

# Dissident Soldiers in Militaristic Society: The Case of Israel (2000-2005)

## Phenomenon

- Emergence of soldiers' protest groups amidst a violent conflict.
- Transformation: from a protest limited to 'justice in war' to wider dissent about 'an unjust war' .

## Context

- Conscription system and military service as constituting processes of citizenship.
- Social, political, institutional, cultural, economic and technological centrality of the military.
- Blurred boundaries between civil and military: militaristic culture in the civil, and civilian culture in the military.
- Eruption of Palestinian Intifada and the collapse of Oslo Peace Accord – political and social crisis.



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## Arguments

- Enjoying a symbolic, social and political capital, the soldiers were uniquely equipped and positioned to transform their contention into political action.
- Unintentionally the soldiers created a subversive movement that challenged Israel's militaristic social order.
- Ironically, the soldiers' identity of 'citizen-warrior' was used to undermine the militaristic culture which produced that very identity.

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