
The experiences of women in war zones have not received adequate attention. Drawing from her observations, interviews, focus group discussions, and analyses of writings and visuals in five projects in various locations in the Occupied Palestinian Territories, Shalhoub-Kevorkian (criminology, Hebrew Univ., Israel) narrates and theorizes voices and experiences of Palestinian women who live on the frontline of colonial violence and resist it. She discusses the marginalization of these women's voices by both local and global political forces and the need to revisit the history and legacy of their contribution to resistance, occupation, and oppression. Considering the violence imposed on Palestinians as gendered, the author discusses its reproduction by the hegemonic mainstream media through a distorted and dramatized portrayal of these women as helpless victims with no agency and activism. Shalhoub-Kevorkian has a negative view of Western NGOs in the Occupied Palestinian Territories, questions the discourse of human rights as it applies to women in conflict zones, and considers NGO contributions detrimental to the representation of Palestinian women and their activism. Though burdened by heavy theorizing, the book articulates the complexities and complications of Palestinian women's lives in a thin space, connecting their agency with victimization, suffering with survival, and oppression with resistance.

Summing Up: Recommended. Upper-division undergraduates and above.

-- A. Mahdi, Ohio Wesleyan University

CHOICE, October 2010.