

A History of Israel

by Ahron Bregman (2002)

(Palgrave Essential Histories Series)

Contents

List of Maps

Preface

- 1 The Road to Statehood, 1897-1947 1**
 - Theodor Herzl 1
 - Eretz Yisrael 7
 - Palestine in the First World War 13
 - The post-war period 18
 - The British Mandate 21
 - The Arab Rebellion, 1936-39 27
 - Palestine in the Second World War 33
 - Turning on the British 37
 - Partition and civil war 39
- 2 The Birth of Israel, 1948-1949 44**
 - Friday, 14 May 1948 44
 - War 47
 - End of war and the emergence of a democracy 59
- 3 Years of Consolidation, 1950-1966 70**
 - Mass immigration 70
 - Communal problems 71
 - The economy in crisis 75
 - Tensions along the borders 79
 - New leadership 81
 - The politicization of the Holocaust 86
 - The 1956 Kadesh campaign and after 88
 - Domestic issues 93
 - The Lavon Affair 95
 - Germany again 98
 - Enter Levy Eshkol 100
- 4 The Six-Day War and Afterwards, 1967-1973 104**
 - Descent to war 104
 - The waiting period 110
 - War of attrition
 - Golda and Anwar el-Sadat
 - Terrorism, immigration and riots
- 5 Yom Kippur War and the Death of Labour, 1973-1977**
 - Sadat prepares war
 - Israel stumbles into the trap
 - Invasion
 - Fighting back
 - Post-war: society and diplomacy
 - The Agranat report
 - Enter Yitzhak Rabin
 - Enter Shimon Peres
- 6 Begin's Years, 1977-1983**
 - Building a coalition
 - First steps to peace
 - The home front
 - Camp David and after
 - 'Tamuz 1'
 - A second Likud government
 - War in Lebanon
- 7 The Road to Peace, 1983-1991**
 - Enter Yitzhak Shamir
 - Working Together
 - Intifada*
 - Immigration and death of the coalition
 - War and immigration
 - The road to peace
 - The Madrid Peace Conference
- 8 Peace and War, 1992 to Present**
 - Enter Yitzhak Rabin
 - Enter Benjamin Netanyahu
 - Enter Ehud Barak
 - Enter Ariel Sharon

Appendix 1: The Dayan el-Tohami Protocol, 1977

Appendix 2: Draft Declaration of Principles, Israel-Syria, 1992

Notes

Further Reading

Index

Back cover

A History of Israel explores Israel's turbulent history from the first Zionist Congress of 1897 to the present day. Drawing on his considerable experience as historian and journalist, Ahron Bregman offers a balanced examination of Israel's past in which the three principal driving themes of Jewish immigration, wars, and attempts to forge peace with Arabs and Palestinians combine into a single compelling narrative.

New insights, revelations appearing in print for the first time, and portraits of Israeli leaders, past and present, are adeptly woven together with an overview of major events. This incisive book will be welcomed by all with an interest in the fascinating history of Israel.

Ahron Bregman was born in Israel and was an officer in the Israeli Army. He is the author of two previous books: *The Fifty Years War: Israel and the Arabs* (1998), the companion book to a six-part BBC/PBS television documentary, and *Israel's Wars: A History since 1947* (2000, new edition 2002). He is currently Lecturer in History at Webster University, London, and also writes for national newspapers in both England and America.

Reviews

'A History of Israel includes new revelations...Bregman reveals new facts never- before-published about the senior Egyptian spy who worked for the Mossad and was nicknamed 'The Son-in-Law' on account of his family ties with President Nasser.' - Rami Tal, Yediot Aharonot

'A History of Israel is a fascinating book. An easy to read understanding of the recent history of Israel. Bregman has a unique insight into the behind the scenes history of Israel and its leaders.' - Jewish Books Online

'Complete with quotes from secret meetings and a draft of a 1992 secret agreement between Israel and Syria, the book is an easy-to-read guide to the politics of the Middle East.' - Jewish Chronicle

'Ahron Bregman's newly released book A History of Israel is a fascinating book. An easy to read understanding of the recent history of Israel. Bregman has a unique insight into the behind the scenes history of Israel and its leaders. Highly recommended both as a gift and required reading.' - Jewish Books Online

'A balanced examination of Israel's past...New insights, revelations appearing in print for the first time, and portraits of Israel leaders, past and present, are adeptly woven together with an overview of major events. This incisive book will be welcomed by all with an interest in the history of Israel.' - Middle East

'New insights, revelations appearing in print for the first time, and portraits of Israeli leaders, past and present, are adeptly woven together with an overview of major events. This incisive book will be welcomed by all with an interest in the history of Israel.' - Middle East

'Writing about an area as steeped in controversy as Israel can be a daunting task. Bregman, who has written extensively on Israeli history, does an excellent job in this text of offering unbiased and authoritative descriptions of the causes and consequences of the various conflicts that have arisen between the Israelis and the Arabs. Bregman takes looks at the history of Israel from a purely secular perspective, yet he does so without denigrating religious Jews, and others, who see the founding of the modern state of Israel as the fulfillment of Biblical Prophecy...Into his compelling and historical narrative, Bregman has seamlessly interwoven newly uncovered information about Israel's past, as well as brief sketches of the major political figures that had a hand in shaping Israeli history...A History of Israel is ideal for the general reader wishing to learn about Israeli history in general, and as a resource by which to understand the current conflict between the Israelis and the Palestinians...Overall, Bregman presents a comprehensive and readable introduction to modern Israeli history that is both educational and enthralling.' - Anna Dogole, The Jewish Eye

'A good read.' - Carmel Vassallo, Journal of Mediterranean Studies

Welcome to History-of-Israel.org | This homepage is for anyone, who wishes to have a deeper understanding of the Arab-Israeli conflict than can be achieved through the mainstream media or educational institutions. [Read more](#) [History of Israel | A Chronological Presentation](#) A basic knowledge of the history of Israel is necessary in order to understand the Arab-Israeli conflict as it unfolds today. This relatively short, yet fairly thorough run-through offers a chronological overview of the conflict. The intention is to clarify the most important developments that are often discussed, but whic