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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 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

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'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.' - Jewish Chronicle

'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
Israel, officially known as the State of Israel, is a country in Western Asia, located on the southeastern shore of the Mediterranean Sea and the northern shore of the Red Sea. It has land borders with Lebanon to the north, Syria to the northeast, Jordan on the east, the Palestinian territories of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip to the east and west, respectively, and Egypt to the southwest. Israel's economic and technological center is Tel Aviv, while its seat of government and proclaimed capital is... "Israel is the very embodiment of Jewish continuity: It is the only nation on earth that inhabits the same land, bears the same name, speaks the same language, and worships the same God that it did 3,000 years ago. You dig the soil and you find pottery from Davidic times, coins from Bar Kokhba, and 2,000-year-old scrolls written in a script remarkably like the one that today advertises ice cream at the corner candy store."Â After each war, Israeli army withdrew from most of the areas it captured (see maps). This is unprecedented in World history and shows Israel's willingness to reach peace even at the risk of fighting for its very existence each time anew. Including Judea and Samaria, Israel is only 40 miles wide. Letâ€™s dive into the pre-state history, AKA the conflict before Israel was a state. Jump ahead to key dates below. JUMP AHEAD 1882 / 1903 / 1917 / 1929 / 1939 / 1948. 1517. Ottoman Rule in Palestine begins; Palestine was part of the Ottoman Empire through 1917. (Read more on history of Palestinians here.) Ottoman geographer Kâştîp Âşelebiâ€™s 1732 map showing â€œLand of Palestineâ€ (Harvard University). 1860.Â Hashomer founded, a Jewish defense organization dedicated to protecting the Yishuv (the body of Jewish residents in the land of Israel before the establishment of the state). Members of the Bar-Giora (pre-cursor to Hashomer), 1907 (National Photo Collection of Israel). 1910. First Modern Hebrew Dictionary published, authored by Eliezer Ben-Yehuda. Archeology in Israel involves the systematic investigation of all the remains of the country's past - from prehistory to the end of Ottoman rule. The profusion of material remains is evidence of the many cultures that have left their imprint on the Land. Above all archeological research clearly reveals the historical link between the Jewish people, the Bible and the Land of Israel, uncovering the remains of the cultural heritage of the Jewish people in its homeland.Â Jerusalem, the capital of Israel, has been the focus of extensive archeological activity and remains of 5,000 years of history have been revealed. Timeline of historical highlights. 17th-6th C. BCE. Israel is small country in the Middle East, located on the eastern shores of the Mediterranean Sea and bordered by Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon and Syria. The nation of Israelâ€”with a population of more than 9 million people, most of them Jewishâ€”has many important archaeological and religious sites considered sacred by Jews, Muslims and Christians alike, and a complex history with periods of peace and conflict.Â Much of what scholars know about Israelâ€™s ancient history comes from the Hebrew Bible. According to the text, Israelâ€™s origins can be traced back to Abraham, who is considered the father of both Judaism (through his son Isaac) and Islam (through his son Ishmael).