

Hanan Ashrawi, 1995.

This Side of Peace: A Personal Account.

New York: Simon and Schuster. 303 pages.

In a frank and conversational tone, Hanan Ashrawi, feminist poet, college professor and former spokeswoman for the official Palestinian negotiation team in the Israeli-Palestinian peace talks, recounts her experiences as educator, activist, politician, wife and mother. The book provides important insights into gender relations in occupied Palestine, as well as valuable perspectives on Arab women's approaches to political action.

Margot Badran, 1995

Feminists, Islam and Nation: Gender and the Making of Modern Egypt.

Princeton: Princeton University Press. 337 pages.

Badran utilizes a variety of documents, including letters, diaries, fiction, journalistic articles, and oral histories, to support the hypothesis that feminists and feminism played an integral role in the shaping of the modern nation-state of Egypt. Badran also demonstrates the gendered nature of nationalist, Islamic and imperialist discourses, and highlights the ways that feminist discourses have provided a consistent internal critique of Egyptian state and society throughout this century.

Jill M. Bystydzienski, Ed., 1993

Women Transforming Politics: Worldwide Strategies for Empowerment.

Bloomington: Indiana University Press.

Bystydzienski, a Polish-Canadian feminist and sociologist who has conducted research on women's political participation in Africa and Norway, presents a compilation of various feminist voices from around the world. This volume represents a highly successful effort to examine and comprehend women's role in political action and processes in a wide variety of cultural contexts. Bystydzienski provides theoretical introductions to the different

sections of the book, providing a cogent overview of the existing academic literature on women's political culture. Contributors include academics, politicians, journalists and activists from Palestine, Africa, Spain, Canada, Central America and Scandinavia.

Martin, Susan Forbes, 1991

Refugee Women

London: Zed Books, Ltd.

(Women and World Development Series)

Examines the difficult circumstances of everyday life for the growing numbers of women refugees around the world, and the implications for their host countries. The book traces the ways that discrimination and violence from women's own communities, as well as the threat of military attack, abduction and rape, can greatly increase their emotional trauma. The author stresses the importance and effectiveness of involving refugee women as active participants in finding solutions to their short-term problems. The book contains a survey of current international commitment to refugees and offers practical recommendations for action.

Panos Publications, 1995

Arms to Fight, Arms to Protect: Women Speak Out About Conflict.

London: Panos Publications, Ltd. 278 pages.

This volume is a collection of oral histories of women in the world's most war-torn regions: Somaliland, Vietnam, Nicaragua, Bosnia and Lebanon. While stressing that unarmed civilians, particularly women and their dependent children, are the most common victims of modern warfare, the book provides insights into the ways that women throughout the world make sense of the horror, injustice and losses of violent conflict. A variety of responses to warfare are recorded, from the women who take up arms and join the battle to those who form organizations dedicated to using non-violent means to establish peace. In the final analysis, the overarching impression imparted by these dramatic oral histories is that women are extremely resilient and creative in the face of danger and despair.