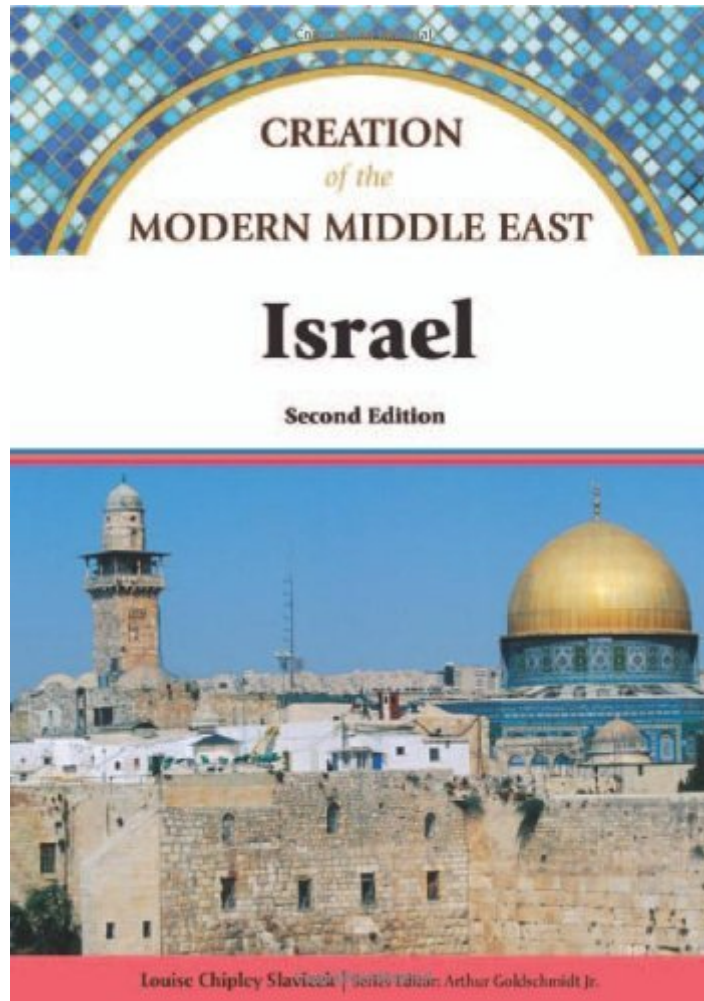


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# Israel (Creation Of The Modern Middle East)



## Synopsis

Officially established by a 1948 United Nations mandate, which divided the area known as Palestine into Jewish and Arab states, the nation of Israel has remained steadfastly resilient in its short but tumultuous history. UN partition greatly reduced the land held by the Palestinian Arabs and set in motion a series of conflicts between Israel and its border countries of Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, and Egypt. Although Israel signed peace agreements with Egypt and Jordan in 1979 and 1994, respectively, its relationship with neighboring Lebanon and Syria continues to be strained due to those countries' ties with the Islamic political party Hezbollah.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This book is a comprehensive history of the State of Israel from the beginnings of the Zionist movement to 2008. The information given is both detailed and accurate and attempts to be objective, however the perspective is definitely pro-Israel. For example, in telling the events surrounding the killing of civilians at Deir Yassin during the War of Independence, the author writes, "Rumors of Arab villagers harboring snipers had sparked an attack... the Haganah and the Jewish Agency immediately condemned the killings...There is no evidence that the Irgun-Lehi troops

deliberately engineered the Arabs' panicky flight." With so many media sources and college campuses publicizing an anti-Israel slant, a book for young readers that clearly explains the Israeli perspective is welcome. On the other hand the book does lack a full representation of the Palestinian point of view. Modern color photographs and historical black and white photos enrich the text. The subject matter is quite complicated and the vocabulary sophisticated, making this book appropriate for ages 12 and older. Hilary Zana

This book is part of a Young Adult (YA) series called "Creation of the Modern Middle East." All of the books contain an introduction by Dr. Akbar S. Ahmed, the Ibn Khaldun Chair of Islamic Studies and Professor of International Relations, School of International Service, American University, in which he congratulates "Chelsea House Publishers for taking the initiative in helping us to understand the Middle East through this series." I've read several now, and they are written in a newspaper-like manner (who, what, when, where, why): "On the afternoon of May 14, 1948 just a few hours before the last British soldiers were scheduled to leave the Holy Land, David Ben-Gurion, as head of his new nation's provisional government, announced the establishment of the State of Israel." The photographs, many of them from British Mandate or from the various wars that Israel fought after it became a nation, support the notion that Israel was in almost a constant state of turmoil throughout the 20th Century. My original introduction to the modern state of Israel was derived from Exodus by Leon Uris, which was biased in favor of the Jewish version of history. "Israel" tries to balance its story between the Palestinians and the Israelis, and I think it succeeds. It takes us through all of the wars that the young nation of Israel has had to fight, up through April, 2002 when "U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell tries unsuccessfully to broker a cease-fire between [the] Israelis and Palestinians." Since Israel remains a flashpoint in Middle Eastern politics, and an issue in American politics, this well-balanced history should be a must-read for YAs and adults who are looking for a quick overview of this region.

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