

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

- Ajl, Max. "The Limits of Humanitarianism." *Jadaliyya*, July 7, 2015. <http://www.jadaliyya.com/pages/index/22091/the-limits-of-humanitarianism>.
- Erakat, Noura, Bianca Isais, and Salmah Rizvi. "Operation Protective Edge & Legal Remedies." *International Affairs & the UN in the Arab World Program Working Paper Series #24* (October 2014). https://www.aub.edu.lb/ifi/publications/Documents/working_papers/20141009_noura_erakat.pdf.
- Esmeir, Samera. "Colonial Experiments in Gaza." *Jadaliyya*, July 14, 2014. <http://www.jadaliyya.com/pages/index/8482/colonial-experiments-in-gaza->
- Farmer, Paul. "On Suffering and Structural Violence: A View from Below." *Daedalus* 125.1 (1996): 261-83.
- Khalidi, Rashid. "Collective Punishment in Gaza." *The New Yorker*, July 29, 2014. <http://www.newyorker.com/news/news-desk/collective-punishment-gaza>.
- Landler, Mark. "Gaza War Strains Relations Between the U.S., Israel." *New York Times*, August 4, 2014. http://www.nytimes.com/2014/08/05/world/middleeast/gaza-is-straining-us-ties-to-israel.html?_r=0.
- Oswald, Nuriya. "Gaza Reconstruction Mechanism: Profiting Israel, Entrenching the Blockade." *Jadaliyya*, July 7, 2015.

<http://www.jadaliyya.com/pages/index/22089/gaza-reconstruction-mechanism-profiting-israel-ent>.

- Pelham, Nicolas. "The Role of the Tunnel Economy in Redeveloping Gaza." In *Decolonizing Palestinian Political Economy: De-development and Beyond*, edited by Mandy Turner and Omar Shweiki, 200-219. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2014.
- Rabbani, Mouin. "Why the Gaza Truce Failed." *Jadaliyya*, August 24, 2014. <http://www.jadaliyya.com/pages/index/18976/why-the-gaza-truce-failed>.

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:
 - Look at the terms of the 2012 and 2014 Israel-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?

(For 2012 terms, see: <http://www.haaretz.com/israel-news/text-cease-fire-agreement-between-israel-and-hamas.premium-1.479653>; For 2014 terms, see: <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-28939350>; See also Hamas' terms for a desired 10-year truce: <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-28939350>)

- 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>)