

# Sikkum

## TIKKUN RECOMMENDS...

### OTHER LANDS HAVE DREAMS: From Baghdad to Pekin Prison

Kathy Kelly, Counterpunch/AK Press, 2005

Kathy Kelly is someone you ought to know. As founder of Chicago's Voices in the Wilderness, during the 1990s, Kelly was responsible for highlighting the inhumanity of the post-Gulf War sanctions against Iraq. Smuggling desperately needed food and medicine into the country, this three-time nominee for the Nobel Peace Prize was sentenced to a brief stint in prison in 2004 for trespassing at Fort Benning, Georgia as part of a protest against the School of Americas. Also a Catholic Worker Movement member, and a veteran of numerous Christian Peace Teams, *Other Lands* is Kelly's inspiring first memoir.



### PICTURE IMPERFECT: Utopian Thought for an Anti-Utopian Age

Russell Jacoby, Columbia University Press, 2005

If 9/11 rendered anything irrelevant, it was post-modernism. Along with the reemergence of traditional revolutionary organizations like International Answer came a return to empiricism and old-fashioned materialism. If Russell Jacoby has anything to say about this situation, it will not stand. Assembling a timely collection of essays arguing that it is time to look back to the utopian tradition of twentieth-century political thinking—Walter Benjamin, Theodor Adorno, and Ernst Bloch—Jacoby argues on behalf of the political necessity of reviving Western Marxism and its predominantly Jewish intellectual progenitors. Essential.



### RHYTHM AND BUSINESS: The Political Economy of Black Music

Edited by Norman Kelley, Akashic Books, 2005

Turn on MTV, VH1, or Fuse, and chances are you'll see a hip-hop video. African American music dominates the screen—as well as the charts. As much as this might seem a metaphor for success and integration, according to Norman Kelley and his stellar cast of contributors—Jeff Chang, Chuck D, and even Courtney Love to name just a few—all is not what it seems. Artists still get ripped off, and African Americans, despite their immense presence in the music market, still suffer from systemic discrimination. The first paperback edition of this 2002 volume, *Rhythm and Business* is even more relevant now than it was when first published.



### THE ONE-STATE SOLUTION: A Breakthrough for Peace in the Israeli-Palestinian Deadlock

Virginia Tilley, University of Michigan Press, 2005

Irrespective of how unrealistic a one-state solution to the Israeli/Palestinian conflict might seem, there is much ingenuity and thoughtfulness being applied to thinking through the alternatives right now. Virginia Tilley's book is perhaps the best piece of new writing exploring the one-state solution. Even if you don't agree with her vision of a future Israel/Palestine, her analysis of the factors that would make separating the two peoples practically impossible is utterly sobering and worth taking seriously.



### TALKING TO THE ENEMY

Avner Mandelman, Seven Stories Press, 2005

To say that Jewish literature is going through a renaissance remains the understatement of the year. The problem with the new "Jewish" canon that is emerging is that it never includes Israelis, who, even in the form of globetrotting ex-pats like Avner Mandelman, are churning out the most political—and thoughtful—Jewish fiction today. The first American printing of this award-winning collection of short stories, *Talking to the Enemy* captures the psychological and emotional contradictions of everyday Israeli life like no other literary work in recent memory.



### THE FIVE: A Novel of Jewish Life In Turn-of-the-Century Odessa

Vladimir Jabotinsky, Translated by Michael R. Katz, Cornell University Press, 2005

How strange to read through the pages of this sad fictional account of Irgun founder Vladimir (nee Ze'ev) Jabotinsky's hometown of Odessa. The sense of conflict you can hear in his voice—clear disappointment at the inability of Jews to successfully assimilate within the Russian empire—is a wonderful key for understanding the rage that animated Jabotinsky's violent brand of Zionist nationalism. While Jabotinsky is clearly no Isaac Babel, the quality of his prose in this new translation by Michael Katz is truly stunning.

