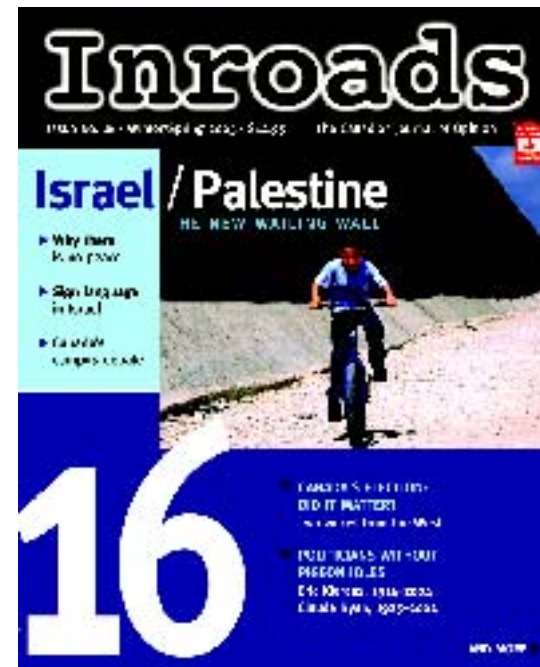


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*Thanks.*

A WORD ABOUT PRINTING THIS ARTICLE: These pages are intended to print on legal (8.5 x 14 inch) paper, two pages per sheet, in a horizontal landscape. Pages can also be printed onto letter sized paper, vertically, at a reduced size.

## The view from Armageddon

IN 1983, ISRAELI NOVELIST AMOS OZ INTERVIEWED MILITANT SETTLER PINCHAS Wallerstein. “There are 25,000 Jews, net, in Judea and Samaria [the West Bank] today, not counting greater Jerusalem,” said Wallerstein. “Five years from now, if you go by the home construction starts, there will be fifty to one hundred thousand [settlers] ... That’s a number it will be impossible for any government to uproot. Just give us five more years of peace and quiet and the question of the land of Israel will be sewn up for good.”

Mr. Wallerstein got his “peace and quiet” – no Israeli withdrawal, no moratorium on settlement construction – and, two decades later, there are more than 200,000 settlers in the West Bank, the land is ripped through by miles of security fence and Israeli-only roads, checkpoints multiply, Palestinians’ living conditions go from bad to appalling, and Palestinians and Israelis kill each other by the hundreds. It’s a chaos that only Mr. Wallerstein and his fanatic friends, and Ariel Sharon, and the militants of Hamas and Jihad could enjoy.

There has always been a strain of Zionism which has held that if Israelis were just

tough enough, Palestinians and the Arab world would come to accept Israel’s presence. That view now seems dominant in Israel, and has been rewarded with the explicit acceptance of “limited” settlement expansion in the West Bank by the Bush administration in the United States. Outside of North America, the view is quite different. According to U.S. historian Tony Judt, “The Jewish state today is widely regarded as a – *the* – leading threat to world peace.” And in Canada, as we go to press, the *Globe and Mail*’s John Ibbitson reports that “senior government officials” are concerned that the Liberal government “is moving away from a balanced approach toward the Middle East in favour of explicit and virtually unqualified support for Israel” (Oct. 15, 2004).

Before we officially tilt toward Israel, Canadians need to think harder about the Mid-



The Jezreel Valley, as seen from Tel Megiddo – known as Har Megiddo in the Hebrew Bible and Armageddon in the New Testament. ARTHUR MILNER PHOTO

dle East. To that end, we devote much of this issue of Inroads to the Israel-Palestine conflict. In the following pages, you will find voices from both sides of the divide, as well as aspects of the situation that don't receive enough attention: Israeli language policy, European diplomacy in the Middle East, the influence of Christian fundamentalists on

U.S. support for Israel. In addition, in the reviews section, our writers look at recent histories of the Israel-Palestine conflict and the failure of the Oslo peace process, a biography of Ariel Sharon, and books about the Islamic world and U.S. foreign policy that place the conflict in a broader context.

We invite your comments.

— Arthur Milner

#### ABOUT THE PHOTOGRAPHS

In recent issues of Inroads, we have featured the work of photojournalists whose images touch on the major themes found in our pages (see Julie Oliver's images from Haiti in Inroads 13 and Geert van Kesteren's photos from Iraq in Inroads 14).

In this issue, we present the work of Halifax-based photojournalist Jon Elmer. His "Images from Palestine" photographs are featured on our cover, throughout the Israel/Palestine section, and with articles on this theme in our Reviews section.

Jon Elmer reported and photographed from the West Bank and Gaza Strip and Israel from September to December 2003, travelling throughout the area from Rafah to Jenin, where he lived for two months, in both the refugee camp and the city. He is the creator of the online journal FromOccupiedPalestine.org, and his work has been published in a variety of outlets both in print and online.

Also featured are photos by Arthur Milner (Arabic in Israel) and Luke Andrews (confrontation at Concordia).



**IMAGES FROM PALESTINE** In Jerusalem, a Palestinian university student is stopped and checked on her way to school by an Israeli soldier. JON ELMER PHOTO

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