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 politicization 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 119
  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 124
  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 130
  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 136
  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, Yedioth 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 draft 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

'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

'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
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