



A BRIEF HISTORY OF

# ISRAEL

BERNARD REICH



SECOND EDITION

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**SECOND EDITION**

**BERNARD REICH**

**George Washington University  
Washington D.C.**

 **Facts On File**  
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## A Brief History of Israel, Second Edition

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# LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

ADP	Arab Democratic Party
CRM	Citizens' Rights Movement (Hatnua Lezhuiot Haezrach)
DA	Democracy and Aliya
DFPE	Democratic Front for Peace and Equality
DMC	Democratic Movement for Change (Hatnuah Hademocratit Leshinui)
DOP	Declaration of Principles
Etzel	Irgun Tzvai Leumi (National Military Organization)
Gahal	Gush Herut Liberalim (Herut Liberal bloc)
IDF (Zahal)	Israel Defense Forces (Zvah Hagana Leyisrael)
JNF	Jewish National Fund
Lehi (LHY)	Lohamei Herut Israel (Fighters for the Freedom of Israel or Stern Gang)
Mafdal	See NRP
Maki	Miflaga Kommunistit Israelit (Israel Communist Party)
Mapai	Mifleget Poalei Eretz Yisrael (Workers Party of the Land of Israel)
Mapam	Mifleget Poalim Hameuhedet (United Workers Party)
Meimad	Dimension–Movement of the Religious Center
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
Nahal	Noar Halutzi Lohaim (Fighting Pioneering Youth)
NRP (Mafdal)	National Religious Party (Miflaga Datit Leumit)
NUG	national unity government
NZO	New Zionist Organization
PA	Palestinian Authority
Palmach	Plugot Mahatz (Shock Forces)
PFLP	Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine
PIJ	Palestine Islamic Jihad
PLO	Palestine Liberation Organization
PLP	Progressive List for Peace
PNC	Palestine National Council
Rafi	Reshimat Poalei Israel (Israel Labor List)



Rakah	Reshima Komunistit Hadasha (New Communist List)
Ratz	Hatnua Lezhuiot Haezrah UleShalom (Citizens' Rights [and Peace] Movement)
Shabak	Sherut Bitahon Klalit (Shin Bet) (General Security Service)
Shas	Sephardi Torah Guardians
Shelli	Shalom Lemaan Israel (Peace for Israel)
SLA	South Lebanese Army
Tami	T'nuah Lamasoret b'Israel (Traditional Movement of Israel)
Tzomet	Movement for National Revival
UAL	United Arab List
UAR	United Arab Republic
UNDOF	United Nations Disengagement Observer Force
UNEF	United Nations Emergency Force
UNIFIL	United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon
UNSC	United Nations Security Council
UNSCOP	United Nations Special Committee on Palestine
UNTSO	United Nations Truce Supervision Organization
UTJ	United Torah Judaism
WIZO	Women's International Zionist Organization
WZO	World Zionist Organization
Zahal	See IDF

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# PREFACE

**T**his brief history traces the evolution of Israel from an idea grounded in ancient history and tradition to a modern, democratic, economically prosperous, highly developed state. This is the story of the nation of Israel and its people—its trials and tribulations, its achievements and accomplishments, and its challenges.

The work seeks to encompass, in short space, a very complex and continuing history. In doing so, it focuses on the main themes of establishing the state and ensuring its continued existence—that is, the history of how it got to where it is today and what challenges remain. Israel's story is about determined and talented individuals working to overcome both obstacles and opposition to make Israel a reality that could contribute to the history of the Jewish people and be a positive force in the international system. Given the varied and complex history of the Jewish state, numerous themes are related, but not all can be developed to their full extent in this volume. Thus, the reader is guided through the extensive literature that can help elaborate and explore the numerous themes discussed briefly in this book.

Since the publication of the first edition of *A Brief History of Israel* significant changes have occurred in Israel's domestic political arena and its foreign and security policies. A seventh Arab-Israel war, this time with Israel facing a non-state entity (Hizballah), ushered in a new type of conflict, instability, and political uncertainty. At the same time, Ariel Sharon's incapacitating stroke and Amir Peretz's defeat of Shimon Peres as Labor Party leader removed the remaining two historic leaders of Israel and ushered in a new generation of leadership and a new political constellation.

The reader will note that this edition does not simply bring the story of Israel up to date, but includes numerous additions and changes throughout the text, pictures, sidebars, appendices, chronology, glossary, bibliography, and reading list. All elements of the book have been reviewed and revised. These alterations and modifications reflect changes in the history, the appearance of new literature on the themes considered here, and new sources of information that the reader will find useful and enlightening.