



Die Welt in Weltkriegen - Erfahrungen, Wahrnehmungen und Perspektiven aus Afrika und Asien

Veranstaltungsreihe des Zentrums Moderner Orient

Tuesday, 11 May 2010, 6 pm

The Arabs and the Holocaust: The Arab–Israeli War of Narratives

Lecture by Prof. Gilbert Achcar

The Arab-Israeli conflict goes far beyond the wars waged in the Middle East: There is a war of narratives revolving around the two defining traumas of the conflict: the Holocaust and the Nakba. One side is charged with Holocaust denial, the other with exploiting a tragedy while denying the tragedies of others.

In this path-breaking book, political scientist Gilbert Achcar explores these conflicting narratives and considers their role in today's Middle East dispute.

He analyzes the various Arab responses to the Holocaust, from the earliest intimations of the genocide, through the creation of Israel and the occupation of Palestine, and up to our own time, critically assessing the political and historical context for these responses. Drawing on previously unseen sources in multiple languages, Achcar offers a unique ideological mapping of the Arab world, in the process defusing an international propaganda war that has become a major stumbling block in the path of Arab-Western understanding.

Prof. Gilbert Achcar, who grew up in Beirut, has taught at the University of Paris-VIII and researched at the Centre Marc Bloch in Berlin. He is currently Professor of development studies and international relations at the School of Oriental and African Studies of the University of London. Among his many books are *The Clash of Barbarisms: The Making of the New World Disorder* (Saqi, 2006), published in thirteen languages, *The 33-Day War: Israel's War on Hezbollah in Lebanon and Its Aftermath* (with Michel Warschawski, Saqi, 2007), and *Perilous Power: The Middle East and U.S. Foreign Policy*, co-authored with Noam Chomsky.

Venue

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Centre Marc Bloch

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