A History of Israel
by Ahron Bregman (2002)
(Palgrave Essential Histories Series)

Contents

List of Maps
Preface

1 The Road to Statehood, 1897-1947 1
   Theodor Herzl 1
   Eretz Yisrael 7
   Palestine in the First World War 13
   The post-war period 18
   The British Mandate 21
   The Arab Rebellion, 1936-39 27
   Palestine in the Second World War 33
   Turning on the British 37
   Partition and civil war 39

2 The Birth of Israel, 1948-1949 44
   Friday, 14 May 1948 44
   War 47
   End of war and the emergence of a democracy 59

3 Years of Consolidation, 1950-1966 70
   Mass immigration 70
   Communal problems 71
   The economy in crisis 75
   Tensions along the borders 79
   New leadership 81
   The politization of the Holocaust 86
   The 1956 Kadesh campaign and after 88
   Domestic issues 93
   The Lavon Affair 95
   Germany again 98
   Enter Levy Eshkol 100

4 The Six-Day War and Afterwards, 1967-1973 104
   Descent to war 104
   The waiting period 110
   War of attrition
   Golda and Anwar el-Sadat
   Terrorism, immigration and riots

5 Yom Kippur War and the Death of Labour, 1973-1977
   Sadat prepares war
   Israel stumbles into the trap
   Invasion
   Fighting back
   Post-war: society and diplomacy
   The Agranat report
   Enter Yitzhak Rabin
   Enter Shimon Peres

6 Begin's Years, 1977-1983
   Building a coalition
   First steps to peace
   The home front
   Camp David and after
   'Tamuz 1'
   A second Likud government
   War in Lebanon

7 The Road to Peace, 1983-1991
   Enter Yitzhak Shamir
   Working Together
   Intifada
   Immigration and death of the coalition
   War and immigration
   The road to peace
   The Madrid Peace Conference

8 Peace and War, 1992 to Present
   Enter Yitzhak Rabin
   Enter Benjamin Netanyahu
   Enter Ehud Barak
   Enter Ariel Sharon

Appendix 1: The Dayan el-Tohami Protocol, 1977
Appendix 2: Draft Declaration of Principles, Israel-Syria, 1992
Notes
Further Reading
Index
**Back cover**

*A History of Israel* explores Israel's turbulent history from the first Zionist Congress of 1897 to the present day. Drawing on his considerable experience as historian and journalist, Ahron Bregman offers a balanced examination of Israel's past in which the three principal driving themes of Jewish immigration, wars, and attempts to forge peace with Arabs and Palestinians combine into a single compelling narrative.

New insights, revelations appearing in print for the first time, and portraits of Israeli leaders, past and present, are adeptly woven together with an overview of major events. This incisive book will be welcomed by all with an interest in the fascinating history of Israel.

Ahron Bregman was born in Israel and was an officer in the Israeli Army. He is the author of two previous books: *The Fifty Years War: Israel and the Arabs* (1998), the companion book to a six-part BBC/PBS television documentary, and *Israel's Wars: A History since 1947* (2000, new edition 2002). He is currently Lecturer in History at Webster University, London, and also writes for national newspapers in both England and America.

**Reviews**

'A History of Israel includes new revelations...Bregman reveals new facts never- before-published about the senior Egyptian spy who worked for the Mossad and was nicknamed 'The Son-in-Law' on account of his family ties with President Nasser.' - Rami Tal, Yediot Aharonot

'A History of Israel is a fascinating book. An easy to read understanding of the recent history of Israel. Bregman has a unique insight into the behind the scenes history of Israel and its leaders.' - Jewish Books Online

'Complete with quotes from secret meetings and a draat of a 1992 secret agreement between Israel and Syria, the book is an easy-to-read guide to the politics of the Middle East.' - Jewish Chronicle

'Ahron Bregman's newly released book A History of Israel is a fascinating book. An easy to read understanding of the recent history of Israel. Bregman has a unique insight into the behind the scenes history of Israel and its leaders. Highly recommended both as a gift and required reading.' - Jewish Books Online

'A balanced examination of Israel's past...New insights, revelations appearing in print for the first time, and portraits of Israeli leaders, past and present, are adeptly woven together with an overview of major events. This incisive book will be welcomed by all with an interest in the history of Israel.' - Middle East

'New insights, revelations appearing in print for the first time, and portraits of Israeli leaders, past and present, are adeptly woven together with an overview of major events. This incisive book will be welcomed by all with an interest in the history of Israel.' - Middle East

'Writing about an area as steeped in controversy as Israel can be a daunting task. Bregman, who has written extensively on Israeli history, does an excellent job in this text of offering unbiased and authoritative descriptions of the causes and consequences of the various conflicts that have arisen between the Israelis and the Arabs. Bregman takes looks at the history of Israel from a purely secular perspective, yet he does so without denigrating religious Jews, and others, who see the founding of the modern state of Israel as the fulfillment of Biblical Prophecy...Into his compelling and historical narrative, Bregman has seamlessly interwoven newly uncovered information about Israel's past, as well as brief sketches of the major political figures that had a hand in shaping Israeli history...A History of Israel is ideal for the general reader wishing to learn about Israeli history in general, and as a resource by which to understand the current conflict between the Israelis and the Palestinians...Overall, Bregman presents a comprehensive and readable introduction to modern Israeli history that is both educational and enthralling.' - Anna Dogole, The Jewish Eye

'A good read.' - Carmel Vassallo, Journal of Mediterranean Studies
Welcome to History-of-Israel.org | This homepage is for anyone, who wishes to have a deeper understanding of the Arab-Israeli conflict than can be achieved through the mainstream media or educational institutions. Read more History of Israel | A Chronological Presentation A basic knowledge of the history of Israel is necessary in order to understand the Arab-Israeli conflict as it unfolds today. This relatively short, yet fairly thorough run-through offers a chronological overview of the conflict. The intention is to clarify the most important developments that are often discussed, but whic
History -- The State of Israel. "I prefer a powerful and proud Jewish State that is hated by the entire world than an Auschwitz that is loved by one and all" (Rabbi Meir Kahane). 1956 cartoon - Israel "Aggression" - nothing has changed. If you opened this page, you are interested in History of the State of Israel. Begin with reading a book 'Moshe Dayan: Story of My Life.' It is an excellent book for anyone interested in Israel's history, wants to know details and understand the current situation. From 'Story of my Life' by Moshe Dayan: The 6 Jews im The history of ancient Israel is constructed through excavations as well as the Bible and other sources.Â When scholars refer to "ancient Israel," they often refer to the tribes, kingdoms and dynasties formed by the ancient Jewish people in the Levant (an area that encompasses modern-day Israel, Palestine, Lebanon, Jordan and Syria). Scholars draw largely on three sources to reconstruct the history of ancient Israel â€“ archaeological excavations, the Hebrew Bible and texts that are not found in the Hebrew Bible. The use of the Hebrew Bible poses difficulty for scholars as some of the accounts are widely thought to be mythical. Early history. The earliest mention of the word "Israel" in the history of ancient Israel is constructed through excavations as well as the Bible and other sources. When scholars refer to "ancient Israel," they often refer to the tribes, kingdoms and dynasties formed by the ancient Jewish people in the Levant (an area that encompasses modern-day Israel, Palestine, Lebanon, Jordan and Syria). Scholars draw largely on three sources to reconstruct the history of ancient Israel â€“ archaeological excavations, the Hebrew Bible and texts that are not found in the Hebrew Bible. The use of the Hebrew Bible poses difficulty for scholars as some of the accounts are widely thought to be mythical. Early history. The earliest mention of the word "Israel" in the history of ancient Israel is constructed through excavations as well as the Bible and other sources. When scholars refer to "ancient Israel," they often refer to the tribes, kingdoms and dynasties formed by the ancient Jewish people in the Levant (an area that encompasses modern-day Israel, Palestine, Lebanon, Jordan and Syria). Scholars draw largely on three sources to reconstruct the history of ancient Israel â€“ archaeological excavations, the Hebrew Bible and texts that are not found in the Hebrew Bible. The use of the Hebrew Bible poses difficulty for scholars as some of the accounts are widely thought to be mythical. Early history. The earliest mention of the word "Israel" in the history of ancient Israel is constructed through excavations as well as the Bible and other sources. When scholars refer to "ancient Israel," they often refer to the tribes, kingdoms and dynasties formed by the ancient Jewish people in the Levant (an area that encompasses modern-day Israel, Palestine, Lebanon, Jordan and Syria). Scholars draw largely on three sources to reconstruct the history of ancient Israel â€“ archaeological excavations, the Hebrew Bible and texts that are not found in the Hebrew Bible. The use of the Hebrew Bible poses difficulty for scholars as some of the accounts are widely thought to be mythical. Early history. The earliest mention of the word "Israel" in the history of ancient Israel is constructed through excavations as well as the Bible and other sources. When scholars refer to "ancient Israel," they often refer to the tribes, kingdoms and dynasties formed by the ancient Jewish people in the Levant (an area that encompasses modern-day Israel, Palestine, Lebanon, Jordan and Syria). Scholars draw largely on three sources to reconstruct the history of ancient Israel â€“ archaeological excavations, the Hebrew Bible and texts that are not found in the Hebrew Bible. The use of the Hebrew Bible poses difficulty for scholars as some of the accounts are widely thought to be mythical. Early history. The earliest mention of the word "Israel" in