

Podcasts



Intractable Podcast (Gabi)

<https://www.intractablepodcast.com/>

The combination of our content-addicted age and the long history of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict mean that complex realities are often abstracted or ignored, unlikely to make the news until violence erupts. One of the things that makes Skyler Inman's podcast season "Intractable" so engaging is her quest to contextualise the alienated soundbites of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict that filter through Western media outlets.

Through the 10-episode season, Inman attempts to unpack key moments and issues within the conflict, from early stories of immigration to the state to the protests at the Gaza border in May 2018. Her discussion is refreshingly balanced; led by interviews with a broad range of people affected by the conflict and exploring the impact on both sides.

Having listened to the series directly before visiting the West Bank for the first time, the fourth episode, which focused on the settlement movement, was particularly fascinating. It delves into little-known aspects of the history, such as the nuanced ideology of American Kibbutzniks in the 1970s; explores the current legalities of land ownership and property rights; and includes interviews with a religious settler and a Palestinian who live in the West Bank.

If you're looking for accessible entry-points into historical and contemporary realities of the conflict, Intractable is a great place to start.

Unsettled Podcast, Gaza, Episode 2 (Zahava)

<https://www.unsettledpod.com/episodes/2019/2/4/refugees-gaza-ep-2>

Yom Ha'atzmaut (Israel's Day of Independence) is a day of celebration and joy for Israelis. Yet it is all too easy to see the realisation of the Jewish people's dream without acknowledging the tragedy of those who fell victim to the aftermath of the fighting which ensued from the declaration of independence.

Episode 2 of Unsettled's podcast series on Gaza provides a fascinating eyewitness account of Hilmi, a citrus grove owner in former British-Palestine. In 1948 he fled his village in the face of

Israeli occupation and was caught up in the mass exodus of Lydda. Hilmi now lives in Gaza; he is one of the 1.4 million refugees now living in the Gaza strip.

The podcast is an insightful exploration into the life of one displaced person and his family. Although it is short, it provides a useful introduction to events I had either never heard of (like the Lydda mosque massacre) or had only considered from the perspective of a Jew (the attack by surrounding Arab nations following the declaration of independence).

This podcast episode is definitely only a starting point, but useful for those who want to look at the dual narrative of the events of 1948 and appreciate that date as representing both a joyous celebration and a tragic catastrophe.

+972 Podcast (Anna)

<https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/the-972-podcast/id1455867943>

New in March 2019, this podcast comes from NIF grantee +972 Magazine, an online magazine for the Israeli left. In this fortnightly 30-minute podcast, the presenters take an issue and then delve into it with the assistance of an expert, often an activist, academic or journalist. It takes a firmly left perspective, and issues covered so far include the place of Ethiopian-Israelis in Israeli society, Gaza, and the participation of Palestinian citizens of Israel in Israeli elections.

I find that the Podcast picks really interesting topics, and considers them intelligently and in depth with people who are really well-qualified to speak on them. Many of the issues discussed so far are ongoing, so it's worth looking through their list of previous episodes to see which interest you and having a listen, as well as subscribing to keep up with the latest episodes.

Ha'aretz Podcast (Anna)

<https://www.haaretz.com/israel-news/podcasts>

Ha'aretz is Israel's leading left-wing newspaper, and in 2018 they started producing a weekly 20-30 minute podcast. It focuses on one main political news story from Israel, usually with a lighter news story discussed in the final few minutes. Different Ha'aretz journalists speak each week, including high-profile writers such as Bradley Burston, Amira Hass and Anshel Pfeffer.

I find the podcast a great way to get some insightful analysis on the main story of the week in a fairly short burst. The host Simon Spungin always provides enough background to the issue so that the podcast is accessible to those new to Israeli politics. The changing journalistic voices each week means you get a range of perspectives and keeps the podcast feeling fresh.

Promised Podcast (Anna)

<https://tlv1.fm/podcasts/the-promised-podcast-show/>

A weekly hour-long podcast looking at current news stories in Israel. Each week the presenters take three issues, introduce them, and then discuss their perspectives on them. The show is opened with around 10 minutes from host Noah Ephron on something Israel-related (often an innovation, discovery, or event that has taken place), and closes with each speaker describing something typically Israeli that they experienced during the week, and the segments are interspersed with music from Israeli bands.

All three panelists are Americans who moved to Israel decades ago and come from a broadly centre-left perspective. Although they don't always agree, the lack of range of perspectives can sometimes feel frustrating, particularly when issues relating to Palestinians, Mizrachim, Ethiopian Jews etc are being discussed without any input from members of those groups. However, the fact that three topics are discussed each week means that you get an insight into a range of issues in Israeli society that you otherwise might not hear about in English, particularly in respect of socio-economic issues, so I find the podcast is a great way to feel like you're in the loop with the issues that are topical in Israel.

Israel Policy Pod (Anna)

<https://israelpolicyforum.org/podcast/>

This podcast is produced by the Israel Policy Forum, an American group dedicated to promoting a two state solution. The podcast, made in Israel by an Israeli host and with Israeli guests, is released once or twice a week, and features in-depth analysis of a specific issue in Israeli politics. Some episodes feature guests who include policy analysts and advisors, pollsters, campaigners and journalists who bring interesting and knowledgeable perspectives.