

**PALESTINIANS IN THE DIASPORA:
ATTITUDES OF A DISPLACED MINORITY**

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Except where otherwise acknowledged in the text, this thesis represents my original research. No part of this work has been submitted for a higher degree to any other university or institution.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Christine Asmar', with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Christine Asmar

March 1994

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ABBREVIATIONS

AAADC	American Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee
AAWC	Australian Arabic Welfare Council
ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
ADB	Anti-Discrimination Board of NSW
ASCCSS	Australian Standard Classification of Countries for Social Statistics
ASIO	Australian Security and Intelligence Organisation
CAA	Committee of Arab Australians
CDAAA	Committee on Discrimination Against Arab Australians
CRSRG	Community Relations Special Reference Group
DFAT	Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
DIEA	Department of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs
DILGEA	Department of Immigration, Local Government and Ethnic Affairs (formerly Department of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs)
DORS	(Secretariat for the) Determination of Refugee Status
DFLP	Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine
EAC	Ethnic Affairs Commission of NSW
HAMAS	Islamic Resistance Movement of Palestine
HREOC	Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission
LGA	Local Government Area
NESB	Non-English Speaking Background
OMA	Office of Multicultural Affairs

PFLP	Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine
PLO	Palestinian Liberation Organisation
UNRWA	United Nations Relief and Works Agency

GLOSSARY OF ARABIC TERMS

<i>intifada</i>	Palestinian uprising against (literally a "throwing off") Israeli Occupation in West Bank and Gaza (began December 1987)
<i>hijab</i>	Head covering worn by Muslim women
<i>hijrah</i>	Prophet Muhammad's flight from Mecca to Medina, the date from which the Islamic calendar begins. Used in Appendix III to refer to the Palestinian exodus from their homeland
<i>jihad</i>	A Holy War fought by Muslims against their oppressors or attackers
<i>kibla (qibla)</i>	The direction in which Muslims face when praying
<i>mukhabarat</i>	Arab state security services
<i>shaab</i>	People (Also <i>shebab</i> : youth)
<i>sheikh</i>	Used in Chapter Two to mean a Muslim religious leader
<i>'umma</i>	Islamic Community of believers; sometimes used to denote a nation

ABSTRACT

This study investigates the effect of the homeland experience on political attitudes held by a group of displaced stateless people. Empirical data was obtained by means of an attitude survey carried out within the Palestinian community of Sydney, Australia in 1990-91. The "snowball" method of sampling was used, in order to obtain access to a cross-section of groups within the community by means of activating personal networks. Attitudes towards both the host country - Australia - and towards the Palestinian homeland were surveyed. The findings suggest that homeland factors are more likely to affect the attitudes of Palestinian groups than are standard socio-demographic factors. The findings also challenge some of the conventional justifications for the discrimination and stereotyping encountered by Palestinians in both the homeland and in the Western Diaspora. The results of the survey have implications both for current moves towards an independent Palestinian entity in the Middle East, and for the successful integration of Palestinians and other stateless groups into pluralist democracies.

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