

Tulane University
Jewish Studies Program and the Department of History

The Arab-Israeli Conflict

JWST 322-01

HISM 322-01

Spring 2009

(MW 4:30-5:45)

Instructor: Dr. Moshe Naor

Office Hours: Thursday, 2-4, Alcee Fortier Hall 202

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Course Objectives

This course traces the history of the Arab-Israeli conflict from the rise of Zionism, through the various Arab-Israel wars, and up to the recent peace negotiations. Emphasis is on presenting the perspectives of all the parties to the Arab-Israeli conflict, and placing it in the context of the history of the Middle East as a whole.

Assessments

Student mastery of the learning outcomes will be assessed through class discussion, final exam, class presentation on an article from the required bibliography, and a dive pages book review.

Grading

- Five-page book review, which has to complete by week seven (20%)
- Presentation on an article from the required bibliography (20%)
- Take Home Final Exam (50%)
- Attendance and participation (10%)

Bibliography

Benny Morris, *Righteous Victims: A History of the Zionist-Arab Conflict 1881-1999*, New York: Knopf, 1999.

Avi Shlaim, *The Iron wall: Israel and the Arab World*, New York: W. W. Norton, 2000.

Course Topics and Readings

Week 1 (Janu.12-14) – Israel in the Middle East: A Conflict Within

Benny Morris, *Righteous Victims*, Chapter 1.

Ian Lustick, "To Build and to be Built By: Israel and the Hidden Logic of the Iron Wall", *Israel Studies*, 1, 1 (1996), 196-223.

Neville J. Mandel, *The Arabs and Zionism before World War I*, Berkeley: University of California Press, 1976, pp.32-57

Week 2 (Janu.21) – Nationalism: From the Ottoman Empire to the British Mandate

Benny Morris, *Righteous Victims*, Chapters 2 and 3.

Israel Kolatt, "The Zionist Movement and the Arabs", in: Jehuda Reinhartz and Anita Shapira (eds.), *Essential Papers on Zionism*, New York and London: New York University Press, 1996, .617-647

Roger Owen, *State, Power and Politics in the making of the Modern Middle East*, London and New York: Routledge, 2000, 8-26.

Rashid Khalidi, *The Iron Cage: The Story of the Palestinian Struggle for Statehood*, Beacon Press, 2006, Chapter 2.

Week 3 (Janu.26-28) – The Creation of a War Generation

Benny Morris, *Righteous Victims*, Chapter 4.

Anita Shapira, "From the Palmach Generation to the Candle Children; Changing Patterns in Israeli Identity", *Partisan Review*, 67, 4(2000), 622-634.

Uri Ben-Eliezer, "In Uniform – Without a Uniform: Militarism as an Ideology in the Decade Preceding Statehood", *Studies in Zionism*, 9, 2 (1988), 123-146.

Documentary Film: *Children of the Sun*, director: Ran Tal, Israel 2008

Week 4 (Febr.2-4) – Catastrophe and Independence: The 1948 War

Benny Morris, *Righteous Victims*, pp.184-258

Benny Morris, "The New Historiography: Israel and its Past", *1948 and After: Israel and the Palestinians*, Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1994, pp.1-48.

Avi Shlaim, "Israel and the Arab coalition in 1948", Eugene L. Rogan and Avi Shlaim (eds.), *The War for Palestine: Rewriting the History of 1948*, Cambridge University Press, 2001, pp.79-103.

Rashid Khalidi, "The Palestinians and 1948: the underlying causes of failure", *The War of Palestine*, 12-36.

Week 5(Febr.9-11)– Super Powers, Internal Politics and the Road to War (1949-1956)

Avi Shlaim, *The Iron wall*, Chapters 2, 3, 4.

Benny Morris, *Righteous Victims*, Chapter 6.

Peter L. Hahn, *Caught in the Middle East: U.S. Policy toward the Arab-Israeli Conflict, 1945-1961*, The University of North Carolina Press, 2004, 133-181.

R.L. Jasse, "The Bagdad Pact: Cold War or Colonialism", *Middle East Studies*, 27, 1(1991), 140-156.

Motti Golani, "Shell we go to War? And if we do, When? The Genesis of the Internal Debate in Israel on the road to the Sinai War", *Israel Affairs*, 6 (2000), pp.22-42.

Week 6 (Febr.16-18) – The Struggle for Hegemony in the Middle East (1956-1967)

Benny Morris, *Righteous Victims*, Chapter 7.

Avi Shlaim, *The Iron Wall*, Chapters 5-6.

Elie Podeh, "The Struggle over Arab Hegemony after the Suez Crisis", *Middle Eastern Studies*, 29 (1993), pp.91-110.

Menachem Klein, "The Tranquil Decade Re-examined: Arab-Israeli Relations during the Years 1957-67", *Israel Affairs*, 6, 3/4 (2000), 68-82.

Ami Gluska, "The War over the Water during the 1960s", in: Mordechai Bar-On (ed.), *A Never-Ending Conflict: a Guide to Israeli Military History*, Prager, 2004, 109-131.

Shlomo Aronson, "Israel's Nuclear Programme, the Six day War and its Ramifications", *Israel Affairs*, 6, 3/4 (2000), 83-95.

Week 7 (March.2-4) – The Cold War and the Arab-Israeli Conflict

Benny Morris, *Righteous Victims*, Chapter 8.

Itamar Rabinovich, "The Politics of the Region", in: Stephen J. Roth, *The Impact of the Six-Day War: A Twenty-Year Assessment*, Macmillan Press, 1988, 42-52.

Shlomo Avineri, "Political Ideologies: From Consensus to Confrontation", in: Stephen J. Roth, *The Impact of the Six-Day War: A Twenty-Year Assessment*, Macmillan Press, 1988, 197-207.

John Mearsheimer and Stephen Walt, "The Israeli Lobby", *London Review of Books*, 23 March 2006.

Yaacov Roi, "The Deterioration of Relations: From Support to Severance", *Journal of Israeli History*, 22, 1 (2003), 56-70.

Robert O. Freedman, "Moscow and the Arab-Israeli Conflict Since 1967", Yehuda Lukcas and Abdalla M. Battah (eds.), *The Arab-Israeli Conflict: Two Decades of Change*, Westview Press, 1988, 263-292.

Week 8 (Mrch.9-11) – Israel and Egypt; From War to Peace

Benny Morris, *Righteous Victims*, Chapters 9-10.

Avi Shlaim, *The Iron Wall*, Chapters 8-9.

Shimon Shamir, "The Yom Kippur War as a Factor in the Peace Process", in: Barry Rubin, Joseph Ginat and Moshe Ma'oz (eds.), *From War to Peace: Arab-Israeli Relations, 1973-1993*, New York University Press, 1994, 33-40.

Yoram Meital, "Drums of War and Bells of Peace: Egypt's Perspective on the 1973 War", *From War to Peace: Arab-Israeli Relations*, 55-60

Kenneth Stein, "Continuity and Change in Egyptian-Israeli Relations, 1973-97", *Israel Affairs*, 3, 3-4 (1997), 296-320.

Charles S. Liebman, "The Myth of Defeat: The Memory of the Yom Kippur War in Israeli Society", *Middle Eastern Studies*, 29(1993), 399-418.

Week 9 (March.16-18) – Images of a Conflict

Books Review Presentations

Week10 (March.30-Apr.1)–Israel and the Palestinians: Between Jerusalem and Beirut

Benny Morris, *Righteous Victims*, Chapter 11.

Avi Shlaim, *The Iron Wall*, Chapter 10

Baruch Kimmerling and Joel Migdal (eds.), *The Palestinian People*, Harvard University Press, 2003, Chapter 7.

Yezid Sayigh, "The Armed Struggle and Palestinian Nationalism", in: Avraham Sela and Moshe Ma'oz (eds.), *The PLO and Israel: From Armed Conflict to Political Solution*, Macmillan 1997, 23-36.

Avraham Sela and Moshe Ma'oz, "The PLO in Regional Arab Politics: Taming a Non-State Actor", *The PLO and Israel*, 97-120.

Week 11 (Apr.6-13) – Islamic Fundamentalism and the Conflict

Benny Morris, *Righteous Victims*, Chapter 12.

Meir Litvak, "The Islamization of the Palestinian-Israeli Conflict: the Case of the Hamas", *Middle Eastern Studies*, 34 (1998), pp.148-163

Emmanuel Sivan, "Islamic Fundamentalism, Antisemitism and Anti-Zionism", in: Robert Wistrich (ed.), *Anti-Zionism and Antisemitism in the Contemporary World*, New York University Press, 1990, 74-84.

Bernard Lewis, *The Shaping of the Modern Middle East*, Oxford University Press, 1994, 24-43, 99-124.

Menachem Klein, "Competing Brothers; The Web of Hamas – PLO Relations", in: Efraim Inbar and Bruce Maddy-Weitzman (eds.), *Religious Radicalism in the Greater Middle East*, Routledge 1997, 111-132.

David Menashri, "Iran, Israel and the Middle East Conflict", *Israel Affairs*, 12, 1 (2006), 107-122.

Week 12 (Apr.15) – Jewish Radicalism and the Peace Process

Avi Shlaim, *The Iron Wall*, Chapters 13-14.

Ian S. Lustick, *For the land and the Lord: Jewish Fundamentalism in Israel*, New York, 1993, 17-41.

Gideon Aran, "Jewish Zionist Fundamentalism: The Block of the Faithful in Israel (Gush Emunim)", Martin Marty and Scott Appleby (eds.), *Fundamentalisms Observed*, Chicago and London: University of Chicago Press, 1991, pp.265-345.

David Newman, "A Comparative Study of Gush Emunim and Peace Now", *Middle Eastern Studies*, 28, 3 (1982), 509-530.

Ehud Sprinzak, "Israel's Radical Right and the Countdown to the Rabin Assassination", in: Yoram Peri (ed.), *The Assassination of Yitzhak Rabin*, Stanford University Press, 2000, 96-128.

Week 13 (Apr.20-22) – From the Second Intifada to the Second War in Lebanon

Benny Morris, *Righteous Victims*, Chapter 14.

Avi Shlaim, *The Iron Wall*, Chapter 15.

Eyal Zisser, "Hizballah and Israel: Strategic Threat on the Northern Border" *Israel Affairs*, 12, 1 (2006), 86-106.

Eyal Zisser, "Trends in Middle East Politics and their Implications for Israel", *Israel Affairs*, 12, 4 (2006), 684-697.

Week 14 (Apr.28) – Conclusion