

Course Name - Israel: Jewish Redemption or National Demise?

January/February 2021

Lecturer: Yisrael Ne'eman

Course Number: 702.2279

Class Time:

Class Location:

Office Hours: By appointment

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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 based on the ancient connection to the Land of Israel as promised in the Hebrew Scriptures or Old Testament (Tanakh).

Having established a state against all odds following the catastrophe of the Holocaust the Jewish nation state fought for its survival in three major wars and four single front conflicts. Since 1948 Israel has absorbed and continues to integrate over 2 million immigrants into its economy and society.

Once seen as very much a secular state, Israel has become more religious over the past generation especially as concerns the growth of the ultra-orthodox population and the national religious settlement movement. Nowadays 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? And what of the minority Arabic speaking population?

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

We will review possible conflict resolution with the Palestinians beginning with the Oslo Accords. Yet 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. With close to half a million Jews living in the West Bank in the Palestinian territories are any peace initiatives even feasible?

In short, will Israel survive as a Jewish and democratic state achieving peace and security with its neighbors? In our class we will examine and attempt to answer these fundamental questions.

Course Requirements:

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

Take Home Essay – 5 pages – Due as Final

All essays are to have endnotes and a bibliography

Class Attendance is Mandatory

Students may volunteer to prepare a presentation on an agreed upon topic to receive extra points on their final grade

Grade Assessment:

Midterm 5 page essay - 50% of one's grade

Final 5 page essay - 50% of one's grade

Class presentation (optional) and intelligent participation can raise one's final grade by up to 5 points

Course Outline and Reading List

First Class – Introduction: The National Memory from Ancient Times and through the Enlightenment Period

Tanakh (Old Testament or Hebrew Scriptures) <http://www.devotions.net/bible/00old.htm>

(Choose the necessary chapters from the table presented)

Exodus 19:1-8

Deuteronomy 29:9-28 and 30:1-20

Jewish Messianism

<https://www.myjewishlearning.com/article/jewish-messianism/>

Second Class – Jewish Nationalism: From Theodor Herzl to Labor Zionism, the National Religious Movement and Revisionism

Theodor Herzl and Zionism

https://mfa.gov.il/MFA_Graphics/MFA%20Gallery/Documents/Herzl-Zionism.pdf

Avineri, Shlomo, *The Making of Modern Zionism* – AD Gordon pp. 151 – 158 and

Rabbi Kook pp. 187 – 197

Modechai Sarig, ed., *The Political and Social Philosophy of Ze'ev Jabotinsky*, – Chapter 1

"Zionism" pp. 1 – 17

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Zeev Jabotinsky, *The Iron Wall 1923* <http://en.jabotinsky.org/media/9747/the-iron-wall.pdf>

Third Class – The Balfour Declaration, Jewish Development and the 1948 War of Independence

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

Anita Shapira, *Israel: A History*, Chapter 7 "The War of Independence 1947-1949" pp. 155-178

Fourth Class – State Development and Immigration 1948 – 67

Shapira, *Israel: A History* – Chapter 10, "The Great Aliya," pp. 222 - 247

Gilbert, Martin, *Israel: A History* - Chapters 19, "A State in Being" pp. 329 – 348

Fifth Class – The Six Day War and Aftermath

Sachar, *A History of Israel* – Chapter 21 "The Six Day War" pp. 615 – 666

Download *UN Res. 242* (Nov. 22, 1967) from UN site

<https://unispal.un.org/DPA/DPR/unispal.nsf/0/7D35E1F729DF491C85256EE700686136>

Download *Palestinian National Charter* – Yale Avalon Project

http://avalon.law.yale.edu/20th_century/plocov.asp

Sixth Class – The Yom Kippur War, the rise of the Settlement Movement in the West Bank (Judea and Samaria) and Clash with Palestinian Nationalism

Gilbert, *Israel: A History* – Chapters 24 and 25 – "The October War, Yom Kippur War 1973"

Lustick, Ian, Article on Gush Emunim - For The Land and The Lord: - Article

www.sas.upenn.edu/pennncip/lustick/lustick13.html

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

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Yisrael Ne'eman, "Lebanon Reflections 1982-85" in *Mideast on Target*

<http://me-ontarget.org/pws/page!4964>

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

Download from Internet - *Camp David Accords*

<http://www.acpr.org.il/publications/books/42-Zero-camp-david-accords.pdf>

(Background Information)

Eighth Class –National Unity Governments, The Intifada (1987-91), the Oslo Accords, Economic Development and the Right-Religious Backlash (1992-2000)

Gilbert, *Israel: A History*, Chapter 29 "The Peace Process" pp. 568-587

Download from Internet *Oslo Accords Declaration of Principles* (mfa.gov.il)

<http://www.mfa.gov.il/mfa/foreignpolicy/peace/guide/pages/declaration%20of%20principles>.

(Background Information)

The Clinton Outline (Parameters) of December 2000 Clinton Parameters

http://www.peacelobby.org/clinton_parameters.htm

(Background Information)

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

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

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

(Average article length is 2-3 pages)

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

<http://me-ontarget.org/pws/page!5999>

"Who Are You Ariel Sharon?" January 2005

<http://me-ontarget.org/pws/page!5888>

"False Messiah X 2" August 2005

<http://me-ontarget.org/pws/page!5850>

"Hezbollah Victory?" Sept. 2006

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<http://me-ontarget.org/pws/page!5011>

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

**Tenth Class – Religious Loyalties (Jewish and Islamic), One or Two State Solution?
The Netanyahu Decade 2009 - 2019
Israeli Economics and Demographics– Israeli Arab and Ultra-Orthodox Empowerment**

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

Smooha, Sammy, "Arab-Jewish Relations in Israel: Alienation and Rapprochement" [PDF]
Arab Jewish Relations in Israel S Smooha - Washington: United States Institute for Peace
https://www.usip.org/sites/.../PW67_Arab-Jewish_Relations_in_Israel.pdf

What Happened to Israel's "New Haredim?"

<https://www.tabletmag.com/sections/community/articles/israels-new-haredim>

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