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## The Israeli-Palestinian Conflict: Tough Questions, Direct Answers (Skeptic's Guide)

*Dale Hanson Bourke*

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**Dale Hanson Bourke : The Israeli-Palestinian Conflict: Tough Questions, Direct Answers (Skeptic's Guide)**  
before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Israeli-Palestinian Conflict: Tough Questions, Direct Answers (Skeptic's Guide):

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Good but basicBy ewaffleThe sixty-six year conflict between the Israelis and the Arab world (counting from the founding of Israel in 1948) seems as intractable as any that lasted for

centuries and become known simply by a place name Northern Ireland, Cyprus or Kashmir for example. Gaza now heads that dire list. There is plenty written about the troubles; indeed the propaganda war is as important as either (a) the struggle for self-determination by the citizens of the Occupied Palestinian Territories or (b) the defense of the Promised Land by the descendants of Abraham. It seems well-nigh impossible to find what one may call an objective or neutral view of the history, culture and even the geography of the area. Dale Hanson Bourke has made valiant to provide one and has largely succeeded. She takes a straightforward just the facts, maam approach with brief but well rendered answers to typical questions. *The Israeli-Palestinian Conflict: Tough Questions, Direct Answers* is like an extended, specialized version of an entry in the *The World Fact Book* published by the CIA, a source she references a few times and which I feel is as unbiased a source as one will find in English on the nations of the world. This book is an excellent primer for readers who want a basic introduction of the people and places of Israel/Palestine. The book is aimed at Christians in the United States and is published by InterVarsity Press, a Christian publisher which gives rise to my only real quibble with it. The Holy Land Calvary, Nazareth, Bethlehem, Jerusalem, etc. is full of sites vital to Christianity and includes the locations of every minute of the life of Jesus. Christians in in both Palestine and Israel are part of living, vibrant communities of faith with rich spiritual and theological traditions but there aren't very many of them and they have little (if any) political or economic power. It is a matter of emphasis Christians living in the Holy Land now are barely a blip on the radar screen of those in power there. Again this makes sense a Christian author would include much of interest to her co-religionists who probably make up the majority of her audience but from a secular, unchurched, worldly point of view mine it is unnecessary. InterVarsity did a great job with copy prep and production for this ebook--it is very easy to do a slapdash, mediocre presentation of visual aids. I read the Kindle version and this is about the best rendition of graphic material I have seen in a book on that platform. Sharp pictures, legible flow charts and maps that you can actually read add a lot to its value. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. uniquely honest and balanced By Todd D. In taking a very complicated, polarizing subject and reducing it to its component parts, Dale Hanson Bourke has managed to make a very complex issue accessible. She has done this by posing all the questions you might ever think to ask about the basics of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and then in providing honest answers in a way that betrays no agenda other than a search for understanding. I cannot recommend this book highly enough for anyone interested in learning who the Israelis and Palestinians are and in trying to sort out the facts and issues that so divide them. This book is one of a kind. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Love the Question - Answer Format By Carissa This book helps you get answers to questions you've probably wanted to ask about the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict. As a Christian reading in the bible about all the places that are part of the current conflict and seeing the root of it also in the bible, I wanted to understand more about the issues. This book is straight-forward; it's easy just to look up something you want to know. I bought it as a companion to bible studies that touch on many of the people and places related to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. It is also a great complement to the excellent book *Blood Brothers* by Elias Chacour.

With all of the heat surrounding the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, even the most basic facts can be hard to grasp. How do we make sense of what we read in the Bible and what we read in the news? In this *Skeptics Guide*, Dale Hanson Bourke sheds light on the places, terms, history, and current issues shaping this important region. Offering an even-handed presentation of a range of views on the most controversial issues, she provides a framework for American Christians to use in understanding why the conflict occurred, why it continues and what remains to be done. With maps, charts, photos, and quotes, the guide answers such tough questions as: What is meant by a two-state solution? Who are the Palestinian Christians? Do other countries help or hurt the peace process? How does the Arab spring affect the conflict? Easy to read and understand, this dynamic guide offers the type of presentation that has made the *Skeptics Guide* series so popular with individuals and groups. Offering basic information and simplifying complex issues, it is a helpful reference tool for beginners and experts alike.

"News about the Israeli-Palestinian conflict often seems to have an agenda. This book helps sift through all the noise to encounter and understand people and perspectives on both sides." (Relevant Magazine, March/April 2014) "I welcome this book as it fills a needed gap and paves the way for reconsidering the Palestinian-Israeli conflict in a fresh light. It is based not only on scholarly research but also on meeting and interacting with people who hold conflicting convictions. It does not seek to marginalize or demonize any views but instead patiently and courageously listens. Then it presents complex questions in simple--but not simplistic--ways. The questions are crucial and the answers accessible. Further, the author's humility, commitment to listen, and insistence on modeling peace and openness transforms her book from an informative discourse into a transformative encounter." (Rev. Yohanna Katanacho, PRISM newsletter (From [www.evangelicalsfor-social-action.org](http://www.evangelicalsfor-social-action.org)), November 2013) "The author has accomplished a difficult, important feat simply by providing a working vocabulary to help people understand what is at stake to both parties. It is a simple (accessible) but never simplistic (nave) guide that is quite valuable for congregations seeking to have a good conversation." (Roy W. Howard, Presbyterian Outlook, June 24, 2013) "This will be a great tool for all who want to engage in the Holy Land. It will be required reading for everyone that Kensington sends to the region."

(Don Andersen, Director of Global Partnerships, Kensington Church)"When someone asks me what they should read to understand what's going on in Israel, I point them immediately and unreservedly to *The Israeli-Palestinian Conflict*." (Mark Galli, editor, Christianity Today)"Some books are just necessary. This is one of them. When it comes to the conflicts in the Middle East, it is too easy to rush to judgment and opinions without understanding. Slowly, inexorably and beautifully, Dale Hanson Bourke untangles the jumbled mess and separates fact from fiction. What's even more beautiful is that she leaves the conclusions to you--a rare gift indeed." (Nancy Ortberg, author of *Looking for God*)"News about the Israeli-Palestinian conflict often feels overwhelming because every story seems to have an agenda. Here is that rare resource that helps the curious and fair-minded individual sift through all the noise to encounter and understand people and perspectives on both sides. Those who support freedom, dignity and security for Israelis and Palestinians alike should read this book and share it widely." (Todd Deatherage, former special assistant, U.S. Department of State)"Dale Hanson Bourke's *Skeptic's Guide for The Israeli-Palestinian Conflict* honors the histories, suffering and religious convictions of Israelis and Palestinians. All of them. Bourke entreats her readers to side only with peace and to become educated about the people, places and complexities of the region. Up-to-date, empathic and meticulously researched, this book serves as a much-needed guide for any of us who find the issues around the conflict confounding. Highly recommended!" (Jennifer Grant, author of *Love You More: The Divine Surprise of Adopting My Daughter*)"As evangelical interest in Israel/Palestine grows, and grows more urgent, we need better information. This book could become the indispensable starting point for those who begin this journey. Strongly recommended." (Dr. David P. Gushee, distinguished university professor of Christian ethics and director of the Center for Theology and Public Life, Mercer University)"The Palestinian-Israeli conflict is the flashpoint issue that divides our world in the twenty-first century. Most people have taken sides without really knowing what they don't know. By clearly and simply laying out the history and the facts of the conflict, Dale Hanson Bourke has done much to further the cause of peace. Read her book and you will see this issue with new eyes." (Rich Stearns, president of World Vision US and author of *The Hole in Our Gospel*)"This has got to be the best, most concise, simplest-to-understand book I've ever seen in my life on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Yes, you could write volumes, and there are many things those who are there would say should be in. But most people are not reading those long books and essays. This is the best primer and clearest articulation I've seen on the conflict and that part of the world. This will be required reading for everyone going to the Holy Land that I'm involved with." (Bob Roberts Jr., pastor of Northwood Church, and author of *Bold as Love*)

**From the Author**I wrote this book because I had heard so much about the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, yet I understood so little. I wanted to make it simple; to present the facts without all of the spin. This book has been described as the simplest book on one of the most complex subjects. It is full of charts and graphs and maps and photos, all meant to make it possible for anyone to have a basic overview of the subject. I worked hard to be neutral and not take sides. That wasn't the point. The point was to give information and explain the points of view of all involved, not to try to convince the reader that anyone was right or wrong.

**About the Author**Dale Hanson Bourke is the author of *"Embracing Your Second Calling"* and *The Skeptic's Guide* series. Her latest book, *"The Israeli-Palestinian Conflict"* is a simple introduction to an often confusing and difficult issue. A graduate of Wheaton College (IL) with an MBA from the University of Maryland, she has traveled extensively and served on the boards of World Vision (US and Intl), International Justice Mission, Opportunity International, Sojourners, ECFA, and MAP International. Currently president of PDI, she has also served as president of the CIDRZ Foundation, SVP at World Relief, and publisher of Religion News Service, and has been a syndicated columnist. Author of ten books, she also writes for magazines, newspapers and online publications. A member of National Presbyterian Church in Washington, DC, she is married and has two grown sons.