

## **Abstract**

### **The Counter-Archive in The Contemporary Palestinian Experience**

This study is based on the analysis of power relations between colonizer and colonized through the new concept of the archive excreted the approaches of the postcolonial era, which is based on considering the Archive as "serving the interests of someone", which means necessarily that the owning of the archive by a colonizer is acquiring the power that enables it to impose its presence and by default leads to an exclusion of other (colonized). In this context, the study posed questions about the resulting "Archive violence" of the remodeling of the past into new forms to provide different historical perspectives, based on the denial of the other and removing him. The study is based on the hypothesis that the Archive under the power relations acquires a relative value, and its content is no longer valid for reaching the historical truth.

Within this dimension, the study examined the violence of the Archive in the Palestinian case, as the dispersion and loss of the Palestinian archives after the 1948 war and their falling in the hands of the Zionists as loots, led to the loss of the written inheritance which would have assisted Palestinians in telling their own history. On the other hand they enabled the Zionists to produce a historical Israeli story that proves the legitimization of the Jewish right to the land of the so called "Israel".

From here this study sought to shed light on the beginning of the nucleus formation of a resistant counter archive among the Palestinians, as a kind of confirmation of their self-identity, which aims to create a new foundation of

knowledge about Palestine and the Palestinians, that will encourage a re-consideration of such a torn self and turn it into an active one in history. This study highlights the weaknesses and strengths of the Palestinians, questions how much authority they have over their past, and what they need in the way of building a complete narrative history that would enable them to get out of their silence and isolation, and get their voices heard, which were for long muted by the Zionist narratives to the world.