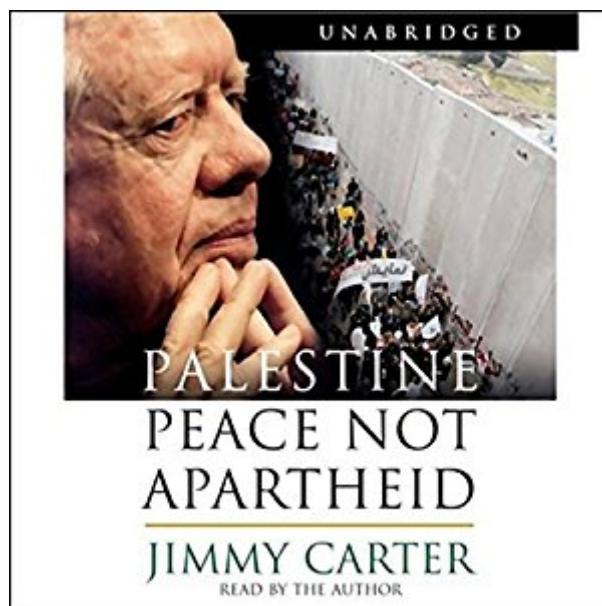


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# Palestine: Peace Not Apartheid



## **Synopsis**

Following his #1 New York Times best seller Our Endangered Values, the former president, winner of the Nobel Peace Prize, offers an assessment of what must be done to bring permanent peace to Israel, with dignity and justice for Palestine. President Carter, who was able to negotiate peace between Israel and Egypt, has remained deeply involved in Middle East affairs since leaving the White House. He has stayed in touch with the major players from all sides in the conflict and has made numerous trips to the Holy Land, most recently as an observer of the Palestinian elections in 2005 and 2006. In this book, President Carter shares his intimate knowledge of the history of the Middle East and his personal experiences with the principal actors, and he addresses sensitive political issues many American officials avoid. Pulling no punches, Carter prescribes steps that must be taken for the two states to share the Holy Land without a system of apartheid or the constant fear of terrorism. The general parameters of a long-term, two-state agreement are well known, the president writes. There will be no substantive and permanent peace for any peoples in this troubled region as long as Israel is violating key U.N. resolutions, official American policy, and the international "road map" for peace by occupying Arab lands and oppressing the Palestinians. Palestine: Peace Not Apartheid is a challenging, provocative, and courageous work.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

[...]The constant attempts to denigrate Carter's Presidency (as though the long lines at that shrine to American privilege, the gas pump, and our foreign presence preceding the Iranian hostage crisis

were of the President's making and, moreover, of greater consequence than the Iraq debacle) are belied once again by this uncommon man's common sense and clarity of vision, which is mirrored by the measured lucidity of his prose. Someone had to write this book, and better it be Carter, with his personal, and largely effective, negotiations with the principal players in the desperate power struggles of the middle East, than anyone else. Carter's staunch opposition to the invasion of Iraq is a matter he no longer talked about once the "mission" became reality. His efforts are directed toward future solutions, not righteous reminders of the past or self-justifications, lest he risk mirroring the very narrow, self-serving interests he seeks to confront and redress through proposals based on negotiated peace, mutual respect, shared rights and, above all, on genuine human and religious (including Judeo-Christian) values. The negative reactions to the book, I'm afraid, prove its importance. Many Americans remained "passively" approving of the Iraq war--despite not just its blatant imperialist aggressiveness but its sheer irrationality and absurdity--because of the perception that somehow America's "holy war," with its pageantry of "shock and awe," was in the interests of Israel.

I read this book twice. It's a very easy read, and yet it contains a lot of useful information for understanding this conflict. I say "surprisingly" unbiased (in my title above), because to be honest I never thought I'd read something by a U.S. President that was the least bit sympathetic to the Palestinians. Carter makes it very clear that Israel is to blame for the lion's share of the problems facing both Palestinians and Israelis vis-a-vis the illegal Israeli occupation of the Palestinian Territories and Israel's continued (to this day) settlement-building that is stealing more and more land and resources (particularly water) from the Palestinians. Here are some quotes I found particularly valuable. The page numbers refer to the hard-copy edition. (They may be the same in the paperback edition, but I don't know.) "Each Israeli settler uses five times as much water as a Palestinian neighbor, who must pay four times as much per gallon." (p. 121) "[Binyamin Netanyahu] promised never to exchange land for peace." (147) The greatest increase in the growth of the number of settlers [in the West Bank and Gaza] occurred during the administration of Prime Minister Ehud Barak." (This is the prime minister who supposedly made the "generous offer" that the Palestinians supposedly refused. See below.) (151) "There was no possibility that any Palestinian leader could accept such terms [Clinton's peace proposal in 2000] and survive, but official statements from Washington and Jerusalem were successful in placing the entire onus of the failure on Yasir Arafat.

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