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978-1-107-13652-6 - The Palestinian Novel: From 1948 to the Present

Bashir Abu-Manneh

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THE PALESTINIAN NOVEL

What happens to the Palestinian novel after the national dispossession of the *nakba*, and how do Palestinian novelists respond to this massive crisis? This is the first study in English to chart the development of the Palestinian novel in exile and under occupation from 1948 onwards. By reading the novel in the context of the ebb and flow of Arab and Palestinian revolution, Bashir Abu-Manneh defines the links between aesthetics and politics. Combining historical analysis with textual readings of key novels by Jabra, Kanafani, Habiby, and Khalifeh, the chronicle of the Palestinian novel unfolds as one that articulates humanism, self-sacrifice as collective redemption, mutuality, and self-realization. Political challenge, hope, and possibility are followed by the decay of collective and individual agency. Genet's and Khoury's unrivalled literary homages to Palestinian revolt are also examined. By critically engaging with Lukács, Adorno, and postcolonial theory, questions of struggle and self-determination take centre stage.

BASHIR ABU-MANNEH is Lecturer in Postcolonial Literature, and Director of Centre for Colonial and Postcolonial Studies at the University of Kent. He is the author of *Fiction of the New Statesman, 1913–1939* (2011).

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To my father

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I shall write so I understand why the world besieges me; that is first.

And second, I shall write in the hope to escape the siege of this world.

And third, I shall write in the hope of finding an escape for the whole world from this siege.

Jabra Ibrahim Jabra (1988)

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Note on transliteration

The Library of Congress transliteration method has been employed in this book. This has been applied to names of publications, journals, and newspapers with no standard English version of their names; as well as names of individuals with no similar standard form in English (with some minor exceptions). Names that are commonly known or already have a spelling in English (such as Jabra Ibrahim Jabra, Emile Habiby, Abdulrahman Munif, and so on) are written as they are commonly used.