An Annotated Bibliography of Basic Books on Zionism, Israel and the Arab-Israeli Conflict

If one wants to start from scratch or build on an already sophisticated knowledge base about Zionism, modern Israel, and the Arab-Israeli conflict, we believe that the list of books in English here have significant value. While the literature written on Israel, its Zionist origins, and the contemporary Arab-Israeli conflict is vast, this bibliography is a modest attempt to provide a few recommended books. Three simple criteria for a book’s inclusion in this list were used: books selected provide a unique insight or perspective while covering a particular historical period, topic, or turning point; a book’s content refrains from polemics; and the title includes a rich bibliography for anyone to read further. The books are listed in alphabetical order, not in order of excellence.

The list was shaped by almost four decades of teaching at the college level and a dozen years of modestly helping teachers enrich their understanding of Zionism and Israel. As a modern historian, there is admitted bias in favor of titles that tend to include historical context. Elsewhere on the website one will find more specific topics covered in themes and an array of scholarly articles in college syllabi, most of which are not on-line but only accessible through libraries or other archives.

Due to space and the objective of making the list relatively short, there are of course some omissions. We tried to make Zionism and Israel the independent variable, and thus there are few titles that focus on broader topics like anti-Semitism, the Holocaust, the British in the Middle East, U.S. and UN, Arabs in surrounding countries, and the Palestinian Arabs. There are no inclusions about Zionist/Israeli historiography; these books and articles on these topics may be found in the theme section. This list intentionally does not include titles or issues that are definitively anti-Zionist and anti-Israeli.

Many of the finest books written on these three subjects were originally published during the first three-quarters of the 20th century; some have been revised, some are out of print. Many were written before archives and personal papers of the participating politicians became available to scholars and writers. As archives became available and open in the 1970s and later, and the Arab-Israeli conflict became increasingly sensational and polemical, the books written about the conflict and Israel covered narrower topics and time periods. There were exceptions, but general histories seemed to fade until the early 2000s. Only a few are general histories were written thereafter, and some were among the best written as context and perspective of Israel’s unique perseverance was chronicled. It is not certain, but the impression remains that many new titles about Israel were in direct or indirect response to international and scholarly efforts to delegitimize Israel as a state and Jews as a people.

In covering these three main topics, many excellent memoirs, biographies, and autobiographies were written. Since self-deprecation is usually not a common feature in memoirs and autobiographies, care should be exercised in reading both over-stated achievements and under-
stated failures. Note should be taken that some of the best materials on these three topics are of article or journal length (15-30 pages), yet we did not include many edited volumes in this collection, simply because of space. Some of those wonderful articles in edited volumes that we have included, have within their apparatus useful bibliographies for further research. Often overlooked treasures on the three topics are found in annual yearbooks. Some like the annual yearbook of the American Jewish Committee which goes back more than 100 years have short analyses of topics that relate to Zionism, American Jews and Zionism, and Zionist culture. There the *The Palestine Yearbooks* and *The Israel Yearbooks* that contain crisp synopses often by practitioners of the day, Abba Eban, Golda Meir, David Ben-Gurion, and many lesser known but important early Zionist and Israeli leaders.

As noted, the books listed are all in English; there are of course a multitude of equally first-rate foreign language titles available, mostly in Hebrew. Regrettably, many of these titles have not been translated into English. For example, two of the best books ever written about the Arabs who lived in Palestine (*Areve Eretz Yisrael*), coincidently with the same title were written by Yosef Vashitz and Ya’acov Shimoni; to our knowledge neither was ever translated into English. Neither were the superb multi-volume sets of *Sepher Palmach* (*History of the Palmach*) or *Sepher Toldot Hahaganah* (*History of the Haganah*). There is a vast array of Hebrew titles on Jews in Eretz Yisrael published by Yad Ben-Zvi in Jerusalem and by other Hebrew and Israeli publishers. Out of print items may be obtained through used book sellers, from many major university libraries, or through inter-library loan programs. More contemporary publications are sometimes available for purchase online, at book stores, and at local public and university libraries. One item that is essential to read on the history of Zionism, which is online, is the entry on Zionism that appeared in the 1906 edition of the *Jewish Encyclopedia*. It is the first entry noted in our list.

A word on the annotations provided. When a book is excellent or the best in its field, we have said so. Commentary and summaries of the book are provided. We have included the number of pages. Often, the best non-fiction book reads like a gripping novel, and some of these titles are that good. We recognize that this list of less than a hundred books is in itself somewhat daunting, but in the end the reader has to choose where to begin, what topic is of interest, and at what level of engagement each prefers. The list could have been much longer, but a judgment to stop somewhere had to be made. My apologies to those individuals and particularly writers and scholars, who feel their own or favorite title was not included in this list, though their contributions may be found elsewhere on the site in Research Bibliographies. Over time, the list will inevitably be revised, updated, and will grow as new books are published. We intend to add to this list as our readers reflect and send us their own suggestions with annotations for books you would like to bring before us for consideration. Contact us at info@Israeled.org

We feel that the entire list is noteworthy; the books with an asterisk are particularly valued.

Ken Stein, December 2014
“Zionism,” Adler, Cyrus (ed.) and others. Jewish Encyclopedia: The History, Religion, Literature, and Customs of the Jewish People from the Earliest Times to the Present Day. New York and London: Funk and Wagnalls Company, Vol. XII, 1906. This is one of the earliest comprehensive summaries of Zionism’s origins to appear in English. The entry begins with the Jewish connection to the Land of Israel, tracing that relationship from Biblical times to the early 1900s. There is reference to the various opponents of modern Zionism, Christian attitudes, and the first years of the Zionist movement after Herzl’s Jewish State publication. Comprised of forty pages, its main geographic focus are the Eastern and Western European responses to its evolution. The entry does include a brief discussion of Alkalai, Gordon, Hess, Kalisher, Syrkin, and other early Zionist thinkers. Since the entire Jewish Encyclopedia is online, not just the Zionism entry noted here, it is perhaps useful to identify those key thinkers enumerated in this entry, and find them elsewhere in the other volumes of the Jewish Encyclopedia. http://ismi.emory.edu/home/resources/primary-source-docs/Jewish%20Encyclopedia.pdf

*Avineri, Shlomo. The Making of Modern Zionism: The Intellectual Origins of the Jewish State. New York: Basic Books, 1981, 244 pp., with index. Written by one of Israel’s great scholars of the late 20th century, Avineri provides an introduction and epilogue, “Zionism as a Revolution,” and sixteen self-authored essays, each one focusing on a leading thinker or philosopher of modern Zionism. This is an excellent place to start and understand the varieties of Zionist thinking that evolved from the early 1800s forward. Having its own set of endnotes, it is easy to use each of Avineri’s chapters to dig deeper into the minds, preferences, and methods of Zionism’s intellectual origins. This is highly recommended for those interested in intellectual history and how each thinker contributed to the rich variety of Zionist philosophies.

*Avner, Yehuda. The Prime Ministers: An Intimate Narrative of Israeli Leadership. New Milford, CT: Toby Press, 2010, 731 pp., with index. Avner was a speech writer for four Israeli Prime Ministers: Levi Eshkol, Golda Meir, Yitzhak Rabin, and Menachem Begin. Reading his prose transposes the reader to being in the room with a prime minister as each encountered world leaders and made Israel’s modern history. This is not a chronological history, but a delightfully intimate look at four key personalities, written with zestful engagement.

*Ben-Sasson, H. H. (ed.) A History of the Jewish People. London: Weidenfeld and Nicolson, 1976, 1170 pp. Composed of seventy chapters, beginning with the origins of Judaism and ending with the aftermath of the 1973 War, this is a magisterial book to read and own. It is easily the best overview of Jewish history in one volume; its contents can be dense, but certainly encompassing. Divided into six historical sections, each is written by a world-class scholar. This book will probably not be read from beginning to end, but by chapter, topic and time period determined by the reader’s interest at the moment. Most useful for the reader that wants to probe further, each of the seventy chapters has a basic bibliography that directs future readings on a
particular topic. With its extensive index, the book has value for readers, learners, and educators of all ages.

Bickerton, Ian and Carla Klausner. *A History of the Arab-Israeli Conflict*. Kansas City, MO: University of Missouri, Pearson College Division, Sixth Edition, 427 pp., with charts, graphs, documents, maps, chronology, and pictures. For almost two decades I have assigned this book to all undergraduates who take my course on the introduction to the Arab-Israeli Conflict. It is readable and not polemical. Words are carefully chosen in describing events and personalities. If you need a primer to the conflict, this is as good as any place to begin.

Cohen, Hillel. *Army of Shadows: Palestinian Collaboration with Zionism, 1917-1948*. University of California Press, 2008, 314 pp. Using primarily Arabic sources, the author focuses on how Jewish nation-building was aided by Arabs living in Palestine. He is careful to make distinctions between those who helped the Zionists strictly out of financial motivation and those who were interested in sustaining relations with Jews as they slowly built the nucleus for a state. It is highly readable and contains a bibliography well worth using if looking at the social and political interactions of the communities during the Mandate Period.

Dinur, Ben Zion. *Israel and the Diaspora*. Philadelphia, Jewish Publication Society, 1969, 206 pp. This is a short and engrossing history of the Jewish world in three time periods: Israel in the Diaspora, The Modern Period, and the Rebirth of Israel. Dinur is a devoted Zionist historian. He is descriptive and analytical in demonstrating how Jews stayed a people, connected to the land of Israel. Dinur “found” Zionism in every period of Jewish history. For him Jewish historiography was wrapped in Jewish identity to Eretz Yisrael. Dinur was Minister of Education and Culture in Israel from 1951-1955.

Dowty, Alan. *The Jewish State: A Century Later*. University of California Press, 1998, 337 pp., with index. Comprising ten chapters and an epilogue, this readable book places the ultimate success of Zionism and Israel in Jewish history, particularly an evolution of Jewish peoplehood. Jewish survival required establishing self-governing mechanisms where reliance upon one another was necessary in order to survive as persecuted minorities wherever they lived previously. He concentrates on how Zionists and Israelis built a civil and civic society and practiced democratic means that threaded together the varieties of Zionism. His chapters on societal divisions, religion, Arabs in Israel, and Israel between the 1967 War and Israel’s century celebration in 1997 are indeed worthy. The bibliography he presents is encompassing and provides a particularly useful beginning for a deeper glimpse into Israel, its people, and the issues that shaped it.

Eisentadt, Shmuel N. *The Absorption of Immigrants: A Comparative Study Based Mainly on the Jewish Community in Palestine and the State of Israel*. London: Routledge and Kegan Paul, Ltd., 1954, 275 pp. This is the best book on Jewish immigration to Palestine during the Yishuv and the first years of statehood and was written by a world class Israeli sociologist. Analyses of why
immigration took place, how it was managed, types of immigrants, and case studies are lucidly included.


Evatt, Herbert V. *Task of Nations*. Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 1952, 279 pp. This is a first-hand account by an Australian representative at the UN during the crucial 1947 UN debates on Palestine and the partition decision. With his pro-Zionist outlook, Evatt details the intricacies of how the Zionists lobbied for their cause.

* Flohr, Paul Mendes and Jehuda Reinharz. *The Jew in the Modern World A Documentary History*. Second Edition, Oxford University Press, 1995, 741pp. Easily one of the most comprehensive, if not the best source book, with original writings covering Jewish philosophical, intellectual, cultural, religious and secular history from the 1700s through the foundation of Israel. The volume contains more than 300 entries and is divided into eleven time period sections. Wonderfully rich explanatory notes, biographical sketches and sources for further reading are provided along with a useful index. The book is an essential compendium for any level of Jewish history learning to 1949.

* Fromkin, David. *A Peace to End All Peace: The Fall of the Ottoman Empire and the Creation of the Modern Middle East*. New York: Avon Books, 1989, 635 pp., with index and superb bibliography. Writing diplomatic history from multiple viewpoints is more complex than writing about one event, individual, or concept. In this case, writing a history of the Middle East during the World War I period, when the Ottoman Empire dissolved and a new Middle East was born, is uniquely challenging. Modern Middle Eastern states were formed and relationships with Arab and Zionist leaders were forged, while Britain and France divided the area into mandates or trusteeships. Dozens of books have tried to cover parts of the period, but none has covered it as well as Fromkin does in this detailed yet easily readable history.

Garcia-Grandos, Jorge. The *Birth of Israel as I Saw It, 1949*. New York: Knopf, 1949, 291 pp. This is a first-hand account by the Guatemalan UN representative of the UN discussion and debate on Palestine’s partition in 1947 and 1948. Garcia-Grandos’ account is an excellent glimpse into Israel’s diplomatic foundations.

Goldscheider, Calvin and Alan S. Zuckerman. *The Transformation of the Jew*. University of Chicago Press, 1984, 279 pp., with index including a 23-page bibliography of general Jewish political sociology across the world. The core thesis in this wonderfully written book is how 80% or more Jews lived in non-democratic settings in the 1880s, and a century later 70% of them were living in democratic settings. Industrialization, modernization, demographic growth, urbanization and options to move to economically better and more physically secure settings
prompted this massive change in Jewish identity. This is a little known book that should be read in order to understand how Jews went from relative powerlessness to power, including the creation of a nation-state.

*Halpern, Ben. *The Idea of the Jewish State.* Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1969, 483 pp. Authored by a world class historian of Jewish history, this is one of the best books written covering the history and context of modern Zionism, evolution of Israel, and Israel in world politics. The book is worth owning only for access to one of the richest bibliographies on Zionism and Israel during that time.

Harkabi, Yehoshafat. *Israel’s Fateful Hour.* New York: Harper Row, 1988, 256 pp, with index and short bibliography. Written by one of Israel’s most esteemed analysts of Israel and the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, Harkabi a former adviser to Menachem Begin and university professor makes the strong case for Israel’s negotiations with the Palestinians. He argues against Herut and extreme viewpoints that refused to embrace negotiations with the Palestinians. Harkabi served as head of Israeli military intelligence in the 1950s and then moved on to be a professor in international relations and Middle Eastern Studies at the Hebrew University.

*Hertzberg, Arthur. *The Zionist Idea.* Philadelphia: Jewish Publication Society, 1997, 648 pp. This is one of the five most essential books to own and read about modern Zionism. It is a compilation of readings of the most important Zionist writers and thinkers, and it is accompanied by a sterling synopsis of each writer. Best of all, in one hundred pages, Hertzberg provides a valuable and penetrating review of Zionism, certainly among the best ever written! There is no bibliography, only notes.

Horowitz, Dan and Moshe Lissak. *Origins of the Israeli Polity: Palestine Under the Mandate.* Chicago University Press, 1978, 292 pp., with index bibliography and glossary. This is a classic and masterpiece in its analysis of how immigrating Zionists created a political center from diverse political and economic origins. Though Arabs and Jews lived side by side, the Zionists welded together their diversities to create a political center capable of mobilizing for the needs of a state-in-the-making. The authors argue that the Zionist leadership willingly accepted elite formation not at the political center, and those at the periphery found common interest with the central elites. Whether commitment to an ideal or physical fear, and at times certainly both, the Israeli polity emerged because of its core commitment to see a Jewish state created in their time. If one wants to have an explanation about how the Zionists succeeded, this is an important book to read.

*Horowitz, David. *State in the Making.* New York: Knopf, 1953, 349 pp. This is an excellent and unique look at the last three years of the Yishuv, while the Zionists lobbied for the partition of Palestine into two potential states, and to that end held detailed discussions with the Americans, British, and several Arab leaders. The story unfolds through the eyes of a high-ranking but youthful Jewish Agency diplomat. Exact representations of diplomatic meetings, discussions, debates, trials and tribulations of the period are provided with descriptive clarity of
people on a mission. If you want to understand the early years of lobbying for the cause of Zionism and Israel, this is an excellent place to start.

Hurewitz, J.C. *Struggle for Palestine.* New York: W.W. Norton Company, Greenwood Press, 1950; reprinted by Greenwood Press, 1968, 403 pp. This is the classic history of the Palestine Mandate, particularly its last twenty years. Written by a professor who taught for three decades at Columbia University, Hurewitz’s book sets a tone for detail and readability that remains unmatched by only a few noted here. These include Ben Halpern’s *The Idea of the Jewish State*, Michael Oren’s *Six Days of War*, and Anita Shapira’s *Land and Power.* Hurewitz focuses on the Zionist-Arab struggle over Palestine, including the roles played by all the important external influences on Palestine’s unfolding history. Hurewitz is candid, thorough and remarkably free of political bias. Along with a wonderfully written prose, the book contains a phenomenally rich set of endnotes with references for each chapter. His 25-page bibliography is unique because none of his sources are from after 1949, which means his monumental work was written without access to government cables and most first-hand accounts that were yet to be composed. And after more than half-a-century since its publication, *The Struggle for Palestine* remains a bedrock of the history of Zionism, Israel, and the emerging Arab-Israeli conflict.

Insight Team of *The London Sunday Times.* “The Yom Kippur War.” Doubleday, 1974, 514 pp. Written without the use of primary sources or documents from the period, this is a highly readable account of events that led to the War and culminated in the beginnings of Henry Kissinger’s post-War diplomacy.


Khalaf, Issa. *Politics in Palestine: Arab Factionalism and Social Disintegration, 1939-1948.* Albany, NY: State University of New York, 1991, 318 pp. The author provides a first-rate background to Palestinian Arab society during the 1940s and the Mandate, and then delves into the issues and personalities that dominated Arab elite factionalism. It is an honest and vivid account of how Palestinian Arab society fragmented and broke down, making it a bit easier for Zionists to succeed in establishing Israel. The book may be out of print, but it is definitely worth the effort in securing and reading it; its bibliography is an excellent beginning for understanding the Arabs in Palestine during the Mandate.

Laqueur, Walter. *A History of Zionism.* New York: MJF Books, 1972, 604 pp. Written by one of the 20th century’s most distinguished historians, the book details the evolution of Zionism from the midst of the French Revolution to the present. Anyone who took a college Jewish history course in the late 1970s was asked to read Laqueur. It is thorough without being pedantic and is very readable.
Mahler, Gregory. *Politics and Government in Israel: Maturation of a Modern State.* Rowman and Littlefield, 2011, 387 pp., with notes. This is a first-rate basic textbook on the Israeli political system. The author sets the definition and functioning of Israel’s political system into an historical context of Zionism’s roots, the Mandate Period, religion, and Israel’s diverse sociological make-up. The Parliament (Knesset), the Prime Minister, political parties and interest groups, the electoral process and the function of government are each reviewed. The last third of the book touches on Israeli foreign policy, how it is made, the Palestinians, the West Bank, and the peace process. Other scholarly authors, such as Asher Arian and Reuven Hazan, have written fine books and articles on the Israeli political system; their works should be consulted for an understanding of Israel’s political system and Israeli voting behavior.

Marlowe, John. *The Seat of Pilate: An Account of the Palestine Mandate.* London: Cresset, 1959, 259 pp. This book is a British historian’s account of British presence in Palestine from the end of WWI to Israel’s establishment. Along with Christopher Sykes’ *Crossroads to Israel*, Marlowe’s history was written before archives and political controversies surrounded Zionism’s origins.

Metzer, Jacob. *The Divided Economy of Mandatory Palestine.* Cambridge University Press, 1998, 275 pp. This book is unrivaled in providing an understanding of how the early Jewish immigrants established a nascent economy based on small industries, light manufacturing, and service industries. Marrying immigrants to a new land was a key to Zionist success. Metzer provides background on Palestine’s economy before the Zionists, shows how Zionist capital fueled economic enterprises, and reviews the impact of new immigrants on the evolving Yishuv. The charts, graphs, and bibliography he provides make this book a formidable beginning for learning more about the Zionist economic infrastructure, and its strengths and weaknesses before the state was declared.

McDonald, James G. *My Mission to Israel, 1948-1951.* New York: Simon and Schuster, 1951, 297 pp. This is a first-hand account of the critical first three years of Israeli statehood, written by the first U.S. Ambassador to Israel.

*Oren, Michael B. *Six Days of War: June 1967 and the Making of the Modern Middle East.* Random House, 2003, 446 pp., with index. The book is easily the most comprehensive and readable account of the June 1967 War. Historian and later Israel’s Ambassador to the United States, Oren’s prose is engaging and his story-telling is gripping. If you need to give a book as a gift, and want the reader to understand issues in the conflict and the cross-roads that Israel faced in May-June 1967, this is your purchase. Oren’s bibliography is extensive, covering all views associated with the War’s enfolding and aftermath.

National Security Council at the Middle East Desk in the 1973-1979 period, Quandt’s insights give the book a predominantly Washington view of how events unfolded. It is a book frequently used in introductory college courses that focus on the Arab-Israeli conflict.


*Radosh, Allis and Ronald Radosh. *A Safe Haven: Harry S. Truman and the Founding of Israel*. New York: Harper Collins, 2009, 428 pp. This is easily the best and most comprehensive book on Truman’s recognition of Israel. Successfully, the authors insert the reader as witness to the personalities, U.S. diplomacy and policy options available in the 1945-1949 period. The bibliography is the first place one should go to understand all the additional nuances addressed in this highly readable account.

Rivlin, Paul. *The Israeli Economy from the Foundation of the State through the 21st Century*. Cambridge University Press, 2011, 288 pp., with index and references. Written by an economic historian, this book is unique in its depiction of how Jews established an economy in Palestine, linking an educated labor force with ingenuity and capital. He traces the philosophical distance travelled by the predominant socialist ethos initially held dear by Zionist founders to the capitalist technological force that has become Israel’s export economy of the 21st century.

Sachar, Howard. *A History of Israel: From the Rise of Zionism to our Time*. Knopf, 2007, Third Edition, 1270 pp. One of the most detailed and authoritative histories of Zionism and Israel ever written, rich with detail and general conclusions, this book is among the three or four classic Zionist histories covering the early 1800s to the present. It is detailed, authoritative and written without polemic. This is an encompassing history with enormously rich detail, which includes forty-one chapters, thirty-eight maps and an index of detailed proportions. This book is the history of Zionism and Israel before there was Wikipedia.


Safran, Nadav. *From War to War: The Arab-Israeli Confrontation, 1948-1967*. New York: Pegasus, 1969, 463 pp. One of the best histories of the conflict ever written, covering its origins until after the 1967 War. Written by a noted historian, the book details the conflict’s origins, the Cold War, Egypt, Nasser, inter-Arab relations, a summary of the politics of each state prior to the 1967 War, and 150 pages on the War itself.

Shapira, Anita. *Israel: A History*. Waltham, MA: Brandeis, 2012, 502 pp. This is one of the most comprehensive scholarly books on Zionism and Israel ever written. The book is divided into five parts, all chronological from 1881 to 2000. Each of the twenty chapters has a bibliography of books and articles enumerating the best scholarship available in multiple languages. Shapira’s prose is substantively erudite and analytical. This is not the first book you should read about the history of Zionism and Israel, but it is one that if you have not read, you will have denied yourself an historical feast.

Shapira, Anita. *Land and Power: The Zionist Resort to Force, 1881-1948*. Oxford University Press, 1992, 446 pp., with an index and useful glossary. This is a magisterial work. Thorough and extremely well-written, the author is one of the finest Zionist historians to live, write and teach in the last quarter of the 20th century. It is highly recommended for anyone interested in knowing how a scant number of Jews with diverse ideologies and geographic origins organized themselves into a political community formidable enough to create a state.

Stein, Kenneth W. *The Land Question in Palestine, 1917-1939*. University of North Carolina Press, 1984, 314 pp., with index. With extensive use of land registry and land department files of the Palestine Administration, Arabic sources and those of the Jewish Agency and Jewish National Fund, this book describes Palestine’s land regime in late Ottoman times. It is a detailed account of how the British umpired the Zionist drive to acquire land for a state and Arab participation and reactions to that struggle. The bibliography is useful for anyone interested in the history of the early Yishuv to the 1940s.

Stein, Kenneth W. *Heroic Diplomacy: Sadat, Kissinger, Carter and the Quest for Arab-Israeli Peace*. Routledge, 1999, 324 pp., with index and suggested readings. Using interviews with 84 participants in Arab-Israeli diplomacy, memoirs and recently opened archival materials, dispatches and memoranda of conversations, this book is a rich and detailed diplomatic account of the 1970s. It contains a lengthy introduction from 1948, featuring each of the personalities who participated in the diplomacy to come, the intense period of American mediation in that critical decade, and an epilogue to the post-1993 Oslo period.

Stein, Kenneth W. *History Politics and Diplomacy of the Arab-Israeli Conflict A Source Document Reader for College Courses*, August 2013, 1406 pp. This compilation includes 379 items covering the period from 1893 to present. These include accords, agreements, declarations, memoranda of understandings, original archival materials, proposed initiatives and plans, press conferences, primary source documents, political statements, speeches, secret understandings, summit conference protocols, treaties, UN Resolutions, and more. Many of the items are translated from Arabic, German, and Hebrew and appear here in print for the first time. There are thirteen maps covering the Ottoman period to the present, and a population chart of Eretz Yisrael/Palestine/Israel covering 1517-2012. The e-book is divided into six sections, each with a short introduction of the history of that period. It is updated annually. [http://israeled.org/history-politics-diplomacy-arab-israeli-conflict/](http://israeled.org/history-politics-diplomacy-arab-israeli-conflict/)
Sykes, Christopher. *Crossroads to Israel, 1917-1948*. Indiana University Press, 1965, 404 pp. Written by the son of Sir Mark Sykes, a British colonial officer during the WWI period, this recital of Zionism and the origins of modern Israel is written from the viewpoint of a sympathetic Gentile Zionist. The book is very readable and recommended for teenagers as well as adults. If you need to pick just one book to read on the period from 1917-1949, this is the one.

Vital, David. *A People Apart: A Political History of the Jews in Europe, 1789-1939*. Oxford University Press, 1999, 944 pp. This is an extraordinarily detailed and thorough history. Coherently written for the sophisticated learner, it presents and analyzes the multiple options available to Jews during their major transformation as a people. Vital traces Jewish communal structures from the medieval to the present, the *Haskalah* failed emancipation, immigration, emergence of Zionism, and burgeoning anti-Semitism, leaving the reader at the outset of the Holocaust. If for no other reason, anyone interested in modern Jewish history, including Zionism, whether just getting started or an expert, should use the nineteen-page bibliography Vital provides.

Vital, David. *Origins of Zionism*. Oxford University Press, 1975, 395 pp. This is easily one of the best written histories of Zionism. With sharp insights and vivid conclusions, the book traces the roots of the movement from its source in Jewish tradition, with the majority of the book covering the half-century period prior to and concluding with the first Zionist Congress in 1897. Vital’s select and annotated bibliography is among the best available, dividing sections into general overviews, the Eastern and Western European backgrounds for Zionism, and the Zionist movement, covering books about most of the important Zionist leaders. The book is ideal for anyone seeking a comprehensive general first book on Zionism and plenty of suggestions on where to search further.