The 1948 Palestine War is known to Israelis as 'the War of Independence'. But for Palestinians, the war is forever the Nakba, the 'catastrophe'. The war led to the creation of the State of Israel and the destruction of much of Palestinian society by the Zionist forces. For all Palestinians, the Nakba has become central to history, memory and identity. This book focuses on Palestinian internal refugees in Israel and internally displaced Palestinians across the Green Line. It uses oral history and interviews to examine Palestinian identity and memory, indigenous rights, international protection, the 'right of return', and a just solution in Palestine/Israel.

Contributors include several distinguished authors and scholars such as William Dalrymple, Prof. Naseer Aruri, Dr. Ilan Pappe, Prof Isma'il Abu Sa'ad and Dr Nur Masalha.

Back cover
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'In this remarkable book, twelve writers brilliantly evoke the spirit of Edward Said to tell the unvarnished truth about Palestine and Israel." JOHN PIlGER

This book offers an excellently comprehensive study of a relatively neglected sector of the Palestinian people, those who remained inside after the establishment of Israel, focusing particularly on the "internal refugees", designated by Israeli law as "Present Absentees".

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Dr Nur Masalha is a Senior Lecturer and Director of the Holy Land Research Project, St. Mary's College, University of Surrey, UK. He is Editor of ‘Holy Land Studies: A Multidisciplinary Journal’ (published by Edinburgh University Press). His books include: ‘Expulsion of the Palestinians: The Concept of â€˜Transferâ€™ in Zionist Political Thought, 1882-1948’ (1992); ‘A Land Without a People’ (1997); ‘Imperial Israel and the Palestinians’ (2000); and ‘The Politics of Denial’ (2003).

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Professor Isma’el Abu-Saad is a senior lecturer in the Department of Education at the University of Ben-Gurion, Beer Sheba. He is the author of many articles on the Palestinian Bedouin of the Negev. His co-edited books include The Influence of Settlement on Substance Use and Abuse among Nomadic Populations in Israel and Kenya (Nirp Research for Policy Series 7) (2002) and The Future of Indigenous Peoples: Strategies for Survival and Development (2003).

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Dr Hillel Cohen was born in Jerusalem in 1961. He affairs for the Jerusalem-based Hebrew magazine Kol f-f’. He was Research Fellow in the Department of War Studies, Kings College, London (2002-03) and Research Fellow at the Truman University of Jerusalem (1998-2004). He has a PhD University in (2002) and an MA from the same university on the Palestinian internal refugees in Israel. He is currently in the Department of Middle Eastern Studies, Hebrew University. Present Absentees (in Hebrew) was published in 2000, and version was published in Arabic in Beirut in 2003. His book An Army of Shadows: Palestinian Collaborators in the Service of Zionism (Hebrew) was published in Jerusalem in 2004.

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William Dalrymple is a Scottish writer and historian. His book Whfa Mt/gha/swon. the Wolfson Prize for History 2003 and the Scottish Book of the Year Prize, and was shortlisted for the PEN History Award. He wrote the highly acclaimed bestseller In Xanadu. The book won the 1990 Yorkshire Post Best First Work Award and a Scottish Arts Council Spring Book Award; it was also shortlisted for the John Llewellyn Rhys Memorial Prize. In 1989 Dalrymple moved to Delhi where he lived for six years researching his second book, City of Djinns. He is presently working on a new book, The India of my Time, and on a collection of his writing, The Age of Kali.

Isabella Humphries is currently studying for a PhD at St Mary’s College, University of Surrey, on the Palestinian internal refugees in Galilee. She has an MA in Middle East Politics from Durham University and has worked for three years with Palestinian NGOs, and as a freelance writer, on both sides of the 1967 border.

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Dr Nur Masalha is a senior lecturer and the Director of the Holy Land Research Project at St Mary's College, University of Surrey, as well as the editor of Holy Land Studies: A Multidisciplinary Journal. His books include: Expulsion of the Palestinians: The Concept of Transfer in Zionist Political Thought, 1882—1948 (Washington DC: Institute for Palestine Studies, 1992); The Palestinians in Israel: Is Israel the State of All Its Citizens and *Absentees*? (Haifa: Galilee Centre for Social Research, 1993); A Land Without a People (London: Faber and Faber, 1997); Imperial Israel and the Palestinians (London: Pluto Press, 2000); and The Politics of Denial (London: Pluto Press, 2003).

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Reviews

‘This is a work of enormous significance by distinguished scholars of singular courage and integrity. The spirit and legacy of Edward Said are embodied in these papers that seek to rectify grave historical omissions and distortions pertaining to the plight and rights of the Palestinians, particularly in their displacement and exile. Such a narrative of affirmation, authenticity, and rectification is the essential antidote to the mendacious accounts of exclusion and denial that have perpetuated, and even justified, the continued victimisation of the Palestinian nation. The recognition of this grievous injustice, along with the admission of Israeli and global culpability, are the first steps in the quest for a just peace and hence for historical redemption’. - Hanan Ashrawi

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‘..this book's assertion of the role of memory and nomenclature in upholding human rights, as well as international law and politics, is convincing.’ - Viv Jackson, Red Pepper

‘A valuable source to construct a clearer picture of what actually happened to the Palestinian people in the chaotic years of 1947-9.’ - Political Studies Review

‘A wide-ranging collection of invariably interesting essays...the less of Catastrophe Remembered, is that no two-state solution will be enough to give Palestinians in Israel the dignity denied to them for so long.’ - Tom Hill, Tribune

‘An excellent reader on the subject, bringing together as it does a wide range of essays...Israel's arguments against its critics often include the claim that it is the Middle East's only democracy. This book illustrates why that claim is so shallow, based as it is on a situation which denies full rights to a significant portion of Israeli citizens, denying them everything from adequate water supplies to the validity of their memories and history.’ - Peace News

‘Catastrophe Remembered makes a timely and useful ... contribution to an important and unfinished discussion.’ - Neil Caplan, Midwest Jewish Studies Association

‘Provides an important overview of a topic that is largely neglected in the media focus on the West.’ - Dannyreview.com; www.shvoong.com