

Advance Information

Published by:
MERLIN PRESS
Suite 4, 96 Monnow Street
Monmouth, NP25 3EQ
Tel/Fax 01600 775 663

ifo@merlinpress.co.uk



The Israeli Dilemma: A Debate between Two Left-Wing Jews

Letters between **Marcel Liebman**
and **Ralph Miliband**

Selected, with an introduction and epilogue
by **Gilbert Achcar**

Who should have community and national rights in Palestine? If Israelis have the right to security, can this 'right' be at the expense of Palestinians? What should be done when conflict broke out between these two? What are the conditions for a lasting peace between Israel and the Arabs? How should secular Jews outside Israel define their loyalties and their Jewishness?

These letters between Ralph Miliband (1924-1994) and Marcel Liebman (1929-1986), his closest friend, begin in May 1967, on the eve of the Six Day War. These two brilliant intellectuals had much in common. They were born to Polish Jewish parents in Belgium, deeply affected by Nazism and WW2, and became friends in London in 1953, when Liebman was studying at the LSE.

Miliband: Being Jewish does not in itself justify a frenzied pro-Arab attitude. ... It is true that I would consider the extermination of two million Jews ... as an appalling catastrophe. But I like to think that I would feel just the same way if I were not Jewish myself.

Liebman: I'm afraid that you are reacting as a European and a Jew rather than as a socialist. If the discussion were about any other nation playing the role that Israel is playing, you would have different standards than the ones you have for 'our brothers'. ... And yet God knows that I feel Jewish in all sorts of ways...

Contents: Introduction, correspondence, ...to a brotherly convergence (by way of conclusion).

Market: General, Undergraduate and Post-graduate; Student Reading List; Library

Keywords: Israel, Palestine, Jews, History, Politics, Socialism, Conflict and peace Studies, Identities, Culture, Democratic Theory.

208x149 mm; about 80pp, EU publication 1.3.2006

DISTRIBUTED IN AUSTRALIA
by ELEANOR DRACON
ENTERPRISES
PO BOX 364
ANTARIMON, NSW 2561
Tel: +61 8 419 8717

DISTRIBUTED IN CANADA
by FRENCH BOOKS
157, MARLBOROUGH ST.,
BOX 5, BLACK POINT, NOVA
SCOTIA
NSJ 1B0 Canada
Tel: +1 902 857 1392

DISTRIBUTED IN THE U.S.A.
(INDEPENDENT PUBLISHERS
GROUP)
311 N FRANKLIN STREET
CHICAGO, IL 60610
Tel: +1 312 337 8747

DISTRIBUTED IN
EUROPE by
CENTRAL BOOKS LTD
99 Wallis Road
LONDON E9 5LN
Tel: +44[0] 20 8986 4854
Fax: +44[0] 20 8533 5821
miers@centralbooks.com