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**The Emergence of the Modern State of Israel (48775)**

*Dr. David Mendelsson*

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<https://huji.zoom.us/j/6046323394>

July 3 – July 26, 2023

60 Academic Hours, 4 Academic Credits

Tentative syllabus

**Course Description**

This course will begin with an examination of the Zionist idea, its common denominators, and variegated factions. Due consideration will be given to the late-nineteenth century European context in order to appreciate the socio-economic, political and cultural factors that impacted upon the Zionist movement. The course will explore how competing visions for the Jewish state responded to the realities of Palestine, its local Arab population, Ottoman rulers and existing Jewish population. During and following the First World War a new set of circumstances emerged for the Arab and Jewish populations. Empires were awarded Mandates with a view to granting self-determination to Arabs and Jews in the Middle East. The class will examine the various British attempts to restore law and order and placate the ambitions of the Arab national movement whilst simultaneously not giving the appearance of abandoning its commitments to the Zionist movement. Why in 1939 did Britain withdraw from partition and recommend serious limitations on Jewish immigration and land purchase as well as the establishment of a single Palestine state? Students will learn of the first Arab-Israeli war, the refugee crisis and the Rhodes armistice agreements. Students will be introduced to the writings of the New Historians.

At this halfway point the course will turn its attention to internal and external dilemmas that faced and indeed continue to face the Israeli state. We will examine religious-secular tensions, the schism along Jewish ethnic lines, and the state – minority relations between Israel and its Arab national minority. We will ask whether existing tensions can be accommodated by a reaffirmation of the Jewish-democratic characterization of the state or whether alternative paradigms might be considered.

The various expressions of the Israel-Arab conflict will be given due consideration as well as the efforts at peace making, particularly those with Egypt, Jordan, and the Palestinians.

Classes take the form of lectures, discussion based on assigned readings and on-site visits.

**Course Requirements**

1. Preparation of bibliography for class discussion.
2. Participation in field study trips.
3. Three short essay assignments (45 % of final grade). Each assignment should be three pages in length double spaced. For description and submission dates see below.
4. Final exam (55 % of final grade)

**Earning graduate credits for this course**

* Graduate students are expected to inform the Rothberg International School at [rissummer@savion,huji.ac.il](mailto:rissummer@savion,huji.ac.il) of their interest in earning graduate credits for their summer course(s).
  + Graduate students must complete a **25-page, double-spaced, seminar paper** with a bibliography, instead of the course's standard final assessment. The students will discuss this paper in class. The topic and bibliography for these papers must be chosen in agreement with each course instructor. Students must approach course instructors by the end of the first week of the course and arrange a time to meet and define their paper topic and bibliography.
  + The seminar paper must make use of at least five scholarly sources (books or academic articles), in addition to Internet resources.
  + The graduate seminar papers must be submitted within 2 months following the course completion.

**List of Key Books**

[**READING LIST**](https://huji.alma.exlibrisgroup.com/leganto/public/972HUJI_INST/lists/8415031030003701?auth=SAML)

Hertzberg, Arthur, ed., *The Zionist Idea* (Philadelphia: 1959). **Overseas Library 933.609 H576; E-BOOK;** (hereafter Hertzberg)

Kaplan, Jonathan, ed., *The Zionist Movement*, 2 vols. (Jerusalem: 1983). **Overseas Library 933.608 K17** (hereafter, Kaplan I and II)

Laqueur, Walter and Rubin, Barry, eds., *The Israel-Arab Reader*, 7th rev. and updated ed. (Penguin, New York: 2008**). Overseas Library E327.56(08) L317** (hereafter, Laqueur and Rubin)

Morris, Benny, *Righteous Victims: A History of the Zionist-Arab Conflict 1881-2001* (New York, Vintage, 2001) **Overseas Library E327.56 M875; E-BOOK**

Rabinovich, Itamar and Reinharz, Jehuda, eds., *Israel in the Middle East* (Brandeis, Hanover: 2008). **Overseas Library E990(029) R116** (hereafter Rabinovich and Reinharz)

Shapira, Anita, *Israel: A History* (Brandeis, Hanover 2012) **Overseas Library E9 S529; E-BOOK**

**Course Outline**

(\* denotes required reading)

**Session 1: Introduction: Zionism in its Historical Context and the Common Denominators of the Zionist Idea.**

Shlomo Avineri, *The Making of Modern Zionism* (London, Weidenfeld and Nicolson, 1982). Introduction*.* **Overseas Library 933.609 A958; ERESERVE**

Gideon Shimoni, “Ideological Perspectives,” in Moshe Davis, ed., *Zionism in Transition* (New York: 1980): 3-42 **Overseas Library 933.632 D263; ERESERVE**

Arthur Hertzberg, *The Zionist Idea* (Atheneum, New York 1973) pp. 15-100, **Overseas Library 933.60 H576; E-BOOK**

**Session 2: First Waves of Immigration/Herzl and the Rise of Political Zionism**

\*Shapira, *Israel* pp. 27-42. **Overseas Library E9 S529; EBOOK**

or Morris B, pp. 37-59. **Overseas Library E327.56 M875; E-BOOK**

\* Hertzberg, pp. 204-226 (Herzl) **Overseas Library 933.609 H576; E-BOOK**

**Session 3: Zionism as a Secular Jewish Identity**

\*Hertzberg, pp. 256-260 (Ahad Ha’am), 293-295 (Berdyczevski), 390-395, (Katznelson) 411-414 (Pines).  **Overseas Library 933.609 H576; E-BOOK**

Anita Shapira, ‘The Image of the New Jew in Yishuv Society,’ in (ed.) Israel Gutman, *Major Changes**within the Jewish People in the Wake of the Holocaust* (Yad Vashem, Jerusalem, 1996) pp. 427-442. **Overseas Library 933.47 (08) G984; E-BOOK**

Gideon Shimoni, *The Zionist Ideology* (Hanover and London: 1995), pp. 269-305. **Overseas Library 933.609 S556**; **ERESERVE**

**Distribution of First Assignment: Herzl, Ahad Ha'am and the Integrationists**

**Session 4: The Second Aliyah, the Yishuv during World War I and the Balfour Declaration**

\*Letter from Sir Henry McMahon to the Sharif Hussain, 24.10.1915 in Laqueur and Rubin, pp. 11-12, Sykes Picot Agreement, Laqueur and Rubin, p. 13-16, **Overseas Library E327.56(08) L317; ERESERVE**

\* Map of Sykes-Picot Agreement in M. Cohen, *Origins* p. 21, 43. **Overseas Library E327.56 C678; ERESERVE**

\* Balfour Declaration in Laqueur and Rubin, pp. 16. **Overseas Library E327.56(08) L317; ERESERVE**

Meir Verete‚ “The Balfour Declaration and its Makers,” *Middle Eastern Studies* 6 (1970): 48-76. **E-JOURNAL**

Benny Morris, pp. 67-88. **Overseas Library E327.56 M875; E-BOOK**

Shapira, *Israel* pp. 42-64. **Overseas Library E9 S529; EBOOK**

**Session 5: The Mandate for Palestine and the Churchill Memorandum**

\* The Mandate for Palestine in Hurewitz, pp. 106-111; **ME327(08) H963; ERESERVE** Laqueur and Rubin, pp. 30-36; **E327.56(08) L317; ERESERVE** Friesel, pp. 38-46; **Overseas Library 933.608 F912** Kaplan II, pp. 101-109. **Overseas Library 933.608 K17**

\* Churchill Memorandum in Hurewitz, pp. 103-106; **Overseas Library ME327(08) H963; ERESERVE Laqueur** and Rubin, pp. 25-29; **E327.56(08) L317; ERESERVE** Friesel, pp. 24-29; **933.608 F912; ERESERVE** Kaplan II, pp. 113-118. **Overseas Library 933.608 K17; ERESERVE**

\*Rashid Khalidi, *Palestinian Identity: The Construction of Modern National Consciousness*, New York: Columbia University Press, 1997, ch. 7, "The Formation of Palestinian Identity, 1917-1923," pp. 145-175. **Overseas Library E320.9(A) K45; E-BOOK**

Benny Morris, pp. 88-106. **Overseas Library E327.56 M875; E-BOOK**

**Field Trip**

**Session 6: Developments 1929-1931 and the Arab Question in Zionist Thought**

\*Passfield White Paper in Friesel, pp. 104-115; **Overseas Library 933.608 F912** Kaplan II, pp. 144-155. **Overseas Library 933.608 K17; ERESERVE**

\* MacDonald Letter in Laqueur and Rubin, pp. 36-41; **ERESERVE**

**Overseas Library E327.56(08) L317** Friesel, pp. 117-124; **Overseas Library 933.608 F912; ERESERVE** Kaplan II, pp. 156-163. **Overseas Library 933.608 K17**

\*Kaplan I, pp. 319-322 (Jabotinsky), 327-333 (Ben Gurion), 333-340 (Buber). **Overseas Library 933.608 K17; ERESERVE (p. 318-323, 327-340)**

B. Morris, pp. 111-128. **Overseas Library E327.56 M875; E-BOOK**

Joseph Gorni, *Zionism and the Arabs* (Clarendon, Oxford 1987). **Overseas Library 933.651(A) G671**

**Session 7: The Partition Plan and the MacDonald White Paper**

\* Selection from the Peel Commission Report in Friesel, pp.125-146; **Overseas Library 933.608 F912; ERESERVE Kaplan** II, pp. 164-182, **Overseas Library 933.608 K17; ERESERVE** Laqueur and Rubin, pp. 41-43. **Overseas Library E327.56(08) L317; ERESERVE**

\* The MacDonald White Paper in Hurewitz, pp. 218-226; **Overseas Library ME327(08) H963; ERESERVE** Laqueur, pp. 44-50, **Overseas Library E327.56(08) L317; ERESERVE** Friesel, 163-174; **Overseas Library 933.608 F912; ERESERVE** Kaplan II, pp. 193-204. **Overseas Library 933.608 K17; ERESERVE**

Cohen, Michael., *Palestine: Retreat from the Mandate*, pp. 10-49, 66-87. **Overseas Library E97 C678; ERESERVE (p. 10-49)**

B. Morris, pp.138-160. **Overseas Library E327.56 M875; E-BOOK**

**Distribution of Second Assignment: Compare and contrast two Zionist thinkers and their approach towards the Arabs of Palestine.**

**Session 8: Developments during World War II/The Struggle for the State**

\* Cohen, *Origins* Map, 1937 Partition Plan, p. 94, 1947 UN Partition Plan p. 128, Cease- Fire lines p. 129. **Overseas Library E327.56 C678; ERESERVE; Moodle**

Biltmore Program in Hurewitz, pp. 234-235; **Overseas Library ME327(08) H963; ERESERVE** Laqueur, pp. 77-79; **Overseas Library E327.56(08) L317;** Friesel, pp. 186-187; **Overseas Library 933.608 F912; ERESERVE** Kaplan II, pp. 55-56. **Overseas Library 933.608 K17; ERESERVE**

\* Selections from UN General Assembly Resolution 181 in Friesel, pp. 265-274; **Overseas Library 933.608 F912; ERESERVE** Kaplan, pp. 231-240. **Overseas Library 933.608 K17** Laqueur, 65-77, **Overseas Library E327.56(08) L317; ERESERVE Rabinovich** and Reinharz, pp. 61-63. **Overseas Library E990(029) R116; ERESERVE**

\* Evyatar Friesel, 'The Holocaust and the Birth of Israel,' *The Wiener Library Bulletin* vol. 32, nos. 49/50, 1979. **Overseas library 933.47(08) G984** (in Major Changes within the Jewish People in the Wake of the Holocaust, pp. 519-544)

\* Michael J. Cohen, “Why Britain Left: the end of the Mandate,” *The Wiener Library Bulletin* 31 (45/46) (1978): 74-86**. ERESERVE**

B. Morris, pp.161-191. **Overseas Library E327.56 M875; E-BOOK**

**Session 9: The 1948 War and its Aftermath**

\* UN General Assembly Resolution 194, Rabinovich and Reinharz, pp. 89-92. **Overseas Library E990(029) R116; ERESERVE**

Israel-Egypt Armistice in Hurewitz, pp. 299-304. **Overseas Library ME327(08) H963; ERESERVE**

\*Benny Morris, “The Origins of the Palestinian Refugee Problem,” in Laurence J. Silberstein, ed., *New Perspectives on Israeli History* (New York: 1991): 42-56 **Overseas Library E320.17 S582; ERESERVE**

Morris, Righteous, pp. 191-249. **Overseas Library E327.56 M875; E-BOOK**

\*Ari Shavit, *My Promise Land* (Spiegel and Grau NY 2013) pp. 99-134. **E-BOOK**

Shapira*, Israel*, pp. 155-178. **Overseas Library E9 S529; EBOOK**

**Field Trip**

**Session 10: Mass Migration**

\* The Development Town, pp. 158-164, Social and Ethnic Tensions in Wadi Salib pp. 164-167, The Black Panthers pp. 234-237, Rabinovich and Reinharz. **Overseas Library E990(029) R116; ERESERVE**

\*Picard, Avi. “Building the Country or Rescuing the People: Ben Gurion’s Attitude Towards Mass Jewish Immigration to Israel in the mid-1950s.” *Middle Eastern Studies* 54, no. 3 (May 2018): 382-399. **EJOURNAL**

\* Sammy Smooha, ‘Jewish Ethnicity in Israel: Symbolic or Real?’ in Rebhun and Waxman, *Jews in Israel: Contemporary Social and Cultural Patterns* (Brandeis University Press, Hanover, 2004)pp. 47-80. **Overseas Library E301.32 R291; ERESERVE**

Shapira, *Israel* pp. 222-247. **Overseas Library E9 S529; EBOOK**

**Session 11: Religion and State**

\*The Status-Quo Agreement, pp. 58-59, **Moodle,** The Proclamation of the State of Israel p. 72-74. The Law of Return, p. 102-3, The Debate on a Constitution pp. 96-102, Jewish Religion and Israeli Nationality: The Brother Daniel Case, pp. 172-174. Ne'eman Commission, Report on the Conversion Law, pp. 463-468, Rabinovich and Reinharz. **Overseas Library E990(029) R116; ERESERVE**

Eliezer Don-Yehiya, ‘Orthodox Jewry in Israel and North America,’ *Israel Studies,* vol. 10 no. 1, spring 2005, 157-187. **E-JOURNAL**

**Distribution of Third Assignment**

#### Session 12: The *Haredim* in Israel

**Either**:

Menachem Friedman, “The Ultra-Orthodox in Israeli Society,” in Kyle, Keith and Peters, Joel, eds., *Whither Israel? The Domestic Challenges* (London and New York: 1993).. pp. 177-201. **Overseas Library E320.9 K99; ERESERVE**

**Or**:

Samuel Heilman, *Defenders of the Faith: Inside Ultra-Orthodox Jewry* (Shocken, New York, 1992) pp. 11-39. **Overseas Library E296.682 H466; ERESERVE**

Yoel Finkelman, 'The Ambivalent Haredi Jew,' *Israel Studies* Vol. 19, 2 (summer 2014) 264-293.**EJOURNAL**

\*Ari Shavit, *My Promise Land* (Spiegel and Grau NY 2013) pp.271-296. **E-BOOK**

**Session 13: The Six Day War and its Aftermath**

Shapira, *Israel* pp.295-306, 307-325. **Overseas Library E9 S529; EBOOK**

\* The Khartoum Resolutions in Rabinovich and Reinharz, p.241-2. **Overseas Library E990(029) R116**; **ERESERVE**

UN Security Council Resolution 242 in Rabinovich and Reinharz, pp. 242-243; **Overseas Library E990(029) R116; ERESERVE** Laqueur and Rubin, pp. 365-366. **Overseas Library E327.56(08) L317; ERESERVE**

\* The Palestinian National Covenant in Laqueur and Rubin, pp.366-371; **Overseas Library E327.56(08) L317** Rabinovich and Reinharz, pp. 243-246. **Overseas Library E990(029) R116; ERESERVE**

\* Allon Plan in Rabinovich and Reinharz, p. 257. **Overseas Library E990(029) R116; ERESERVE**

Michael Oren, ‘Did Israel Want the Six Day War, *Azure* Spring 1999, no. 7, 47-86. **E-JOURNAL**

#### Session 14: The *Yom Kippur* War, *Gush Emunim*, and Egyptian-Israeli Peace Treaty

The Turning Point in the Yom Kippur, pp. 265-269, The Yom Kippur War, pp. 269-276, Agranat Commission pp. 278-284. UN Security Council 338, p.331, Egyptian- Israeli Disengagement, pp. 337-340, Rabinovich and Reinharz **Overseas Library E990(029) R116; ERESERVE**

Shapira, *Israel* pp. 326-354. 357-390, 391-422. **Overseas Library E9 S529; EBOOK**

\*Gush Emunim, Opinion Paper, January 1978, Rabinovich and Reinharz, pp. 305-307. **Overseas Library E990(029) R116; ERESERVE**

David Newman, 'From *Hitnachlut* to *Hitnatkut*: The Impact of *Gush Emunim* and the Settlement Movement on Israeli Politics and Society,' *Israel Studies* vol. 10, 3, fall 2005, 192-224. **E-JOURNAL**

#### Session 15: The Begin Years 1977-1983

Weitz, Yechiam. “From Peace in the South to War in the North: Menachem Begin as Prime Minister, 1977–1983.” *Israel Studies*, vol. 19, no. 1, 2014, pp. 145–165. *JSTOR*, www.jstor.org/stable/10.2979/israelstudies.19.1.145. **EJOURNAL**

Shapira, *Israel* pp. 357-390.

**Session 16: Palestinian Arabs in Israel**

[Michael Milshtein](https://dayan.org/author/michael-milshtein), “The New Way”: The Key to Understanding Ra’am’s Strategy

<https://dayan.org/content/new-way-key-understanding-raams-strategy>

From "Israeli Arabs" to "Israel's Palestinian Citizens," pp. 183-187. Orr Commission; Report on Clashes between the Security Forces and Israeli Citizens in October 2000, pp. 479-484, Rabinovich and Reinharz. **Overseas Library** **E990(029) R116; ERESERVE**

\*The National Committee for the Heads of the Arab Local Authorities in Israel, *The Future Vision of the Palestinian Arabs in Israel* (2006)

<http://www.adalah.org/newsletter/eng/dec06/tasawor-mostaqbali.pdf>

Ellie Rekhess, The Arab Minority in Israel: Reconsidering the “1948 Paradigm”. *Israel Studies,* *19*(2), 187-217. (2014). doi:10.2979/israelstudies.19.2.187 **EJOURNAL**

Ahmed Tibi, “My Independence Day” *The Jerusalem Report* (Israel at 50), May 14, 1998. p. 170 **E-JOURNAL**

#### Session 17: Peace Process and Current Crisis

\*Laqueur and Rubin, 6th ed., pp. 404-409 (Camp David Frameworks for Peace), 413-425 (Israel-PLO Declaration of Principles) 443-455, (Israel-PLO: Cairo Agreement -”Oslo I”). 502-522. **Overseas Library E327.56(08) L317; ERESERVE**

#### \*Israeli-Palestinian Interim Agreement on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip (“Oslo II”). Rabinovich and Reinharz, pp. 502-505. Overseas Library E990(029) R116; ERESERVE

\*Israel and Palestinian Authority: Hebron Accords (January 15, 1997), pp. 522-523. **Overseas library E327.56 B583; Ereserve**

\*Israel and Palestinian Authority: The Wye River Memorandum (October 23, 1998) pp. 529-534. Rabinovich and Reinharz, pp. 507-513. **Overseas Library** **E990(029) R116; ERESERVE**

On Gaza War (2015): <http://jcpa.org/legal-aspects-hamas-war-on-israel/>

Shapira, *A History* pp. 422-467.

**Session 18**

**Final Exam**

**Site Visits**

The Urban Expression of the New Jew

*Study Outing to Tel-Aviv*

Depart 8:30am from North Gate of Student Village.

Return by 6:00pm**.**

Walk along First Station through Neveh Tsedek to Rothschild Street for discussion on early Tel-Aviv, Visit Independence Hall, Lunch on Sheinkin Street, Visit Rabin Square, Reading poetry on the Tel-Aviv beach front**.**

Israel's Civil Religion: Then and Now  
*Study Outing to Mount Herzl*

Depart 8:30am from North Gate of Student Village.

Return 12:30pm.

(Students are recommended to go to *Yad Vashem* following the morning visit to Har Herzl).

**NB: The program is subject to change.**