Part IV: Structural Violence
[To be paired with Part 4 of film]

Lesson Objectives & Pedagogical Goals

• Understand the meaning of structural violence and how the status quo can be a violent experience for marginalized populations.
• Understand how the concept of structural violence applies to Palestinians.
• Critically examine the responsibility of individuals and states in cases of conflict.

Suggested Reading List & Resources


Suggested Discussion Questions

• If there are no more military confrontations between Israel and the Palestinians, particularly Hamas, how will this affect the Israeli economy? The Israeli military? How will the lives of the Palestinians in the Gaza Strip be changed? What will happen to Palestinians in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem? What will happen to Palestinian citizens of Israel?
• How long has Israel’s siege on the Gaza Strip been in place? What does Israel claim it is meant to do? What does it do in practice? What is the humanitarian function of the tunnels in this context?
• What choices do Palestinians in the Gaza Strip have? What choices do Israelis have?
• What is the responsibility of the United States in this conflict? What is the responsibility of individuals? Of other countries or international organizations, such as the United Nations?

Suggested Activities

• Break the class up into groups of 2-3 and ask them to do one of two activities:
  o Look at the terms of the 2012 and 2014 Israeli-Palestinian
Ceasefire agreements (below) and answer:

- How similar are they?
- Do they address the root of the conflict? Why or why not?
- Will they successfully prevent another military confrontation between Hamas and Israel?


o Ask the students to examine the claims of the global movement for boycott, divestment, and sanctions and answer:

- What are the demands of the BDS movement?
- Do these demands address the root cause of conflict?
- If the BDS Movement’s three demands are successfully implemented, will that help prevent another military confrontation between Hamas and Israel? If not, what value does it have, if any?

(For BDS demands, see: https://bdsmovement.net/bdsintro)