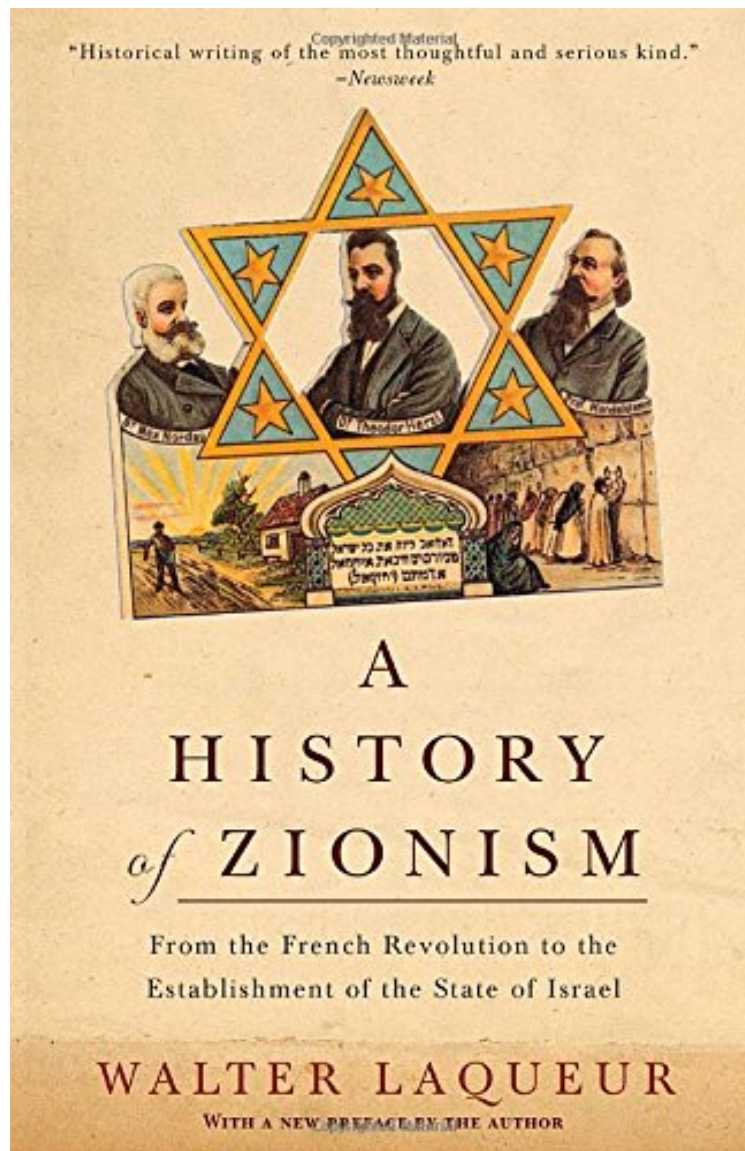


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A History of Zionism: From the French Revolution to the Establishment of the State of Israel

Walter Laqueur

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Walter Zeev Laqueur (born 1921) is a Jewish American historian and political commentator. He has written many books, such as *The Changing Face of Anti-Semitism: From Ancient Times to the Present Day*, *The Israel-Arab Reader: A Documentary History of the Middle East Conflict*, 7th Edition, *The Terrible Secret: Suppression of the Truth About Hitler's "Final Solution"*, *The New Terrorism : Fanaticism and the Arms of Mass Destruction*, *Fascism: Past, Present, Future*, etc. He wrote in the Preface to this 1972 book, "This volume ... is the first comprehensive history in English on a comparable scale... It was my intention to provide a truthful account of the origins and development of one of the most embattled movements in recent history... I have not tried to disguise my own position and am aware that others may not necessarily share my views. It is, I believe, a truthful account... I have tried to discuss dispassionately views which are not my own and actions which I deplore." Here are some quotations from the book: "The sad truth which most defenders of traditional Judaism have always been reluctant to face was that it had become meaningless for many people... many educated Jews no longer felt any obligation, moral or other, to their community." (Pg. 17) "Ahad Ha'am was equally critical of Herzl and political Zionism; it pretended to bring the Jewish people back to Judaism, but in fact ignored all the basic questions of Jewish culture, of its language and literature, of education and the diffusion of Jewish knowledge." (Pg. 163) "The Zionists certainly paid little attention to the first stirrings of the Arab national movement and few envisaged the possibility of a clash of national interests. But they did of course know that several hundred thousand Arabs lived in Palestine and that these constituted the majority of the local population." (Pg. 210) "There were individual Arab notables, but there was no Arab political leadership in Palestine, certainly not before 1908." (Pg. 218) "Zionist leaders... were firmly convinced that the broad masses of the Arab population had no real interest in politics, that their main concern was to improve their standard of living... The Zionist leaders were forever seeing a hidden hand behind the anti-Zionist movement." (Pg. 247) "Yet when all was said and done, there was still the obligation in the Bible to settle in Palestine, and the issue continued to trouble the orthodox camp." (Pg. 408) "The upshot was that in the years when European Jewry needed Palestine most its gates were gradually closed." (Pg. 509)
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By Delores E. Lynch I am just getting into it and I am confident I am going to like it. Very thorough and very readable.

The definitive general history of the Zionist movement, by one of the most distinguished historians of our time. Walter Laqueur traces Zionism from its beginnings with the emancipation of European Jewry from the ghettos in the wake of the French Revolution to 1948, when the Zionist dream became a reality. He describes the contributions of such notable figures as Benjamin Disraeli, Moses Hess, Baron Edmond de Rothschild, and Sir Herbert Samuel, and he analyzes the seminal achievements of Theodor Herzl, Chaim Weizmann, and David Ben Gurion. Laqueur outlines the differences between the various Zionist philosophies of the early twentieth century: socialist, Communist, revisionist, and cultural utopian and he discusses both the religious and secular Jewish critics of the movement. He concludes with a dramatic account of the cataclysmic events of World War II, the clandestine immigration of Holocaust survivors, the tragic missed opportunities co-existence with both the Arab residents of Palestine and those in the surrounding countries, and the struggle to forge a new state on an ancient land. Laqueur's new preface analyzes the present-day difficulties, and places them into a fascinating and valuable historical context.

Historical writing of the most thoughtful and serious kind.
Newsweek The best single volume for the general reader.
The Economist Laqueur's rigorous objectivity elevates [this book] light-years above its predecessors in the field.
The New York Times Book About the Author WALTER LAQUEUR chairs the research council for the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington, D.C., and he is the founding editor of the *Journal of Contemporary History*. The author of more than twenty-five works of European and Jewish history, he lives in Washington, D.C.