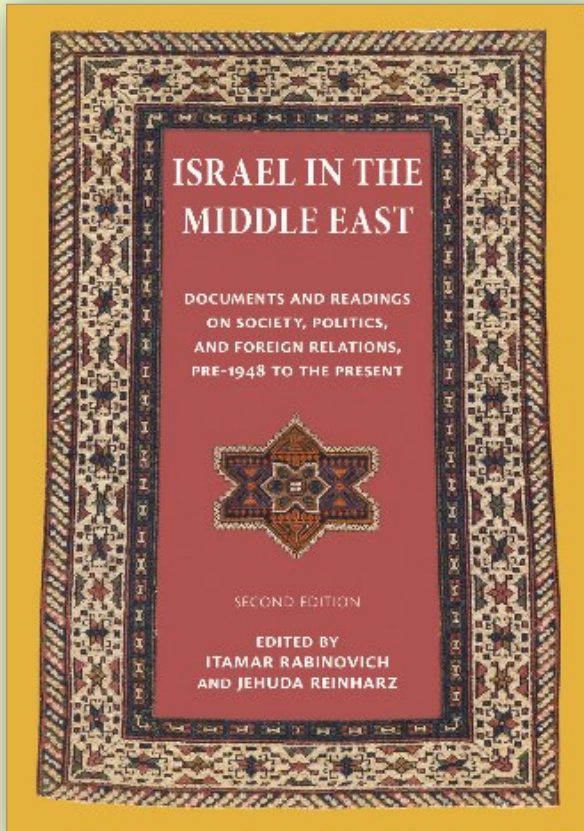


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ISRAEL IN THE MIDDLE EAST

Documents and Readings on Society,
Politics, and Foreign Relations, Pre-1948 to the Present

Edited by Itamar Rabinovich and Jehuda Reinharz

SECOND EDITION



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THIS TIMELY ANTHOLOGY, completely revised and updated from the original edition, provides convenient access to the most significant documents of the Zionist movement since 1882 and of Israel's domestic and foreign policy issues between 1948 and 2006. The first edition, published in 1984, was essential in a field that engendered many diverse and at times adverse perspectives. But what was needed in the early 1980s is in still greater demand today. In the wake of 9/11, the most recent rounds of Israeli-Palestinian violence, and the recent violence between Hezbollah forces in Lebanon and Israel, this book offers a comprehensive picture of a complicated reality in a field characterized by intense debate and high emotion.

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Itamar Rabinovich, Ettinger Professor of Contemporary History of the Middle East at Tel Aviv University, is the former President of Tel Aviv University and former Israeli Ambassador to the United States.

Jehuda Reinharz is Richard Koret Professor of Modern Jewish History and President of Brandeis University.

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Excerpts from the Documents of ISRAEL IN THE MIDDLE EAST:

“I have come to a bitter conclusion, that at the present time there is no prospect for an Arab-Jewish peace. Two questions arise: if there is no prospect now, is there no prospect forever? But there is a still graver question. If there is no prospect now, is our existence secure? The two questions are linked together. . . . There is no possibility, I am deeply convinced, to bring about peace before the Arabs are convinced that it is impossible to destroy us. It’s the only road to peace.”

—David Ben-Gurion, Diary, 1958 (Document 54).

“As I begin my address, I wish to say peace and the mercy of God Almighty be upon you, and may peace be for all us, God willing. Peace for us all, all the Arab lands and in Israel, as well as in every part of this big world, this world which is so complexed [*sic*] by its sanguinary conflicts, disturbed by its sharp contradictions, menaced now and then by costly wars launched by man to annihilate his fellow men. Amidst the ruins of what man has built, and the remains of the victims of mankind, there emerges neither victor nor vanquished.”

—Anwar Sadat, Speech to the Knesset, 1977 (Document 100).

“Our primary assumption in our fight against Israel states that the Zionist entity is aggressive from its inception, and built on lands wrested from their owners, at the expense of

the rights of the Muslim people. Therefore our struggle will end only when this entity is obliterated. We recognize no treaty with it, no cease fire, and no peace agreements, whether separate or consolidated.”

—The Hezbollah Program: An Open Letter, 1985 (Document 115).

“A week ago, a high level meeting took place at the Intercontinental Hotel in Geneva. The meeting was initiated by a person who was still concealed behind the scenes, a person who had been responsible for the operations that had transported directly from Sudan or through intermediary stations in Europe 80 percent of the 6,649 Ethiopian Jews who had arrived in Israel. . . .”

—Micha Feldman, *Out of Ethiopia*, 1991 (Document 114).

“. . . In the State of Israel, as in other democratic countries, the principle of non-discrimination against women because of their sex is gaining force as a legal fundamental principle. . . . The Basic Law: Human Dignity and Liberty granted a constitutional – supra-statutory – status to the prohibition of discrimination against women.”

—Israel Supreme Court, *Alice Miller v. Minister of Defense*, 1995 (Document 121).

“The relations of minorities and majorities are problematic everywhere, and especially in a state that defines itself in terms of the nationality of the majority. In practice, there are no perfect solutions to the dilemmas that arise in such a state. . . . These characteristics apply as well to the situation of the Arab minority in the State of Israel, which is in many respects the subject of adverse discrimination. Moreover, in the case of the Arab citizens of Israel, there are several unique factors that further magnify the problematic nature of their sociopolitical status in the state.”

—Orr Commission, 2003 (Document 130).

“. . . I request, call out to all those listening—to young people who came back from the war, who know that they are the ones who will have to pay the price of the next war; to Jewish and Arab citizens, to the people of the right and the people of the left: stop for a moment. Look over the edge of the abyss, and consider how close we are to losing what we have created here. Ask yourselves if the time has not arrived for us to come to our senses, to break out of our paralysis, to demand for ourselves, finally, the lives that we deserve to live.”

—David Grossman, Speech at the Rabin Memorial, 2006 (Document 155).

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