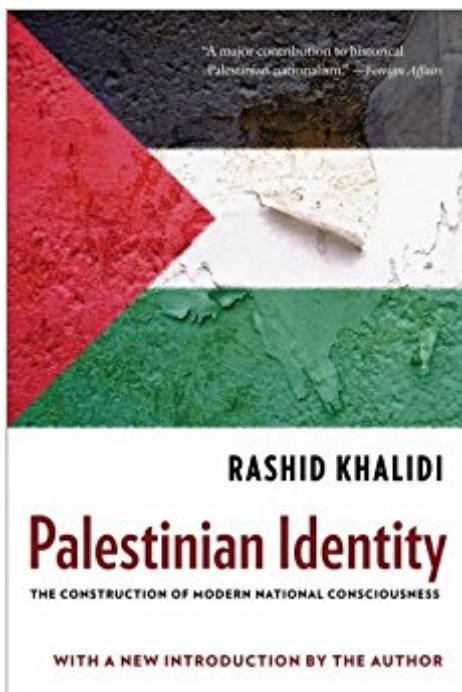


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# Palestinian Identity: The Construction Of Modern National Consciousness



## **Synopsis**

This foundational text now features a new introduction by Rashid Khalidi reflecting on the significance of his work over the past decade and its relationship to the struggle for Palestinian nationhood. Khalidi also casts an eye to the future, noting the strength of Palestinian identity and social solidarity yet wondering whether current trends will lead to Palestinian statehood and independence.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

One of the pre-eminent historians of Palestinian nationalism. (The Chronicle of Higher Education) A major contribution to historical Palestinian nationalism. (Foreign Affairs) An impressive, thoughtful, layered, and well-documented study. (Kirkus) Pathbreaking. (Library Journal)

Rashid Khalidi is Edward Said Professor of Arab Studies at Columbia University. He is also the author of *Under Siege: P. L.O. Decisionmaking During the 1982 War*, *The Iron Cage: The Story of the Palestinian Struggle for Statehood*, and *Sowing Crisis: The Cold War and American Dominance in the Middle East*, and coeditor of *The Origins of Arab Nationalism*.

Great book. Khalidi leans somewhat towards the Palestinian side; however, a great history book, with respect to the Arab-Jewish conflict, and the unfortunate Palestinian predicament.

Good book for a general basis of information.

necessary

This is a sophisticated scholarly work meant for serious readers. Those wishing to further their understanding of the origins and evolution of the Palestinian national identity will greatly appreciate this book, which was first published in 1997. (Khalidi's book about the struggle for Palestinian statehood, "The Iron Cage" is also highly recommended - the two works are an exceptional and substantial contribution to the study of Palestinian history and politics.) The most significant contribution of this book is that it clarifies the common misunderstanding of the origins of the Palestinian national identity: Khalidi explains that this identity emerged during the period of Ottoman rule over Palestine and not during the British Mandate of Palestine. The book carefully contextualizes the evolution of Palestinian identity within the different colonialist periods, and explains that this identity cannot be understood only in relation to Zionism. At a time when the whole world is beginning to see through the pseudo-history that was pushed forth as the "history" of Palestine/Israel, studies such as this one are making the hidden history of Palestinian identity accessible to all. Khalidi's book has set the stage for further research and understanding of this crucial subject, and has already served as the launching pad for many other studies on Palestine. By addressing the many factors at the heart of the evolution of Palestinian identity, Khalidi successfully peels away the numerous layers of mythology that have been used to keep this identity hidden from the world.

Full of strength and dignity.

Every American should read three books by Rashid Khalidi: Palestinian Identity, The Iron Cage, and Brokers of Deceit. Without this background it is almost impossible to understand the present situation in Palestine/Israel and the attitudes of many in the Middle East toward America. With it, it is possible to make sense of what is going on, solve the problems, and make peace.

This book is anti-Israeli and is full of hatred. Be aware of the bias when reading it- you are only getting 1 viewpoint.

It helped me to better understand the Palestinian people and their fight for their right to exist in a

land that in part belongs to them

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