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978-0-521-88222-4 - Militarization and Violence Against Women in Conflict Zones in the Middle East: A Palestinian Case-Study

Nadera Shalhoub-Kevorkian

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MILITARIZATION AND VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN CONFLICT ZONES IN THE MIDDLE EAST

This book examines and discusses the ordeals that women face as violence is perpetrated against them in politically conflicted and militarized areas. In conflict zones, every act is affected by, dependent on, and mobilized by militaristic values. The militarization of both the private and public space and the use of the gendered bodies increase the vulnerability of both men and women, and further masculinizes the patriarchal hegemonic powers. Through the stories and ordeals of women in politically conflicted areas and war zones, and by sharing voices of Palestinian women from the Occupied Territories, it is shown that claims based on 'security reasoning', fear from 'terrorism', nationalism, preservation of 'cultural authenticity', and preservation of the land can turn women's bodies and lives into boundary markers and thus sites of violence, contestation, and resistance.

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To all Palestinian women

If you can see only what light reveals and hear only what
sound announces,

Then in truth you do not see nor do you hear.

(Gibran 1995: 57)

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