

# Comic Journalism as an Intimate Conduit to the Quotidian Realities in Conflict Zones: A Critique of Joe Sacco's *Palestine*

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## **Abstract**

War, conflicts, and atrocities have been the subject matter for graphic novels for a long time. In such graphic novels, an artist becomes the primary witness, as in the works of Keiji Nakazawa, or a secondary witness, in Spiegelman's accounts of the holocaust. Comics journalism as a genre works towards understanding the nature of war and presenting it to the world through an intimate narrative form where individual experience meets history. Joe Sacco plays a pivotal role in popularizing the genre of comics journalism. Distancing himself from lopsided narratives, Sacco reveals the perspectives of the afflicted by interviewing soldiers and civilians alike. Sacco focuses on personal narratives that are forgotten or intentionally overlooked in political or war journalism and how people react to everyday life during a crisis. Drawing our attention to ordinary lives in extreme times and situations, Sacco takes the reader directly to a particular historical time and space through his panels. These works reveal a facet of life in the war zone that gets ignored behind the façade of the mainstream journalistic narratives. The resignation with which an old woman narrates "This war, it's like that" shows how violence has become a part of everyday life. This paper looks at the genre of comics journalism as an intimate conduit to the quotidian realities of war zones and areas of conflict by analyzing Joe Sacco's work, *Palestine*.

**Keywords :** Comics Journalism, Joe Sacco, Journalism, Graphic Novel, Israel-Palestine Conflict