



PRESS RELEASE

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**UNIVERSITY PRESSES OFFER INFORMATION
RESOURCE ON EVENTS IN KASHMIR AND ISRAEL**

*“Books For Understanding” Lists Available Experts and Books
For Both General and Special Interest Audiences*

NEW YORK (June 24, 2002) – “Books For Understanding” – the permanent, easy-to-use online resource for anyone looking for in-depth information, research, and expertise on the news of the day – now includes lists of university press titles on Kashmir and the Israeli/Palestinian conflict. The service is only available on the Association of American University Presses (AAUP) website <http://www.booksforunderstanding.org>.

“Books For Understanding” launched the month following the terrorist attacks on New York and Washington to help teachers, scholars, journalists, librarians, and booksellers find necessary information. The September 11, 2001, list eventually grew to include more than 650 books from 64 university presses, and is still available as an archived list on the site. Today, AAUP continues that public service for two of news stories of great immediate concern: the tensions between India and Pakistan over the region of Kashmir, and the ongoing crisis in Israeli and Palestinian relations.

“Journalists’ Resources”—a section for members of the media—contains detailed contact information for authors available to talk with the press. For many of the books listed, the publishers have also indicated whether the titles are primarily directed to a general reader or to a special interest/scholarly audience. Every book listed is in print or soon to be published, available at bookstores, libraries, online booksellers, or directly from the presses.

“We want *Books for Understanding* to be a constantly expanding, relevant source of the information and resources available in the world of university presses,” said Peter Givler, AAUP Executive Director. “These authors are often in the position of having already published books on subjects central to our understanding new and difficult situations. Many of them are also the leading experts in their fields with books and ideas that can help in understanding of cultures, policies, and historical consequences throughout the world.”

Among the titles on the new lists are:

- *The Tiger Ladies: A Memoir of Kashmir*, by Sudha Koul (Beacon Press, May 2002)—general interest title.

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- *Conflict Unending: India-Pakistan Tensions Since 1947*, by Sumit Ganguly (Columbia University Press, March 2002)—author available for media interviews.
- *Middle East Military Balance, 2001–2002*, by Shlomo Brom and Yiftah Shapir (The MIT Press, Forthcoming 2002)—special interest.
- *Divided Jerusalem: Struggle for the Holy City*, by Bernard Wasserstein (Yale University Press, 2002)—general interest title.

“Books for Understanding” was sparked by Sanford Thatcher, Director of Pennsylvania State University Press. Immediately after September 11, he noticed a surge of requests for two backlist titles on terrorism and approached AAUP with a request to compile a field-wide listing for people looking for information and insight. The Association of American University Presses is the world’s largest organization of not-for-profit scholarly publishers. Formally established in 1937, AAUP promotes the work and influence of its 121 university press members.