

Foreword

At this journal we have always sought scholarship in aid of the ancient human endeavour of a more equitable world. In this first themed issue of *Nebula* we bring you the articulations of scholars and intellectuals who have come together with the aim of exploring a one state solution for the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. We cannot forget that before there was a Palestinian question, Europe and Zionists pondered the Jewish question, and at the time of its inception the Jewish question reflected persecutions of all kinds, happening throughout the world and its numerous histories and civilisations to numerous oppressed beings. At the moment that the Jewish question lost its international identity to the zeal of arch-nationalism, the question itself became a question of how to protect a military state that can only sustain itself through the promulgation of fear and flogging the dead horse of European and Western guilt over the brutal horrors of World War II and the Nazi advance. What is desperately needed, and what is explored in the excellent scholarship in this issue, is a reminder to arch-nationalists of any nation that the love of one's nation comes at the great cost of the ideological and sometimes literal exclusion of the rest of the world and, more importantly, the exclusion of those who dwell within the borders of an imperial nation which ghettoises its minorities, reminding us of those Jewish ghettos that began to form throughout Europe in the 1940s. It is my greatest wish that one day the Palestinian-Israeli conflict will be history, but not at the expense of the Palestinian people who live the daily reality of subtler and hence more acceptable forms of genocide.

Recently, Palestinians mourned the loss of the people's poet -- Mahmoud Darwish, while one of our most influential intellectuals, Edward Said, was given up to eternity in 2003. Recently too was the passing of the great Egyptian filmmaker Youssef Chahine, all of whom helped articulate to the world the chronic history of colonisation which the Arab world and its peoples have endured for centuries. It is to these fine intellectuals, and to Tanya Reinhart, a contributor to this issue whose lecture is now being published posthumously that I hope to dedicate this issue of *Nebula*. I also thank Professor Haidar Eid for putting together this thoughtful collection, for his insight and scholarship and for choosing *Nebula* to house this collection of essays.

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Nebula