

THE OTHER IMAGE IN THE PALESTINIAN AND ISRAELI LITERATURE: A COMPARATIVE STUDY

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Abstract

The paper will tackle the image of Arabs and Israelis/Jews taking into consideration that there is a difference between writers who were born in Palestine and those who came here from Europe, and also between writers from the extreme right, the left, or the moderate stream. Each writer has his/her own understanding of Arabs and their life, tradition and society. Some writers knew Arabs for who they really were and presented them in an honest way that showed the good and the bad. Others turned a blind eye on the good qualities and only showed the bad ones to show Arabs as backward and narrow-minded. The majority of what was written before 1948 was not an outcome of a direct contact with Arabs with Arabs. Writers relied on what they had read in books and news papers or on some false preconceptions and stereotypes about Arabs. The Zionist line, however, remained dominant among literary productions and Arabs were made fun of and shown as inferior, plain and naïve.

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