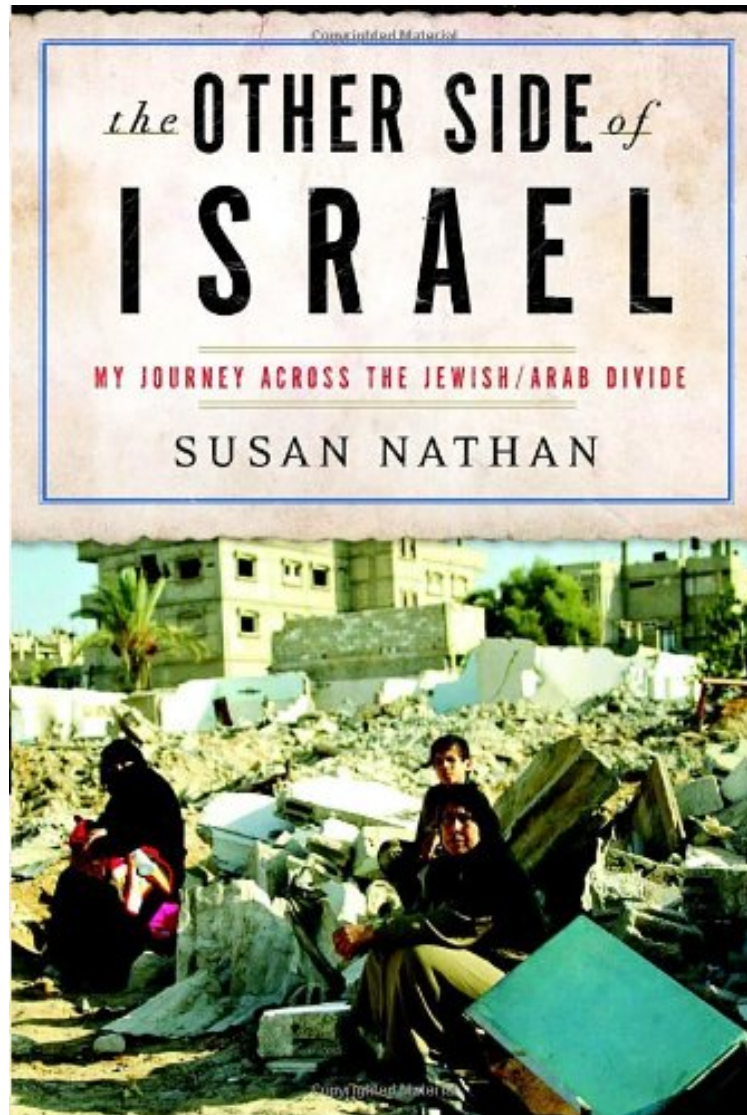


(Download pdf ebook) The Other Side of Israel: My Journey Across the Jewish/Arab Divide

The Other Side of Israel: My Journey Across the Jewish/Arab Divide

Susan Nathan

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Susan Nathan : The Other Side of Israel: My Journey Across the Jewish/Arab Divide before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Other Side of Israel: My Journey Across the Jewish/Arab Divide:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. EnlighteningBy Alison Julie BondHaving lived in Israel and having Jewish and Palestinian friends, this book highlights the reason I left. I rather returned to South Africa as the candle of

hope burnt brighter there and as it does now. Susan has highlighted what so many turn a blind eye to as I do not believe all are ignorant of these facts, you can not be with the media coverage we have and the facts blatantly available on the web. Saying all this, we are all aware of some middle eastern countries attitude towards Israel, which should be a concern to us all, especially in view of what is happening now in Syria and Iraq. Can you just imagine what would happen if these elements got into Jordan, Lebanon and Palestine. Religion has always been a reason for war, it is time that humanity started playing a roll in leaders leadership decisions. I am not sure we will see the end to this, in earthly terms anyway. Great book to make you think! 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Honest and Heartfelt By VirtuallyMeNathans book provided an honest and heartfelt perspective from someone who believes in Israel but rejects completely the ethnic cleansing and prejudice against Palestinians as this is destroying the Israeli society. 1 of 2 people found the following review helpful. A MUST- READ for anyone interested in this subject. By K. Thurm This is a VERY interesting book and I highly recommend it to anyone who is interested in this subject. I am better educated than most, when it comes to the history of Israel and Palestine. However, up until now, I have been incredibly ignorant about how Palestinian Arabs (who are citizens of Israel) are treated by the Israeli government. In case you haven't guessed, it's not a pretty picture. So why didn't I give this book 5 stars? Nathan does an excellent job of describing the predicament of the Arab Israeli Palestinians, but she gets carried away with some of her comments, history and explanations. She talks about few people being aware of the fact that over a million Arabs are Israeli citizens. I haven't found that to be true at all. In fact, American Jews are very aware of this. She mentions that Arabs are not allowed to serve in the Israeli military. I don't believe this is correct. I know that Arab citizens aren't required to serve in the IDF (for obvious reasons), but there most certainly are some Arabs who do. Her synopsis of Israeli history is only partially accurate. 750,000 Palestinians were not forced out of Israel in 1948. Probably 100s of thousands were, but some left when they were intimidated by other Palestinians. Some left when surrounding Arab countries told them to get out while they went to war with the Jews. It's not that Nathan has the history completely wrong (she certainly doesn't), but it just isn't completely accurate, either. Several folks on this website have given this book very negative reviews. I read those reviews carefully. The most common complaint is that the author doesn't present a balanced view. My reaction to that is --- How many books on the subject of Israel and Palestine are truly balanced? Also, there is SOME balance here, because the story is told from the vantage point of an Israeli Jew. Imagine how the story might read if it was written by a Palestinian! For those people who were so offended by this book not giving a balanced view, I have a couple of questions --- Were you offended by "The Case For Israel" by Dershowitz? Why not? His book isn't bad, but it's certainly not balanced. Did you give that book a 1-star review?

In 2003, Susan Nathan moved from her comfortable home in Tel Aviv to Tamra, an Arab town in the northern part of Israel. Nathan had arrived in Israel four years earlier and had taught English and worked with various progressive social organizations. Her desire to help build a just and humane society in Israel took an unexpected turn, however, when she became aware of Israel's neglected and often oppressed indigenous Arab population. Despite warnings from friends about the dangers she would encounter, Nathan settled in an apartment in Tamra, the only Jew among 25,000 Muslims. There she discovered a division between Israeli Jews and Israeli Arabs as tangible as the concrete wall and razor-wire fences that surround the Palestinian towns of the West Bank and Gaza. From her unique vantage point, Nathan examines the history and the present-day political and cultural currents that have created a situation little recognized in the ongoing debates about the future of Israel and the Middle East. With warmth, humor, and compassion, she portrays the daily life of her neighbors, the challenges they encounter, and the hopes they harbor. She introduces Arab leaders fighting against entrenched segregation and discrimination; uncovers the hidden biases that undermine even the most well-intentioned Arab-Jewish peace organizations; and describes the efforts of dedicated individuals who insist that Israeli Arabs must be granted the same rights and privileges as Jewish citizens. Through her own courageous example, Nathan proves that it is possible for Jews and Arabs to live and work peacefully together. *The Other Side of Israel* is more than the story of one woman's journey; it is a road map for crossing a divide created by prejudices and misunderstandings.

From Publishers Weekly When she was 16, Nathan, a British Jew living in South Africa, had sex with her aunt's black servant. "Sex between a black man and a white woman in apartheid South Africa," Nathan writes, "was not just a physical act, it was an act of powerful political dissent." Decades later, Nathan would again make a striking political statement with a simple physical gesture: she moved from her home in Tel Aviv and settled in a small Arab town in northern Israel, quietly but clearly renouncing the Zionist philosophy that had facilitated her citizenship in Israel through the Right of Return. Nathan matter-of-factly describes the impossibility of getting furniture delivered or an airline reservation made with an address that doesn't appear in any of the state's databases, although 25,000 Muslims live there. These quotidian details nicely illustrate her critique of Israel as a state that "enforces a system of land apartheid between... two populations," just as South Africa had. It is a shocking comparison, but Nathan goes further, drawing a parallel between the Holocaust and Israel's practices toward its own Arab citizens. Yet, even when throwing down a gauntlet, Nathan's writing is poised, emotionally candid and ultimately empathic to the plight of both groups.

The Arabs' displacement mirrors the Jews' wandering, Nathan observes, and before the two groups can coexist peacefully, each must recognize itself in the other. (Sept.) Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. From Booklist Almost invisible in the international media, the Arab citizens of Israel have found very few advocates among Israel's Jewish majority. By leaving Tel Aviv and moving into an Arab village, Nathan began the personal transformation that made her one of that small number. Living among Arab Israelis has engendered in Nathan a keen awareness of their fortitude and courage in coping with the adversity imposed by Israeli policies and practices. In Israel's schools and its legislative chamber, on its farms and its job sites, Nathan sees Jewish Israelis denying Arab Israelis equitable treatment, relegating them to second-class citizenship. And, unfortunately, the unmistakable parallels with South African apartheid fail to register even in the minds of Israel's progressive Jews, who insist that Israel's Arabs must surrender their traditional culture before they qualify for equal rights. Such moral myopia, Nathan warns, imperils not only Arab Israelis who lose hope in fighting against it but also Jewish Israelis who risk losing their national heritage by succumbing to it. Nathan's concluding appeal for a truly equitable and inclusive Israel will stir sharp controversy by forcing hard questions. Bryce Christensen Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved She traverses a country deprived of inter-ethnic friendship with extraordinary observation, sensitivity, and insight. John Snow, The Guardian Susan Nathans story . . . is the more telling because she writes with just as much warmth about her Jewish friends as she displays towards the Palestinians who befriend her. This important book not only has the ring of truth about it but an aura of hope as well. Jonathan Dimbleby