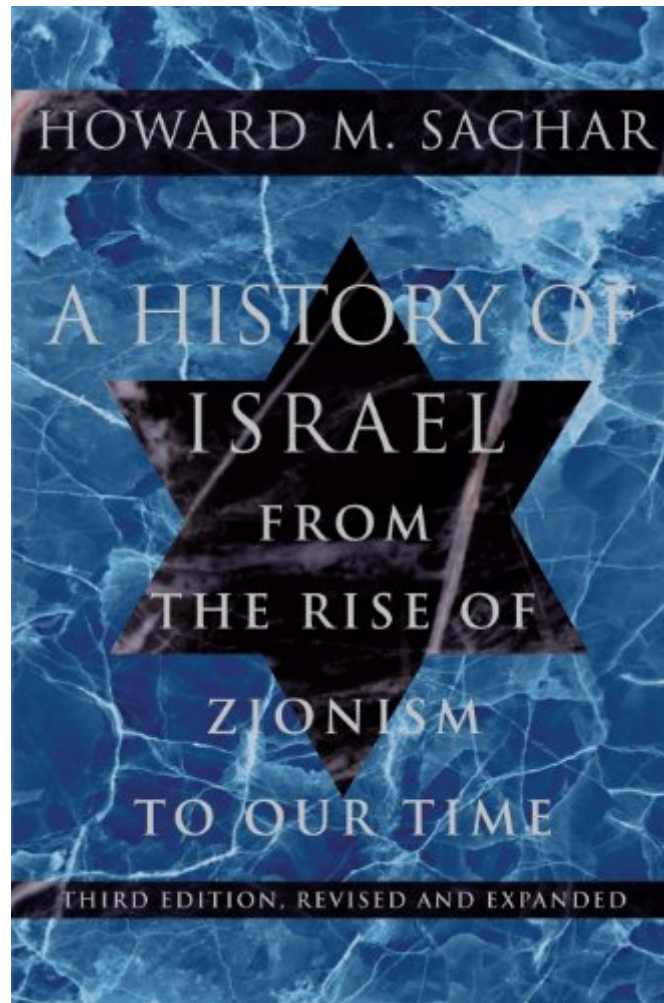


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A History Of Israel: From The Rise Of Zionism To Our Time



Synopsis

First published in 1976, Howard M. Sachar's *A History of Israel: From the Rise of Zionism to Our Time* was regarded one of the most valuable works available detailing the history of this still relatively young country. More than 30 years later, readers can again be immersed in this monumental work. The second edition of this volume covers topics such as the first of the Aliyahs in the 1880s; the rise of Jewish nationalism; the beginning of the political Zionist movement and, later, how the movement changed after Theodor Herzl; the Balfour Declaration; the factors that led to the Arab-Jewish confrontation; Palestine and its role both during the Second World War and after; the war of independence and the many wars that followed it over the next few decades; and the development of the Israeli republic and the many challenges it faced, both domestic and foreign, and still faces today. This is a truly enriching and exhaustive history of a nation that holds claim to one of the most complicated and controversial histories in the world.

Book Information

File Size: 12387 KB

Print Length: 1270 pages

Publisher: Knopf; 3rd Revised and Updated edition (July 31, 2013)

Publication Date: July 31, 2013

Sold by: Random House LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B00DTEMWOG

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #529,939 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #235

in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > History > Middle East > Israel #858 in Kindle Store > Kindle

eBooks > History > World > Jewish #961 in Books > History > Middle East > Israel & Palestine

Customer Reviews

This book does a fine job of supplying a detailed history of Israel. It is over 1000 pages, not even counting the index or the huge bibliography. Sachar's idea is to tell us what happened and why. That does not mean taking sides. It does not mean saying if the people involved were reasonable or

moral in choosing the sides they did. I can understand this approach. We all wish that we could always view relatively current events from the perspective of those who could see which side was being greedy, which side was simply immoral, or which side was being impractical. But we can't, so Sachar simply reports what happened as best he can. And I don't see how I can ask for more than this. In addition, the simple retelling of what happened and why tells us plenty about how wise or moral decision-makers were. Let me give one example. Sachar has a hefty section on the response to the UN Partition Resolution of November, 1947. Britain refused to gradually transfer authority to a United Nations commission, explaining that this would result in "confusion and disorder." Britain did everything possible to avoid cooperating with those in the UN or the Jewish Agency. The six UN commission members were made unwelcome. They "were soon reduced to foraging for food and drink. They accomplished nothing." Meanwhile, the British Foreign Secretary, Ernest Bevin, simply regarded the Jews as enemies. As Sachar writes, Bevin claimed "that the whole Jewish 'pressure' was a gigantic racket run from America," that the Jews had stolen "half the place" (that is, half of the Mandate territory), and that "he would not be surprised if the Germans had learned their worst atrocities from the Jews." I think this ought to tell any perceptive reader plenty about Bevin.

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