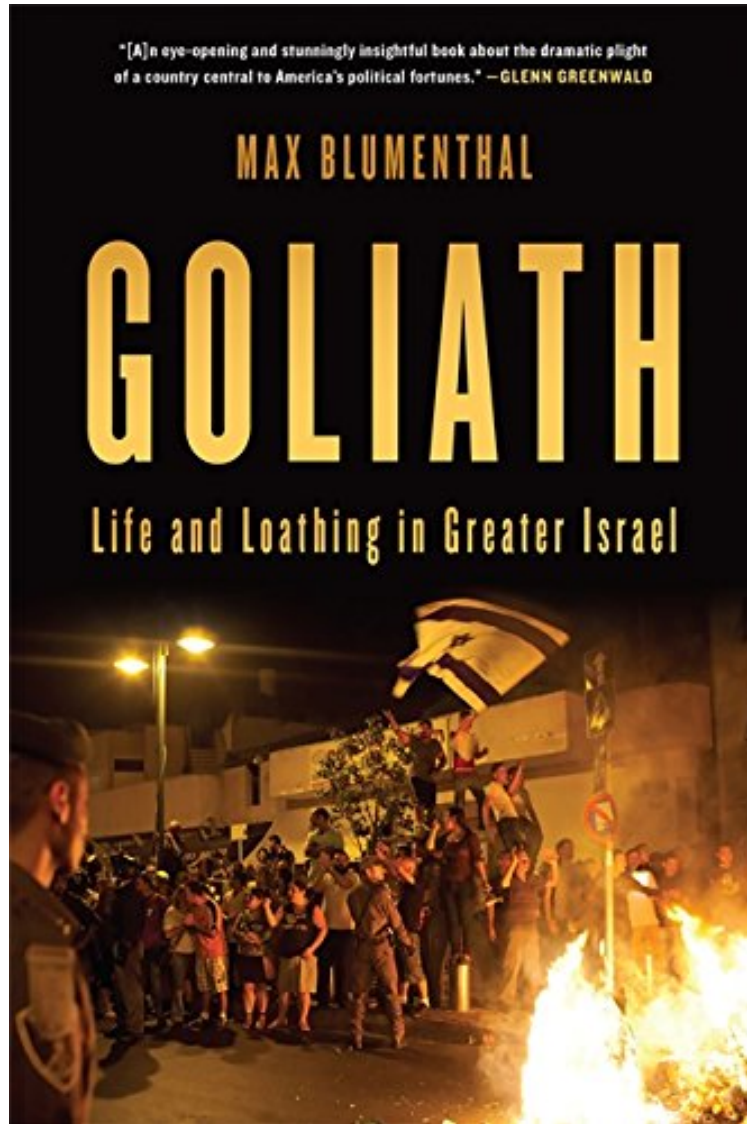


(Read free) Goliath: Life and Loathing in Greater Israel

Goliath: Life and Loathing in Greater Israel

Max Blumenthal

*audiobook / *ebooks / Download PDF / ePub / DOC*



DOWNLOAD



+

READ ONLINE

#639771 in Books 2014-08-26 2014-08-26 Original language: English PDF # 1 9.00 x 1.50 x 6.131, .0 #File Name: 1568589514520 pages | File size: 30.Mb

Max Blumenthal : Goliath: Life and Loathing in Greater Israel before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Goliath: Life and Loathing in Greater Israel:

16 of 19 people found the following review helpful. A Must Read By Eric C. Petersen Zionism's founding document, "The Jewish State" written by Theodor Herzl in 1896, suffered from one oversight as noted by the Israeli historian Benny Morris: "Herzl's attitude towards Palestine's Arabs was that of the garden-variety European imperialist towards native populations. Thus he failed completely to predict the Arab nationalist antagonism to Zionism and to the

emergence of a Jewish state, and the decades long struggle that would follow... Herzl's revolutionary, programmatic essay proposing a Zionist solution to the Jewish problem is truly remarkable in that it fails completely to note that Palestine already contained a sizeable Arab population and fails completely to take the Arabs into account in its scheme of future things. The Arabs are simply not there."Herzl's oversight might be explained by the fact he had never visited the area prior to writing his book, but then did visit Palestine leading to his second book, the novel "Altneuland," that propels the reader into the future of 1923 with some passing references to the Arabs and we are introduced to one "Reschid, a prosperous cultivator of oranges who lauds the Jewish influx as having brought prosperity to him and his kind." The Balfour Declaration of 1917 put some starch in Herzl's vision, stating in part that "His Majesty's Government views with favor the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people and will use their best endeavors to facilitate the achievement of this object, it being clearly understood that nothing shall be done which may prejudice the civil and religious rights of existing non-Jewish communities in Palestine..."These fatuous visions were soon shattered by the Arab revolt of 1921 leading to a more muscular approach advocated by Ze'ev Jabotinsky's "The Iron Wall" published in 1923. An excellent writer and speaker who cut to the chase, a few of his words are worthy of repetition: "As long as the Arabs feel that there is the last hope of getting rid of us they will refuse to give up this hope in return for either kind words or for bread and butter, because they are not a rabble, but a living people. And when a living people yields in matters of such a vital character it is only when there is no longer any hope of getting rid of us, because they can make no breach in the iron wall... If you wish to colonize a land in which people are already living you must provide a garrison for the land, or find some 'rich man' benefactor who will provide a garrison on your behalf... Zionism is a colonizing adventure and therefore it stands or falls by the question of armed force. It is important to speak Hebrew, but, unfortunately, it is even more important to be able to shoot."What has transpired in the century-plus since Herzl's initial impetus is the conflict between Zionism's ideals and the harsher realities of Jabotinsky's "gun Zionism," a grinding ethnic cleansing project of the indigenous population justified by democratic ideals. To, finally, get to the point at hand, Blumenthal's book, this is a series of fairly short - and very well written - essays about his real life experiences in Israel beginning in 2009, a period marked by the political rise of Avigdor Lieberman, a former bouncer and airport baggage handler from Moldavia who founded the far-right Yisrael Beiteinu Party in 1999, who teamed up with Netanyahu's Likud Party to set a new agenda that might be summed up in one of their followers' favorite phrases, "Death to Arabs." Israel's political history, not unlike ours, has been characterized as battles between "the left" and "the right," albeit for the Palestinians a difference without a distinction, but at least in Knesset legal wrangles the leftists advanced arguments smacking of democratic ideals - and the Israeli Supreme Court often rendered decisions that were even-handed. A movement to the Hard Right began with the disintegration of the USSR. In the early 1990s a million Soviet citizens emigrated to Israel, in part financed by the USA: Bush Sr. and Secretary Baker were adamantly opposed to a \$10 billion loan guaranty to hasten this influx, but the bought-and-paid-for members of Congress saw otherwise, voting overwhelmingly for the aid package as this would "promote peace in the region." The Russian immigrants, many of whom were quickly spirited to West Bank settlements such as Ariel, appear to have a near-universal visceral hatred of Arabs, a bias clearly reflected in Lieberman's agenda. What Blumenthal describes in rather chilling detail is the ascent of the Likud-Yisreal Beiteinu block in the Knesset where draconian new laws are passed to silence all opposition (including the Supreme Court) to an accelerated ethnic cleansing project. Worse yet, opposition parties, such as the middle-road Kadima Party, have become mute. Arab Knesset members still willing to fight on are easily silenced by new "laws" that make any mention of civil or political rights a "threat to national security" with the appropriate prison sentence. Blumenthal describes a dystopian security state that reaches down to the minutest levels of Israeli society as the country speeds up its project to cleanse the land of its indigenous inhabitants - with the unquestioned backing of the U.S. Congress.24 of 28 people found the following review helpful. A Magnificent but Heartbreaking BookBy Mary HowardI am 70 years old and have been following events in the Middle East all my adult life. I became aware during recent years of disturbing events involving the Occupation of the West Bank and Gaza - but somehow I thought that these were atypical events that did not reflect Israel as a whole. For example, I would not want other nations to think of the activities of "Aryan Nations" in our country as typical of our society. But this book makes an absolutely overwhelming case that outright bigotry and oppression are systemic - they are the actual policies of the Government of Israel, carried out by a Military indoctrinated to believe that Arabs and black people are not even human. This is a far cry from how I felt when as a teen-ager I read the book "Exodus" by Leon Uris. Now I feel that my country (the United States) is supporting a country (Israel) that has veered very far from its ideals. And that is why the word "heartbreaking" is in the title of my review.24 of 28 people found the following review helpful. An important book for Americans to readBy PenNameThe Israel Lobby has neutered our politicians and intellectuals to the point where all but a courageous few will risk having their reputation and career entangled in the thorny vines of antisemitism charges. Max Blumenthal is one of those courageous few and the ugly side of this semi-fascist state that we foolishly coddle is brought out into the light in his new book. When I reached adulthood I started to realize that living in a democracy has enormous benefits, but it also has its obligations too. Chief among these obligations is to make a genuine effort to understand "the issues" and pay attention to politics so that collectively we put the right people at the controls of our great and powerful nation. The

only reason I pay attention to the tiny little spec of a country called Israel is because I realized a few years back that our politicians quiver in their boots when it comes to subjects relating to Israel. It didn't take long to figure out that the reason why is because the Israel lobby is the most ruthless and feared career killing, reputation smearing operator in American politics. Let me rephrase that for emphasis. The most powerful and feared lobbying group in Washington is that which looks after the best interests of a foreign country. That country is a wealthy, nuclear armed thug that portrays itself as a meek and timid victim to the American public while brutalizing its enemies using billions in US aid dollars, the most advanced US military hardware and stolen US secrets (see Jonathan Pollard who the lobby is smugly trying to get released from our prison system where he deserves to rot for betraying America). The 'Foreign Agents Registration Act' was designed specifically to prevent this very dangerous scenario where our own politicians can be strong armed into putting the best interests of a foreign power ahead of America's interests, but of course, AIPAC and other Israel lobbying groups are somehow exempt from registering. These are dangerous times, the world is changing rapidly and we are too busy fighting Israel's wars for it. Let's cut this racist state loose to fend for itself and watch how quickly this untrustworthy infiltrator shows us its teeth. Educate yourself on this important issue and let's get foreign influence out of our foreign policy decisions. Let Max Blumenthal show you the side of Israel which has been so effectively scrubbed from view in America. A side of Israel from a vantage point that would only be granted to an Ashkenazi Jew traveling in Israel. A prerequisite to this book is 'The Israel Lobby and US Foreign Policy' by the two great patriots John J. Mearsheimer of the University of Chicago and Stephen M. Walt of Harvard's John F. Kennedy School of Government. Who, like Max, are relentlessly attacked and smeared to this day for their work.

2014 Lannan Foundation Cultural Freedom Notable Book Award
In Goliath, New York Times bestselling author Max Blumenthal takes us on a journey through the badlands and high roads of Israel-Palestine, painting a startling portrait of Israeli society under the siege of increasingly authoritarian politics as the occupation of the Palestinians deepens. Beginning with the national elections carried out during Israel's war on Gaza in 2008-09, which brought into power the country's most right-wing government to date, Blumenthal tells the story of Israel in the wake of the collapse of the Oslo peace process. As Blumenthal reveals, Israel has become a country where right-wing leaders like Avigdor Lieberman and Bibi Netanyahu are sacrificing democracy on the altar of their power politics; where the loyal opposition largely and passively stands aside and watches the organized assault on civil liberties; where state-funded Orthodox rabbis publish books that provide instructions on how and when to kill Gentiles; where half of Jewish youth declare their refusal to sit in a classroom with an Arab; and where mob violence targets Palestinians and African asylum seekers scapegoated by leading government officials as "demographic threats." Immersing himself like few other journalists inside the world of hardline political leaders and movements, Blumenthal interviews the demagogues and divas in their homes, in the Knesset, and in the watering holes where their young acolytes hang out, and speaks with those political leaders behind the organized assault on civil liberties. As his journey deepens, he painstakingly reports on the occupied Palestinians challenging schemes of demographic separation through unarmed protest. He talks at length to the leaders and youth of Palestinian society inside Israel now targeted by security service dragnets and legislation suppressing their speech, and provides in-depth reporting on the small band of Jewish Israeli dissidents who have shaken off a conformist mindset that permeates the media, schools, and the military. Through his far-ranging travels, Blumenthal illuminates the present by uncovering the ghosts of the past—the histories of Palestinian neighborhoods and villages now gone and forgotten; how that history has set the stage for the current crisis of Israeli society; and how the Holocaust has been turned into justification for occupation. A brave and unflinching account of the real facts on the ground, Goliath is an unprecedented and compelling work of journalism.

"Brave reporting of a sad, even tragic tale. Makes me wish he wrote for the New York Times." Stephen Walt, Professor of International Affairs at Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government
"Erudite, hard-hitting, [Goliath has] the potential to influence American public opinion on Israel..." Rayyan Al-Shawaf, Mondoweiss
"[Blumenthal is] genuinely interested in the truth, and knows that the truth in politics often lurks in those dark caves of viciousness... [Goliath is] the kind of book that you just open to any chapter and quickly get a sense of both the particular and the whole. You'll find yourself instantly immersed in an engrossing family romance—one part tender, one part train-wreck—and wish you had the entire day to keep reading. Put it down, and pick it up the next day, and you'll have the exact same feeling." Corey Robin, associate professor of political science at Brooklyn College and the CUNY Graduate Center
"A rich, roiling examination of 'the State of Israel during a period of deepening political and societal crisis' ... Blumenthal is an enterprising reporter." Kirkus
"There is much in its gruesome vignettes of modern Israeli hypernationalism in action ... heart-wrenching." David Shulman, New York of Books