



Freedom is a Constant Struggle Study Guide

Read these chapters online: uscpr.org/StandWithAngelaDavis

Chapter Two - Ferguson Reminds Us of the Importance of a Global Context

- **Michelle Alexander & MLK break the silence:** In light of Dr. Davis's discussion of Michelle Alexander's "The New Jim Crow," and the need for an international framework to contextualize it, check out this [recent article](#) by Michelle Alexander in which she breaks her silence on Palestine and pays homage to part of Martin Luther King, Jr.'s legacy of opposing militarism, when in 1967 he [broke his silence on Vietnam](#) and spoke unflinchingly about US imperialist violence as an outgrowth of racism at home.
- **US-Israeli police exchanges:** Dr. Davis talks of the direct connections between the militarization of police in Israel and the US. You can explore these connections through this interactive resource by [Researching the American-Israeli Alliance](#) which [maps the links](#) between US and Israeli state violence. Then, take action through Jewish Voice for Peace's [Deadly Exchange campaign](#).
- **Building across borders:** *"Initially intersectionality was about bodies and experiences. But now, how do we talk about bringing various social justice struggles together, across national borders? So we are talking about Ferguson and Palestine. How can we really*

create a framework that allows us to think these issues together and to organize around these issues together?" (p. 19)

- One way Dr. Davis suggests we bring social justice struggles together across borders is to explore the common roots of those struggles, and to recognize the structural connections between global oppression. Read more about these connections in [this article](#) by Noura Erakat, in which she analyzes the oppression of the Palestinian people through the lens of anti-Blackness.
- **Today's abolitionist movement:** *"The abolitionist movement has learned that without the actual participation of prisoners, there can be no campaign."* (p. 26)
 - Read about the [abolitionist approach](#) of the [Movement for Black Lives](#), which envisions an end to all prisons and detention facilities as they now exist, and seeks to shift resources into housing, health care, jobs, and schools.
 - Read also about mass incarceration of Palestinians, which is just one of the ways that the Israeli state oppresses the Palestinian people. Dr. Yara Hawari offers an [analysis](#) of recent crackdowns on Palestinian political prisoners. Read about how Palestinian political prisoners exercise their limited agency even under the brutal conditions of Israeli prisons through hunger strikes, such as the [recent hunger strike](#) in Ofer prison.

Chapter Four - On Palestine, G4S, and the Prison-Industrial Complex

- **Connecting South African and Israeli apartheid:** In memorializing Nelson Mandela, Dr. Davis draws connections between South African apartheid and Israeli apartheid. Mandela's grandson Nkosi Zwelivelile discusses these common roots [here](#) and also talks about the common tactics that have been successful in fighting these oppressions, such as boycott, divestment, and sanctions.
- **Decades of Black solidarity with Palestine:** Dr. Davis talks about Nelson Mandela within the context of Black Internationalism. It is important to recognize that Black solidarity with Palestine has existed within this internationalist framework for decades, as evidenced by this [statement of solidarity from 1970](#), and this more recent [2015 statement of solidarity from Black4Palestine](#).
- **BDS:** Learn more about the boycott, divestment, and sanctions tactics discussed by Dr. Davis [here](#), and find tools and resources to plug into existing campaigns!
- **Cross-Movement Building:** A common theme in Dr. Davis's work has been the need to organize across borders, across movements. What does it mean to organize, and how can we do it effectively? Find tools, trainings, and resources in [Together We Rise](#) and [Freedom Bound!](#)