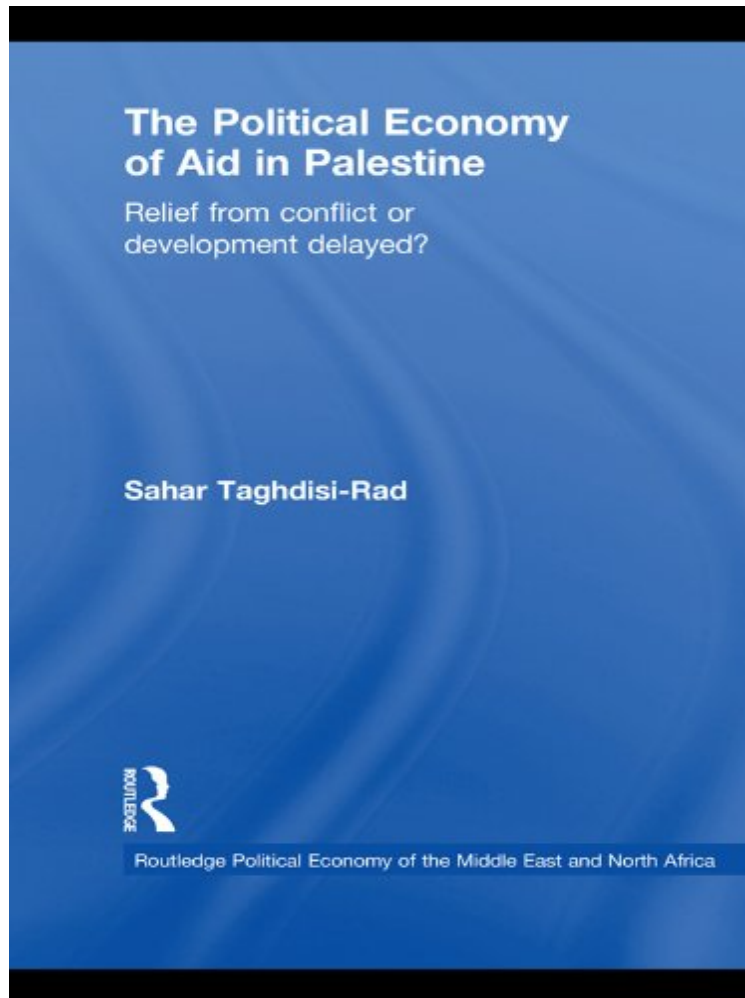


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The Political Economy of Aid in Palestine: Relief from Conflict or Development Delayed? (Routledge Political Economy of the Middle East and North Africa)

Sahar Taghdisi-Rad

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Despite for many years receiving the highest per capita aid worldwide, the economies of the West Bank and Gaza

Strip have failed to achieve any lasting developmental outcomes and suffer from major weaknesses which undermine their very survival. This book argues that the dominant, mainstream approach to the study of aid and aid effectiveness is theoretically and empirically inadequate for a comprehensive understanding and analysis of the workings of aid in developing countries, particularly those undergoing conflict. This book examines the nature of donor operations in Palestine, highlighting the political and ideological determinants of aid allocation and effectiveness, and focussing on the role of trade-related donor assistance in Palestine, more commonly known as Aid for Trade. It discusses how such trade-related assistance is only another instance of donors working 'around' the conflict, as opposed to taking it into account; and how aid to Palestine cannot bring about significant improvement as long as the Palestinian economy is fundamentally affected by Israeli occupation, settlements and blockade. It argues that unless restructured and more carefully targeted, aid can only act as a temporary relief mechanism. Furthermore, the book sheds light on critical areas within Palestinian territories that are in need of development and require significant and immediate attention at both national and international level.

"[T]his book adds an important, distinctive and timely contribution to the scholarly work on Palestine, its economy and the development process. It is a must-read for all actors and scholars that deal with the aid and development industry in Palestine particularly and in the conflict-affected areas generally." - Alaa Tartir, LSE; LSE of Books, 19th July 2012
About the Author Sahar Taghdisi-Rad is currently an economist at the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) in Geneva.