

■ King, Mary Elizabeth, 2008. *A Quiet Revolution: The First Palestinian Intifada and Nonviolent Resistance*. London: Nation. xvi + 464 pp. ISBN 1560258025.

The First Intifada, launched by Palestinians in the Occupied Territories in late 1987 and maintained with impressive solidarity and discipline until 1990, led to negotiations with the Israelis on a two-state solution, culminating in the 1993 Oslo Accords. Mary King was active in the US Civil Rights Movement, and her focus is on the Intifada as a much misunderstood example of primarily nonviolent resistance to military occupation. She draws on the theory of nonviolent action (Gene Sharp is often cited) and makes comparisons with other popular movements using nonviolent methods. But the book also examines the historical background to the Palestinian–Israeli conflict, including Palestinian resistance to the proposed creation of a Jewish state in the 1920s–30s, and explores the role of often conflicting political and religious groups within the Intifada, in particular the relationship between the activists inside the West Bank and Gaza and the Tunis-based PLO leadership. King highlights three strands leading to the events of 1987: the evolution of civil society in the Occupied Territories from the 1970s, which empowered villagers, women and students and provided a base for self-help and resistance; the role of Palestinian intellectuals discussing alternatives to guerrilla warfare and the destruction of the Israeli state; and the circulation of information about the methods of nonviolent action. She also explores why the First Intifada was so often seen, especially by the Israeli government, simply as a continuation of armed struggle. The First Intifada has been examined before, both in the literature on nonviolent action and in studies of Palestinian/Israeli politics, but *The Quiet Revolution* combines scholarship in both areas to provide a readable, original and detailed analysis.

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