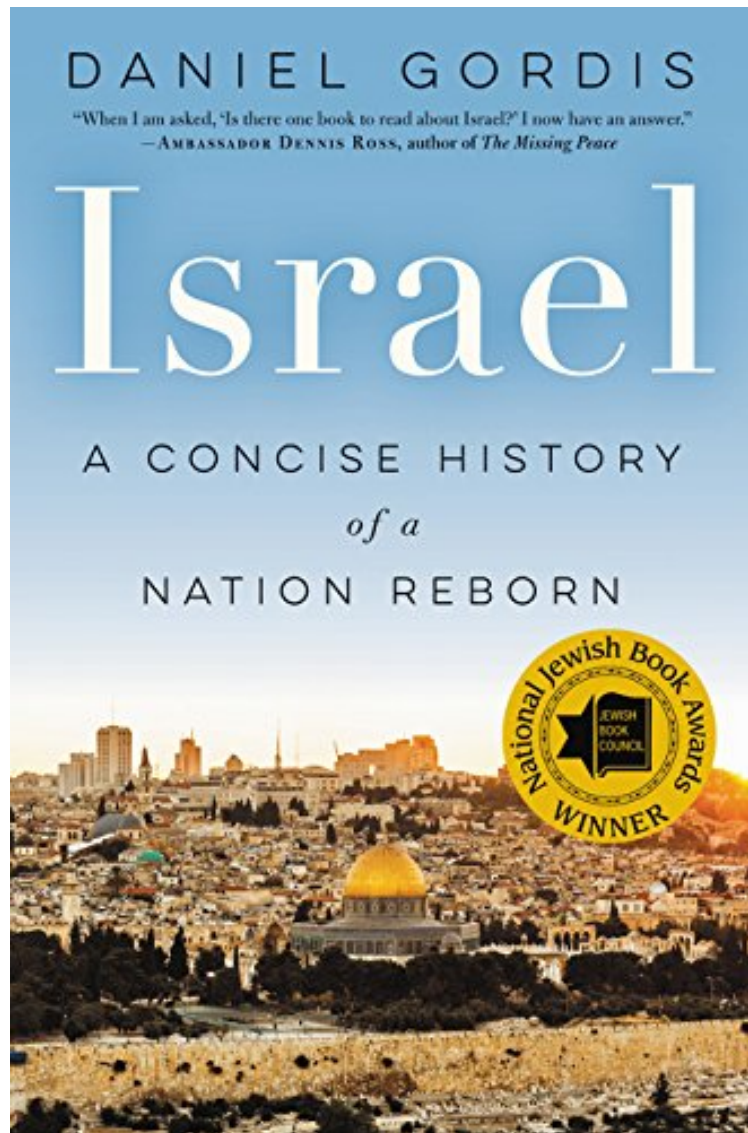


(Free and download) Israel: A Concise History of a Nation Reborn

Israel: A Concise History of a Nation Reborn

Daniel Gordis

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#88604 in Books Gordis Daniel 2016-10-18 2016-10-18 Original language: English PDF # 1 9.00 x 1.40 x 6.00l, 1.42 #File Name: 0062368745560 pages Israel A Concise History of a Nation Reborn | File size: 58.Mb

Daniel Gordis : Israel: A Concise History of a Nation Reborn before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Israel: A Concise History of a Nation Reborn:

42 of 44 people found the following review helpful. Israel: 1870s - 2015 By William Garrison Jr. "Israel: A Concise History of a Nation Reborn" by Daniel Gordis (Oct. 2016). Although it touts itself as a "Concise History" of Israel, the author has packed a lot of information and thoughtful analysis in this 546-page book. This is much more than a chronological time-line of the highlights regarding the creation and existence of the Jewish state of Israel. The author

re-plows the basic history as to how Theodor Herzl advocated for pogrom-weary European Jews to move to Palestine. The author not only details how Eastern European Jews were divided over whether or not a Jewish state should be created, the author notes the arguments and diverse personalities that debated this challenge. (The author provides some interesting commentary as to how the American writer Mark Twain reflected upon this issue.) [This book does a better job in explaining the "workings" of the early Zionist movement than what is discussed in the recently published "Zionism" by M. Viorst.] Rather than reviewing all of the Zionist arguments here, I found that the author really provided a lot of insight as to the various Zionist and anti-Zionist arguments and how personalities were split between secularists and religious fundamentalists. I found that the author provides new insights as to the developments in the "return to Israel" movement, and how the Balfour Declaration was born. I found that the author reviewed many sources and provided great, informative insights into how the Zionist movement campaigned throughout Europe to entice Jews to return to the Palestine region. The author provided fine insight into the political and military disputes between Ben-Gurion and Begin during the 1940s. While the author noted that the Israeli government had a very difficult time in absorbing and caring for new, and oftentimes impoverished immigrants, I felt the author failed to convey the seriousness of the really desperate economic conditions of Israel during its first decade. I found it interesting to learn that Begin had opposed Israel receiving financial "war reparations" from the West German government. Also, perhaps it was due to his remembrance of the Holocaust he resigned as prime minister rather than receive a new German official. In reviewing the various political parties, it seemed that the primary disputes were more over personalities rather than economic policies -- although Begin certainly and consistently advocated for a greater "free market" economy that was in contrast to Ben-Gurion's socialistic Labor Party. It was interesting to learn how the high large influx of secular, Soviet-Jews starting in the 1980s changed the political dynamics of Israeli politics. I was surprised to learn that the kibbutzim accounted for only about 15% of the Israeli population, and how they eventually declined in popularity and economic influence. While the various wars are discussed, and casualties are noted, the author really doesn't spend much time in providing details as to how some military unit conducted some maneuver -- except to note how it affected the outcome of a war. Yes, it is a strong pro-Jewish Israel book -- the author doesn't lament much about the plight of Palestinian Arabs, except to claim that much of their problems were of their own doing by failing to accept a peaceful coexistence with a Jewish state. While the author noted that within the occupied/administered "West Bank" [Samaria-Judea] there are three areas/zones of control or semi-control that are governed/administered by the Palestinian Authority (PA), the author doesn't dwell on analyzing the successes or failures of the PA's administration (that would take several other books to accomplish) -- except to say that Israelis themselves are deeply divided over the future "independence" of that area, and how Jewish settlements within are to be either expanded or reduced. (The author doesn't analyze the theological aspects of the Quran as to why the Muslim-Arabs won't accept a Jewish state.) The author has produced a fine book in revealing the determination of the Zionists to birth a secular, Jewish state -- and he analyzes how the original Zionist dream/hope that both Arabs and Jews could live peacefully together has not and most likely will not be achieved. This is more than just a history of Israel, it is a history -- well, for the lack of a better word -- of the "revival" of the Jewish spirit in reclaiming a homeland; or as the author put it in the book's sub-title: "of a Nation Reborn". A book that I can highly recommend. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Great survey of the Israeli story By T. Booher I read this book to gain understanding for a recent trip to Israel. It answered a number of questions and gave me a good feel for how Israel developed. The street names are now alive and tell stories here. Unlike other histories, this one is not finished and actively changing. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Mostly Good By Bob in the Valley The book was mostly good and worth reading. I found the first few chapters slow and not what I wanted to read about. From chapters 4 thru 16, I thoroughly enjoyed the book. I found it very informative and interestingly written. Chapter 17 felt like it was written by someone else and did not belong in this book. Chapter 18 was the conclusion and was fine. Still worth reading and I gave it 4 Stars.

Winner of the Jewish Book of the Year Award The first comprehensive yet accessible history of the state of Israel from its inception to present day, from Daniel Gordis, "one of the most respected Israel analysts" (The Forward) living and writing in Jerusalem. Israel is a tiny state, and yet it has captured the world's attention, aroused its imagination, and lately, been the object of its opprobrium. Why does such a small country speak to so many global concerns? More pressingly: Why does Israel make the decisions it does? And what lies in its future? We cannot answer these questions until we understand Israel's people and the questions and conflicts, the hopes and desires, that have animated their conversations and actions. Though Israel's history is rife with conflict, these conflicts do not fully communicate the spirit of Israel and its people: they give short shrift to the dream that gave birth to the state, and to the vision for the Jewish people that was at its core. Guiding us through the milestones of Israeli history, Gordis relays the drama of the Jewish people's story and the creation of the state. Clear-eyed and erudite, he illustrates how Israel became a cultural, economic and military powerhouse but also explains where Israel made grave mistakes and traces the long history of Israel's deepening isolation. With Israel, public intellectual Daniel Gordis offers us a brief but thorough account of the cultural, economic, and political history of this complex nation, from its beginnings to the present. Accessible,

levelheaded, and rigorous, Israel sheds light on the Israel's past so we can understand its future. The result is a vivid portrait of a people, and a nation, reborn.

The author loves his adopted homeland without ignoring its blemishes. He treats the most contested episodes in Israeli history, such as the plight of both Arab and Jewish refugees during the 1948 War of Independence, honestly and fairly. (Wall Street Journal) Gordis is determined to do his best to provide some to those who don't know as much about Israel as they think they know, or as much as they need to know. (New York Post) You will enjoy the fluid motion of Gordis's writing style, which somehow condenses thousands of details into memorable, thought-provoking passages. . . . Gordis grants us more than a peek at the past and present. (San Francisco Book) Gordis brings to life the colorful patchwork of Israeli society and all those whose work helped shape it. . . . His writerly feat is in making so much so vivid through straightforward prose. . . . Certain to become a standard work. (Commentary) Gordis guides readers through all of this and much more, with a blend of energy and grace, brain and heart in mutual embrace. (Jewish Book Council) A welcome new primer, just in time for a new generation of English-speakers who are interested in Israel, to learn about the country and its struggles. (Jerusalem Post) Gordis crafts an elegant, personal narrative. . . . a readable, concise history that effectively captures the sense of grand ideas in Israel's identity. (Kirkus) This will serve as a fine introduction to this tiny but vitally important nation. (Booklist) An excellent introduction for anyone with a new or ongoing interest in Israel. A comprehensive bibliography serves as a guide to further reading. (Library Journal) As the title promises, he delivers a concise, readable history that celebrates its subject without idealizing it. It's a book that belongs on the shelf of every believer in the Zionist dream. (Atlanta Jewish Times) Israel . . . captures the clamorous freedom, cultural effervescence, and economic prosperity that mark Israel today. (Hoover Institution) Gordis has an ability to get to the core of issues and to discuss them in straightforward language that nevertheless conveys sophisticated analysis. . . . Gordis's concise history of Israel fills an urgent need. (Washington Free Beacon) Gordis shows how Israel has battled the odds for decades. (The American Thinker) Like Israel itself, Daniel Gordis's Israel is audacious, intensive and unique. It tells the breathtaking story of the third Jewish commonwealth from the very beginning to today. Anyone interested in the history of Zionism will find priceless information and profound insight in this much needed, fair and balanced book. (Ari Shavit, author of My Promised Land) Gordis has written a luminous history that tells the story of Israel not only through its statesmen and warriors but its artists and writers and poets. Gordis gives us the soul of Israel, and helps explain why the most hated country on the planet is also among the most beloved. (Yossi Klein Halevi, author of Like Dreamers: The Story of the Israeli Paratroopers Who Reunited Jerusalem and Divided a Nation) A fascinating, accessible, nuanced, and smart account of a complex story, this book should be required reading for anyone who wants to understand this complicated corner of the world. (Deborah Lipstadt, author of Denial: Holocaust History on Trial and Dorot Professor of Modern Jewish History and Holocaust Studies at Emory University) Gordis captures the essence of who Israel is, where it has come from, and why the Jewish state will and must continue to exist. When I am asked Is there one book to read about Israel?, I now have an answer. (Ambassador Dennis Ross, Special Middle East coordinator under President Bill Clinton and author of The Missing Peace: The Inside Story of the Fight for Middle East Peace) Israel the book is an extraordinary reminder that Israel the country, with its new language, secular culture and unparalleled achievements, is nothing short of a man-made miracle. (Talia Carner, author Hotel Moscow and Jerusalem Maiden) Daniel Gordis combines encyclopedic knowledge with the writing talent of a novelist. He makes complex historical events accessible as he spans the whole sweep of Israel's history, explaining how and why the rebuilding of the Jewish state in the twentieth century has transformed Jewish history forever. (Rabbi Joseph Telushkin, author of Jewish Literacy, A Code of Jewish Ethics, and Rebbe) Gordis weaves anecdote with historic judgment, and effectively uses both literary sources and introductions to Israel's formative personalities to reflect on Israel's history, its politics and especially, its soul. Israel is vibrant, articulate, and replete with wisdom. (Ilan Troen, President of the Association for Israel Studies) From the Back Cover Israel is a tiny state, and yet since its creation, it has captured the world's attention, earned its admiration, and, often, been the object of its opprobrium. Why is so much of the international community focused on a small country like Israel? Why are Israelis so deeply divided on so many key issues? Why does Israel make the decisions it does? And what lies in its future? Weaving together historical documents, letters, and interviews with his own intimate knowledge of the country, Daniel Gordis tells the story of Israel: when the idea of a Jewish state originated, how the dream was transformed into reality, and how Israel's history has unfolded and why. Israel probes the soul of both a people and a country that have long triumphed over adversity, but which still face gruesome and insurmountable challenges. Gordis guides us through the milestones of Israeli history and introduces the passionate and formidable personalities who pioneered the country and shaped its pivotal moments. He illustrates how Israel became a cultural, economic, and military powerhouse but he also explains its grave mistakes and traces its long history of international isolation. Clear-eyed and authoritative, Gordis shows that above all else Israel's prime purpose and its major accomplishment has been the modern rebirth of the Jewish people. With Israel, Gordis offers us a brief but thorough history of this complex nation, from its beginnings to the present. Accessible, level-headed, and rigorous, Israel sheds light on Israel's past so we can understand its present and future. The result is a vivid portrait of a people, and a nation, reborn. About the Author Dr. Daniel Gordis is Senior

Vice President and the Koret Distinguished Fellow at Shalem College in Jerusalem, and is a columnist for the Jerusalem Post and Bloomberg View. The author of numerous books on Jewish thought and political currents in Israel, and a winner of the National Jewish Book Award, Dr. Gordis was the founding dean of the Ziegler School of Rabbinic Studies at the University of Judaism. He joined Shalem in 2007 to help found Israel's first liberal arts college, after spending nine years as vice president of the Mandel Foundation in Israel and director of its Leadership Institute. He lives in Jerusalem.