

## **Episode 50: Side by Side: Parallel Histories of Israel/Palestine**

**Guest:** Professor Eyal Naveh, Tel Aviv University

**Hosts:** Yusuf & Mert

**Bio:** Eyal Naveh is a leading Israeli historian and educator specializing in history education in conflict contexts. He has taught history and history education at Kibbutzim College of Education and US history at Tel Aviv University, where he served as Head of the Department of General History and Chairperson of the General and Interdisciplinary Studies Program. Naveh is the co-director of the Peace Research Institute in the Middle East and has been a visiting professor at Harvard, UC Berkeley, Cornell, the University of Toronto, Venice International University, and the University of Vienna. He is best known as a co-creator of the groundbreaking history textbook *Side by Side: Parallel Histories of Israel-Palestine*, developed collaboratively with the renowned Israeli traumatologist Prof. Dr. Dan Bar-On and Palestinian sociologist and educator Prof. Dr. Sami Adwan. The book presents Israeli and Palestinian perspectives literally side by side, allowing students and readers to engage with complex and conflicting narratives without flattening differences. It is the only such attempt in an ongoing conflict and has been a model for post-conflict history education worldwide. The editors and the award winning book received a lot of international recognition and attention for their pioneering work of peace building by educating history from multiple perspectives.

**In this episode:** Yusuf and Mert speak with Professor Eyal Naveh about the creation, use, and continuing relevance of *Side by Side: Parallel Histories of Israel-Palestine*. They discuss the collaborative process with Israeli and Palestinian educators, the challenges of presenting contrasting narratives within a single textbook, and the book's reception in schools and academia in Israel, Palestine, and internationally. The conversation also explores the role of history education in conflict regions, the effects of political polarization, and the possibilities and limitations of teaching empathy, critical thinking, and complex truths to new generations. Professor Naveh reflects on painful divisions since October 7 and the shrinking space for peace education in societies increasingly influenced by nationalism and extremism. He shares lessons for educators and students in Germany and other diasporas, emphasizes the importance of understanding psychological barriers to peace, and conveys his enduring hope for dialogue and reconciliation between Israelis and Palestinians. Listeners will gain insights into how history can be taught to foster understanding without erasing complexity, along with practical and philosophical guidance for educators and anyone seeking to bridge deep divides.

**Links:**

Prof. Dr. Eyal Naveh: <https://english.tau.ac.il/profile/enaveh> (Last accessed on October 21, 2025)

Prof. Dr. Sami Adwan: <https://www.torgnysegerstedt.se/en/main-article-sami-adwan/> (Last accessed on October 21, 2025)

Prof. Dr. Dan Bar On: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dan\\_Bar-On](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dan_Bar-On) (Last accessed on October 21, 2025): <https://www.juedische-allgemeine.de/allgemein/pionier-des-dialogs/> (Last accessed on October 21, 2025)

Adwan, Sami, Dan Bar-On, and Eyal Naveh, editors. Side by Side: Parallel Histories of Israel-Palestine. The New Press, 2012. <https://thenewpress.org/books/side-by-side/?v=eb65bcceaa5f> (Last accessed on October 21, 2025)

Peace Research Foundation in the Middle East: <https://www.vispo.com/PRIME/index.htm> (Last accessed on October 21, 2025)

***Please also check out our other episodes to explore multiple perspectives.***

#### ***Dedication:***

*We dedicate this Podcast to all victims and survivors of October 7, the hostages and their families, to all innocent civilians killed and injured in Gaza and their grieving families and friends. To our dear guests Udi Goren, Khalil Sayegh, Sima and Mai who shared their losses so powerfully with us. To their families: Tal's wife Ella Haimi, their children Nir, Einav, Udi and Lotan, who never got the chance to meet his father. To Khalil Sayegh's mother and siblings, to Mai's and Sima's family, to her mother Bushra.*

*To the blessed memory of: Tal Haimi, Lara Sayegh, Jeries Sayegh, Mahmoud, Danny Darlington and Haim Perry.*

#### **Disclaimer:**

In each episode of this podcast, the invited guests speak on their own behalf. They share their experiences, assessments, and expert perspectives. These contributions are central to the multiperspectivity of the project but do not necessarily reflect the views of the editorial team or producers.

#### **Legal & Historical Anchor Episodes:**

This podcast may include controversial legal terms of specific technical significance. Their legal applicability requires a thorough expert contextualization; for this, we refer to our legal chapter. All relevant terms of international law, its institutions, current controversies, and the state of jurisprudence are explained in the anchor episode with Prof. Dr. h.c. mult. Claus Kreß LL.M. (Cambridge) (Episode 36). He is co-author of the Rome Statute, Special Advisor to the

International Criminal Court, and Judge at the International Court of Justice in the parallel Gambia vs. Myanmar genocide case.

Historical matters are discussed from multiple perspectives in this podcast. Please check the cross-references in the shownotes of the respective episodes for details. All historically contested issues are addressed in the history anchor episode with Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. Gudrun Krämer (Episode 21), author of the comprehensive work *A History of Palestine: From the Ottoman Conquest to the Founding of the State of Israel* (Princeton 2008), a standard reference in the field. For her scholarly achievements as a historian, she was awarded the *Preis des Historischen Kollegs* in 2025, the highest distinction in her discipline in Germany.