



RECOMMENDED READING

AVAILABLE IN THE MAXWELL ABBELL LIBRARY

***We Are Not One: A History of America's Fight Over Israel* by Eric Alterman (2022)**

Uncovers the surprising roots of America's long alliance with Israel and its troubling consequences, revealing how our consensus on Israel and Palestine emerged and why, today, it is fracturing.

***Israel 201: Your Next-Level Guide to the Magic and Mystery and Chaos of Life in the Holy Land* by Joel Chasnoff & Benji Lovitt (2023)**

Explores the people, places, and phenomena that make Israel truly unique. From Yom Kippur bike sales to Jerusalem's cat conundrum, shomer Shabbos car insurance to LGBTQ combat soldiers in the IDF, this is the Israel you don't hear about in the news.

See also: ***The 188th Crybaby Brigade: A Skinny Jewish Kid from Chicago Fights Hezbollah***

***We Need to Talk About Antisemitism* by Diana Fersko (2023)**

Includes a chapter on Israel discussing why the discourse so often turns into antisemitism.

***Catch-67: The Left, the Right, and the Legacy of the Six-Day War* by Micah Goodman (2019)**

Since the Six-Day War, Israelis have been entrenched in a national debate over whether to keep the land they conquered or to return some, if not all, of the territories to Palestinians. Best-selling Israeli author Micah Goodman sheds light on the ideas that have shaped Israelis' thinking on both sides of the debate, and among secular and religious Jews about the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

***Impossible Takes Longer: 75 Years After Its Creation, Has Israel Fulfilled its Founders' Dreams?* by Daniel Gordis (2023)**

Using Israel's Declaration of Independence as his measure, Gordis provides a thorough, balanced perspective on how the Israel of today exceeds the country's original aspirations and how it has fallen short. See also: ***Israel: A Concise History of a Nation Reborn, We Stand Divided: The Rift Between American Jews and Israel, The Promise of Israel, Saving Israel*** and more.

***Letters to My Palestinian Neighbor* by Yossi Klein Halevi (2018)**

In a series of letters to his Palestinian neighbors, a renowned author explains what motivated his move to Israel in his twenties, describing the regional conflicts through the eyes of an Israeli.

See also: ***Memoirs of a Jewish Extremist, Like Dreamers: The Story of the Israeli Paratroopers Who Reunited Jerusalem and Divided a Nation***, and ***At the Entrance to the Garden of Eden: A Jew's Search for God with Christians and Muslims in the Holy Land***.

***The Land of Hope and Fear: Israel's Battle for Its Inner Soul* by Isabel Kershner (2023)**

Decodes Israel at its 75th anniversary, examining the ways in which the country has both exceeded and failed the ideals and expectations of its founders. See also: ***Barrier: The Seam of the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict***.

***The Arc of a Covenant: The United States, Israel, and the Fate of the Jewish People* by Walter Russell Mead (2022)**

A groundbreaking work that overturns the conventional understanding of the Israeli-American relationship and, in doing so, explores how fundamental debates about American identity drive our country's foreign policy.

Rachel Kamin, Director of Lifelong Learning, North Suburban Synagogue Beth El

rkamin@nssbethel.org

December 2023

***Twelve Tribes: Promise and Peril in the New Israel* by Ethan Michaeli (2021)**

Documents the nation at its most volatile moment by weaving together the personal histories of Holocaust survivors, tech millionaires, Torah scholars, Ethiopian Prisoners of Zion, Russian emigres, West Bank settlers, and Palestinians.

***Dreams Deferred: A Concise Guide to the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict & The Movement to Boycott Israel* by Cary Nelson (2016)**

A collection of sixty concise essays that discuss facts, history and debates surrounding the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, including the BDS movement, and the continued possibility of a two-state solution.

***2048: The Rejuvenated State* by Michael Oren (2023)**

Former Ambassador Michael Oren sets out his vision for Israel in honor of Israel's 75th Independence Day 25 years in the future. Oren's work is presented here in three languages - English, Hebrew & Arabic - all in one volume, a metaphor for the peace and unity we all hope for.

See also: ***Six Days of War: June 1967 and the Making of the Modern Middle East.***

***Dear Zealots: Letters from a Divided Land* by Amos Oz (2018)**

Offers three powerful essays that speak directly to the present age, on the rise of zealotry in Israel and around the world from one of Israel's most prolific writers and respected intellectuals.

***And None Shall Make Them Afraid: Eight Stories of the Modern State of Israel* by Rick Richman (2023)**

Americanism and Zionism were the two most successful "isms" of the twentieth century. This book presents eight individuals whose lives and achievements illustrate the intellectual and social revolutions that Americanism and Zionism brought into the world.

***The Genius of Israel: The Surprising Resilience of a Divided Nation in a Turbulent World* by Dan Senor (2023)**

Outlines the defining factors behind Israel's successful track record of innovation and explaining how other nations can learn from its development. See also: ***Start-Up Nation: The Story of Israel's Economic Miracle.***

***My Promised Land* by Ari Shavit (2013)**

Presents an examination of Israel that traces the events that led the country to its current state of conflict through the stories of everyday citizens to illuminate the importance of lesser-known historical events.

***Can We Talk About Israel? A Guide for the Curious, Confused, and Conflicted* by Daniel Sokatch (2021)**

An expert on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict explains the century-long struggle in a digestible but thorough format, along with illustrations which help explain the history of the most complicated conflict the world.

***The Conflict Over the Conflict: The Israel/Palestine Campus Debate* by Kenneth S. Stern (2020)**

Chronicles one of the most divisive and toxic issues on today's college and university campuses. Stern asks: How did we get here and what can be done?

***Israel: A Simple Guide to the Most Misunderstood Country on Earth* by Noa Tishby (2021)**

The Israeli actress and producer who founded Act for Israel in the US in 2011, offers an accessible and dynamic portrait of Israel through small pieces of history and deeply personal stories.

***The Zionist Ideas: Visions for the Jewish Homeland--Then, Now, Tomorrow* by Gil Troy (2018)**

Showcases more than 170 visionaries and sheds light on the surprisingly diverse and shared visions for realizing Israel as a democratic Jewish state. See also: ***Moynihn's Moment: America's Fight Against Zionism as Racism*** and ***Why I am a Zionist: Israel Jewish Identity and the Challenges of Today.***