

Resistance and Identity in Contemporary Palestine -Examination through Social Life and Traditions-

Year: 2013

Place of fieldwork: Jordan Kingdom, Palestinian Territory (Israel)

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Key Words: Palestine, al-Khalil (Hebron), Identity, Resistance

- Research background

My research is about the present state of Palestinian resistance under the Israeli occupation. After the Oslo Accord in 1993, conditions in Palestinian society worsened, even though the Accord was supposed to build an independent Palestinian state. However, Palestinians living in the Palestinian territories cope with this severe situation and maintain their regular lives. This is the starting point of my research.

- Research purpose and aim

The purpose of my research is to examine the present state of the Palestinian resistance in Al-Khalil (Hebron). The Palestinians in Al-Khalil are called *Khalili*, which, in Arabic, means “the people from al-Khalil.” We can say that Al-Khalil is a city whose people carry out resistance in two ways. They maintain high fertility rates to carry out their line, and they promote their identity as Khalili. Thus, I focus on the present form of the Palestinian resistance through the example of al-Khalil.

- Observations and results

First, I intended to conduct fieldwork in local educational institutions to examine the Khalili identity. However, in my fieldwork, I found the education in Al-Khalil to be almost the same as the national mass education. I then decided to change my focus to the social life, such as the traditional industry and agriculture. The traditional industry of making glass and ceramic products in Al-Khalil is particularly famous, and its origins can be traced back to the Roman era. This is just one element of the social life in Al-Khalil that contributes to the Khalili identity.

I was very fortunate to find this new and interesting research topic after my earlier topic reached a deadlock. However, I think this first opportunity was

extremely important for my training as a student of Area Studies.

- Implications for future research

I have found that my Arabic skills need to be developed further. Before entering Palestine, in Jordan, I studied Arabic, with emphasis on the written language. However, during fieldwork, I sometimes need skills in spoken Arabic. By the time of the next fieldwork, I should improve my proficiency in Arabic not only in reading and writing but also in speaking and understanding the spoken language.



Demonstration against a coup d'état in Egypt (Amman, Jordan (August 16, 2013))



Lecture in Sharieh Boys School (al-Khalil, Palestinian Territory (September 10, 2013))



Glass and Ceramics Factory of Natsha Family (al-Khalil, Palestinian Territory)
(September 12, 2013)



Making juice from grapes (Beit Ummar, al-Khalil, Palestinian Territory (September 19, 2013))

