

BOOK INFORMATION

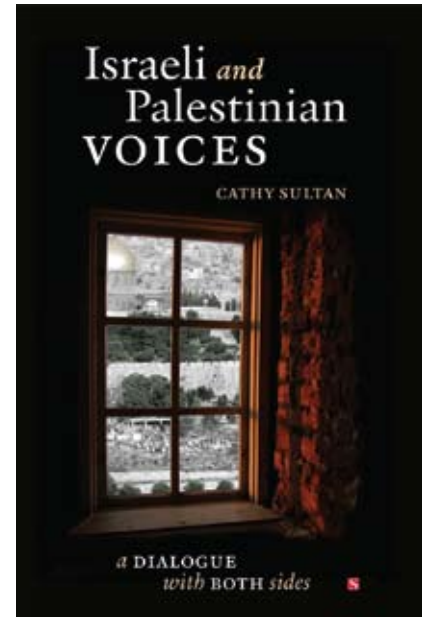
AS AN AMERICAN, Cathy Sultan feels enormous responsibility for being part of a political system that proclaims itself the bastion of freedom. Having lived for many years in war-torn Lebanon, she found herself disgusted at how little Americans know about the rest of the world, and in particular, the Middle East, where the United States government spends billions of tax dollars to protect its interests.

Determined to do something about her own ignorance she precociously flew to Israel-Palestine to see for herself what all the suicide bombings and village bulldozing was about. Using her close connections to the National Peace Foundation, Sultan set up a network of contacts – on both sides of the political/religious divide – and talked with them about their beliefs and hopes for the future of this extraordinary region.

Her research resulted in this unique book, *Israeli and Palestinian Voices: A Dialogue with Both Sides*. Sultan, asking herself what she would have wanted as the reader of an introductory book about the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, found it helpful to break the book into several distinct parts. The magnificent and painstakingly accurate interviews, which will stun readers about the realities of what people actually have to endure, are prefaced by a skillfully written account of how the indomitable housewife with artificial knees braved checkpoints, barbed wire and Merkur tanks to get her information, and followed by an objective historical primer for readers wanting to learn about the main points of the conflict's growth to its present stand-off.

The author found herself only blocks away from a suicide bombing on her first night in Jerusalem and a few days later was shot at by someone firing from an illegal Israeli settlement.

In Ramallah, in the West Bank, Sultan met Palestinians in the al-Amari refugee camp. She interviewed teenagers, teachers, a businessman, and Huwaida Araf, co-founder of the International Solidarity Movement. She visited the Old City and toured Israeli settlements. She spoke with Israeli soldiers at the Wailing Wall and spent an evening discussing politics with an Israeli Army Major. She visited with scholars and peace activists. Sultan walked down Emek Refaim Street, the sight of recent suicide bombings, understanding, from her years in Beirut, the terror Israelis deal with on a daily basis.



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Through Sultan's bold interviews the reader discovers that, in fact, it is only a vocal, influential and politically powerful few who advocate exclusivity, conflict and continued injustice. The vast majority of Israelis and Palestinians stand for equality, human rights and peaceful coexistence.

"Cathy Sultan had spent years in the Middle East, raising children in the midst of Lebanon's civil war, and here uses her linguistic and human skills to interview people whose communities may be at odds, but who are finding ways to mediate conflict in their daily lives. Their reflections and feelings take us 'beyond the sound bites' in the only human way possible. Not to be caught in conflict while living through it is the greatest human achievement."

DAVID BURRELL, Hesburgh Professor of Philosophy and theology, University of Notre Dame

Cathy Sultan is also the author of *A Beirut Heart: One Woman's War* – a memoir about her experience as a wife and mother living in Beirut during eight years of the bloody Lebanese Civil War.

Praise for Cathy Sultan's *A Beirut Heart: One Woman's War*:

"A tapestry of vivid colors and shifting landscapes. A Beirut Heart puts a common face on the trauma of war – that of a family. This memoir offers a view drawn from a camera obscura that moves behind the screen of invading armies, detentes and broken treaties. Sultan writes a compelling story of survival that settles for no less than the promise that her family will remain together and safe at all costs. This is a must-read for everyone with any interest in what happens to a family under siege."

COLLEEN MCELROY, Professor of English, University of Seattle; author of fourteen books including *Over the Lips of the World: Among Storytellers of Madagascar* and *Queen of the Ebony Isles*, which received the American Book Award



CATHY SULTAN

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| PUBLICATION DATE | March 2006 |
| TITLE | <i>Israeli and Palestinian Voices: A Dialogue with Both Sides</i> |
| AUTHOR | Cathy Sultan |
| ISBN 13 | 978-0-9765201-2-2 |
| ISBN 10 | 0-9765201-2-5 |
| SPECIFICATIONS | 6 x 9 inches, 302 pages |
| PRICE | \$15.95 |
| DISTRIBUTION AVAILABLE FROM | Continental Enterprises Group phone: 864.885.9444 fax: 864.885.1090 email: centerprisesgrp@bellsouth.net |

