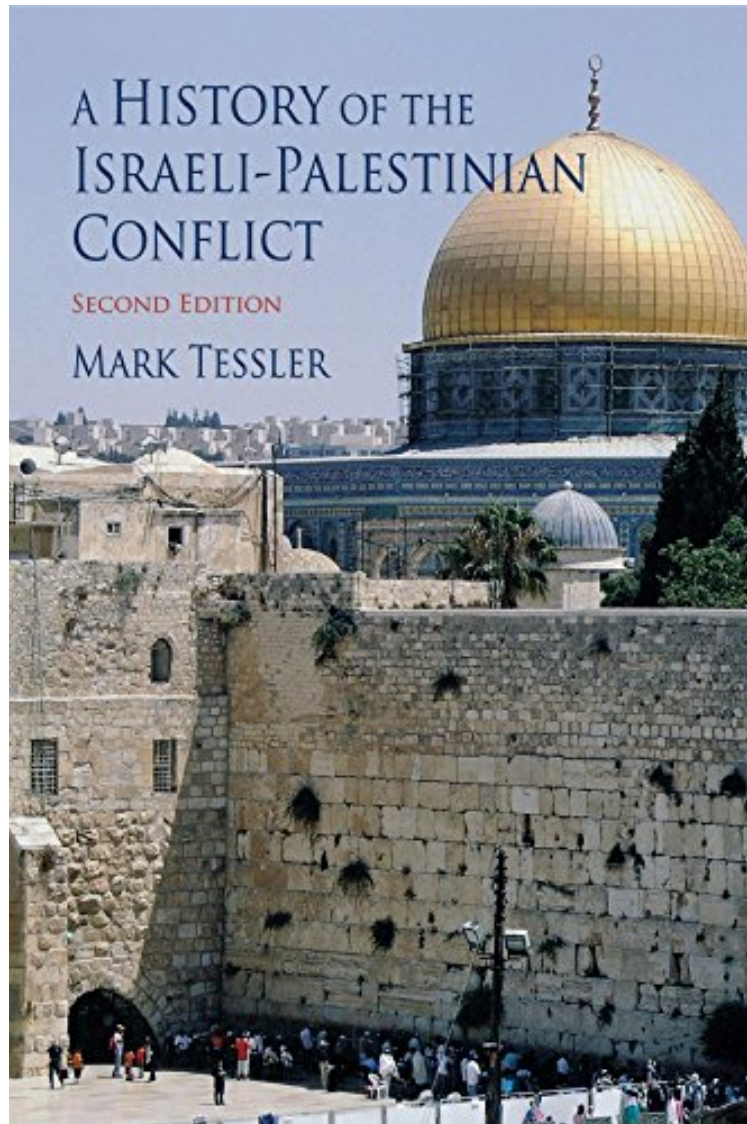


A History of the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict (Indiana Series in Arab and Islamic Studies)

Mark Tessler

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#286229 in Books imusti 2009-03-24 2009-03-24Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 9.25 x 1.88 x 6.12l, 3.16 #File Name: 025322070X1040 pagesIndiana University Press | File size: 56.Mb

Mark Tessler : A History of the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict (Indiana Series in Arab and Islamic Studies) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised A History of the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict (Indiana Series in Arab and Islamic Studies):

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A valuable contribution to understanding.By Amanda FittonThe detail with which the book is written make it a major undertaking for the general reader. The same attention to detail

make it an important source for acquiring an understanding of our current situation in the region. 7 of 8 people found the following review helpful. Review: Tessler's Second Preface to 'A History of the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict' (2009) By JohanI recently picked up a copy of Mark Tessler's second edition of the epic narrative A History of the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict - and you know what? - just reading the preface alone is enough to have you believe that this conflict is almost beyond the scope of human endeavor to deal with, let alone resolve. The mood of Tessler's second edition preface is in complete reversal of the first, and with good reason. When Conflict was first published in September 1993, it coincided with the signing of the 'Declaration of Principles' by Israel and the PLO on the basis of bilateral recognition of each other's rights, plus an active agenda to initiate concrete steps towards a mutually-agreed partition plan that would eventually lead to a sovereign Palestinian state. Prior to this, there had been secret meetings between the two parties in Oslo, the purpose of which was to kick-in the negotiation process. Both parties have been slowly but surely coming to terms that peace was still the best deal in this divisive land, and in order for peace to coagulate, it didn't take much rocket science to know that to yield was to gain, and that compromise was the only way forward. And so as the first edition of Conflict went to print, the mood was somewhat encouraging, despite decades and decades of conflict. So, yes, the preface to the first edition had that bit of 'cautious optimism' in Tessler's voice, but sixteen years have gone by, and Tessler admits in his second preface that the "Israelis and Palestinians are today more distrustful of one another than ever and the prospect for peace is correspondingly remote". In fact, Tessler tells us that the new material of his second edition is a 'long epilogue' devoted to the 'rise and fall of the Oslo peace process'. As an academician, historian and a concerned human being, Tessler has first to inform that his work was originally built on the premise of 'objectivity without detachment'. The operative aspect of his scholarship is therefore coloured by the concept of 'without detachment' which means that there is a need to put his studied impressions of what lies ahead for peace for the benefit of his readers, students and fraternity. As it turns out, Tessler pulls no punches in this department. Tessler, in his second preface, meticulously prepares the reader of what scenarios lie ahead, claiming first, that the Oslo process 'did not have to fail'. He runs us through the usual barrage of peace proposals, returning always to the optimistic position that peace will eventually be found and that the only barriers to peace are people's attitudes, beliefs, symbols, and a whole bunch of mind-poisoning, distrust-sowing propaganda by the powers that be. And this is the very paradox of his second preface, for here, in dealing with the human psyche which drives all our fears, anger, appetite for destruction and what not, Tessler succumbs to the gravity of the situation on the ground. In his closing paragraph, we get a dose of Tessler's pain, for while he tells us that despite the complete breakdown at making peace in all its attempts, 'the eventual resumption of negotiations, to be followed by a new peace process, is all but inevitable.' That's the bright side. Then he opens the floodgates on us and declares, "But perhaps this is wishful thinking..." --2009/11/09 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By TommyDelivered as promised.

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.

From Publishers Weekly "Objectivity without detachment" is the author's self-proclaimed goal, and his detailed account of this intractable 20th-century conflict is certainly more even-handed than many. Part of the Indiana Series in Arab and Islamic Studies, Tessler's work provides a useful review of the numerous failed diplomatic solutions over the years concluding on a cautiously optimistic note with the September 1993 handshake between Rabin and Arafat. It is a fallacy, however, to believe that the "truth" of any contested issue must always reside dead center between the two sides--and this work is unlikely to sway any reader who already holds a considered opinion. Tessler (coauthor of *Israel, Egypt, the Palestinians*) is closest to achieving his goal when he devotes two long opening chapters to sympathetic histories of the Jews and the Arabs, respectively. Yet even here the symmetry is flawed, and he must engage in a song and dance to explain why he gives the history of the Arab world rather than the Palestinians specifically if, as he asserts, "the Palestinians are descendants of two ancient peoples, the Canaanites and the Philistines." A technique the author frequently employs is to set forth the arguments--including audacious propaganda--before stepping in to evaluate them critically or, more often, to equivocate. In this regard, he cites a touching anecdote recounted by Arafat, only pointing to its spurious character in a footnote. Although similar lapses throughout partially erode the credibility of the author's objective stance, one has to admire his herculean effort, and current events ensure that this is a timely history. Copyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Library Journal Tessler, a political scientist, provides a thorough historical and political analysis of the current Arab-Israeli conflict. Going back to ancient times, he juxtaposes the history of the ancient Hebrews with that of the Arabs, bringing their respective developments up through time to the present. With a great deal of clarity, the author describes the origins of modern political Zionism and Arab nationalism, their emergence and evolution through the period of the British mandate, and

the establishment of the State of Israel with the commensurate Arab opposition efforts. Tessler's analysis is made current by a discussion of the intifadah. His method of presenting complementary histories of the two peoples leads to the author's thesis that a solution to the conflict can come only with mutual recognition of the respective histories of the Israelis and Palestinians and the establishment of two states. This is the best book on the subject at present. Highly recommended. Sanford R. Silverburg, Catawba Coll., Salisbury, N.C. Copyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Booklist

Objectivity without detachment is the goal of Tessler, a political science professor and director of the Center for International Relations at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, in tracing the history of the Mideast struggles of Israelis and Palestinians. Centrally, Tessler assumes both Israeli Jews and Palestinian Arabs have legitimate and inalienable rights . . . rooted in the historical experience of each people. After sketching the congruent origins of modern Zionism and Arab nationalism in the nineteenth century, he focuses on the period from the last years of the Ottoman Empire to 1993's Israeli-Palestinian accord. On the dozens of questions of historical fact that divide the adversaries, Tessler strives to present both positions fairly, recognizing and empathizing with the real injuries suffered over the decades on both sides. Partisans who deny the symmetry of Israeli and Palestinian aspirations and oppose mutual recognition and a two-state solution will no doubt attack Tessler's effort to achieve a balanced historical assessment of this long and troubled conflict. Readers whose minds are relatively open, however, will find this demanding comprehensive study fascinating and enlightening. Includes 20 maps and well over 100 pages of notes and bibliography. Mary Carroll