



Winter 2012 Membership Drive "Thank-You" Gifts

Pledge	Item Description
\$100	"On History: Tariq Ali and Oliver Stone in Conversation" by Oliver Stone & Tariq Ali NEW (11/8/2011) In working together on two challenging new documentaries— <i>South of the Border</i> and the forthcoming 13-part, 13-hour Untold History of the United States series for Showtime—filmmaker Oliver Stone engaged with author and filmmaker Tariq Ali in a probing, hard-hitting conversation on the politics of history. Their dialogue brings to light a number of forgotten—or deliberately buried—episodes of American history, from the U.S. intervention against the Russian Revolution, to the dynamic radicalism of the Wobblies, how Henry Wallace's nomination for the vice-presidency was deliberately thwarted by Democratic Party machine insiders, to the ongoing close connections between various U.S. presidents and the Saudi royal family.
\$360	"Business Networks in Syria: The Political Economy of Authoritarian Resilience" by Bassam Haddad NEW (12/7/2011) With unique access to private businessmen and select state officials during a critical period of transition, this book examines Syria's political economy from 1970 to 2005 to explain the nation's pattern of state intervention and prolonged economic stagnation. As state income from oil sales and aid declined, collusion was a bid for political security by an embattled regime. To achieve a modicum of economic growth, the Syrian regime would develop ties with select members of the business community, reserving the right to reverse their inclusion in the future. Haddad ultimately reveals that this practice paved the way for forms of economic agency that maintained the security of the regime but diminished the development potential of the state and the private sector.
\$150	"The Obama Syndrome: Surrender at Home, War Abroad" by Tariq Ali What has really changed since Bush left the White House? Very little, argues Tariq Ali, apart from the mood music. The hopes aroused during Obama's election campaign have rapidly receded—the honeymoon has been short. Following the financial crisis, the "reform" president bailed out Wall Street without getting anything in return. With Democratic Party leaders and representatives mired in the corrupt lobbying system, the plans for reforming the healthcare system lie wrecked on the Senate floor. Abroad, the "war on terror" continues: torture on a daily basis in the horror chamber that is Bagram, Iraq occupied indefinitely, Israel permanently appeased, and more troops to Afghanistan and more drone attacks in Pakistan than under Bush. The fact that Obama has proved incapable of shifting the political terrain even a few inches in a reformist direction will pave the way for a Republican surge and triumph in the not too distant future.
\$75	"Gaza in Crisis: Reflections on Israel's War Against the Palestinians" BOOK by Noam Chomsky & Ilan Pappé
\$100	"Noam Chomsky Speech on 10/17/11 at Barnard College" DVD MIT Professor Emeritus Noam Chomsky, the world-renowned linguist and political dissident, spoke at Barnard College in New York City about the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and Israel-Palestine Prisoner Exchange, as well as the recent U.S. assassination of U.S.-born cleric Anwar al-Awlaki in Yemen.
\$150	BOTH Gaza in Crisis Book & Chomsky DVD Speech
\$100	"The Ethnic Cleansing of Palestine" BOOK by Ilan Pappé Renowned Israeli author and academic Ilan Pappé explains how Israel worked on ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity beginning in 1948, and continuing through the present. Pappé demonstrates how ethnic cleansing was not a circumstance of war, but rather a deliberate goal of combat for early Israeli military units led by David Ben-Gurion, whom Pappé labels the "architect of ethnic cleansing." The forced expulsion of 800,000 Palestinians between 1948-49, Pappé argues, was part of a long-standing Zionist plan to manufacture an ethnically pure Jewish state. Pappé argues that the ethnic cleansing of Palestine continues today, and calls for the unconditional return of all Palestinian refugees and an end to the Israeli occupation.
\$180	"Faith Misplaced: the Broken Promise of U.S.-Arab Relations" BOOK by Ussama Makdisi In this new book, Dr. Makdisi presents a provocative and dramatic portrait of America's interaction with the Arab world—and the defining choice that squandered years of carefully built good relations. Professor Makdisi explores why Arabs once had a favorable view of America and why they no longer do. He firmly rejects the spurious notion of a civilizational clash between Islam and the West. He instead demonstrates how an initial zealous American missionary crusade was transformed across the nineteenth-century into a leading American educational presence in the Arab world, and how the advent of the idea of Wilsonian self-determination, amidst wide-scale Arab emigration to the United States, further bolstered a positive, foundational Arab idea of America. However, a series of subsequent political turning points—beginning with the British and French colonial partition of the Arab world in 1920 and culminating in the U.S.-backed creation of Israel in 1948 at the expense of the Palestinians—systematically alienated Arabs from America.
\$160	"Arab Voices: What They Are Saying to Us, and Why it Matters" BOOK by James Zogby Queen Noor of Jordan said "Jim Zogby has written an essential and enlightening book on Arab opinion. Arab Voices is a must read for anyone who wants to hear true voices from the Arab world". Ralph Nader said: "Arab Voices is a breakthrough book. Finally, after decades of relentlessly ignorant or bigoted stereotyping of the so-called 'Arab Mind'—often a form of anti-Semitism against Arabs—by partisans having other agendas, James Zogby responds. He presents the results of intensive polling, within historical, political and cultural contexts, in an engrossing search for accuracy, fairness and truth. Let's see if the slanted press and the wrathful cable-talk radio hosts can tolerate giving this book and its calm author a chance to correct the record.". President Jimmy Carter said: "The need for United States engagement in the Middle East has never been greater, and I believe it is essential that Americans better understand the people and cultures in the region. This book improves our understanding of these diverse communities and provides valuable insight into the lives of Arab Americans."
\$90	"Palestine: Peace Not Apartheid" BOOK by Jimmy Carter
\$250	EDWARD SAID TRIBUTE 6 CD SET This compilation traces the career of Dr. Edward Said through the recordings from the Pacifica Radio Archives, from his first Archives recording at a panel discussion in 1972, to his address on March 25, 2003.
\$180	"Meeting Resistance" DVD documentary on post-Iraq conflicts Meeting Resistance is a daring, eye-opening film that raises the veil of anonymity surrounding the Iraqi insurgency by meeting face to face with individuals who are passionately engaged in the struggle against coalition forces. It documents for the first time the sentiments experienced and actions taken by a nation's citizens when their homeland is occupied. With unique insight into the people involved in the resistance, this acclaimed film explodes myth after myth about the war in Iraq and the Iraqis who participate. Voices which have been previously unheard - both male and female - speak candidly about their motivations, hopes and goals, revealing a kaleidoscope of human perspectives. Through its unprecedented access Meeting Resistance is the missing puzzle piece in understanding the Iraq war - not only the toll of the occupation but the mindset behind those who resist.