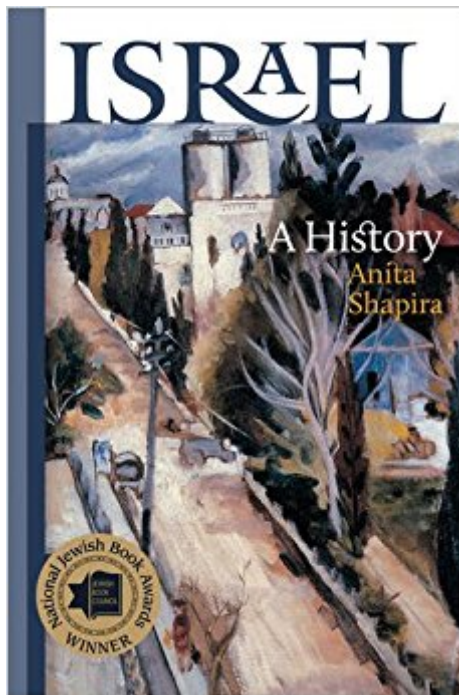


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Israel: A History (The Schusterman Series In Israel Studies)



Synopsis

Winner of the National Jewish Book Award in History (2012) Winner of the Azrieli Institute Award for Best Book in Israel Studies in English or French (2014) Written by one of Israel's most notable scholars, this volume provides a breathtaking history of Israel from the origins of the Zionist movement in the late nineteenth century to the present day. Organized chronologically, the volume explores the emergence of Zionism in Europe against the backdrop of relations among Jews, Arabs, and Turks, and the earliest pioneer settlements in Palestine under Ottoman rule. Weaving together political, social, and cultural developments in Palestine under the British mandate, Shapira creates a tapestry through which to understand the challenges of Israeli nation building, including mass immigration, shifting cultural norms, the politics of war and world diplomacy, and the creation of democratic institutions and a civil society. References to contemporary diaries, memoirs, and literature bring a human dimension to this narrative history of Israel from its declaration of independence in 1948 through successive decades of waging war, negotiating peace, and building a modern state with a vibrant society and culture. Based on archival sources and the most up-to-date scholarly research, this authoritative history is a must-read for anyone with a passionate interest in Israel. *Israel: A History* will be the gold standard in the field for years to come.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"An indispensable guide. . . . The author is at her best focusing on economic, social, and culture history • she makes deft use of Hebrew literature to illuminate her points, and she succinctly captures the zeitgeist of the times." Publishers

Weekly

“Shapira’s Israel has many strengths. . . . That go hand in hand with her rapid, suggestive illumination of themes.”

• Jewish Review of Books

“A fascinating new one-volume history of Israel by the eminent Israeli historian Anita Shapira explains Arab thinking about partition back in 1947 and the many other unexpected and real events that have comprised Israel’s history from the beginnings of the Zionist movement in the 1890s through the second intifada in 2001. Unlike other histories that often tell Israel’s story by jumping from one war to the next, this one, called *Israel: A History* (Brandeis), captures the nation’s diversity and cultural richness along with its existential struggles.”

• Jewish Week

“This is surely a much-needed primer for an English-language audience that is often unaware of the intricacies of the country’s social past, knowing only about the battles and intifadas that seem to make up its history. . . . Shapira’s accessible survey of Israeli history provides a thought-provoking text for those unfamiliar with the Jewish state.”

• Jerusalem Post

“Shapira has written what is in many respects an important, exhaustive and richly thoughtful march through the annals of Zionism.”

• Financial Times

“The best book in English on Israel’s inner workings... Highly recommended.”

• Choice

“Shapira’s opening chapter, on Herzl and the evolution of Zionism, is by itself worth the price of admission... This is what’s best about *Israel: A History*: Here, we finally have a history that enables the reader to make sense of the arcana of the political and social ideology of the Yishuv, and then of the state... *Israel: A History* is for everybody: scholar, student, and general reader. The book will be most valuable to those readers who already know something, and some scholars will yearn for more comprehensive annotation. But Shapira has done something that most surveys do not accomplish: Shapira’s *How?* and *Why?* put us right there, in the historical moment, and answer for us not only *How?* and *Why?* but also, *What was it like?*”

• Forward

“Shapira sustains her readers’ interest as she takes them along a road full of twists of destiny that unfold in the miraculous story called Israel.”

• Jewish Book World

ANITA SHAPIRA is a professor emerita at Tel Aviv University. An internationally acclaimed scholar with a special interest in social and cultural history, Shapira has published pathbreaking studies on the history of Zionism, Jewish-Arab relations, and the state of Israel.

As a Gentile reader who is trying to learn about Israel, its beginnings, It’s a bit hard to follow the

organization. It is written to communicate to someone who knows the geography of Israel, and is part of its current culture. The history is extremely important, because it has shaped the current people. I will continue to read this, but reading the Bernard Lewis histories of the Middle East is helpful in understanding the people/culture that existed before the establishment of Israel in the geographic region we now call Israel, and the conflict that now exists. The small stories of the experiences of the specific settlements, etc, are going to be things I savor in the future, as I understand the political and cultural events that affected them. I would buy this book again, but be prepared that it is not an 'easy read'.

This book is deservedly the winner of the National Jewish Book Awards. The only thing lacking is a few diagrams and pictures which would add to this excellent history of Modern Israel.

Very deep, detailed and comprehensive. Describes the borne of Israel and the development of it in an attitude of sympathy.

Israel' enchanting and intriguing history from the time of first Zionist Congress till the present day conflicts and turmoil that surround it, is inspiring to say the least. It arouses sympathy for a community which since time immemorial has been misunderstood and unjustly treated. Anita Shapira has done a commendable job and painstaking research to bring to light fascinating journey of a people from 'hopelessness' to 'the promised land' and beyond.

It is a amazing synthesis about the history of Israel. I would like to read a little bit more about the Zionist culture and art - maybe in her next book.

I needed to read this for a peace mission this summer to Israel, with a group of other Catholic educators. I am glad that it was required -- it was informative and enjoyable. Definitely more academic than 'pleasure reading' of a general nature though.

Interesting

working on it now...thanks

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