

Israel: Jewish Redemption or National Demise?

Mr. Yisrael Ne'eman

Course Number: 702.2279

Class Time: TBA

Class Location: TBA

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Course Description:

This course investigates and raises questions as to the historic success of Jewish nationalism (Zionism) in establishing the State of Israel. Multiple contradictions abound: Is the state Jewish, democratic or both? Is the state for all citizens or for the Jewish People worldwide? Secular or religious?

Could the rising Jihadi activity led by Hamas, Hezbollah, Iran and others on its borders be the ultimate challenge even for the Israeli army?

Is conflict resolution possible with the Palestinians? A "two-state solution" with Israel living alongside a Palestinian State leads to virtually insurmountable security problems yet a "one-state solution" means a bi-national state and quite possibly an end to Jewish independence.

In short, will Israel survive as a Jewish and democratic state achieving peace and security with its neighbors?

Course Requirements:

15 minute in class presentation

Take Home Essay - 5 pages – Due as a Mid Term

Take Home Final Essay – 10 pages (67%) – Due Two Weeks After Semester Ends

All essays are to have endnotes and a bibliography

Field Trip to Gilboa and Kinneret Region

Field Trip to the Galilee/Golan

Class Attendance and Academic Touring Days are Mandatory

(More than three unwarranted/unjustified absentees can lead to failure)

Grade Assessment:

Midterm 5 page essay - 33% of one's grade

Final 10 page essay - 67% of one's grade

Class affects one's final grade by up to plus/minus 3 points

Class participation can raise one's final grade by up to 5 points

Course Outline and Reading List

First Week – Introduction: The National Memory from Ancient times

From the Covenant of the Hebrew Scriptures (Old Testament) thru the destruction of the Second Temple

Second Week – Messianism, the Enlightenment and Herzl

Scholem, Gershom, *The Messianic Idea in Judaism*, "Toward an Understanding of the Messianic Idea" pp. 1 – 36

The Jewish State by Theodor Herzl – Download from Internet:
Project Gutenberg *The Jewish State* – Theodor Herzl's Program for Zionism

Third Week – Jewish Nationalism: Labor Zionism, the National Religious Movement and Revisionism

Avineri, Shlomo, *The Making of Modern Zionism* – Borochoy and Gordon pp. 139 – 158
Rabbi Kook pp. 187 – 197

Modechai Sarig, ed., *The Political and Social Philosophy of Ze'ev Jabotinsky*, – Chapters 1 and 4
"Zionism" pp. 1 – 18 and "Resistance and Revolt" pp. 33 – 47

Zeev Jabotinsky, *The Iron Wall* – (Download from Internet – "**The Iron Wall**" Vladimir (Ze'ev) Jabotinsky 1923 (mideastweb.org) with introduction and commentary

Fourth Week – The Balfour Declaration, the Yishuv and Arab-Jewish Confrontation

Chaim Weizmann, *Trial and Error*, Chapters 18 and 19 "The Balfour Declaration" and "The Zionist Commission," pp. 252 – 281 and Chap. 21 "The Zionist Commission –the Positive Side" pp. 290 – 299

Howard Sachar, *A History of Israel* Chapter 8 "The Seeds of Arab-Jewish Confrontation" pp. 163 – 194

Walter (Zeev) Laqueur, *A History of Zionism*, Chapters 10 and 11, "The European Catastrophe" and "The Struggle for the Jewish State," pp. 505 – 588

Fifth Week – The Struggle for the Jewish State and the War of Independence

Sachar, *A History of Israel* – Chapter 12 "The Birth of Israel" pp. 279 - 314

****Righteous Victims* by Benny Morris - Chapter "The First Arab-Israeli War", pp. 161 – 258
(*Note – This chapter needs to be physically photocopied in the Reserve section of the library.*)

Sixth Week – State Development and Immigration 1948 - 67

Shapira, Anita, *Israel: A History* – Chapters 8 – 11, "The Creation of Israeli Democracy," "State Building," "The Great Aliya," and "Culture and Norms in an Evolving Society," pp. 170 - 270

Gilbert, Martin, *Israel: A History* - Chapters 19 – 20 "A State in Being" and "Years of Growth" pp. 329 – 364

Seventh Week – The Six Day War and Aftermath

Righteous Victims (Morris) – Chapter "The Six Day War - The Road to War," pp. 302 - 311
Sachar, *A History of Israel* – Chapter 21 "The Six Day War" pp. 615 – 666
and Chapter 23 "Israel and World Jewry" (includes Soviet immigration) pp. 714 – 739.

Reading: *The Israel - Arab Reader* by Walter Laqueur and Barry Rubin, ed.,
UN Resolution 242, pp. 217 – 218
Palestinian National Charter, pp. 218 – 223
Download **UN Res. 242** (Nov. 22, 1967) from Internet (mideastweb.org)
Download **Palestinian National Charter** from Internet (iris.org.il)

Eighth Week –The Yom Kippur War, the rise of Gush Emunim and the Settlement Movement in the West Bank (Judea and Samaria)

The Rise of and Clash with Palestinian Nationalism

Gilbert, *Israel: A History* – Chapters 24 and 25 – "The October War, Yom Kippur War 1973" and "The Fourth Postwar Era", pp. 426 – 495

Lustick, Ian, Article on Gush Emunim - [For The Land and The Lord: Chapter 3](http://www.sas.upenn.edu/penncip/lustick/lustick13.html)
www.sas.upenn.edu/penncip/lustick/lustick13.html

Ninth Week – The Likud: Peace with Egypt, The War in Lebanon and Jewish Settlement in the West Bank (Judea/Samaria) and Gaza

Israel, Likud and the Zionist Dream, by Colin Shindler, Chapters "The First Begin Government" and "The Cost of Camp David" pp. 83-108

Lustik, *For the Land and the Lord*, Chapters I "Introduction," pp. 1 – 16 and "The World View of Jewish Fundamentalism" pp. 72 – 90

The Israel - Arab Reader – "The Camp David Accords", pp. 404 – 410 OR
Download from Internet **Camp David Accords** (mfa.gov.il)

Tenth Week –National Unity Governments, The Intifada (1987 – 91) and Right-Religious Backlash

Sachar, *A History of Israel*, Chapters 32 – 33, pp. 934 – 976 (National Unity Governments)

Gilbert, *Israel: A History*, Chapter 28 "Towards Madrid and Oslo," pp. 543 - 567

Eleventh Week - The Resurrection of Labor (1992-96), the Oslo Accords and Labor/ Likud "rivalry" (1996 – 2001)

The Israel - Arab Reader, "The Oslo Accords" pp. 599 – 615
OR Download from Internet **Oslo Accords Declaration of Principles** (mfa.gov.il)

The Missing Peace by Dennis Ross, Chapter 24 "The Camp David Summit" and Chapter 25 "The Camp David Summit" pp. 650-711

The Clinton Outline (Parameters) of December 2000 download from the internet **Clinton Parameters** (en.wikipedia.org)

Senor, Dan and Singer, Saul, *Start Up Nation*, Chapter 6 "An Industrial Policy that Worked" and Chapter 7 "Immigration," pp. 103-134.

Twelfth Week – National Unity Governments 2001 – 2009, and the Challenge of Hamas (Muslim Brotherhood) and Hezbollah (Khomeinism)

Reading: *Mideast on Target Articles* (www.me-ontarget.org) by Yisrael Ne'eman

"Guerilla Warfare and the Moral/Ethical Debate" May 2004

"Who Are You Ariel Sharon?" January 2005

"False Messiah X 2" August 2005

"Hezbollah Victory?" Sept. 2006

"No Victory, No Defeat" Sept. 2006

Ne'eman, Yisrael *Hamas Jihad*, Chapter 5, "Hamas Ideological Victory, Resistance and Pragmatism 2000-2016," pp. 199 – 235.

Thirteenth Week – The Growth of Religious Loyalties (Jewish and Islamic), One or Two State Solution? Post-Zionism and Post Arab Nationalism? 2000 - 2017
Israeli Demographics– Israeli Arab and Haredi (Ultra-Orthodox) Empowerment

Ne'eman, Yisrael *Hamas Jihad*, Chapter 5, "Hamas Ideological Victory, Resistance and Pragmatism 2000-2016," pp. 235 – 253.

Smooha, Sammy, "Ethnic Democracy: Israel as Archetype,"
img2.tapuz.co.il/CommunaFiles/32398285.pdf

Smooha, Sammy, "Arab-Jewish Relations in Israel: Alienation and Rapprochement" [PDF] **Arab Jewish Relations in Israel** S Smooha - Washington: United States Institute for Peace, [http:// ...](http://...), 2010 - www-dev.usip.org

Sokoll, Sam, **Introducing the New, Improved Haredim - The Tower**
www.thetower.org/article/introducing-the-new-haredim/

Senor and Singer, "Conclusion," pp. 225-236.