ABSTRACT

The Palestinian-Israeli imbroglio is a conflict between two nations over a given territory. However, the Palestinian diaspora writers believe and argue that it is not a conflict but a battle between an armless, stateless Palestinian government on the one hand and the other, a well-established Israeli state having one of the world's strongest armies. Through her fictional work Mornings in Jenin (2006), Susan Abulhawa tries to demonstrate how, in the Holy Land, the victims are depicted as terrorists, extremists and sometimes non-existent entities while the oppressors are portrayed as the sufferers. In her work of fiction, Abulhawa includes real-life events and historical figures to bring out the latent dimensions of the geopolitical conundrum. At the same time, she uncovers various forms of Zionist tyranny and the ensuing modes of Palestinian resistance. With the help of the available historical and fictional literature, I have attempted to thoroughly analyze the ground reality of the poetics and politics of the Israel/Palestine issue. It is expected to yield a more profound understanding of the conflict and help comprehend the relevant literature from Israeli, Palestinian, and diasporic origins. The research thus has both historico-political and literary dimensions. By drawing upon the theories of Edward W. Said and the historical facts provided by Alan Hart, my thesis contends that the Zionist claims have caused epistemic violence against the Palestinians, who have been portrayed as terrorists through mass media, literature and political treatizes. Through the lens of Said's specific political analysis of the Israeli/Palestinian situation and its literary depiction by Susan Abulhawa, I have been able to establish that the Palestinians are resisting the incursion of their land and human rights as well as the establishment of a colonial state through various forms of struggle including literary resistance. This research is expected to act as a blueprint for further investigation of the works dealing with oppression and resistance in other parts of the world where active empire-making is on the go.