

Essay Question related to Al-Ahmar and Bakr

Born in Jerusalem in 1935, Edward Said was from a well-off Palestinian Christian family. Although he grew up mainly in Egypt, there were many extended stays in Palestine and Lebanon. His father, who became a wealthy businessman based in Cairo, had lived in the United States for several years and then served in the army during World War I, thereby earning American citizenship for himself and his future children. Edward Said moved to the United States in the early 1950s and would go on to become a professor of literature at Columbia University as well as a noted public intellectual on the subject of Palestine.

In interviews in the early 1990s, Edward Said made the following remarks about Israel's goal regarding the Palestinians (found in *The Pen and the Sword: Conversations with David Barsamian*, 1994, pages 102-103, 54):

...one of the major achievements of the Palestinian struggle in the last twenty years has been that more and more Palestinians are dedicated to remaining on the land. As long as we're there, we provide a problem for them. That's the main thing. There's no doubt in my mind that ultimately they [the Israelis] want to get rid of us...

The best Palestinian for them is either dead or gone.

Essay Question: How do Edward Said's remarks concerning Israel's goal compare with the experiences of Abdelrahman Al-Ahmar and Jamal Bakr? Include specific examples.