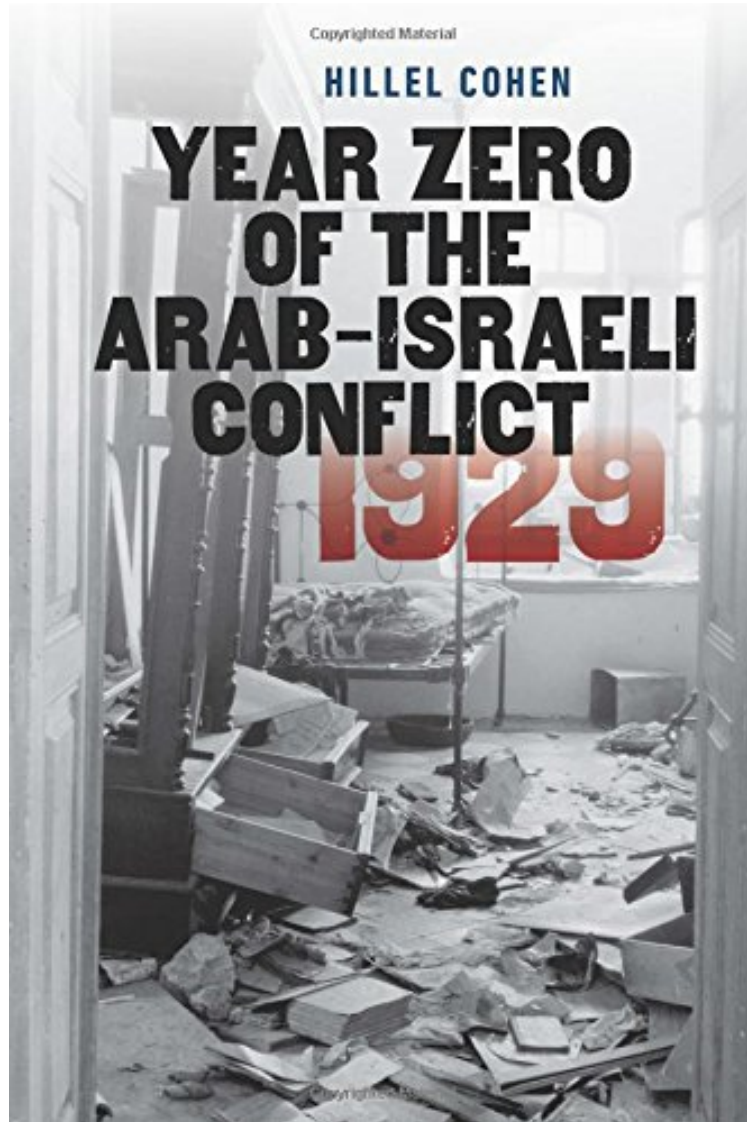


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## Year Zero of the Arab-Israeli Conflict 1929 (The Schusterman Series in Israel Studies)

*Hillel Cohen*

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of conflict historiography generally.<sup>2</sup> of 3 people found the following review helpful. Year ZeroBy Lenny RavichWell documented and researched1 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Scholarly and ReadableBy Ruth RodedA study of the violent events of 1929 Mandate Palestine from both the Zionist and the Palestinian Arab sides; very well written.

Winner of the Azrieli Award for Best Book in Israel StudiesIn late summer 1929, a countrywide outbreak of Arab-Jewish-British violence transformed the political landscape of Palestine forever. In contrast with those who point to the wars of 1948 and 1967, historian Hillel Cohen marks these bloody events as year zero of the Arab-Israeli conflict that persists today. The murderous violence inflicted on Jews caused a fractiousand now traumatizedcommunity of Zionists, non-Zionists, Ashkenazim, and Mizrachim to coalesce around a unified national consciousness arrayed against an implacable Arab enemy. While the Jews unified, Arabs came to grasp the national essence of the conflict, realizing that Jews of all stripes viewed the land as belonging to the Jewish people. Through memory and historiography, in a manner both associative and highly calculated, Cohen traces the horrific events of August 23 to September 1 in painstaking detail. He extends his geographic and chronological reach and uses a non-linear reconstruction of events to call for a thorough reconsideration of cause and effect. Sifting through Arab and Hebrew sourcesmany rarely, if ever, examined beforeCohen reflects on the attitudes and perceptions of Jews and Arabs who experienced the events and, most significantly, on the memories they bequeathed to later generations. The result is a multifaceted and revealing examination of a formative series of episodes that will intrigue historians, political scientists, and others interested in understanding the essenceand the very beginningof what has been an intractable conflict.

Without in any way justifying the extreme violence or the views of the perpetratorsor attempting to equate or rationalize individual attacksCohen successfully helps a contemporary reader understand the complexity of the conflict as it was both experienced and remembered. . . . Year Zero is a highly intellectual yet accessible exploration of a formative period in the history of the Arab-Israeli Conflict, and the creation of identity and historical perspective. While not written about contemporary events, its thoughtful, holistic approach sheds great insight on conflict today in origins, practice, and memory. Jewish Book World