

Faculti Summary

<https://faculti.net/unsettled-american-jews/>

This video discusses the evolving perspectives of young American Jews regarding their relationship with Israel and Palestine, focusing on how this shift is influencing Jewish identity and activism. The author shares their motivation for writing a book that explores these changing attitudes, particularly among younger generations who are increasingly engaging in Palestine solidarity activism.

Key themes include a recognition of a generational divide in support for Israel, the impact of Palestine solidarity activism as an expression of Jewish identity, and the need for a nuanced conversation within Jewish communities about the state of Israel. The author emphasizes their own journey of unlearning previous teachings from mainstream Jewish education and highlights how personal experiences with Palestinian narratives influenced their perspective.

The research underpinning the book is primarily ethnographic, drawing on interviews with young Jewish activists and analysis of social media discourse. The findings reveal three main tactics used by these activists:

1. **Targeting Mainstream Jewish Institutions**: Young Jews are challenging established Jewish organizations to align their practices with Jewish values of justice and peace, particularly concerning the Israeli occupation.
2. **Co-resistance Activism**: This video involves collaborative nonviolent actions between Jewish and Palestinian activists, emphasizing mutual support and shared futures.
3. **Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS)**: Activists engage in campaigns to apply economic pressure on institutions profiting from the occupation, despite the controversy surrounding BDS within the Jewish community.

The author argues that such activism is a valid expression of Jewishness and underscores the interconnectedness of Jewish and Palestinian liberation. This video advocates for a recognition of dissenting views within Jewish communities and calls for a broader and more inclusive understanding of Jewish identity, particularly in light of contemporary issues related to Israel and Palestine.