The Revolution Within

Why do some individuals participate in risky anti-regime resistance whereas others abstain? *The Revolution Within* answers this question through an in-depth study of unarmed resistance against Israeli rule in the Palestinian Territories over more than a decade. Despite having strong anti-regime sentiment, Palestinians initially lacked the internal organizational strength often seen as necessary for protest. This book provides a foundation for understanding participation and mobilization under these difficult conditions. It argues that, under such conditions, integration into state institutions – schools, prisons, and courts – paradoxically makes individuals more likely to resist the state. Diverse evidence drawn from field research – including the first large-scale survey of participants and nonparticipants in Palestinian resistance, as well as Arabic-language interviews and archival sources – supports the argument. The book’s findings explain how anti-regime resistance can occur even without the strong civil society organizations often regarded as necessary for protest and, thus, suggest new avenues for supporting civil resistance movements.

Yael Zeira is Croft Assistant Professor of Political Science and International Studies at the University of Mississippi. Her research examines the causes and consequences of public opinion and political behavior in authoritarian and conflict settings, with a regional focus on the Middle East. Her other research on this topic has been published in leading academic journals, including *Comparative Political Studies* and the *Journal of Conflict Resolution*. 
The Revolution Within

State Institutions and Unarmed Resistance
in Palestine

YAE L Z E I R A
University of Mississippi
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