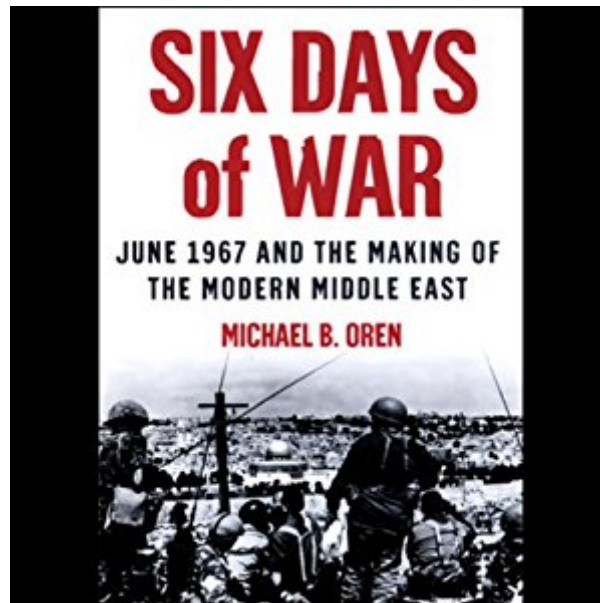




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# Six Days Of War: June 1967 And The Making Of The Modern Middle East



## Synopsis

In Israel and the West, it is called the Six Day War. In the Arab world, it is known as the June War, or simply as "the Setback." Never has a conflict so short, unforeseen, and largely unwanted by both sides so transformed the world. The Yom Kippur War, the war in Lebanon, the Camp David accords, the controversy over Jerusalem and Jewish settlements in the West Bank, the intifada, and the rise of Palestinian terror are all part of the outcome of those six days of intense Arab-Israeli fighting in the summer of 1967. Writing with a novelist's command of narrative and a historian's grasp of fact and motive, Michael B. Oren spotlights all the participants--Arab, Israeli, Soviet, and American--that were involved in this earth-shaking clash. Drawing on thousands of top-secret documents and exclusive personal interviews, he recreates the regional and international context that, by the late 1960s, virtually assured an Arab-Israeli conflagration. A towering work of history and an enthralling human narrative, *Six Days of War* is the most important book on the Middle East conflict to appear in a generation. --This text refers to the Audio CD edition.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Informative but rather dry statistics and political backgrounding of the Mideast players starting with Nassar; most informative was the cost to Israel in lives lost and political capital. I was surprised and saddened to learn how many of Israel's young military people had died while driving the arab invaders out of their areas. It was well that Israel gained control of Jerusalem and the wailing wall.

Considering the current state of affairs and the recent Iran Nuke agreement, learning how we got to

this point is important. This book only gave me a greater desire to learn more history from this area of the world. Israel is a unique country surrounded by direct hostility in every direction. This book is a story of how the world and participants dealt with this conflict. You'll learn a lot about how it applies to current day thinking and politics of the middle east. Relevant then and now.

**Six Days of War Review** This is an excellent review of the 1967 Six Day War. It focuses on the international relations and political aspects of the war much more than the military side. Eschol Levi's reluctance to mobilize and then preemptively attack gives way to more resolve than he gets credit for. Itzhak Rabin's breakdown is mentioned. Moshe Dayan's narcissism is obvious, particularly when he shows up at the Western Wall the day after the liberation, but never invites Eschol to join him. Ben Gurion's brooding in the desert, Menachem Begin's grudging support, it's all here. Then there are the bumbleres on the Arab side. Nasser, clearly out of his depth. The grossly incompetent Egyptian chief of staff Abdel Amir. The headless Syrian leadership that included the current Syrian leader's father. And poor King Hussein, blinded by his pride and Arab solidarity. Finally Johnson, absorbed with the Vietnam War, giving the Arab-Israeli War as little time as he can afford, of course until the USS Liberty is attacked. And the Soviets, playing every side of the table, and getting their just desserts in the end. On a minor note, Michael Oren makes some simple factual mistakes that surprised me from a fluent English speaker/ambassador to the US. For example, he describes Egyptian ballistic missiles as updated "German V-1's", when they would be Scud-like descendants of the German V-2's. He mentions a Jordanian "platoon" of 120 men, when a platoon is ~30 men, and 120 men would make up a company. Finally, he refers to "William J. Fulbright", whereas I can tell you from close experience that his name was "J. William Fulbright", which is widely known to Americans who grew up in the 1950's, 1960's, and 1970's. Nevertheless, this is a great book for those trying to understand how the 1967 war happened, and how it turned out the way it did.

I enjoyed the book and learning about how the history. I did feel it was a bit long in parts; points could have been made more concisely and it did jump around a bit (took 1 star off for that since I'd have to go back and reread the previous page most of time to remember what was happening). The other BIG problem with the kindle version is that the maps are pretty much unreadable and that was disappointing.

Michael Oren is one of the very few writers on the Middle East capable of reviewing documents in English, Hebrew, and Arabic, without a translator. He is also educated as an academic and a

historian, while experienced as a diplomat. This is an exceptional work, one good enough to impress the brilliant Fuad Ajami, who is sorely missed as one of the most exceptional of Middle East experts. This book is thoroughly researched - reflecting Dr. Oren's academic training. Although, looking at some of the reviews, this provides too many details, for those who are insistent upon seeing the basis for statements made, they will be happy to see the same documentation that bothers the more casual readers. Also, for those who found the book "too political" there is nothing about this book or its subject that is not political. I highly recommend this book, especially for those eager or interested in learning about what truly happened, and how a nation surrounded and vastly outnumbered by hostile enemies chanting for their blood, their death, and their destruction, managed in six short days to destroy the Egyptian Air Force on the ground and defeat the invading armies of Egypt, in Sinai, the Jordanians on the eastern front, and the Syrians in the north. Together with Iraqi forces, all were rejected and defeated soundly, with Egypt losing Gaza and the entire Sinai, Jordan losing the West Bank that it conquered in 1948, and Syria losing the Golan Heights, from which they had been raining down bullets, bombs, and artillery on Israeli farmers and civilians. Not only does Oren describe the battles, he goes into exquisite detail regarding the political machinations of the Israelis, the Americans, and the Arabs - all of which are essential to understanding what happened and its significance. This is an essential resource for university history instructors teaching about the Middle East, the development of modern warfare, and International Relations.

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