



Recommended Reading List

Winter 2015 Edition ~ Long Descriptions

Want to brush up before a trip to Israel? Need a solid history of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict? Looking to view the issues through a personal lens, or perhaps even with a touch of humor? Look no further. Here are J Street's recommended reads for the pro-Israel, pro-peace community. While this list is admittedly not comprehensive, we think you'll find something here that sparks your curiosity. Note that this is a compilation of suggested reading material, not an endorsement of any particular viewpoint. Other favorites to recommend? Send them to programs@jstreet.org.

Short List

***Side by Side: Parallel Histories of Israel-Palestine*, Sami Adwan et al.** 2011. An innovative account of Israeli and Palestinian history that presents two perspectives on each page.

***The Crisis of Zionism*, Peter Beinart.** 2012. A courageous critique of the Jewish American establishment's relationship to Israel.

***A New Voice for Israel: Fighting for the Survival of the Jewish Nation*, Jeremy Ben-Ami.** 2011. J Street's founder and president lays out a new direction for both American policy and the debate over Israel in the American Jewish community. Please visit jstreet.org/education and see the Books section to download the *New Voice for Israel* discussion guide.

***Scars of War, Wounds of Peace: The Israeli-Arab Tragedy*, Shlomo Ben-Ami.** 2007. An insider's perspective and even-handed representation of the Arab-Israeli conflict from the birth of Zionism until today.

****Israeli Peacemaking Since 1967: Factors Behind the Breakthroughs and Failures*, Galia Golan.** 2014. A comprehensive review of the internal and external factors that have contributed to the successes and failures of Israeli peace initiatives.

***Pathways to Peace: America and the Arab-Israeli Conflict*, Daniel Kurtzer, ed.** 2012. Former Ambassador to Israel Daniel Kurtzer puts forward the best ideas from fellow experts and dignitaries about how the new US administration can secure a two-state solution. Please visit jstreet.org/education and see the Books section to download the *Pathways to Peace* discussion guide.

***A Tale of Love and Darkness*, Amos Oz.** 2004. A powerful memoir/family history of a native Israeli and prolific author, his family and the nation of Israel.

***My Promised Land: The Triumph and Tragedy of Israel*, Ari Shavit.** 2013. This personal and historical narrative uses the defining events of the past to shed new light on the present, culminating with an analysis of the issues and threats that Israel is currently facing.

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The End of Days, Gershom Gorenberg

The Unmaking of Israel, Gershom Gorenberg

The Yellow Wind, David Grossman

Track-Two Diplomacy toward an Israeli-Palestinian Solution, Yair Hirschfeld

1973: The Road to War, Yigal Kipnis

**Lives in Common*, Menachem Klein

O Jerusalem, Dominique Lapierre and Larry Collins

A History of Zionism, Walter Laquer

Republic, Lost, Lawrence Lessig

Much Too Promised Land, Aaron David Miller

Israel/Palestine and the Politics of a Two-State Solution, Thomas G. Mitchell

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The Israel-Palestine Conflict, Neil Caplan
History of the Modern Middle East, William Cleveland
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Crimes of the City, Robert Rosenberg

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Waging Peace: Israel and the Arabs, 1948-2003, Itamar Rabinovich

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**The Cat at the Wall*, Deborah Ellis

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America and Israel

Tested by Zion: The Bush Administration and the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict, Elliott Abrams. Cambridge University Press, 2013. An inside look at the Bush administration's policies toward Israel and the Palestinians by a prominent former National Security Council officer.

A former Bush administration insider and top national security expert, Elliott Abrams deftly describes and analyzes the relationship between the United States, Israel and the Palestinians during the Bush presidency. As an important voice in the room who was present for many major policy decisions, Abrams explains how events such as the 9/11 attacks and the Israeli disengagement from Gaza and political players as diverse as the Saudi royal family, Hosni Mubarak and Yasir Arafat impacted the reality on the ground. The first book about American Middle East policy during the Bush years to be written by a former member of the administration, Abrams helps to explain what went right and wrong in the peace process and why.

The Crisis of Zionism, Peter Beinart. Holt, Henry & Company, Inc., 2012. A courageous critique of the Jewish American establishment's relationship to Israel.

Beinart, a liberal, modern Orthodox American, criticizes Israel's stagnancy in ending the occupation, focusing primarily on the Jewish American role in aiding the settlement movement and therefore hurting the prospects for a negotiated peace. Beinart controversially calls for Jewish Americans to join a boycott of settlement goods in order to move toward a two-state solution, the only viable path to ensuring a democratic and Jewish future for Israel.

A New Voice for Israel: Fighting for the Survival of the Jewish Nation, Jeremy Ben-Ami. Palgrave Macmillan, 2011. J Street's founder and president lays out a new direction for both American policy and the debate over Israel in the American Jewish community.

Many Americans who care about Israel's future are questioning whether the hard-line, uncritical stances adopted by many traditional pro-Israel advocates really serve the Israel's best interests over the long-term. Our very own Jeremy Ben-Ami, founder of J Street, the new pro-Israel, pro-peace political movement, punctures many of the myths that have long guided our understanding of the politics of the American Jewish community and have been fundamental to how pro-Israel advocates have pursued their work.

Transforming America's Israel Lobby, Dan Fleshler. Potomac Books, 2009. A level-headed analysis of America's Israel lobby, published a year into J Street's existence.

Fleshler offers a clear-eyed and dispassionate assessment of what he terms the conventional Israel lobby and its real and imagined influence on Congress and the president. The book accurately explains Jewish-American fears about criticism of Israel, acknowledging legitimate historical anxieties even as Fleshler calls on young and unaffiliated members of the community to lead new lobbying efforts on behalf of a less divisive approach to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Jewish Power, J.J. Goldberg. Potomac Books, 2009. A revealing glimpse at Jewish organizations, money, and political power in the United States.

In a trenchant, provocative probe of American Jewish power politics, Goldberg, the New York-based contributing editor for the Israeli newsmagazine *Jerusalem Report*, challenges conventional wisdom on many fronts. He covers provocative topics such as liberalism in American Jews, Jews and the Cold War, how Jews vote and the rise of the Israel lobby. He also discusses the history of black-Jewish relations, mainly focusing his analysis on the relationship between New York City's Orthodox

and African American communities.

Innocent Abroad: An Intimate Account of American Peace Diplomacy in the Middle East, Martin Indyk. Simon & Schuster, 2009. An insider's examination of the failures and successes of the Clinton administration's peacemaking attempts in Israel, the Palestinian Territories and throughout the Middle East.

A former American ambassador to Israel and Assistant Secretary of State under President Clinton, Martin Indyk was privy to many of the most prominent developments in the Middle East and helped shape American policy toward the Israelis and Palestinians at the height of the post-Oslo peace process. Indyk provides a fascinating examination of the ironic consequences when American naïveté meets Middle Eastern cynicism in the region's political bazaars. Indyk provides new details of the breakdown of the Arab-Israeli peace talks at Camp David, of the CIA's failure to overthrow Saddam Hussein and of Clinton's attempts to negotiate with Iran's president. He describes in vivid detail high-level meetings, demonstrating how difficult it is for American presidents to understand the motives and intentions of Middle Eastern leaders and how easy it is for them to miss those rare moments when these leaders are willing to act in ways that can produce breakthroughs to peace.

Pathways to Peace: America and the Arab-Israeli Conflict, Daniel Kurtzer, ed. Palgrave Macmillan, 2012. Former Ambassador to Israel Daniel Kurtzer puts forward the best ideas from fellow experts and dignitaries about how the new US administration can secure a two-state solution.

Upheavals in the Middle East are challenging long-held assumptions about politics and governance. The United States faces a moment of truth when half-measures, short-sighted expedients and delays can no longer sustain an untenable status quo. This is as true in the Arab-Israeli peace process as it is in the politics of the Arab uprisings. This volume of essays argues that it is time for the United States to make a serious effort to advance Palestinian-Israeli peace. The issues in dispute are well-known, thoroughly debated and resolvable. Intense, smart, determined, creative and sustained American leadership can help regional leaders bridge their differences.

Righteous Indignation: a Jewish Call for Justice, by Or Rose, Jo Ellen Green Kaiser, and Margie Klein, eds. Jewish Lights Publishing, 2007. Essays exploring Judaism, social justice, environmental responsibility and Middle East peace.

The contributors, who are activists, intellectuals and spiritual leaders, broadly interpret their mission, touching on topics such as social justice, toxic waste, renewable energy, stem cell research, domestic violence and Middle East peace. Many touch on the Jewish imperative, *tikkun olam* — mending the world — and how we might better accomplish it. The authors recommend more than service; they encourage community involvement in changing social systems for the better. The book promotes a 21st-century approach towards social action, reform and justice.

The New American Zionism, Theodore Sasson. NYU Press, 2013. A noted professor argues that the American Jewish community is not becoming less supportive of Israel, but rather that the American Jewish-Israeli relationship is transforming from being based around mobilization in support of Israel to one in which personal engagement with Israel is key.

In *The New American Zionism*, Theodore Sasson argues that we are fundamentally misunderstanding the new relationship between American Jews and Israel. Sasson shows that we are in the midst of a shift from a “mobilization” approach, which first emerged with the new state and focused on supporting Israel through big, centralized organizations, to an “engagement” approach marked by direct and personal relations with the Jewish state as growing numbers of American Jews

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travel to Israel, consume Israeli news and culture and connect with their Israeli peers via cyberspace and through formal exchange programs.

**Freedom of Speech: Mightier than the Sword*, David Shipler. Random House, 2015. A look at the deterioration of the right of freedom of speech, with a portion dedicated to the controversy regarding Theater J, a leading Jewish arts organization based in Washington, DC that has come under fire for the way Israel is portrayed in some of its productions.

Pulitzer Prize winning author of *Arab and Jew* and *The Working Poor* David Shipler now turns his focus to what he sees as an increasingly endangered American ideal, the freedom of speech. He explores shifts in political and cultural norms that surround this basic right through a variety of lenses, including movements to ban certain works of literature at schools and a trend by national security reporters to use methods more often seen in dictatorships in order to avoid leak prosecution. Shipler dedicates a portion of his book to the recent controversy regarding whether Theater J would stage the play *The Admission*, in order to explore the limits of open discourse when it comes to Israel.

Narrative / Biography

I Shall Not Hate: A Gaza Doctor's Journey on the Road to Peace and Human Dignity, Izzeldin Abuelaish. Walker & Company, 2012. A story of grief and forgiveness and a plea for coexistence by a prominent Gazan doctor who lost three daughters to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

A Harvard-educated doctor who was the first Palestinian to receive a staff position at an Israeli hospital, Izzeldin Abuelaish relates his experiences as a resident of Gaza, his anger and grief after the death of three of his daughters by Israeli fire and his desire for peace and forgiveness between Israelis and Palestinians. Despite the difficult situation that he lives in and his own personal losses, Abuelaish refuses to blame one side or the other, seeking instead to encourage Israeli and Palestinians to overcome their preconceptions of the other side and work together for a peaceful, violence-free future. The memoir serves as a testament to the pain and suffering felt by people on both sides of the conflict and to the power of hope despite all odds.

The Hour of Sunlight: One Palestinian's Journey from Prisoner to Peacemaker, Sami al Jundi and Jen Marlowe. Nation Books, 2011. Marked by honesty and compassion for Palestinians and Israelis alike, this memoir of Seeds of Peace's Middle East program co-founder illuminates the Palestinian experience through the story of one man's struggle for peace.

As a teenager, Sami al Jundi had one ambition: overthrowing Israeli occupation. With two friends, he began to build a bomb to use against the police. But when it exploded prematurely, killing one of his friends, al Jundi was caught and sentenced to ten years in prison. It was in an Israeli jail that his unlikely transformation began. Al Jundi was welcomed into a highly organized, democratic community of political prisoners who required that members of their cell read and engage in political discourse on topics ranging from global revolutions to the precepts of nonviolent protest and revolution. Al Jundi left prison still determined to fight for his people's rights—but with a very different notion of how to undertake that struggle. He co-founded the Middle East program of Seeds of Peace Center for Coexistence, which brings together Palestinian and Israeli youth.

**This Side of Peace*, Hanan Ashrawi. Touchstone Publishing, 1996. Written by a current executive member of the PLO, this autobiography gives an insider view of the history that shaped the current events.

This autobiography, written by one of the most influential women in the Arab world, sheds light on the tensions felt between the Palestinians inside and outside of the Palestinian Territory. Ashrawi writes

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extensive descriptions of the various peace process talks between the Israelis and the Palestinians, offering a unique insider voice. Her disclosure of behind-the-scenes debates and political maneuvers make this book essential reading for anyone looking to understand the politics of the Middle East.

A Zionist Among Palestinians, Hillel Bardin (author), Mubarak Awad and Edy Kaufman (foreword). Indiana University Press, 2012. From a founder of the Association of Civil Rights in Israel comes this memoir of an ordinary Israeli citizen who became concerned about the Israeli military's treatment of Palestinians and was moved to work for peace.

Hillel Bardin, a confirmed Zionist, was a reservist in the Israeli army during the first intifada when he met Palestinians arrested by his unit. He learned that they supported peace with Israel and the then-taboo proposal for a two-state solution, and that they understood the intifada as a struggle to achieve these goals. Bardin began to organize dialogues between Arabs and Israelis in West Bank villages, towns and refugee camps. In 1988, he was jailed for meeting with Palestinians while on active duty in Ramallah. Over the next two decades, he participated in a variety of peace organizations and actions. In this very personal account, Bardin tries to come to grips with the conflict in a way that takes account of both Israeli-Zionist and Palestinian aims.

Scars of War, Wounds of Peace: The Israeli-Arab Tragedy, Shlomo Ben-Ami. Oxford University Press, 2007. An insider's perspective and evenhanded representation of the Arab-Israeli conflict from the birth of Zionism until today.

The author served both as Israel's Minister of Foreign Affairs and as Israel's Minister of Public Security. He quotes sources from both sides of the conflict representing many points of view. Ben-Ami proves perfectly willing to represent and criticize both sides. He is as critical of David Ben-Gurion (for his paranoid and messianic vision of territorial conquest) as he is of Yasser Arafat (for his self-serving political maneuvers and tactical blunders). It is clear that comprehensive understanding and mutual respect are motives for the author, who bore personal witness to the collapse of the Camp David summit led by Bill Clinton in 2000.

Crossing Mandelbaum Gate: Coming of Age Between the Arabs and Israelis, 1956-1978, Kai Bird. Scribner, 2010. A touching memoir that puts a human face on each side of the conflict, incorporating the author's experiences living in many different Middle Eastern countries.

The story is a memoir/history hybrid that weaves together recollections of Bird's childhood in Israel, Saudi Arabia and Egypt. It includes details about his wife's Holocaust-survivor parents, the author's American family's friends (including Osama bin Laden's elder brother), his years in India and the US during the heyday of the antiwar movement of the '60s. The Mandelbaum Gate – referenced in the book's title – once separated Israeli-controlled Western Jerusalem from the Jordanian-controlled East.

The Good Spy: The Life and Death of Robert Ames, Kai Bird. Crown, 2014. Pulitzer Prize-winning biographer Kai Bird's compels a portrait of the remarkable life and death of one of the most important operatives in CIA history – a man who, had he lived, might have helped heal the rift between Arabs and the West.

On April 18, 1983, a bomb exploded outside the American Embassy in Beirut, killing 63 people. The attack was a geopolitical turning point. It marked the beginning of Hezbollah as a political force, but even more important, it eliminated America's most influential and effective intelligence officer in the Middle East – CIA operative Robert Ames. Bird, who as a child lived in the Beirut Embassy and knew Ames as a neighbor when he was twelve years old, spent years researching *The Good Spy*. Not only does the book draw on hours of interviews with Ames' widow, and quotes from

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hundreds of Ames' private letters, it's woven from interviews with scores of current and former American, Israeli and Palestinian intelligence officers as well as other players in the Middle East "Great Game."

Revenge: A Story of Hope, Laura Blumenfeld. Simon and Schuster, 2002. The new member of the negotiating team headed by Martin Indyk, US Special Envoy to the Israeli-Palestinian negotiations, outlines her search for vengeance against her father's shooter and her realization that the story is more complex than she initially imagined.

After her father was shot in Jerusalem in 1986, Blumenfeld embarked on a journey of revenge. Plotting to infiltrate the shooter's life, she conducts interviews with avengers ranging from Yigal Amir to fifth-grade girls, exploring the dynamics of hate—and the fine line that sometimes separates it from love. Ultimately, Blumenfeld's target is more complex than the stereotypical terrorist she had long imagined. In a surprising twist, she gets revenge, but not according to traditional expectations. She discovers a third way, a choice beyond "turn the other cheek" and "an eye for an eye," and with it she answers the age-old question: what is the best revenge?

Our Harsh Logic: Israeli Soldiers' Testimonies from the Occupied Territories, 2000-2010, Breaking the Silence. Metropolitan Books, 2012. From the Israeli organization Shovrim Shtika (Breaking the Silence) comes the first book of Israeli soldiers' testimonials about serving in the Palestinian territories.

The very name of the Israel Defense Forces—which many Israelis speak of as "the most moral army in the world"—suggests that its primary mission is the defense of the country's territory. Indeed, both internationally and within Israel, support for the occupation of Palestinian territory rests on the belief that the army's actions and presence in the West Bank and Gaza are essentially defensive and responsive, aimed at protecting the country from terror. But Israeli soldiers themselves tell a profoundly different story. In this landmark work, which includes hundreds of soldiers' testimonies collected over a decade, what emerges is a broad policy that is anything but defensive. The many soldiers who have spoken out have taken aim at a silence of complicity – both within Israel and in the wider world – that perpetuates the justification for occupation.

Exile in the Promised Land, Marcia Freedman. Firebrand, 1990. The story of an American immigrant to Israel who became an outspoken feminist, peace activist and was unexpectedly elected as a member of the Knesset.

An American who immigrated to Israel with her family in the wake of the Six Day War, Marcia Freedman pointedly describes her personal transformation during her time in the Holy Land and how those changes mirrored developments in the state. At its core, this book is the story of an American housewife turned outspoken Israeli feminist, Knesset member and peacemaker and of the personal journey that led Freedman to be an active voice for a two-state solution at a time when such a proposed resolution had few supporters in the Jewish state.

Next Year In Jerusalem: Everyday Life In A Divided Land, Daphna Golan-Agnon and Janine Woolfson, translator. The New Press, 2005. A moving memoir from one of Israel's courageous and eloquent voices for a more just Israeli society.

Daphna Golan-Agnon has gained international recognition as one of the most courageous and eloquent voices for a more just Israeli society. In this moving memoir, she writes of her early years in a right-wing Israeli household as the daughter of a former member of the Stern Gang, her marriage into the family of the country's most eminent novelist and her efforts to raise children in a society caught up in violence and instability while working simultaneously for political change.

Prisoners: A Story of Friendship and Terror, Jeffrey Goldberg. Vintage, 2008. The true story of friendship between an American Jewish prison guard and a Palestinian prisoner.

During the first Palestinian uprising in 1990, Jeffrey Goldberg – an American Jew – served as a guard at the largest prison camp in Israel. One of his prisoners was Rafiq, a rising leader in the PLO. Overcoming their fears and prejudices, the two men began a dialogue that, over more than a decade, grew into a remarkable friendship. Goldberg describes their relationship and their confrontations over religious, cultural and political differences; through these discussions, he attempts to make sense of the conflicts in this embattled region, revealing the truths that lie buried within the animosities of the Middle East.

Like Dreamers: The Story of the Israeli Paratroopers Who Reunited Jerusalem and Divided a Nation, Yossi Halevi. HarperCollins Publishers, 2013. Journalist Yossi Halevi interweaves the stories of a group of 1967 paratroopers who reunited Jerusalem, tracing the history of Israel and the divergent ideologies shaping it from the Six-Day War to the present.

Following the lives of seven young members from the 55th Paratroopers Reserve Brigade, the unit responsible for restoring Jewish sovereignty to Jerusalem, Halevi reveals how this band of brothers played pivotal roles in shaping Israel's destiny long after their historic victory. While they worked together to reunite their country in 1967, these men harbored drastically different visions for Israel's future. From a leader of the settler movement to a member of an anti-Zionist underground, this book takes a nuanced, in-depth look at these diverse men and the conflicting beliefs that have helped to define modern Israel and the Middle East.

What Do You Buy the Children of the Terrorist Who Tried to Kill Your Wife? David Harris-Gershon. Oneworld Publications, 2013. After his wife is seriously injured in a terrorist attack at Hebrew University, an American immigrant to Israel seeks to discover the motivations behind the act and meet the perpetrator and his family.

David Harris-Gershon and his wife, Jamie, moved to Jerusalem full of hope. Then, in the midst of a historic cease-fire between Israel and the Palestinians, a bomb shrieked through Hebrew University's cafeteria. Jamie was hurled across the room, her body burned and sliced with shrapnel; the friends sitting next to her were instantly killed. David was desperate for answers—Why now? Why here? Why my wife? But when a doctor handed him some shrapnel removed from Jamie's body, he refused to accept that this bit of metal made him another traumatized victim who would never be able to move on. Instead, he dug into Israeli government records to uncover what triggered the attack, then returned to East Jerusalem to meet the terrorist and his family.

Enemy in the Promised Land, Sana Hassan. Schocken Books, 1988. An eye-opening memoir of a young Egyptian woman who defied boundaries and ventured to Israel years before Sadat's historic visit.

In 1974, as a 23-year-old graduate student at Harvard, Hassan, daughter of a former Egyptian ambassador to the US, made an extended visit to Israel, an act considered traitorous less than a year after the Yom Kippur War. This is an absorbing account of her headstrong encounters with leading politicians, radical Socialist kibbutzniks, zealous converts to Judaism, Sephardic prostitutes and Israeli Arabs.

Arik: The Life of Ariel Sharon, David Landau. Knopf Publishing Group, 2014. Following the chronicles of this former Israeli prime minister's epic political and military battles, we are introduced to Sharon's surprising journey from ruthless military commander to what Landau calls a "national father figure."

When Ariel Sharon was elected prime minister of Israel in a landslide 13 years ago, many close to

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David Landau, a left-leaning British-born Israeli journalist, thought seriously of leaving the country. The future under Sharon, it seemed to them, held only war and bloodshed. Yet when Prime Minister Sharon collapsed from a stroke less than five years later, “We wept,” Landau writes. “Not just for him; for ourselves.”

Out of Palestine: The Making of Modern Israel, Hadara Lazar. Atlas Books, 2011. A prominent Israeli journalist interviews a variety of residents of British Mandate Palestine to explore the establishment of the state of Israel from a more personal perspective.

In her book, recently published for the first time in English, Hadara Lazar weaves together the personal stories of a variety of Jews, Arabs and former British officials to create a depiction of life in Mandate Palestine that constitutes a collection of personal narratives as opposed to a purely historical text. In particular, she focuses on the stories of regular people who recount their lives and how the end of the Mandate and the creation of Israel affected them. A journalist and prominent Israeli writer, Lazar distills the various vignettes, tying them together in a way that creates a unified text while ensuring that each voice, regardless of background or experiences, remains unique.

Inheriting the Holy Land, Jennifer Miller. Ballantine Books, 2005. A broad exploration – from the highest leaders to children on the street – of many different viewpoints and pre-conceptions of the people involved in the conflict.

Writing with fierce honesty, Miller has created a synthesis of history, reporting and coming-of-age memoir. Her groundbreaking perspective on the conflict is presented with interviews with young Israelis and Palestinians and conversations with some of the most influential officials involved in the Middle East, including Shimon Peres, Yasser Arafat, James Baker, Benjamin Netanyahu, Colin Powell, Ehud Barak and Mahmoud Abbas.

Jerusalem: A Biography, Simon Sebag Montefiore. Knopf, 2011. A magnificent and comprehensive portrait of Jerusalem.

Montefiore tells the story of how a remote town came to be the Holy City, a shrine for three faiths and a capital for two peoples. Jerusalem’s biography unfolds through the stories of the individuals who visited and thrived there, from the ancient world of Herod, the biblical tales of Abraham, Muhammad and Jesus, to contemporary figures such as Mark Twain.

Once Upon a Country, Sari Nusseibeh with Anthony David. Farrar, Strauss, and Giroux, 2007. An autobiography of Nusseibeh’s life while displaced, which discusses the history of the conflict as well as the contemporary situation.

Nusseibeh, a former PLO representative and former president of Al Quds University in Jerusalem, writes from a politically involved and socially aware vantage point. His interactions with politicians and university students and faculty shape his story. Nusseibeh’s immersion into national politics plays out against the backdrop of the memory of his father (an independent former Jordanian minister and governor of Jerusalem). He shares Palestinian perspectives on the expulsions and deprivations during and after the wars of 1948, 1967 and beyond. Nusseibeh interweaves personal experience and tectonic historical shifts, while charting his own political evolution and insistence on a two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

A Tale of Love and Darkness, Amos Oz. Houton McFillin Harcourt, 2004. A powerful memoir/family history of a native Israeli and prolific author, his family and the nation of Israel.

The tale follows the author’s ancestors back to 19th-century Ukraine and describes the anti-Semitism

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and Zionist passions that drove them to Palestine in the 1930s. Oz's father, a scholar, failed to attain the academic distinction of his uncle, the noted historian Joseph Klausner, and his long-depressed mother committed suicide when Oz was 12. His personal trajectory is set against the background of an embattled Palestine during World War II, the jubilation after the UN vote to partition Palestine and create a Jewish state, the violence and deprivations of Israel's War of Independence and the months-long Arab siege of Jerusalem.

In the Land of Israel, by Amos Oz. Mariner Books, 2003. An account of Oz's travels through Israel and the West Bank.

Oz traveled throughout Israel and the West Bank in the 1980s and spoke with many people about the past, present, and future of his country. What he found is memorably set down in this book.

Rabin: Our Life, His Legacy, Leah Rabin. G.P Putnam Sons, 1997. Leah Rabin, Yitzhak Rabin's wife, recounts her husband's life up to his murder.

She shares the details of their courtship and their marriage and discusses his roles as a talented military tactician, chief of staff of the IDF (during the 1967 Six Day War), Israeli ambassador to the United States, cabinet minister to Golda Meir (after Yom Kippur Day War) and Israel's sixth and youngest prime minister in 1974.

My Promised Land: The Triumph and Tragedy of Israel, Ari Shavit. Siegal and Grau, 2013. This personal and historical narrative uses the defining events of the past to shed new light on the present, culminating with an analysis of the issues and threats that Israel is currently facing.

Facing unprecedented internal and external pressures, Israel today is at a moment of existential crisis. Ari Shavit, a senior Haaretz correspondent, draws on interviews, historical documents, private diaries and letters, as well as his own family's story, to illuminate the pivotal moments of the Zionist century and tell a riveting narrative of Israel that is larger than the sum of its parts: both personal and national, both deeply human and of profound historical dimension.

The Lemon Tree: An Arab, a Jew, and the Heart of the Middle East, by Sandy Tolan. Bloomsbury, 2006. A journey through the conflict through the nuanced lens of one house and its inhabitants.

Tolan focuses on one small stone house in Ramla—once an Arab community but now Jewish. Built in 1936 by an Arab family but acquired by a Jewish family after the Israelis captured the city in 1948, this simple stone house has anchored for decades the hopes of both its displaced former owners and its new Jewish occupants. With remarkable sensitivity to both families' grievances, Tolan chronicles the unlikely chain of events that in 1967 brought a long-dispossessed Palestinian son to the threshold of his former home.

Arafat: In the Eyes of the Beholder, Janet and John Wallach. Citadel, 1997. A biography of Yasser Arafat.

The authors spent three months interviewing and speaking with Arafat and other PLO officials in Tunis. They met with Egyptian officials and Arafat's family members in Egypt. In Syria, Janet and John interviewed radical anti-Arafat Palestinian groups. In Jordan, they held meetings with Arafat confidantes and family members, and conducted an extensive interview with His Majesty, the late King Hussein. In Israel, they interviewed leading officials and met with the Defense Minister, the late Yitzhak Rabin.

Graphic Novels / Memoirs

Waltz with Bashir: A Lebanon War Story, Ari Folman and David Polonsky. Metropolitan Books, 2009. A gripping reconstruction of a soldier's experience during Israel's war in Lebanon told in a graphic novel form. Film version won a Golden Globe and was nominated for an Academy Award for Best Foreign Film.

One night in Beirut in September 1982, while Israeli soldiers secured the area, Christian militia members entered the refugee camps of Sabra and Shatila and began to massacre hundreds, if not more, of Palestinians. Ari Folman was one of those Israeli soldiers, but for more than twenty years he remembered nothing of that night or of the weeks leading up to it. Then came a friend's disturbing dream and with it Folman's need to excavate the truth of the war in Lebanon and answer the crucial question: what was he doing during the hours of slaughter? The result is a gripping reconstruction, a probing inquiry into the unreliable quality of memory and above all, a powerful denunciation of the senselessness of all wars. Profoundly original in form and approach, *Waltz with Bashir* will take its place as one of the great works of wartime testimony.

How to Understand Israel in 60 Days or Less, Sarah Glidden. Vertigo, 2010. A nuanced graphic memoir of the author's experience traveling to Israel with Taglit-Birthright Israel.

Glidden, a progressive American Jew who is sharply critical of Israeli policies vis-à-vis the Palestinian territory, went on an all-expenses-paid Birthright trip to Israel in an attempt to discover some grand truths at the heart of the Arab-Israeli conflict. This graphic memoir tells the touching and often funny story of her utter failure to do so. As the tour group moves from the Golan Heights to Tel Aviv, Glidden's struggles with propaganda and perspective lead only to a morass of deepening questions, self-doubt and ultimately connection. The simplicity of the drawing is offset by bright, delicate watercolors that belie our heroine's unresolved struggle with history and heritage.

Not the Israel My Parents Promised Me, Harvey Pekar (author), JT Waldman (illustrator), Joyce Brabner (epilogue). Hill and Wang, 2012. In the final graphic memoir from the man who defined the genre, Pekar explores what it means to be Jewish and what Israel means to the Jews.

Harvey Pekar's mother was a Zionist by way of politics. His father was a Zionist by way of faith. Whether Harvey was going to daily Hebrew classes or attending Zionist picnics, he grew up a staunch supporter of the Jewish state. But soon he found himself questioning the very beliefs and ideals of his parents. Over the course of a single day in his hometown of Cleveland, Ohio, Pekar and the illustrator JT Waldman wrestle with the mythologies and realities surrounding the Jewish homeland. Pekar interweaves his increasing disillusionment with the modern state of Israel with a comprehensive history of the Jewish people from biblical times to the present, and the result is a personal and historical odyssey of uncommon power. Plainspoken and empathetic, Pekar had no patience for injustice and prejudice in any form, and though he comes to understand the roots of his parents' unquestioning love for Israel, he arrives at the firm belief that all peoples should be held to the same universal standards of decency, fairness and democracy.

Jerusalem: A Family Portrait, Boaz Yakin. First Second Books, 2013. In a richly illustrated text, a graphic novelist and film writer explores Jerusalem, Israel and the conflict in a reimagining of his family's experiences in the city.

Formed out of a melting pot of experiences, narratives and an imaginative touch, this graphic novel is based on author Boaz Yakin's family, Jews who originally immigrated to the holy city in the late 19th century and many of whom remain in the city to this day. He explores a variety of historical, political and societal developments in Jerusalem from a personal perspective, focusing on the experiences of

three generations of a family during the 1940s in an attempt to give a more human face to a contentious and turmoil-filled time. Yakin's experience as a film writer comes through in the carefully composed and cinematographic text.

Women in Peace and Conflict

A Weave of Women, E. M. Broner. Indiana University Press, 1985. A portrait of a diverse group of women living in Jerusalem, and the challenges they face.

The importance of ritual, of life's spiritual path, is at the center this classic novel by seminal Jewish feminist Esther Broner. An eclectic community of women living in and around Jerusalem, the characters are committed to each other by spiritual need. They range from teenagers to women in their fifties. Each woman is an individual; each knows they must stand together. Laughing, crying and struggling to make their lives complete, these women address issues of friendship, incest, love, abuse, loneliness, birth and death, and perform rituals that cleanse, strengthen and renew. Their rituals serve to empower them and the reader as well.

Blossoms on the Olive Tree, Janet M. Powers. Paeger, 2006. A survey of diverse Israeli and Palestinian women who work towards creating Middle East peace.

Powers did extensive research in South Asia before her first trip to the Middle East in 2002. On that trip and later ones, she met Israeli and Palestinian women who were articulate, effective organizers and committed to building personal and organizational connections to prepare the way for peace. Here, she offers a collection of stories and essays describing the women she met and their peaceful responses to the hatred and violence in the region. The book is a humane and moving presentation of courageous women optimistic for a better world.

Gender and the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict, by Simona Sharoni. Syracuse University Press, 2003. A scholarly exploration of the relationship between gender and politics in Israel, the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

Sharoni's interdisciplinary work covers issues including the connection between the violence of the conflict and violence against women, the link between militarism and sexism and the role of nationalism in building individual and collective identities.

Also see these titles in other sections for books about women in peace and conflict:

Exile in the Promised Land, Marcia Freedman

How to Understand Israel in 60 Days or Less, Sarah Glidden

Next Year In Jerusalem: Everyday Life In A Divided Land, by Daphna Golan-Agnon and Janine Woolfson

To the End of the Land, David Grossman

Enemy in the Promised Land, Sana Hassan

The Lie: A Novel, Hesh Kestin

Martyr's Crossing, Amy Wilentz

Revenge: A Story of Hope, Laura Blumenfeld

Non-Fiction / Informative

The Negotiator: Freeing Gilad Schalit from Hamas, Gerson Baskin. The Toby Press, 2013. A firsthand account of the American-Israeli peace activist who succeeded in paving the way for Gilad Schalit's release.

The Negotiator is the firsthand account of Gershon Baskin, an American-Israeli peace activist who made it his mission to liberate Gilad Schalit. Acting on his own initiative and in no formal capacity, Baskin drew on his ties to Hamas to create a secret back channel between the two sides. Through behind-the-scenes negotiations and clandestine meetings, nightly e-mails and frantic text messages, a great deal of persistence and no small amount of chutzpa, he succeeded where official mediators had failed, paving the way for the deal that—ultimately—brought Gilad home.

Separate and Unequal: The Inside Story of Israeli Rule in East Jerusalem, Amir S. Cheshin, Bill Hutman, Avi Melamed. Harvard University Press, 1999. A thorough background on Jerusalem, particularly the East and West Jerusalem division.

While Israel considers Jerusalem its eternal capital, the Palestinians aspire to make Arab East Jerusalem the capital of their own future state. The Palestinians, as well as many others, have long complained about the Israelis' ultimate goal of the "de-Arabization" of this holy city and what they consider to be Israel's long-term plan to confiscate Palestinian property and marginalize the Arab residents of Jerusalem. This provocative and highly readable book by three Israelis who were personally involved in the formulation of Israel's Jerusalem policies gives credence to Palestinians' charges of systematic Israeli discrimination against them as residents of East Jerusalem.

Israel is Real, Rich Cohen. Farrar, Strauss, and Giroux, 2009. A vibrantly written primer on the conflict and the psychology of Israeli and American Jews.

Reading the Bible and Jewish history both literally and symbolically, this eclectic, passionate and wide-ranging history of Israel and Zionism decodes the story of Jonah in the whale's belly as the Diaspora Jew in Nazi concentration camps. Of Herzl, the author says it was his career writing whimsical newspaper essays that made his mind fluid and open to the vision of Zionism. He sees Ariel Sharon as a tragic Shakespearean character who was driven to dismantle the settlements in Gaza out of a great love for Israel. Finally, Cohen does not believe that the Holocaust justifies the State of Israel—or that Israel needs to be justified.

The Origins of Democratic Socialism in Israel: Foundations and Leadership, Ivan Frank. MvBagen, 2011. An analysis of how democratic socialism emerged in Israel.

In this book, Ivan Frank considers three influences on the democratic socialism that emerged in Israel. He considers the leadership of the first three Aliyot from 1880-1924, delves into the personal lives of democratic-socialist leaders, and highlights the stories of lesser-known figures who similarly invested all they had in an unknown project.

From Beirut to Jerusalem, Thomas Friedman. Anchor, 1999. A provocative political and social analysis that details the complexity of the conflict, as well as America's role.

Friedman offers a condensed, incisive history of the Middle East, as well as personal reflections on his 10-year sojourn. A top-flight observer and interpreter, the author elucidates the complex religious factions obstructing Lebanese and Israeli politics; the agendas of various posturing, media-loving Arab and Israeli leaders; the perversity of daily life in "Wild West Beirut;" the wanton murder in Lebanon of US marines and Palestinian refugees; America's fascination with Israel; the waning romance between Israeli and American Jews; and the Palestinian Intifada.

**Israeli Peacemaking Since 1967: Factors Behind the Breakthroughs and Failures*, Galia Golan. Routledge Publishing, 2014. A comprehensive review of the internal and external factors that have contributed to the successes and failures of Israeli peace initiatives.

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Galia Golan, a former consultant to the IDF and Israeli Foreign Ministry, looks to isolate and analyze the dynamics that impacted peace making initiatives, both positively and negatively. This book looks at past events in order to explain how certain factors, including mistrust, leadership style and domestic political spoilers have impacted the failures (or breakthroughs) of the peace processes. Golan extracts her evidence from archival material and interviews, which provides the reader with a thorough understanding of what has and what has not worked in the past attempts to resolve the conflict.

The Accidental Empire: Israel and the Birth of the Settlement Enterprise, 1967-1977, Gershom Gorenberg. Times Books, 2006. A history of Israeli settlements in the territories occupied after the 1967 Six-Day War.

In 1970, army commander Ariel Sharon said settlements would "wean the Arabs of the Gaza Strip from the illusion that we will eventually get out of there." It's an illusion that led, according to Gorenberg, to the awakening of militant Palestinian nationalism. Gorenberg utilizes his deep knowledge of Zionist history and skills in illuminating the emotional and ideological roots of all the settler factions. Today, that future remains very much in question, and Gorenberg's book is an even more essential guide to understanding Israel's own contribution to its current tragic pass.

The End of Days: Fundamentalism and the Struggle for the Temple Mount, Gershom Gorenberg. Oxford University Press, 2002. An exploration of the conflict over Jerusalem and why apocalyptic thought is dangerously connected to this small piece of land.

In this provocative work, Gorenberg portrays a deadly mix of religious extremism, violence and Mideast politics, as expressed in the struggle for the sacred center of Jerusalem. Known to Jews and Christians as the Temple Mount and to Muslims as the Noble Sanctuary, this thirty-five-acre enclosure at the southeast corner of Jerusalem's Old City is the most contested piece of real estate on earth. Gorenberg makes sense of the messianic fervor that has driven some Israeli settlers to oppose peace. And he describes the Islamic apocalyptic visions that cast Israel's actions in Jerusalem as diabolic plots. *The End of Days* shows how conflict over Jerusalem and the fiery belief in apocalypse continue to have a potent impact on world politics and why a lasting peace in the Middle East continues to prove elusive.

The Unmaking of Israel, Gershom Gorenberg. Harper Publishers, 2011. A revelation of how Israel's policies, particularly the continuation of occupation, are undermining its democracy and existence as a Jewish state.

In this penetrating and provocative look at the state of contemporary Israel, acclaimed Israeli historian and journalist Gershom Gorenberg reveals how the nation's policies are undermining its democracy and existence as a Jewish state, and explains what must be done to bring it back from the brink. In order to save itself, Gorenberg argues, Israel must end the occupation, separate state from religion and create a new civil Israeli identity that can be shared by Jews and Arabs. Based on groundbreaking historical research—including documents released through the author's Israeli Supreme Court challenge to military secrecy—and on a quarter-century of experience reporting in the region, *The Unmaking of Israel* is a brilliant, deeply personal critique by a progressive Israeli, and a plea for realizing the nation's potential.

The Yellow Wind, David Grossman. Farrar, Strauss, and Giroux, 1998. A record of the devastation that two decades of Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip has wrought on Palestinians and Israelis.

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On assignment for an Israeli newsweekly, the 34-year-old Israeli novelist spent seven weeks in the area, and his is one of the most stirring, refreshing voices of moral conscience to emerge from the depths of this political imbroglio. To his own expressed bafflement, the author discovers that an elderly, wise, tale-spinning Palestinian refugee reminds him of his grandmother and her stories about Poland, from which she was expelled. A description of refugees returning to their Israeli village evokes imagery from the biblical book of Ezekiel; the Arabic apocalyptic tale of the hot and terrible yellow wind, which seeks out those who have performed cruel, unjust deeds, and its accompanying yellow dust, become symbols of the suffocating cloud of occupation that hangs above Israel.

Track-Two Diplomacy toward an Israeli-Palestinian Solution, 1978-2014, Yair Hirschfeld. Woodrow Wilson Center Press / Johns Hopkins University Press, 2014. An insider account of a crucial set of negotiations aimed at settling a seemingly endless conflict.

Hirschfeld's book brings out many new details of negotiating sessions and internal policy and strategy debates. It is especially insightful on the thirteen-year process that led to the September 1993 Oslo Accords. Signed on the White House lawn in the presence of Israeli prime minister Yitzhak Rabin and Palestine Liberation Organization chairman Yasser Arafat, the treaty was a landmark occasion followed shortly thereafter by the unraveling of the Israeli-Palestinian permanent status negotiations. The historical narrative focuses on a series of negotiations and ongoing efforts under particular Israeli governments.

1973: The Road to War, Yigal Kipnis. Just World Books, 2013. A prominent Israeli historian analyzes the 1973 War and the extent to which it could have been avoided.

In this analysis, Israeli historian Yigal Kipnis delves deep into the Israeli and American archives and reveals the degree to which the war could have been avoided. Avoided, that is, if in the months preceding October 1973, Israel's then-Prime Minister Golda Meir, who was facing elections, had not been adamantly opposed to allowing the peace negotiations with Egypt to proceed and if US Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, despite some misgivings, had not backed her up in that refusal. Contradicting conventional wisdom, Kipnis argues compellingly that Israeli political intransigence, not a failure of Israel's military intelligence, set the stage for the 1973 war.

**Lives in Common*, Menachem Klein. Oxford University Press, 2014. A historical review of the relations between Christians, Jews and Muslims living in Jerusalem, Jaffa and Hebron prior to the 1948 war.

Dr. Menachem Klein illustrates the links that existed between the three cities of Jerusalem, Jaffa and Hebron, and the coexisting Christian, Jewish and Muslim inhabitants themselves before the creation of Israel and the 1948 War. Klein bases his evidence on the private world of Jewish-Arab encounters documented in journals, memoirs, testimonies and biographies. Klein's documentation of life before the conflict exemplifies that peace and coexistence are not as unlikely as is often perceived, and gives new hope for resolving the conflict based on past experiences.

O Jerusalem! Dominique Lapierre and Larry Collins. Simon and Schuster, 1988. An account of the bitter 1948 dispute between the Arabs and Jews over Jerusalem.

This remarkable classic recounts, moment by moment, the spellbinding process that gave birth to the State of Israel. Collins and Lapierre weave a brilliant tapestry of shattered hopes, fierce pride and breathtaking valor as the Arabs, Jews and British collide in their fight for control of Jerusalem. Collins and Lapierre penetrate the battle from the inside, exploring each party's interests, intentions and concessions as the city of all of their dreams teeters on the brink of destruction. From the Jewish fighters and their heroic commanders to the charismatic Arab chieftain whose death in battle doomed

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his cause but inspired a generation of Palestinians, *O Jerusalem!* tells the three-dimensional story of this high-stakes, emotional conflict.

A History of Zionism: From the French Revolution to the Establishment of the State of Israel, Walter Laquer. Fine Communicates, 1997. An enlightening and thoroughly researched account of the history of Zionism.

Laquer traces the history of anti-Semitism in Europe and the trends in Zionist thought, depicting the decades of Zionist activity that culminated in the establishment of Israel.

Republic, Lost: How Money Corrupts Congress--and a Plan to Stop It, Lawrence Lessig. Twelve, 2011. A comprehensible outline of how the US democracy became dominated by outside interests, and a proposal for fighting back against corruption.

Harvard Law Professor Lessig skillfully explains the legal but corrupt system of campaign finance and argues that, with legislative reform, a better system can be created. Lessig puts forth his own solution of an alternative campaign finance system and also takes a close look at how the current system works.

Much Too Promised Land, Aaron David Miller. Bantam, 2008. A thorough look at two decades of the peace process.

Drawing from his extensive experience and 160 interviews with presidents, advisors and negotiators, Miller apportions censure and praise with an even hand, sparing not even his failures or those of his colleagues. He evinces genuine compassion for both sides in the conflict while maintaining a detachment that allows him to draw hard conclusions. Miller says that though the two sides hold ultimate responsibility for their shared fate, American involvement is imperative and calls for the tough-love approach of Kissinger and Carter, arguing compellingly that such engagement is now more vital to our national interests, and to our security, than at any time since the late 1940s.

Israel/Palestine and the Politics of a Two-State Solution, Thomas G. Mitchell. McFarland, 2013. Using historical case studies from other conflicts, an academic explores the viability of a two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Mitchell seeks to analyze the likelihood of a two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict in this book, giving a historical overview of the contemporary political situation --examining the current status quo both in the Middle East and in the US-- before comparing the conflict to similar ones from recent history in Ireland and Namibia. In particular, Mitchell focuses on the prominent conservative forces within each state, seeking to draw lessons from history in order to predict the near future.

Six Days of War, Michael Oren. Oxford University Press, 2002. A history of the Six-Day War of 1967, in which Israel entered and began its occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

This is the most complete history of the Six-Day War of 1967. Further, *Six Days of War* is an attack on 'post-Zionism,' the school of politics and history that casts Israel as the author of policies that intentionally promote the destruction of Palestine as a separate entity and of Palestinians as a people, not least through the occupation that began with the 1967 War. By contrast, Oren establishes in an often-engrossing narrative the reactive, contingent nature of Israeli policy during both the crisis preceding the conflict and the war itself.

1967: Israel, the War, and the Year that Transformed the Middle East, Tom Segev. Metropolitan Books, 2007. An in-depth historical look at the 1967 war and its consequences.

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It is now 40 years since the Six Days' War, in which Israel routed the armies of Egypt, Syria, and Jordan and transformed the geography and political landscape of the Middle East. Many of Segev's revelations are both startling and credible. A substantial portion of the book is devoted to an analysis of Israeli society on the eve of the war. Segev portrays a nation plagued by disillusionment, communal tensions and anxiety about national survival. The idealism that inspired the early Zionist pioneers had waned. Segev asserts that the outbreak of war was hardly inevitable and was precipitated by gross miscalculations by both sides.

One Palestine, Complete: Jews and Arabs Under the British Mandate, Tom Segev. Picador, 2001. An exploration of the era prior to the creation of the state of Israel.

Drawing on untapped archival materials, Tom Segev reconstructs an era (1917 to 1948) of limitless possibilities and tragic missteps. He introduces an array of unforgettable characters, tracks the steady advance of Jews and Arabs toward confrontation and puts forth a radical new argument: that the British, far from being pro-Arab, consistently favored the Zionist position, out of the mistaken—and anti-Semitic—belief that Jews turned the wheels of history. Rich in historical detail, sensitive to all perspectives, *One Palestine, Complete* brilliantly depicts the decline of an empire, the birth of one nation and the tragedy of another.

The Settlers: And the Struggle of the Meaning of the Clash of Zionism, Gadi Taub. Yale University Press, 2010. A fascinating account of the practical and ideological clashes of the settler movement with mainstream Zionism.

Taub illuminates Israel's intractable issue of settlements in the Palestinian territory by examining the settlements through a Zionist lens. Taub argues that Zionism has always been an explicitly democratic and secular movement and concludes that the religious settlers' efforts to reconcile themselves with mainstream Zionism cannot succeed.

Lords of the Land: The War Over Israel's Settlements From '67-'07, Idith Zertal and Akiva Eldar. Nation Books, 2007. Based on years of research, and written by one of Israel's leading historians and journalists, this involving narrative focuses on the ways that the occupation has transformed many different aspects of Israeli society.

The book shows the role the State of Israel has played in nurturing the settlers through massive economic aid and legal sanctions. The occupation, the authors argue, has transformed the very foundations of Israel's society, economy, army, history, language, moral profile and international standing. *Lords of the Land* tells that tragic story, and reveals what a catastrophe it has been for both Israel and the Palestinians.

**Why Hawks Become Doves: Shimon Peres and Foreign Policy Change in Israel*, Guy Ziv. SUNY Press, 2014. An analysis of how a change in beliefs of leaders is one of the most important factors of peacemaking initiatives.

Dr. Guy Ziv analyzes the importance of a leader in the framing of a nation's foreign policy by examining the actions and personality of Shimon Peres. Ziv utilizes vast knowledge of cognitive psychology to argue that the levels of a leader's openness and complexity act as decisive factors to the decisions made. Peres' shift from a security hawk to one of the greatest advocates for Israeli-Palestinian peace demonstrates how adaptation to changing circumstances can propel peacemaking efforts.

Humorous / Entertaining Reads

The 188th Crybaby Brigade: A Skinny Jewish Kid from Chicago Fights Hezbollah--A Memoir, Joel Chasnoff. Free Press, 2001. An autobiography detailing the humorous and tragic experiences of a young American serving in the IDF.

Joel Chasnoff is twenty-four years old, an American, and the graduate of an Ivy League university. But when his career as a stand-up comic fails to get off the ground, Chasnoff decides it's time for a serious change of pace. Leaving behind his amenity-laden Brooklyn apartment for a plane ticket to Israel, Joel trades in the comforts of being a stereotypical American Jewish male for an Uzi, dog tags (with his name misspelled) and serious mental and physical abuse at the hands of the Israeli Army.

How to Make Peace in the Middle East in Six Months or Less Without Leaving Your Apartment, Gregory Levey. Free Press, 2010. An easy read that hits key issues, particularly the conversation in the American community about Israeli-Palestinian peace.

Levey's modest goal is to solve the Middle East conflict—all by himself. After returning to North America following a stint writing speeches for the Israeli government, he thinks he is leaving the madness of the Middle East conflict behind. Levey discovers that everyone on this side of the Atlantic thinks they have the solution to the intractable conflict. After speaking with White House officials, DC lobbyists, Congressmen, advisors to presidential candidates, high-profile journalists, secretive fundraisers, former Israeli spies now living in North America and hundreds and hundreds of Jewish grandmothers, Levey tries to understand why the Middle East situation refuses to be resolved, and why so many people who live a world away are so obsessed with it.

Shut Up, I'm Talking: And Other Diplomacy Lessons I Learned in the Israeli Government--A Memoir, Gregory Levey. Free Press, 2008. A nonfictional humorous memoir that focuses on Israeli politics.

"This brilliant and blindingly funny book is like a nonfictional season of *The West Wing* set in the Knesset. If you ever wanted an insider tale about why the Middle East is such a complicated, heartrending and yet unbelievably compelling saga then look no further. Gregory Levey has captured the soul of this conflict with charm, grace and diplomatic wit." — Matthew Polly, author of *American Shaolin*.

Zionist Thought

A Land of Two Peoples, Martin Buber. University of Chicago Press, 2005. A timeless analysis of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, coming from one of the founders of modern Zionism.

In his voluminous writings on Arab-Jewish relations in Palestine, Buber united his religious and philosophical teachings with his politics, which he felt were essential to a life of public dialogue and service to God. With the Middle East embroiled in religious and ethnic chaos, *A Land of Two Peoples* remains as relevant today as it was when it was first published more than twenty years ago. This timely reprint, which includes a new preface by Paul Mendes-Flohr, offers context and depth to current affairs and will be welcomed by those interested in Middle Eastern studies and political theory.

On Zion, Martin Buber. Schocken, 1988. A collection of essays by Buber, demonstrating his faith in Zionism, as well as its contemporary influence.

Martin Buber wrote and lectured on Zion and Zionism throughout his life. *On Zion* is a mature work, based on a series of lectures given in Jerusalem in 1944. To Buber, Zionism meant a reorientation of

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the entire being, a catharsis; then a readiness to build a new and creative homeland - Israel. These essays demonstrate the depth of Buber's faith in Zionism. He shows how Biblical and Talmudic thought is central to Zionism, how Zionism inspired medieval thinkers and mystics and how it has transformed the thinking of Jews today.

The Zionist Idea: A Historical Analysis and Reader, Arthur Hertzberg. Jewish Publication of America, 1997. An overview of the foundational authors of Zionism.

The Zionist Idea, a classic since its initial publication in 1959, is an anthology drawn from the writings of 37 of the leading thinkers of the Zionist movement, including Theodor Herzl, Ahad Ha-Am, Martin Buber, Louis Brandeis, Rabbi Abraham Isaac Kook, Judah Magnes, Max Nordau, Ludwig Lewisohn, Solomon Schechter, Mordecai Kaplan, Vladimir Jabotinsky, Chaim Weizmann and David Ben-Gurion.

The Jewish State, Theodor Herzl. Dover Publications, 1989. A foundational work that helped establish the Zionist movement.

Theodor Herzl's passionate advocacy of the founding of a Jewish state grew out of his conviction that Jews would never be assimilated into the populations in which they lived. Herzl concluded that the only solution for the majority of Jews would be organized emigration to a state of their own.

Judaism, Human Values, and the Jewish State, Yeshayahu Leibowitz. Harvard University Press, 1995. In this collection of essays, a prominent Israeli philosopher and critic discusses the role of religion in the Jewish state and critiques the moral effects of the occupation.

A controversial, erudite and enigmatic thinker who was awarded the Israel Prize for his lifetime body of work, Yeshayahu Leibowitz delves into a variety of topics in this collection of essays published in English for the first time. Of particular interest are his examinations of the role of religion in creating morality and his belief that the Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip serve to weaken the character of the Jewish state, which he supports through critical examination, coming to the conclusion that a strong Israel could not include occupied territory. Additionally, Leibowitz closely examines the role of Jewish religious law, *Halakhah*, to Jewish life, arguing that separation of church and state in Israel is necessary to preserve the Jewish character of Israel.

Basic History Reference

Arabs and Israelis: Conflict and Peacemaking in the Middle East, Abdel Monem Said Aly, Shai Feldman and Khalil Shikaki. Palgrave Macmillan, 2013. Co-authored by a Palestinian, an Israeli and an Egyptian, this textbook offers a balanced and nuanced introduction to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

In the first ever textbook on the history of the Arab-Israel conflict to have been co-authored by an Israeli, a Palestinian and an Egyptian, the co-authors explore the history of the conflict and later peacemaking efforts from competing Israeli, Palestinian and wider Arab perspectives. Offering a balanced approach to understanding the Arab-Israeli conflict and its pivotal role in the Middle East, the book outlines key developments in each period of the conflict; presents the differing Israeli, Palestinian and broader Arab narratives on these developments; and provides a unique framework for analyzing and understanding these developments.

Side by Side: Parallel Histories of Israel-Palestine, Sami Adwan et al. New Press, 2011. An innovative account of Israeli and Palestinian history that presents two perspectives on each page.

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Created by a group of Israeli and Palestinian teachers through the Peace Research Institute in the Middle East (PRIME), *Side by Side* creates a dual narrative of Israeli and Palestinian history, setting two different interpretations of historical events literally side by side, allowing the reader to easily contrast the two narratives.

The Israel-Palestine Conflict: Contested Histories, Neil Caplan. Wiley-Blackwell, 2009. An excellent primer on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Caplan provides a comprehensive and balanced introduction to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Caplan focuses on the concepts and arguments that are central to understanding the conflict and outlines the roadblocks to peace.

A History of the Modern Middle East, William Cleveland and Martin Bunton. Westview Press, 2008 (4th Edition). An extensive historical overview of the entire region.

This comprehensive work provides a penetrating analysis of modern Middle Eastern history, from the Ottoman and Egyptian reforms, through the challenge of Western imperialism, to the Iranian Revolution and the Gulf War. After introducing the reader to the region's history from the origins of Islam in the seventh century, Cleveland focuses on the past two centuries of profound and often dramatic change. The revised and updated edition of this benchmark text includes information on the Middle East since the close of the Cold War, and a new section on civil society and Islamic politics in the 1990s.

The Modern Middle East: A History, James L. Gelvin. Oxford University Press, 2004. Provides historical background on the broader region.

Engagingly written, drawing from the author's own research and other studies, and stocked with maps and photographs, original documents and an abundance of supplementary materials, *The Modern Middle East: A History* will provide both novices and specialists with fresh insights into the events that have shaped history and the debates about them that have absorbed historians.

A History of Palestine: From the Ottoman Conquest to the Founding of the State of Israel, Gudrun Kramer. Princeton University Press, 2008. A comprehensive history of Palestine that spans from the Ottoman Empire to 1948.

Noted historian Kramer describes the various religious, social and economic ties to the land of Palestine and examines the gradual transformation of Palestine. Kramer's nonpartisan approach focuses on the interactions between Jews and Arabs and depicts the evolution of the various communities in Palestine as well as the evolution of Palestine as a whole.

The Israel-Arab Reader: A Documentary History of the Middle East Conflict, 7th Edition, Walter Laqueur and Barry Rubin. Penguin Books, 2008. A thorough and up-to-date guide to the continuing crisis in the Middle East.

In print for forty years, *The Israel-Arab Reader* covers the full spectrum of the Israel-Arab conflict—including a new chapter recounting the Gaza withdrawal, the Hamas election victory and the Lebanon-Israel War. Featuring a new introduction that provides an overview of the past 115 years of conflict, and arranged chronologically and without bias, this comprehensive reference includes speeches, letters, articles, timelines and reports dealing with all the major interests in the area.

The Middle East: A Brief History of the Last 2,000 Years, Bernard Lewis. Scribner, 1997. A compact history from a pre-eminent Middle East expert.

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In a sweeping and vivid survey, renowned historian Bernard Lewis charts the history of the Middle East over the last 2,000 years, from the birth of Christianity through the modern era, focusing on the successive transformations that have shaped it. Elegantly written, scholarly yet accessible, this is one of the most comprehensive single-volume histories of the Middle East.

A Brief History of Israel, Bernard Reich. Checkmark Books, 2008. A complex and continuing history on the main themes of establishing the state of Israel.

Reich chronicles the nation's development. There are chapters describing the political, economic, and military consolidation (1948-67), the Six Days' War and the Yom Kippur War and its aftermath (1967-75), peace with Egypt and the Begin years (1975-79), the Palestinian Intifada (1979-90), the Persian Gulf War and the Middle East peace (1990-96), the Netanyahu and Barak governments (1996-2000) and the Al-Aqsa Intifada (2000 to 2008). Reich concludes that today Israel's security and its future are precarious, but it is certain that Israel will continue to exist as the world's only Jewish state. This latest volume in the publisher's Brief History series contains a chronology, an appendix of suggested reading, and 48 black-and-white photographs.

A History of the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict, Mark Tessler. Indiana University Press, 2009 (2nd edition). A detailed account of the intractable 20th-century conflict.

Mark Tessler's highly praised, comprehensive, and balanced history of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict from the earliest times to the present -- updated through the first years of the 21st century -- provides a constructive framework for understanding recent developments and assessing the prospects for future peace. Drawing upon a wide array of documents and on research by Palestinians, Israelis and others, Tessler assesses the conflict on both the Israelis' and the Palestinians' terms. New chapters in this expanded edition elucidate the Oslo peace process, including the reasons for its failure, and the political dynamics in Israel, the West Bank and Gaza at a critical time of transition.

Historiography / New Israeli Historians

Two Sides of the Coin: Independence and Nakba 1948. Two Narratives of the 1948 War and its Outcome, Motti Golani and Adel Manna. Republic of Letters, 2011. A journey to the War of 1948, by offering contemporary multi-perspective narratives on the war, accompanied by maps that highlight historical events during that time.

In the zero-sum game that has replaced peace talks, there is no room for two narratives. Either we are right or they are right. If Hebron is the historic city of our Israelite ancestors, then the Palestinians are orphaned from history. The existence of Israel's Independence Day cancels out Nakba Day. The authors brought the two histories under one roof, or to be more precise, under three roofs. One is for Israeli readers of Hebrew, the second for Palestinian (and other) readers of Arabic, and the third is in English, for anyone else interested in the conflict and its resolution.

1948: A History of the First Arab-Israeli War, Benny Morris. Yale University Press, 2009. A revisionist account of the political and military aspects of the 1948 Arab-Israeli War.

Morris provides a detailed and evenhanded account of the events of the 1948 Arab-Israeli War. Morris illuminates the ghastly details of the war and delves into the political motivations of the players.

The Birth of the Palestinian Refugee Problem, 1947-1949, Benny Morris. Cambridge University Press, 1989. In this iconic work of Israeli revisionist history, Morris offers a detailed account of the evacuation and uprooting of Palestinians during the creation of the State of Israel.

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While the focus of this edition remains the war and exodus, new archival material considers what happened in Jerusalem, Jaffa and Haifa, and how these events led to the collapse of urban Palestine. Revealing battles and atrocities that contributed to the disintegration of rural communities, the story is harrowing. The refugees now number four million and their cause remains a major obstacle to regional peace. In this work, Benny Morris further certifies his reputation as a foremost Israeli revisionist historian.

Righteous Victims: A History of the Zionist-Arab Conflict, 1881-2001, Benny Morris. Vintage, 2001. An evenhanded, exhaustive history of the conflict, beginning with the birth of modern Zionism and concluding with Ehud Barak's term as Prime Minister.

Morris has previously proven his scholarship with such definitive titles as *Israel's Border Wars* and *The Birth of the Palestinian Refugee Problem*. *Righteous Victims* likewise doesn't waver in its task, methodically unearthing the political and military roots of the struggle, from early friction between Zionist "colonizers" and native Arabs slowly through to the establishment of Israel and the bloody wars and terrorism that followed.

Shared Histories: A Palestinian-Israeli Dialogue, Paul Scham, Walid Salem, and Benjamin Pogrund, eds. Left Coast Press, 2005. A presentation of both sides of the conflict, showing the reader a respectful confrontation between the competing versions of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

The Israeli historical narrative speaks of Zionism as the Jewish national movement, of building a refuge from persecution, and of national regeneration. The Palestinian narrative speaks of invasion, expulsion and oppression. It's no wonder peace remains elusive. This volume attempts to present both histories with parallel narratives of key points in the 19th and 20th centuries to 1948. The histories are presented by fourteen Israeli and Palestinian experts, historians, journalists and activists, who then discuss the differences and similarities between their accounts. By creating an appreciation, understanding, and respect for the 'other,' the first steps can be made to foster a shared history of a shared land.

The Iron Wall, Avi Shlaim. Norton and Company, 2001. A far-ranging history detailing Israel's shifting policies toward Palestinians and the Arab world.

Shlaim is a leader among revisionist historians who are challenging Israel's most cherished myths about itself: that it has been a peaceful nation forced into war by bellicose Arab neighbors incapable of accepting its existence. The book covers relations between Israel and the Arabs from Israel's 1948 War of Independence to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's electoral defeat in 1999. Shlaim sets out the belief, shared by Israeli leaders of all political stripes, that the country had to build up an "iron wall" of strength and security in order to bring Arab leaders to the negotiating table.

Opinion

The Holocaust Is Over; We Must Rise From its Ashes, Avraham Burg. Palgrave MacMillan, 2008. An analysis of the influence of the Holocaust on the psyches of Jewish communities throughout the world and how policy discussions should progress in the future.

Burg argues that the Jewish nation has been traumatized and has lost the ability to trust itself, its neighbors or the world around it. He shows that this is one of the causes for the growing nationalism and violence that are plaguing Israeli society and reverberating through Jewish communities worldwide. Burg uses his own family history--his parents were Holocaust survivors--to inform his innovative views on what the Jewish people need to do to move on and eventually live in peace with their Arab neighbors and feel comfortable in the world at large.

The Case for Peace, Alan Dershowitz. Wiley, 2005. The famous Dershowitz lays out his recommendations for the creation of a lasting peace agreement between Palestinians and Israelis.

Dershowitz assumes the posture of a litigator, but his deep convictions and previous history with many of the book's subjects lend a more personal tone to his critiques, as Dershowitz himself admits. Chapters on terrorism and Iran, which are less targeted at specific individuals, take a more effective philosophical and historical approach. Despite its stated goal of eliciting further debate on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, this provocative book will likely appeal to sympathizers and alienate readers less disposed to its author's positions.

Wrestling with Zion, by Tony Kushner and Alisa Solomon, eds. Grove Press, 2003. A collection of different progressive Jewish-American responses to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Writing during the Second Intifada, playwright Kushner and journalist Solomon have compiled a book of thoughts by a progressive and diverse group of notable Jewish writers on the current situation in the Middle East and the prospects for peace. Rather than distancing themselves from controversy, the editors have encouraged contributors to examine the covenant that links the Jewish people and Israel and to let it be "loosened and strengthened, de-mythified, de-fetishized, considered as a dynamic problematic, as is only appropriate to the consideration of a living bond."

Embracing Israel/Palestine: A Strategy to Heal and Transform the Middle East, Michael Lerner. North Atlantic Books, 2011. *Tikkun* founder Rabbi Michael Lerner offers a spiritual approach to repairing the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

A major modern conundrum is how the Arab/Israel conflict remains unresolved and, seemingly, unresolvable. Rabbi Michael Lerner suggests that a change in consciousness is crucial. He examines how the mutual demonization and discounting of each side's legitimate needs drive the debate, and he points to new ways of thinking that can lead to a solution. Lerner makes the case that a lasting peace must prioritize helping people on all sides and that real security is best achieved through an ethos of caring and generosity toward "the other." As many spiritual leaders have taught, problems like these cannot be solved at the same level at which they originated—one must seek higher ground, and that becomes a central task for anyone who wants a sustainable peace.

Healing Israel/Palestine, Rabbi Michael Lerner. North Atlantic Books, 2003. *Tikkun* founder's account of the history and prescription for the future based on a path of peace and reconciliation.

Rabbi Lerner, founder of the progressive Jewish journal *Tikkun*, may or may not have the answer to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, but he does have answers for progressive Jews who are trying to find a way of understanding the conflict and find a stance that is pro-Israel without being anti-Palestinian. "The first step in the process of healing is to tell the story of how we got where we are in a way that avoids demonization," he writes. So he relates the history of Zionism and the State of Israel in a way that acknowledges both the rights, and the wrongs, of Jews and Palestinians alike.

Israel, Palestine and Peace: Essays on a Paradoxical Situation, Amos Oz. Harvest Original, 2005. A collection of essays from different time periods.

An important testimony as well as a moving portrait of a divided land is revealed in this collection of provocative essays and speeches on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict (variously composed before and after the peace initiatives).

Loving the Real Israel: An Educational Agenda for Liberal Zionism, Alex Sinclair. Ben Yehuda Press, 2013. Dr. Sinclair, Director of Programs in Israel Education at the Jewish Theological Seminary,

proposes a new approach to of Israel education and engagement based on complexity, conversation, empowerment and politics.

Proposing a new approach to Israel education, Sinclair draws from the writings of Jewish philosophers, educational theorists and Bible scholars to posit four principles for liberal Zionist engagement: complexity, conversation, empowerment and politics. *Loving the Real Israel* further provides guidance in using those principles to construct meaningful Israel educational experiences, as well as using them to help liberal Zionists discuss Israel issues with their friends, family and community.

Novels, Poetry and Short Stories

A Life of Poetry, 1948–1994, Yehuda Amichai. Harper Perennial, 1995. This series of poems illustrates a man and a nation coming of age.

Beautifully translated here, Amichai's poetic style is elegant, spacious and perfectly accessible. His metaphors range from liturgical to secular, as when the writer ironically considers war and love together: "I'm like a machine gun, somewhat old-fashioned/ But very precise: when I love,/ The recoil is very strong." This comprehensive record of a sensibility is an enormously satisfying introduction to an important 20th-century poet.

Poems of Jerusalem: A Bilingual Edition, Yehuda Amichai. Harper Collins, 2008. This series of poems contrasts the city's religious imagery with mundane aspects of life.

Amichai contrasts the holy with the profane, mixing them up to the point of absurdity, while touching upon his frequent theme of a world abandoned by God. In this bilingual edition, the classic Hebrew of the Bible and the Israeli Hebrew of the streets are mutually intelligible, and can even share a line in a poem to the enriching, mutual advantage of both.

Eyes, Stones: Poems, Elana Bell. Louisiana State University Press, 2012. In this Walt Whitman Award-winning debut collection, Elana Bell brings her heritage as the granddaughter of Holocaust survivors to consider the difficult question of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

The poems in *Eyes, Stones* invoke characters inexorably linked to the land of Israel and Palestine. Other poems – inspired by interviews conducted by the poet in Israel, the Palestinian territories, and America – examine Jewish and Arab relationships to the land as biblical home, Zionist dream, modern state and occupied territory.

Falling Out of Time, David Grossman. Knopf, 2014. Following his domineering *To the End of the Land*, the universally acclaimed Israeli author brings us a fable of parental grief, a powerfully distilled experience of understanding and acceptance, and of art's triumph over death.

Announcing that he must embark on a journey in search of his dead son, a man walks in ever-widening circles around his town and beyond, picking up similarly bereaved companions with whom he explores questions about the potential for overcoming death and reconnecting with lost loved ones.

To the End of the Land, David Grossman. Knopf, 2010. A powerful meditation on war, friendship and family that details the anguish of a mother whose son is serving in the IDF.

An Israeli mother is ready to welcome her son home from service in the IDF when instead he must return to the front for a major offensive. In preemptive efforts to avoid "notifiers" who might come to

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alert her of her son's death, she sets out for a hike in the Galilee. This mother believes that by leaving her home she can fool death and keep her son safe. David Grossman is an acclaimed Israeli author, advocate for a two-state solution and father of fallen soldier Uri.

"Yani on the Mountain," David Grossman. David R. Godine, 1999. A short story detailing the withdrawal of Israeli troops from the Sinai.

David Grossman's "Yani on the Mountain" (1980) explores the societal burden of Israel's military structure. In the aftermath of the 1973 Yom Kippur War, the last Israeli unit withdrawing from Sinai plans to blow up a key Israeli intelligence station. The short story is narrated in journal form by Yani.

Dancing Arabs, Sayed Kashua. Grove Press, 2004. A semi-autobiographical novel about Arab Israeli life, telling the story of a Palestinian boy.

A boy wins a prestigious scholarship to a Jewish high school, but slips into listless malaise as an adult, despising himself, scorning his fellow Arabs and resenting the Israelis. When he goes away to the Jewish boarding school, his greatest desire is to fit in, and he bursts into tears the first time he is stopped at a checkpoint. He never finishes college and takes low-level jobs at an institution. He can't even find solace in belief, though he fantasizes about becoming a respected teacher of religion. The drab hopelessness of his life is offset by his self-awareness ("I'm a failure anyway") and by Kashua's deadpan, understated humor.

The Lie: A Novel, Hesh Kestin. Scribner, 2014. The dark complexities of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict hit home for a hard-edged female human rights attorney when her soldier son is kidnapped by Hezbollah.

Dahlia Barr, a 44-year-old human rights attorney, whose defense of Palestinians has made her an object of derision for many Israelis, unexpectedly is tapped by the Israel Police to serve as an arbiter in regard to interrogation methods. Can she change the system from within? As Dahlia settles into her new job, her son Ari, a twenty-year-old lieutenant in the Israel Defense Forces, is kidnapped by Hezbollah and whisked over the border to Lebanon. The one man who may hold the key to Ari's rescue is locked in a cell in police headquarters.

The Wanting, Michael Lavigne. Schocken Books, 2013. A powerful novel about an Israeli father and his daughter brings to life a rich canvas of events and unexpected change in the aftermath of a suicide bombing.

The Wanting is a study of extremism and a story of characters enmeshed in their imperfect love for one another. Via alternating narrations and flashbacks, it tells the story of Russian-born architect Roman Guttman, injured in a bus bombing that causes his life to swerve into instability; the vivacious, bittersweet diary of his thirteen-year-old daughter, Anyusha, who is on a perilous path of her own; and the startlingly alive witnessings of Amir, the young Palestinian who pushed the button and is observing the havoc he has wrought from a shaky beyond.

"Patrol," Etgar Keret. *Zeek*, 2009. A mind-twisting short story influenced by the First Intifada.

Keret's ironic, disturbing and oddly romantic short-short stories cut to the heart of the contemporary Israeli experience. This story, perhaps the first of its kind in modern Hebrew literature, was published in its original version in Keret's debut collection, *Pipelines* (Am Oved: 1992) and was revised and translated for *Zeek*.

The Little Drummer Girl, John Le Carre. Scribner, 2004. A thriller novel about pursuing a terrorist.

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Charlie is a promiscuous, unsuccessful English actress in her twenties. Vacationing on the Greek island of Mykonos with friends, she longs for commitment. But to what? To whom? Intrigued by a handsome, solitary bather, Charlie finds herself lured into the "theatre of the real." For the mysterious man is Kurtz, an embattled Israeli intelligence officer out to stop the bombing of Jews in Europe. Forced to play her most challenging role, Charlie is plunged into a deceptive and delicate trap set to ensnare an elusive Palestinian terrorist...and soon proves herself a double agent of the highest order.

Apples from the Desert, Savyon Liebrecht. The Feminist Press at CUNY, 2000. An emotionally complex collection of short stories detailing the everyday lives of various Israelis.

Best-selling Israeli author Liebrecht portrays the everyday tragedies of Israelis of diverse walks of life. Liebrecht explores the strained personal and political relationships between Jews and Arabs, men and women and the older and younger generations of Israelis.

"The Nomad and the Viper," from *Where the Jackals Howl*, Amos Oz. Vintage, 2009. A collection of short stories detailing life in a kibbutz.

From a stunning collection of short fiction from Amos Oz. Like much contemporary Israeli fiction, it is infused with a sense of impending doom. Most of the stories take place in a world familiar to Oz in the early 1960s, the kibbutz. But there are surprises here too.

Scenes from Village Life, Amos Oz. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2011. An interwoven collection of vignettes depicting the lives of various characters living in the fictional, pioneer village Tel Ilan.

Oz weaves together various stories about the strange happenings in the fictional village Tel Ilan. Filled with tension and allegory, Oz's novel depicts the uneasiness of Israeli consciousness, which lurks beneath the activities of daily life.

Flowers of Perhaps: Selected Poems of Rachel. The Toby Press, 2008. A collection of verses by the iconic poet Rachel.

What may be most remarkable about the poetry of Rachel is that it has remained fresh in its simplicity and inspiration for more than 70 years. Now, because of Robert Friend's own ability as a poet and a temperament congenial with hers, his translations allow English readers to understand why Rachel is so highly esteemed. This classic is now reissued in a new bilingual edition, the original Hebrew poems appearing next to Friend's superlative translations.

The Collaborator of Bethlehem, Matt Beynon Rees. Mariner Books, 2008. A mystery thriller that takes place in Bethlehem, providing a window into Palestinian society.

The murder of a leader of the Palestinian Martyrs Brigade leads to the arrest of George Saba, a Palestinian Christian accused of collaborating with the Israelis. Omar Yussef, a modest history teacher at a United Nations school in the West Bank, is impelled to investigate the murder to exonerate his former pupil, who he knows is innocent. As he struggles to save George, Omar Yussef is drawn into a complex plot where it is impossible to tell friend from enemy.

Crimes of the City, Robert Rosenberg. Poisoned Pen Press, 2001. Part of a series of high-quality police detective mystery thrillers.

Robert Rosenberg, although born in the US and an English language author, lived in Tel Aviv from 1973 until his untimely death from cancer in 2006 and wrote a police detective series featuring Avram Cohen. The stories are set in Jerusalem and are remarkably place sensitive. There are four books in

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the series including *Crimes of the City* (Simon and Schuster, 1991), *The Cutting Room*, (Simon and Schuster, 1993), *House of Guilt* (Scribner, 1996) and *An Accidental Murder* (Scribner, 1999).

Moses the Heretic, Daniel Spiro. Aegis Press, 2008. A novel whose hero shares J Street's passion and politics.

Adventurous and daring, Daniel Spiro's novel challenges our understanding of the Middle East and gets to the core of the region's tragedy as nonfiction so rarely does. His modern Moses is comic and heartbreaking, much like the real peace process on which this insightful novel provides such sorrowful commentary.

The Wall, William Sutcliffe. Bloomsbury Publishing PLC, 2013. Told from 13-year-old Joshua's point of view, this novel explores the dynamics of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict in a coming-of-age tale set in two fictional towns.

Joshua lives with his mother and stepfather in Amarias, an isolated town on top of a hill, at the edge of which is a high wall that can only be crossed through a heavily fortified checkpoint. Joshua has been taught that beyond the concrete is a brutal and unforgiving enemy, and that The Wall is the only thing keeping him and his people safe. One day, looking for a lost football, Joshua stumbles across a tunnel which leads towards this forbidden territory, and the chance to crawl through and solve the mystery is too tempting to resist. *The Wall* is about a boy who undertakes a short journey to another world, to a place where everything he knows about loyalty, identity and justice is turned upside down. It is also a political fable, intended for young adults and adults, that powerfully evokes the realities of life on the West Bank, telling the story of a settler child who finds there are two sides to every story.

Martyr's Crossing, Amy Wilentz. Simon and Schuster, 2001. A story of human tragedy and understanding focused on a Palestinian mother and an Israeli soldier.

The author's title for this work comes from the name of an Israeli checkpoint on the Ramallah road the Palestinians must use in order to reach Jerusalem. The story begins with an incident at the checkpoint. Marina is the daughter of a Palestinian intellectual living in Boston, and the wife of a jailed Hamas activist. She needs to go through the checkpoint because her two-year-old son, Ibrahim, is having an asthma attack. The checkpoint, however, is closed, and when she arrives and attempts to pass through it, an IDF soldier makes many phone calls in an effort to gain permission for her to cross. The interaction between the Israeli soldier and the Palestinian woman allow them to see that they are just players in the greater Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

The Spectacular Difference: Selected Poems of Zelda, translated by Marcia Falk. Wayne State University Press, 2004. These poems give a deeply personal insight into the perspectives of this famous Israeli poet.

A devoutly religious Jew descended from the line of prominent Hasidic rabbis, Zelda Schneerson Mishkovsky inhabited the world of ultra-Orthodoxy her entire life. Her utterly unique poetry, which draws abundantly from classical Jewish texts, portrays at the same time a world of personal mystical imagery—the "strange plant," "enchanted bird," "black rose," "golden butterfly." Marcia Falk's sensitive translations, lucid introduction and comprehensive notes to the poems reveal the power of Zelda's poetry to create out of primitive inner experience strikingly original pictures that reach beyond the borders of tradition to redeem pain and celebrate life.

Negotiations

Shattered Dreams: The Failure of the Peace Process in the Middle East, 1995-2002 by Charles Enderlin and Susan Fairfield (Translator). Other Press, 2003. An analysis of the peace process from the perspective of a Jerusalem resident.

As Middle-East Bureau Chief of the French Public television network and a resident of Jerusalem since 1968, Charles Enderlin has had unequaled access to leaders and negotiators on all sides. The dramatic account moves between the Palestinian territory and the negotiation table as it follows the emotional shifts in the conflict from the 1995 assassination of Yitzhak Rabin to the years when Benjamin Netanyahu was in power. In a definitive account of the meetings at Camp David in July 2000, Enderlin details what was said between Israeli and Palestinian negotiators brought together by Bill Clinton in the presence of Yasir Arafat, President of the Palestinian Authority and Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak.

The Peace Puzzle: America's Quest for Arab-Israeli Peace, 1989-2011, Daniel Kurtzer, Scott Lasensky, William Quandt, Steven Spiegel, Shibley Telhami. Cornell University Press in collaboration with the United States Institute of Peace, January 22, 2013. An objective account of the role of the United States in attempting to achieve a lasting Arab-Israeli peace.

Each phase of Arab-Israeli peacemaking has been inordinately difficult in its own right, and every critical juncture and decision point in the long process has been shaped by US politics and the US leaders of the moment. *The Peace Puzzle* tracks the American determination to articulate policy, develop strategy and tactics and see through negotiations to agreements on an issue that has been of singular importance to US interests for more than forty years. In 2006, the authors of *The Peace Puzzle* formed the Study Group on Arab-Israeli Peacemaking, a project supported by the United States Institute of Peace, to develop a set of "best practices" for American diplomacy.

Negotiating Arab-Israeli Peace, Daniel Kurtzer and Scott Lasensky. USIP Press, 2008. An expert guidebook on how to broker peace in the Middle East.

The USIP Study Group on Arab-Israeli Peacemaking culminated in the creation of this book. Kurtzer and Lasensky detail the shortcomings of American diplomacy in the Middle East and create an interests-based, realistic framework for moving forward with American engagement in the Middle East, including ten core lessons to guide future negotiators.

Camp David: Peacemaking and Politics, William B. Quandt. Brookings Institution Press, 1986. The definitive history of the Camp David negotiations regarding Egypt.

With the Camp David meeting serving as the climax, this book is a detailed study of US policy toward the Arab-Israeli conflict throughout the entire Carter Administration. With the author's earlier volume, *Decade of Decisions*, it completes an authoritative account of 15 crucial years that should be a standard work. Quandt writes as a participant in the process and as a thoughtful, proven scholar, an expert on international diplomacy and on the Middle East. He concedes that new facts and interpretations may be forthcoming from the Arab or the Israeli side--most of the Americans involved (notably Carter, Vance and Brzezinski) have had their say--but if there are any gaps in the story, they are hard to find.

Peace Process: American Diplomacy and the Arab-Israeli Conflict Since 1967, William B. Quandt. Brookings Institution Press and the University of California Press, 2005. An analysis of the barriers to the peace process.

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In this timely new edition of *Peace Process*, William B. Quandt analyzes how each US president since Lyndon Johnson has dealt with the complex challenge of brokering peace in the Middle East, from the 1967 Arab-Israeli war to the death of Yasir Arafat. This classic work has now been updated to reflect recently declassified US government documents and other published materials relating to the Johnson, Nixon and Clinton presidencies, and to carry the story through George W. Bush's first term.

Waging Peace: Israel and the Arabs, 1948-2003, Itamar Rabinovich. Princeton University Press, 2004. A unique insight into the critical debate on the future of peace in the Middle East.

A former chief negotiator for Israel, noted scholar-diplomat Rabinovich examines the complete history of Arab-Israeli relations beginning in 1948. He then gives a vivid account of the peace processes of 1992-1996 and the more dispiriting record since then. His analysis on Iraq, Ehud Barak and Ariel Sharon—and on the expanding role of the United States in the Middle East—sheds light on the long and tumultuous history between Arabs and Jews.

The Missing Peace, Dennis Ross. Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2005. An inside account of the Peace Process.

Ross recounts the peace process in detail from 1988 to the breakdown of talks in early 2001 that prompted the so-called second Intifada and takes account of recent developments in a new afterword written for this edition. It's all here: Camp David, Oslo, Geneva, Egypt and other summits; the assassination of Yitzhak Rabin; the rise and fall of Benjamin Netanyahu; the very different characters and strategies of Rabin, Yasir Arafat and Bill Clinton; and the first steps of the Palestinian Authority. For the first time, the backroom negotiations, the dramatic and often secretive nature of the process and the reasons for its faltering are on display for all to see. *The Missing Peace* explains, as no other book has, why Middle East peace remains so elusive.

The Truth About Camp David: The Untold Story About the Collapse of the Middle East Peace Process, Clayton Swisher. Nation Books, 2004. This riveting portrayal of the Camp David negotiations sheds light on the faults and blunders of all parties involved in the Camp David peace process.

Investigative journalist Swisher uses interviews he gathered with the key actors involved in Camp David to convey a fascinating firsthand account of the negotiations. Swisher argues against the notion that Arafat and the Palestinians are to blame for the failing of the peace process by revealing Barak's consistent skepticism about negotiating with the Palestinians as well as the US's failure to act as an honest broker in the talks.

Identity

The Hebrew Republic: How Secular Democracy and Global Enterprise Will Bring Israel Peace At Last, Bernard Avishai. Harcourt, 2008. A modern look at Israel and Israel's future that argues for enlightened self-interest.

Political economist Bernard Avishai has been writing and thinking about Israel since moving there to volunteer during the 1967 War. Now he synthesizes his years of study and searching into a short, urgent polemic that posits that the country must become a more complete democracy if it has any chance for a peaceful future. He explores the connection between Israel's democratic crisis and the problems besetting the nation—the expansion of settlements, the alienation of Israeli Arabs and the exploding ultraorthodox population. He also makes an intriguing case for Israel's new global enterprises to change the country's future for the better.

The Impacts of Lasting Occupation: Lessons from Israeli Society, Daniel Bar-Tal and Izhak Schnell. Oxford University Press, 2012. This study examines the effects that Israel's occupation of Palestinian territories has had on Israeli society.

While many studies have examined the effects of occupation on the occupied society, this book directs its attention to the occupiers. The effects of occupation on the occupying society are not always easily observed and are difficult to study, yet the authors of this volume show how occupation has detrimental effects on the occupiers. The effects of occupation do not stop in the occupied territories, but penetrate deeply into the fabric of the occupying society. The consequences of occupation are evident in all aspects of Israeli life, including its political, social, legal, economic, cultural and psychological spheres. Occupation has shaped Israel's national identity as a whole, in addition to the day-to-day lives of Israeli citizens.

Palestinian Identity: The Construction of Modern National Consciousness, Rashid Khalidi. Columbia University Press, 2009. A seminal book about the construction of Palestinian identity and the influence of nationalism in the Middle East.

Khalidi critically assesses the narratives that make up Palestinian history and identity and examines the ways in which the Palestinian national consciousness has come full circle. Khalidi also casts an eye to the future, noting the strength of Palestinian identity and social solidarity yet wondering whether current trends will lead to Palestinian statehood and independence.

Israel's Holocaust and the Politics of Nationhood, Idith Zertal. Cambridge University Press, 2010. The centrality of the Holocaust narrative in Israeli identity.

The ghost of the Holocaust is ever present in Israel, in the lives and nightmares of the survivors and in the absence of the victims. Drawing on a wide range of sources, the author exposes the pivotal role of the Holocaust in Israel's public sphere, in its project of nation building, its politics of power and its perception of the conflict with the Palestinians. She argues that the centrality of the Holocaust has led to a culture of death and victimhood that permeates Israel's society and self-image.

Recovered Roots: Collective Memory and the Making of Israeli National Tradition, Yael Zerubavel. University of Chicago Press, 1997. An academic piece on the creation of a modern national identity with Israel as the case study.

Drawing on a broad range of official and popular sources and original interviews, Zerubavel shows that the construction of a new national tradition is not necessarily the product of government policy but a creative collaboration between politicians, writers and educators. Her discussion of the politics of commemoration demonstrates how rival groups can turn the past into an arena of conflict as they posit competing interpretations of history and opposing moral claims on the use of the past. Zerubavel analyzes the emergence of counter-memories within the reality of Israel's frequent wars, the ensuing debates about the future of the occupied territories and the embattled relations with Palestinians.

Food

Beyond Hummus and Falafel: Social and Political Aspects of Palestinian Food in Israel, Liora Gvion. University of California Press, 2012. How food has come to play a central role in how Palestinians citizens of Israel negotiate life and a shared cultural identity within a tense political context.

Food is more than a collection of calories; it's a mixture of meanings and symbols, and thus also a smorgasbord of archaic cultural stereotypes. To prepare a meal is to reveal yourself, your connection to your culture. In this careful and honest ethnography, Liora Gvion takes us to the most culturally intimate reaches of Palestinians' homes, their kitchens, and sifts through political animosity, cultural ignorance, and shared traditions to suggest new foundations for understanding. Food is at the center of how Arab culture minorities define and shape the boundaries and substance of their identity within Israel.

Jerusalem: A Cookbook, Yotam Ottolenghi and Sami Tamimi. Ten Speed Press, 2012. Explore the vibrant cuisine of Israel's most famous city with its diverse Muslim, Jewish and Christian communities.

This book was written by Yotam Ottolenghi and Sami Tamimi, chefs who grew up on opposite sides of the divided city, Mr. Tamimi in the Arab East, Mr. Ottolenghi in the Jewish West. This stunning cookbook offers 120 recipes from their unique cross-cultural perspective, from inventive vegetable dishes to sweet, rich desserts. The history of the city and of foods found there are sprinkled throughout the text, as are visuals not only of recipes but also of the people who inhabit Jerusalem and beyond.

Breaking Bread in Galilee: A Culinary Journey into the Promised Land, Abbie Rosner. Hilayon Press, 2012. A culinary memoir that presents a refreshingly uplifting example of friendship and trust across the Jewish-Arab divide.

This book takes the reader on a journey, exploring local foods and age-old culinary traditions that are described in the Hebrew Bible and are still being practiced in the Galilee today. In the process, the reader experiences how sharing food ways is a powerful means for overcoming suspicion and building bridges between individuals on each side of this country's bitter conflict. For an audience that is overwhelmed with troubling news from the Middle East, this book presents a refreshingly uplifting example of friendship and trust across the Jewish-Arab divide. The Galilee orientation and Biblical and Koranic references offer an unusually inclusive perspective on the Holy Land and sacred texts.

Jewish Thought and Peace

Between Eden and Armageddon: The Future of World Religions, Violence, and Peacemaking, Marc Gopin. Oxford University Press, 2002. In this groundbreaking book, Marc Gopin integrates the study of religion with the study of conflict resolution.

Recent years have seen a meteoric rise in the power and importance of organized religion in many parts of the world. At the same time, there has been a significant increase in violence perpetrated in the name of religion. While much has been written on the relationship between violence and religious militancy, history shows that religious people have also played a critical role in peacemaking within numerous cultures. Gopin argues that religion can play a critical role in constructing a global community of shared moral commitments and vision—a community that can limit conflict to its nonviolent, constructive variety.

Holy War, Holy Peace: How Religion Can Bring Peace to the Middle East, Marc Gopin. Oxford University Press, 2002. Gopin's analysis of the theoretical, theological and political planes shows what must be done next in order to ensure effective final settlement negotiations and secure, sovereign, democratic countries for both peoples.

The Intifada of 2000-2001 has demonstrated the end of an era of diplomacy in the Arab-Israeli conflict. The style of peacemaking of the Oslo Accords has been called into question by the facts on the ground. Elite forms of peacemaking that do not embrace the basic needs of average people on all sides are bound to fail. The complete neglect of deeper cultural and religious systems in the peace process is now apparent, as is the role that this neglect has played in the failure of the process. Building on his earlier book, *Between Eden and Armageddon*, Gopin provides a detailed blueprint of how the religious traditions in question can become a principal asset in the search for peace and justice. He demonstrates how religious people can be the critical missing link in peacemaking, and how the incorporation of their values and symbols can unleash a new dynamic that directly addresses basic issues of ethics, justice and peace.

From Enemy to Friend: Jewish Wisdom and Pursuit of Peace, Rabbi Amy Eilberg. Orbis Books, 2014. The exploration of how ancient Jewish texts and traditions offer a guide to reconciliation and peace building in our lives, our communities and the world.

Eilberg, the first woman ordained as a rabbi in Conservative Judaism and a member of J Street's Rabbinic Cabinet, has produced a practical guide to fulfillment of the Jewish religious commandment to "pursue peace." Her work addresses both interpersonal conflict and the process of fostering dialogue between groups with deeply entrenched differences. The book draws upon, among others, classical Jewish texts and the theology of later Jewish (e.g. Martin Buber) and non-Jewish religious thinkers.

Jews and Words, Amos Oz and Fania Oz-Salzberger. Yale University Press, 2014. A celebrated novelist and an acclaimed historian of ideas — father and daughter — unravel the chain of words at the core of Jewish life, history and culture.

In their jointly written investigation into the defining essence of the Jewish people, the father-and-daughter team of Amos Oz and Fania Oz-Salzberger come up with definition so reductive that one may end up no wiser regarding who's a member of the club. A lively, often charming combination of history, mythical narrative, illuminating literary analyses and jokes, this book of "conversational essays" between father and daughter gives us a particular overview of how two self-described Jewish atheists approach and interpret what it means to call oneself a Jew.

The Tent of Abraham: Stories of Hope and Peace for Jews, Christians, and Muslims, Rabbi Arthur Waskow, Sister Joan Chittister and Chishti Murshid Saadi Shakur. Beacon Press, 2007. The first book to tell the entire story of Abraham and to use it as a basis for peace. Written by three leaders of different faiths, the book explores in accessible language the mythic quality and the teachings of reconciliation embedded in the Torah, the Qur'an and the Bible.

The three co-authors, representing the three major Western faiths (Judaism, Christianity and Islam), explain each religion's basis for a monotheistic multi-faith movement by delving into ancient stories. Waskow, a rabbi, offers intellectual perspective on the Abrahamic story, explaining symbolic themes of Judaism. Catholic sister and popular writer Chittister describes the Middle East conflict with compelling anecdotes from her own firsthand experience in founding an Israeli-Palestinian women's group. Finally, Sufi writer Chishti discusses the spiritual content and opinions related to Islam. The authors explore provocative questions, such as which son Abraham meant to sacrifice and the nature

of the relationship between Sarah and Hagar. Evoking the "open tent" policy of Abraham, who welcomed all visitors to his home despite social mores, the coauthors air out all options.

Young Adult

**The Cat at the Wall*, Deborah Ellis. Groundwood Books, 2014. The author of *The Breadwinner* trilogy brings a short narrative of the conflict through the eyes of an unexpected resident of the West Bank: a cat.

From the author of the *Breadwinner* trilogy, this novella narrates the story of a middle school girl reincarnated as a cat in the West Bank. She sneaks into a Palestinian home, where she discovers a little boy hiding from two IDF soldiers stationed in the house itself. As tensions quickly escalate between the soldiers and the locals, the cat searches for ways to diffuse the situation in ways that would benefit all parties involved. Award-winning author Deborah Ellis aptly weaves concerns and fears present in the minds of both the Israeli soldiers and the Palestinian villagers along with moments of normality and humor to create a well-balanced vignette on the ongoing conflict.

**Freefall*, Anna Levine. Greenwillow Books, 2008. A recipient of the Sydney Taylor Book Award, this coming of age novel focuses on the difficult choices faced when military service is compulsory, not voluntary.

Aggie is eighteen and getting ready to do her service for the Israeli Army. She could get a cushy assignment—maybe pushing paper somewhere—or she could just take her chances. Only, Aggie isn't like that. Despite her small size and the fact that she needs to gain weight to even make the grade, and despite the total disbelief of her entire family, Aggie is trying out for an elite combat unit. Luckily for Aggie, her backbreaking, sand-in-mouth, completely-lost-in-the-desert training produces an unlikely dividend: friends. The kind she never imagined she could have. The kind you'd go to war with—and for.