I owe innumerable intellectual debts for the contents of this book—written nineteen years after I first went to Jerusalem in 1985 (then entirely naive), on a study-abroad program from Antioch College. While living nearly two years in the Old City of Jerusalem, El Bireh, Ramallah, and Bir Zeit and working with Israeli and Palestinian peace groups especially in East and West Jerusalem, I had the privilege of working with the most courageous people I have ever known. The capacity of Jewish Israelis, Arab Israelis, Palestinians, and a cluster of foreigners to sustain a moral compass through the most daunting of conditions was a lasting inspiration and left me with a sense of moral obligation to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, which I hope this book can partly indicate to these people even if it digresses from their views. I could not mention any of them individually without slighting others; a generic thanks is all I can offer.

My capacity to build on that experience in more theoretical ways traces, first, to Professor Hassan Nejad at Antioch College and, later, to graduate study with the outstanding faculty at the Center for Contemporary Arab Studies at Georgetown University. Doctoral work on ethnic conflict with Crawford Young and other faculty at the University of Wisconsin-Madison also infuses this work in ways that they will perceive and that I hope will meet with their approval. In writing much of this book, I also often recalled my work in Washington, D.C., with the remarkable Joseph Schechla, whose insights still hover between many of these lines. My contact through him to Tom and Sally Mallison, Elmer Berger, Roselle Tekiner, and others from the
International Organization for the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination was a rare privilege and lastingly strengthened my work in the field.

Returning in spring 2004 to the subject of Israel-Palestine, after years of comparative work in Latin America, I relied heavily on the excellent primary documentation now available online from such projects as the Foundation for Middle East Peace and the Jewish Virtual Library. My analysis was also freshly filled out by conversations and correspondence with Avi Shlaim at Oxford University (whose particular generosity is gratefully remembered), Rabbi David Goldberg in London, and ‘Azmi Bishara during one important evening. Steven Friedman at the Center for Policy Studies in Johannesburg offered key early insights and ongoing feedback that greatly assisted my analysis. Tony Judt and an anonymous reviewer for the University of Michigan Press provided crucial feedback and immeasurable help in identifying slips and weaknesses in my argument. All these people, each working in a different realm, consistently engaged difficult questions about Israel-Palestine with an exemplary fairness, professionalism, and personal integrity that encouraged my optimism for broader discussions among international networks similarly anxious about the present course of events. These people should not, however, be assumed to agree with me on all points presented here, and certainly no errors here trace to them. Other people who helped with this book, but who are under such political difficulty as to ask anonymity, are quietly appreciated and I hope their role will someday be known.

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