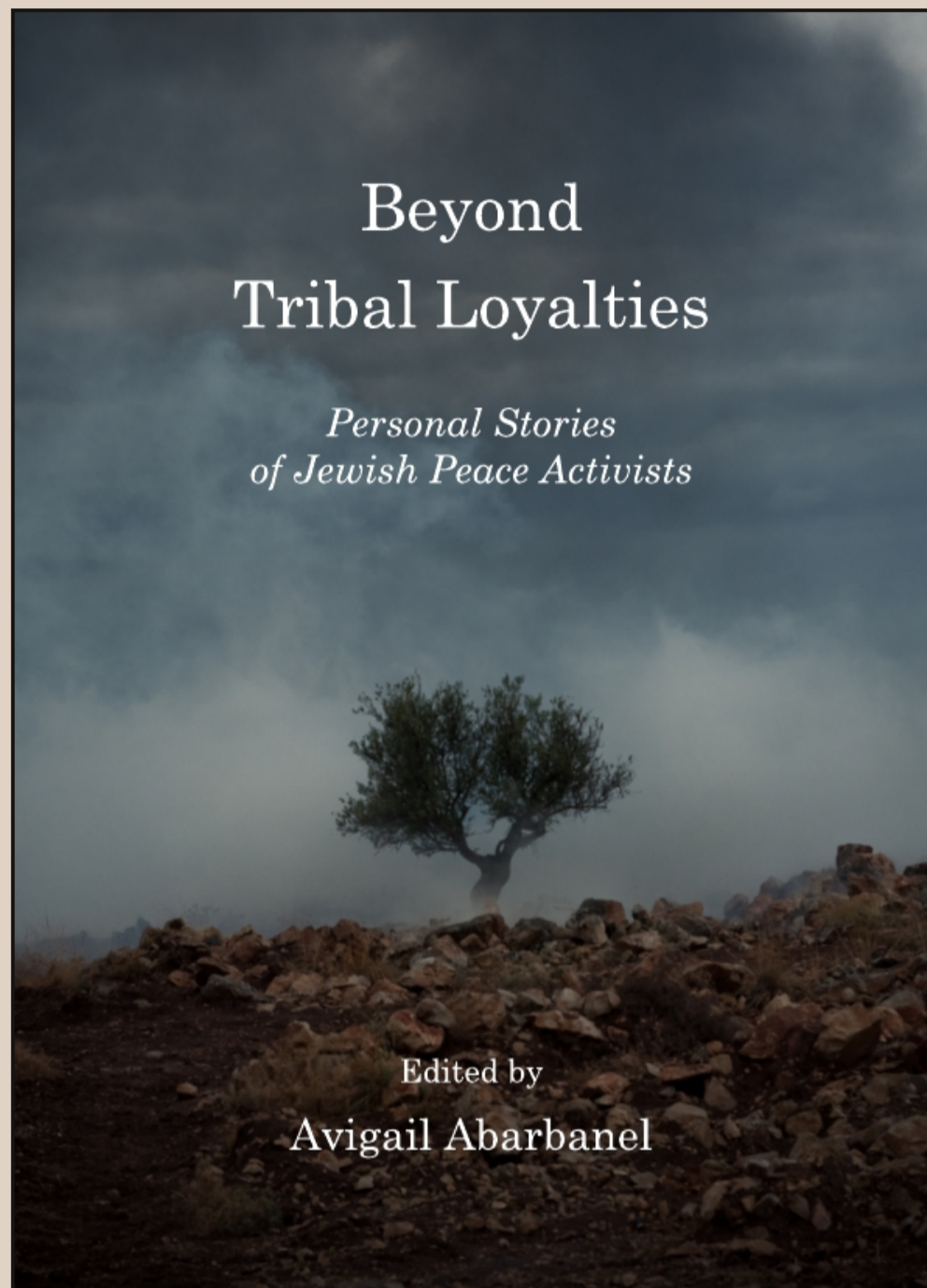


Beyond Tribal Loyalties

Personal Stories of Jewish Peace Activists

Edited by Avigail Abarbanel



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There is an expectation in Jewish communities around the world that all Jews embrace Zionism and offer unquestioning support for Israel, 'right or wrong'. Jewish identity and Zionism are commonly and deliberately blurred. Jews who criticise Israel or question Zionism are often excluded, vilified and threatened. If they express sympathy for the plight of the Palestinian people, they risk being branded as traitors and accused of 'supporting the enemies of Israel'.

Beyond Tribal Loyalties is a unique collection of twenty-five personal stories of Jewish peace activists from Australia, Canada, Israel, the United Kingdom and the United States. There is an age difference of more than fifty years between the oldest and the youngest contributor. The stories focus on the complex and intensely personal journey that Jewish activists go through to free themselves from the hold of Zionist ideology and its requirement to support all Israeli policies.

This is an inspiring book for anyone who is interested in the experience of being a peace activist. It offers a fresh and unusual angle on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, and is a unique contribution in a field where political analysis is common, but where the personal angle is often lacking.

Avigail Abarbanel is a psychotherapist in private practice and an activist for Palestinian rights. She was born in Israel in 1964 and served in the Israeli army during Israel's 1982 invasion of Lebanon. Avigail moved to Australia in 1991 where she lived for eighteen years and where she completed her undergraduate and postgraduate studies. She now lives and works near Inverness in Scotland. Her activist work consists mainly of writing and public speaking.

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