



A Fire in Zion: The Israeli-Palestinian Search for Peace

By Mark Perry

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Based on interviews with PLO chief Yassir Arafat, Israeli prime minister Yitzhak Rabin and other key participants in the Israeli-Palestinian struggle, Perry's study is a major entry in the literature of modern diplomacy, tracking the slow process of reconciliation from the beginning of the Palestinian intifada in 1987 to the signing of the "Declaration of Principles on Interim Self-Government Arrangements" last year. His report on the back-channel Oslo meetings between PLO economist Abu Alaa and Israeli representative Yair Hirschfeld, a Haifa University history professor, is skillfully counterpointed by an account of Rabin's wrangles with Jewish-American lobbying groups who objected to any compromise on the Palestinian question and an inside look at the 1993 internal challenge to Arafat's leadership of the PLO. A talented historian with a narrative gift, Perry (*Eclipse: The Last Days of the CIA*) describes the confluence of events over a six-year period that climaxed in the compromise agreement sealed with Rabin and Arafat's widely publicized handshake on the White House lawn on September 13, 1993. Photos.

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From Library Journal

This is a solid, well-detailed account of the maneuvering and machinations behind the scenes of the stunning peace accords between Israel and the Palestinians. In addition to the statements of the participants and facilitators from the United States and Norway, Perry has also gathered the reactions of influential Arabs, American Jewish, and other global observers who stand to help or hinder the accords' translation into reality. For those looking for the details of this historic process, Perry's book is recommended as an invaluable companion to Shimon Peres's *The New Middle East* (LJ 2/1/94). However, it lacks the passion and sense of a call to vision that drives Peres's work. Recommended for comprehensive collections in this area.

David P. Snider, Casa Grande P.L., Ariz.

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From Kirkus Reviews

An objective, well-researched historical backdrop to the Israeli-Palestinian peace accord, by a Washington-based reporter. Perry (*Eclipse: The Last Days of the CIA*, 1992, etc.) offers insights into the events that led up to the dramatic accord signed on the White House lawn. In the wake of the Six-Day War in 1967, Palestinians in Gaza and the West Bank became "occupied Palestinians" and, the author implies, the world's favorite victims. In the initial chapter of this solid account, the reader is taken inside Gaza's Jabaliya refugee camp, "a hotbed of radicalism, the flagship of the Palestinian revolution and a symbol of resistance to the Israeli occupation." Both the Israelis and the Palestinians subsequently made a number of strategic errors that, ironically, made the pursuit of peace almost inevitable. Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, of Israel's Likud party, aroused the ire of the Bush administration with his intransigence, helping to assure Labor's victory in 1992. Labor Prime Minister Rabin's expulsion of hundreds of Islamic fundamentalists inadvertently drove the PLO and the extremist Hamas closer together. On the other side of the table, Arafat's poor judgment in backing Iraq during the Persian Gulf War cost the PLO millions of dollars in aid, making it desperate to grasp any deal. In addition, writes Perry, "by choosing not to fight against Iraq, Israel implicitly made itself an ally of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and even Syria. The Gulf War made Israel a part of the Middle East as no other event had in its forty-year history." All these factors (and many more), coupled with the fall of the Soviet Union, are noted by Perry as crucial in pushing Israel and its neighbors to the peace table. The ideas are not original but are neatly collected and discussed here. An engrossing look behind one of the decade's most dramatic moments. -- *Copyright ©1994, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved.*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Dora Champagne:

This A Fire in Zion: The Israeli-Palestinian Search for Peace is great guide for you because the content and that is full of information for you who always deal with world and possess to make decision every minute. This specific book reveal it data accurately using great manage word or we can claim no rambling sentences inside it. So if you are read it hurriedly you can have whole details in it. Doesn't mean it only provides you with straight forward sentences but tricky core information with wonderful delivering sentences. Having A Fire in Zion: The Israeli-Palestinian Search for Peace in your hand like finding the world in your arm, data in it is not ridiculous a single. We can say that no book that offer you world throughout ten or fifteen moment right but this book already do that. So , this is certainly good reading book. Hello Mr. and Mrs. hectic do you still doubt that?

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