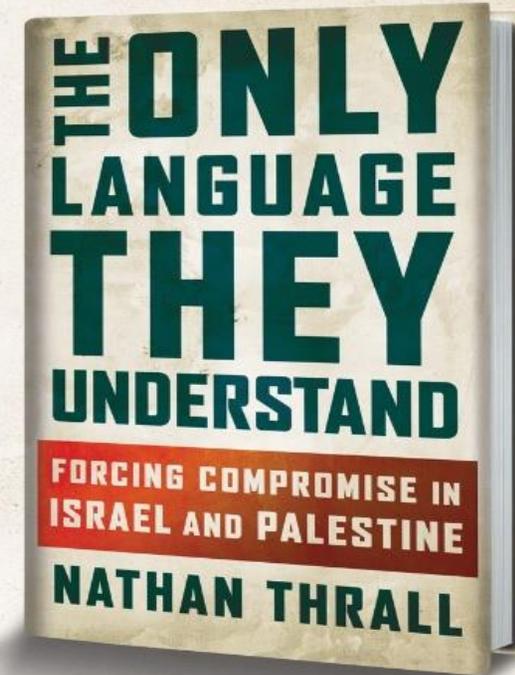


# THE ONLY LANGUAGE THEY UNDERSTAND

## FORCING COMPROMISE IN ISRAEL AND PALESTINE

### NATHAN THRALL



## Book launch

Tuesday, 19<sup>th</sup> September, 6.30pm

**At: Kenyon Institute Garden**

30 Mount of Olives Road

Sheikh Jarrah

(Next to Gallery Café)

Tel: 052-582 8101

[www.kenyon-institute.org](http://www.kenyon-institute.org)

[www.facebook/kenyoninstitute](http://www.facebook/kenyoninstitute)

*This is a joint event between the Kenyon Institute,  
the Educational Bookshop and Dar al-Tifel al-Arabi*

Scattered over the territory between the Jordan River and the Mediterranean Sea lie the remnants of failed peace proposals, international summits, secret negotiations, UN resolutions, and state-building efforts. The conventional story is that these well-meaning attempts at peacemaking were repeatedly, perhaps terminally, thwarted by violence. Through a rich interweaving of reportage, historical narrative, and powerful analysis, **Nathan Thrall** presents a startling counter-history. He shows that force—including but not limited to violence—has impelled each side to make its largest concessions, from Palestinian acceptance of a two-state solution to Israeli territorial withdrawals. This simple fact has been neglected by the world powers, which have expended countless resources on initiatives meant to diminish friction between the parties. By quashing any hint of confrontation, promising an imminent negotiated solution, facilitating security cooperation, developing the institutions of a still unborn Palestinian state, and providing bounteous economic and military assistance, the United States and Europe have merely

entrenched the conflict by lessening the incentives to end it. The book upends the beliefs steering these failed policies, revealing how the aversion of pain, not the promise of peace, has driven compromise for Israelis and Palestinians alike. Published to coincide with the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Israel's occupation of East Jerusalem, the West Bank, and Gaza, which is also the centenary of the Balfour Declaration that first promised a Jewish national home in Palestine, *The Only Language They Understand* provides a new and eye-opening understanding of this most vexed of lands. This book launch event brings the author into discussion with **Diana Buttu**, lawyer and former adviser to the negotiating team of the Palestine Liberation Organization.

*Nathan Thrall is a regular contributor to The New York Review of Books and the London Review of Books, and is a senior analyst with the International Crisis Group, for which he has covered Israel, the West Bank, and Gaza since 2010. Diana Buttu is a lawyer and a former adviser to the negotiating team of the PLO; she is a frequent contributor to The New York Times, The Washington Post, and Al Jazeera.*

**KENYON INSTITUTE**

*Council for British Research in the Levant*



