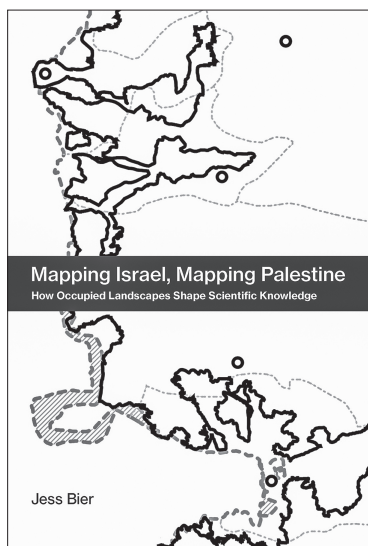


but more appropriate for those with a substantial background in Israeli domestic politics, Israeli government (and security) structure, and for readers well read in settler-colonial theory, which is obliquely referenced but not discussed. While Hever makes a unique contribution by introducing differential accumulation theory to this audience, more in-depth case studies are needed to truly explore this theory in the Israeli security context.

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***Mapping Israel, Mapping Palestine: How Occupied Landscapes Shape Scientific Knowledge*, by Jess Bier.**

Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 2017. 336 pages. \$35.00 cloth, e-book available.

REVIEWED BY ANNA KENSICKI

In her insightful ethnography of cartography, *Mapping Israel, Mapping Palestine: How Occupied Landscapes Shape Scientific Knowledge*, Jess Bier embarks on an exploration of the history, practice, and implications of conducting geographic research in Jerusalem and the West Bank. Bier's main thesis challenges the notion of impartiality in geography, outlining the consequences of conducting geographic research when the researcher herself is part of the very landscape she studies. Using the locations of various historic and present-day researchers, NGOs, and governmental authorities in the landscape, Bier problematizes

our continued reliance on technology and the limitations of objectivity in the practice of mapping, now commonly referred to as GIS (geographic information sciences).

In each of her analyses, Bier applies the notion of symmetry. This is not predicated on the assumption that Palestinian and Israeli accessibility or experiences are equal; rather, Bier juxtaposes Palestinian and Israeli observations and productions of knowledge to highlight the *asymmetrical* conditions leading to their development. These analyses are also guided by Edward Said's traveling theory, which explores how a theory or idea is shaped over time as it is applied in various landscapes and contexts. In this way, she focuses on the differential conclusions of Palestinian and Israeli cartographers as they both help to shape the landscape and are themselves, as researchers, shaped by it.

For example, in her comparison of Palestinian and Israeli state population maps, Bier finds that Israel's bureaucratic and political need for the census, combined with its methodological incorporation of the Palestinian presence, produced the region's geography and dominant narrative for *both* parties. Specifically, she illustrates how Palestinians' reliance upon these maps in producing their own necessarily involves the use of British colonial maps as their foundations. Those maps, hailed as empirical triumphs of their time, employed definitive boundaries (often

where they were intended to be set, as opposed to actual, final locations) and sometimes entirely different and incompatible scales, causing Palestinians and Israelis, alike, to incorporate such inaccuracies or distortions long after their initial drafting. Therefore, even with modern GIS technology, many of today's maps of Palestine/Israel employ empirical, "scientific" productions of knowledge and space that replicate the very colonial practices and subjectivities each side has sought to overcome. The seamless integration of highly contested spaces in digital form thus memorializes these distortions, leading to their continued use as both parties build upon this framework today (p. 45, pp. 78–79).

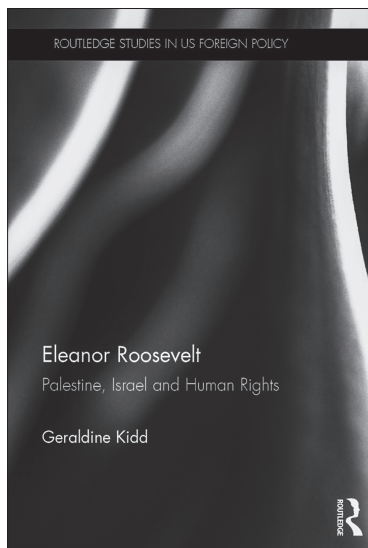
Of great interest to readers with a background in GIS is the problematizing of Palestinian and Israeli geographers' uses of certain mapping tools. Here, Bier argues the development of GIS technology has inadvertently shaped disparate productions of knowledge in Palestine/Israel. For example, in tracing the works of Israeli geographer Roberto Bachi, she examines the evolution of computerized mapping and how it has shaped the trajectory of the conflict via purported empirical and objective measurement. Bachi's marriage to international scientific standards and reliance upon direct counts (as opposed to statistical sampling) was an expression of his devotion to impartiality and empiricism (pp. 31, 90). Therefore, early in his career, in an effort to reduce inaccuracies, he relied upon map points (as opposed to shapes with borders) to represent Israeli and Palestinian census counts. Later, however, he turned to shape features called convex hulls, whose borders were generated by complex statistical equations, to illustrate populations. These mathematically generated borders served to carve out space in which settlements could expand, rather than to report where these were already present. In this case, GIS proved to be less a tool to ensure accuracy and validity, and more a method by which Bachi legitimized his own political views.

In another case study, Bier examines how the conflict differentially limits parties' access to space according to their locations in the conflict. She points out that knowledge production is distorted on both sides as cartographers' identities and perspectives greatly impact their objective observations and depictions of space, even within a single set of coordinates. In her exploration of Palestinian and Israeli land use and land cover maps of the West Bank, Bier compares the data collection methods of—and restrictions faced by—two NGOs: the Applied Research Institute–Jerusalem and the Israeli advocacy group Peace Now. She shows how the effects of mobility and accessibility restrict each group's knowledge production, both its own and that of the other. Although each party relies at least in part on the data collection of the other, their data sets are based on inconsistent methods of collection, categories (that may or may not fully reflect all scenarios), levels of detail, and scale. Therefore, either party's integration of the other's data can result in warped and poorly drawn conclusions as to population counts, contiguity, and many other data points. Where local knowledge is needed to interpret the findings of others' data, especially that of Palestinians, whose access to Area A and practical uses of space are seldom reflected in Israeli state maps, this can be especially problematic.

Bier's deeply researched and thoughtful work thus illustrates that geographic research is far from a value-free endeavor. Her engaging, historical, and technological analysis of GIS and the

production of knowledge in Palestine/Israel makes this conundrum accessible to lay readers and GIS specialists alike. Through her deft storytelling, readers are given the opportunity, themselves, to become a part of this highly contested landscape.

Anna Kensicki is a PhD candidate at the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London, and a Palestinian American Research Center fellow. Her research focuses on critical political geography and comparative politics in Palestine/Israel and the Levant.



Eleanor Roosevelt: Palestine, Israel and Human Rights, by Geraldine Kidd. Abingdon, Oxon: Routledge, 2018. 252 pages. \$149.95 cloth, \$27.48 e-book.

REVIEWED BY MICHELLE MART

Geraldine Kidd's contribution to the complex topic of U.S.-Israeli-Palestinian relations focuses on the unique role of Eleanor Roosevelt in influencing the region's politics in the 1940s and 1950s. Kidd offers insights into the relationship between Roosevelt's actions and her beliefs, as well as into her embrace of widely held cultural prejudices. In the end, though, rather than highlighting the nuances and contradictions of historical actors, and transcending existing polarizations in the historiography, this portrait of Roosevelt reinforces them.

The central goal of Kidd's book is to provide a less idealized view of Eleanor Roosevelt's political outlook and of her reputation as a humanitarian in American political culture. Like most individuals who are celebrated as paragons of virtue, Roosevelt fell short of the rarefied depiction, especially as regards her attitudes toward Zionism and the Palestinians. As Kidd argues throughout the book, Zionists, and later Israelis, enjoyed her sympathy and support, while she found Palestinians to be less deserving of political rights and respect. Her prejudice toward Palestinians and other Arabs clearly affected her views of Zionism.

Kidd traces Roosevelt's worldview and political actions back to her childhood as well as to the relationships of her later years. Although the narrative spans Roosevelt's life, most of the book covers the post-World War II period when the debate about creating a Jewish state grew more immediate and Roosevelt embarked on an independent, international role following her husband's death. The strongest parts of the book are the last three chapters, which address Roosevelt's actions after Israel was founded in 1948.

Early on, Kidd lays out her central thesis that Roosevelt was motivated by "pragmatism," rather than by the "principle" of human rights for which she is celebrated. The seemingly inherent contradiction between pragmatism and principle makes sense as a rhetorical device and as a method to argue for Roosevelt's inconsistency (p. 240). But the formulation is problematic for two reasons. First, Kidd details several factors that shaped Roosevelt's political