

(W-2936)

Govt. 444: The Arab-Israeli Conflict and the Peace Process: Summer 2006

TR 4:15-5:30 REI 264

Professor Abraham Ben-Zvi

This course is intended to examine the root causes, evolution and main issues which comprise the Arab-Israeli conflict. Among the issues to be discussed and elucidated are: Jewish and Arab nationalism and state building; exile, diaspora, and migration; armed conflicts; peace processes (abortive and successful); peace-making strategies and great power involvement.

- 1. Introduction: The Actors: (a) long-term historical perspectives on the Jews and the Arabs in the Middle East and Palestine; (b) questions of ethnicity, religious affiliation, nationalism, diaspora and migration.**

**Required Reading**

(the required books are available at the bookstore)

Ian Bickerton and Carla L. Klausner, A Concise History of the Arab-Israeli Conflict (Prentice-Hall, NJ, 2001), pp. 1-20.

Avraham Sela, The Decline of the Arab-Israeli Conflict: Middle East Politics and the Quest for Regional Order (Albany: SUNY Press, 1998), pp. 10-16.

Benny Morris, Righteous Victims: A History of the Zionist-Arab Conflict, 1881-1999 (New York: Knopf, 1999), pp. 1-36.

**Recommended Reading**

Mark Tessler, A History of the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1994), pp. 1-126.

- 2. From the beginning of the Jewish immigration to the establishment of British rule (1882-1920). The waves of Jewish immigration; Zionist visions and plans; the great powers; negotiations and agreements during and in the wake of World War I.**

**Required Reading**

Bickerton and Klausner, A Concise History, pp. 21-45; 57-64.

Morris, Righteous Victims, pp. 37-88.

**Recommended Reading**

Alan Dowty, The Jewish State A Century Later (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1998), pp. 34-50.  
 Tessler, A History of the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict, pp., 127-170.

- 3. Mandatory Palestine (1920-1945). Arab reaction and violent resistance to the British Mandate; the Zionist project and Jewish immigration; the consolidation of two politically-organized ethnic communities; demography, economy and incipient nationalism; the British position; the Arab rebellion against the British; political options.**

**Required Reading**

Bickerton and Klausner, A Concise History, pp. 45-56, 65-66.  
 Tessler, A History, pp. 185-233.

**Recommended Reading**

Dowty, The Jewish State, pp. 51-60.  
 Morris, Righteous Victims, pp. 88-173.

- 4. Partition and war (1945-1958). The Holocaust; Jewish refugees and the crisis in Palestine; the growing American role; the Jewish rebellion; the UN Special Committee (UNSOP) and the solutions discussed; the Partition Resolution; the outbreak of inter-communal war and the subsequent Arab-Israeli War; the Jewish victory and the creation of the refugee problem.**

**Required Reading**

Bickerton and Klausner, A Concise History, pp. 67-114.  
 Morris, Righteous Victims, pp. 173-258.

**Recommended Reading**

Benny Morris, The Birth of the Palestinian Refugee Problem, 1947-1949 (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1987), pp. 4-28; 286-296.  
 Efraim Karsh, Fabricating Israeli History: The "New Historians" (London: Frank Cass, 1997), pp. 37-68.

5. **The consequences of ramifications of the War. The Armistice agreements; the prospects of peace; the impact of defeat on the old Arab regimes; border infiltration and violence; Israeli policy and retaliatory raids; the great powers and the Middle East.**

**Required Reading**

Morris, Righteous Victims, pp. 259-272.  
Tessler, A History, pp. 307-335.

**Recommended Reading**

Steven L. Spiegel, The Other Arab-Israeli Conflict: Making America's Middle East Policy, from Truman to Reagan (Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 1985), pp. 50-71.

6. **From the 1956 War to the 1967 War. The Nasserist regime in Egypt; the 1956 War and its regional ramifications; the rise and fall of pan-Arabism; the 1967 Crisis and the outbreak of war.**

**Required Reading**

Bickerton and Klausner, A Concise History, pp. 115-160.  
William B. Quandt, Peace Process: American Diplomacy and the Arab-Israeli Conflict since 1967 (Berkeley: University of California, 2001), pp. 23-52.

**Recommended Reading**

Sela, The Decline of the Arab-Israeli Conflict, pp. 3-8; 31-41.  
Fawaz A. Gerges, The Superpowers and the Middle East: Regional and International Politics, 1955-1967 (Boulder: Westview Press, 1994), pp. 64-236.

7. **From the 1967 War to the 1973 War. The rise of Palestinian nationalism and of the PLO: local and global perspectives; the occupied territories; deepening superpower involvement and the quest for settlement; the 1973 War.**

**Required Reading**

Quandt, Peace Process, pp. 55-129.  
Kenneth W. Stein, Heroic Diplomacy: Sadat, Kissinger, Carter, Begin, and the Quest for Arab-Israeli Peace (New York: Routledge, 1999), pp. 75-96.

**Recommended Reading**

Morris, Righteous Victims, pp. 329-386.

Spiegel, The Other Arab-Israeli Conflict, pp. 150-218.

Bickerton and Klausner, A Concise History, pp. 161-184.

- 8. From interim agreements to the Egyptian-Israeli Peace (1973-1979). Syria, Jordan and the Palestinians.**

**Required Reading**

Bickerton and Klausner, A Concise History, pp. 185-212.

Stein, Heroic Diplomacy, pp. 117-228.

**Recommended Reading**

Quandt, Peace Process, 130-242.

- 9. The departure of the Arab states—the return of communal and sectarian conflict (1982-1993). The Lebanon War; the first Intifada: local and global perspectives; the first Gulf War.**

**Required Reading**

Bickerton and Klausner, A Concise History, pp. 213-247.

Quandt, Peace Process, pp. 245-318.

**Recommended Reading**

Morris, Righteous Victims, pp. 561-610.

- 10. The Oslo Process. Peace with Jordan; negotiations with Syria.**

**Required Reading**

Bickerton and Klausner, A Concise History, pp. 248-314.

Morris, Righteous Victims, pp. 611-651.

**Recommended Reading**

Quandt, Peace Process, pp. 321-356.

Stein, Heroic Diplomacy, pp. 257-268.

**11. The collapse of the Oslo process and the second intifada.**

**Required Reading**

Quandt, Peace Process, pp. 357-376.

**12. Conclusions, lessons and future perspectives. Prerequisites for resolving the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.**

**Required Reading**

Morris, Righteous Victims, pp. 652-669.

Quandt, Peace Process, pp. 379-396.

**Grades**

Class participation — 70%

Final exam — 30%