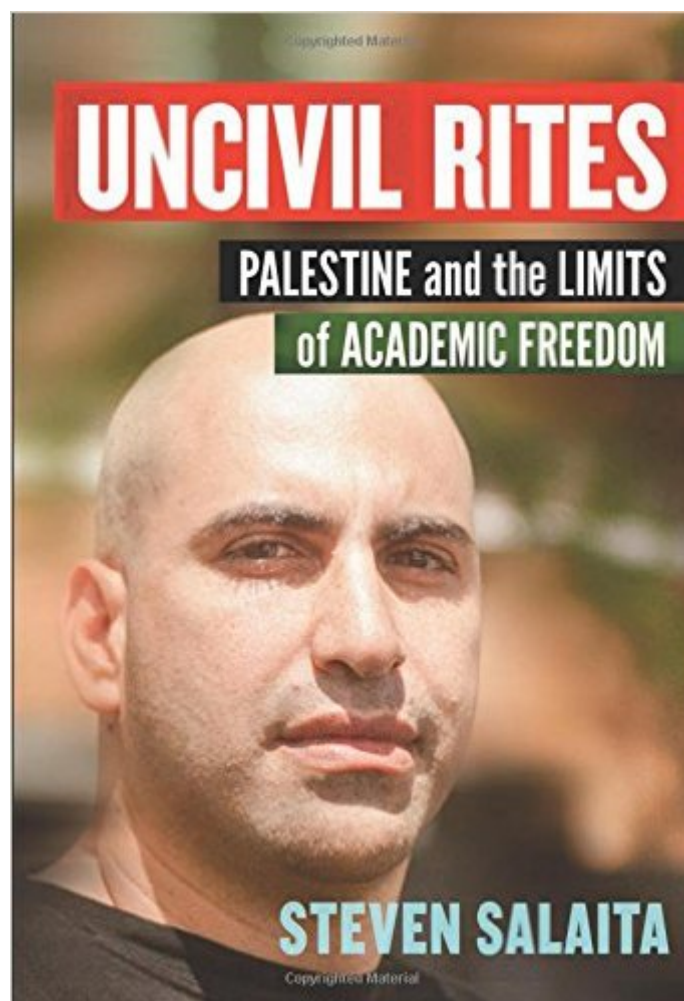


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Uncivil Rites: Palestine And The Limits Of Academic Freedom



Synopsis

In the summer of 2014, renowned American Indian studies professor Steven Salaita had his appointment to a tenured professorship revoked by the board of trustees of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Salaita's employment was terminated in response to his public tweets criticizing the Israeli government's summer assault on Gaza. Salaita's firing generated a huge public outcry, with thousands petitioning for his reinstatement, and more than five thousand scholars pledging to boycott UIUC. His case raises important questions about academic freedom, free speech on campus, and the movement for justice in Palestine. In this book, Salaita combines personal reflection and political critique to shed new light on his controversial termination. He situates his case at the intersection of important issues that affect both higher education and social justice activism.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This book is fabulous! Salaita, the author [and subject], is a college professor who studies colonized peoples, in particular Palestinians. He was offered a tenured position in the Native American Studies program by my alma mater, the University of Illinois in Champaign-Urbana, Illinois (now known as the UIUC, an abbreviation I don't like). He accepted the offer, resigned from his tenured position at Va. Tech, rented out his Virginia house, had his family's possessions ready to be picked up by the U. of Illinois paid moving vans, had made a down payment on a home in Illinois, when, he got a terse email, with an attached terse letter, telling him that his offer of a job would not be

submitted to the University Board of Trustees. This occurred in August 2014, a year after he had accepted the job and on the eve of his departure for Illinois, just weeks before the fall semester, during which he was to teach two classes, was to begin. Though all of the details have yet to emerge, what is clear is that the job was retracted because of opinions and observations he had tweeted during the summer of 2014 about the assault on the residents of the Gaza strip by the State of Israel. Influential donors (apparently) and stupid, simply stupid trustees, decided that criticism of Israel was "anti-Semitic". [which would mean, using the same logic, that any criticism of the US government is "unpatriotic", a label the right-wing threw around in the aftermath of 9/11 as draconian invasive civil rights violations were being engrafted into US law]. My alma mater, in one of the dumbest and clumsiest moves ever, decided to knuckle under to this claim, and tried to "unhire" Salaita.

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