

Benny Morris

# 1948



The First Arab-Israeli War

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A History of the First Arab-Israeli War

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Benny Morris

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*For Eliya, Stav, Ayala, and Zohar*

DAVID

*Marie Syrkin*

Suppose, this time, Goliath should not fail;  
Suppose, this time, the sling should not avail  
On the Judean plain where once for all  
Mankind the pebble struck, suppose the tale  
Should have a different end: the shepherd yield,  
The triumph pass to iron arm and thigh,  
The wonder vanish from the blooming field,  
The mailed hulk stand, and the sweet singer lie.

Suppose, but then what grace will go unsung,  
What temple wall unbuilt, what garden bare;  
What ploughshare broken and what harp unstrung!  
Defeat will compass every heart aware  
How black the ramparts of a world wherein  
The psalm is stilled, and David does not win.

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## Abbreviations

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AAC	Anglo-American Committee
AHC	Arab Higher Committee
AHE	Arab Higher Executive
AHF	Arab Higher Front
ALA	Arab Liberation (or Salvation) Army
APC	armored personnel carrier
BGA	David Ben-Gurion Archive
CIGS	Chief of the Imperial General Staff (Britain)
CO	Colonial Office (Britain)
DFPI	Documents on the Foreign Policy of Israel
DMZ	Demilitarized Zone
DP	displaced person
FO	Foreign Office (Britain)
FM	Foreign Ministry (Israel)
FRUS	<i>Foreign Relations of the United States</i>
HA	Haganah Archive
HGS	Haganah General Staff
HHA	Hashomer Hatzá'ir Archive
HIS	Haganah Intelligence Service
HIS-AD	Haganah Intelligence Service—Arab Department
HMG	His Majesty's Government
IAF	Israel Air Force