

**History of Modern Israel - Freshmen Seminar**  
**HIST190-01P/JS190-00P/MES190-01P**  
**Spring 2006**

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Tuesday 2-4pm  
Emerson E504

Office hours: Monday 11:30-1pm or by appointment  
404-727-4472

Content: This undergraduate freshmen seminar will review the history of modern Israel from the inception of Zionism to the post 1967 war period. The four periods of study will be the ideological formations (to 1917), Zionist autonomy in Palestine and nation-building (to 1949), the problems and successes of sovereignty (to 1977) and the quest for identity and normalization (to the present). Issues to be discussed will include the structure of the old and new Yishuv, immigrations to Eretz Yisrael, British rule in Palestine, relationships with the great powers, sociological associations and cleavages, Israel-Diaspora relations, American Jewry and Israel, religion and state policy interaction, the political and economic systems, constitutional issues, Arab-Israeli wars, American-Israeli relations, the negotiating process, and quest for recognition from Arab neighbors. Several guest speakers will participate in the class. The focus of this course is the period to the 1967 War; by the reality that there were only 13 classes of two hours each, insufficient time was available to focus on Mizrahi/[Sephardim](#) (video), Russian, and Ethiopian immigrations to Israel, gender issues in Israeli society, or on [Arab-Israeli negotiations](#). Other courses given at Emory and syllabi provided in this listing cover those topics. There were 14 students in this freshmen class. The spaces on the syllabus that are empty were filled with student last names, as they led discussions on those assigned readings from week to week. Some of the items here were found on websites, many of them may have disappeared, but the articles are likely remaining elsewhere. Videos that were recorded since 2005 have been added to the syllabus where their contents is relevant to a particular topic.

Please note that when this syllabus was crafted, [www.israeled.org](#) did not exist. Items that appear on the syllabus were accessed by students in 2006 from the reference library reserve list made for this course. Now that many of these articles, documents and sources appear at [www.israeled.org](#) They are hyperlinked here but were not for the student who originally took the course.

Ken Stein, December 2021.

Texts/Books to buy in paperback

Dowty, Alan, The Jewish State A Century Later, University of California Press, 2001, (paperback), ISBN: 052022918.

Laqueur, Walter, A History of Zionism, New York: Schocken, 1989. (paperback), (ISBN: 0805205233).

Hertzberg, Arthur, The Zionist Idea: A Historical Analysis and Reader, New York: Jewish Publication Society, 1997, (paperback), ISBN:0827606222.

Mahler, Gregory S. Politics and Government in Israel: The Maturation of a Modern State, Rowman and Littlefield, 2004 (paperback), ISBN: 0742516113.

Stein, Kenneth W. Heroic Diplomacy: Sadat, Kissinger, Carter, Begin, and the Quest for Arab-Israeli Peace, New York: Routledge, 1991 (paperback), ISBN: 0415921554.

Sternhell, Zev. The Founding Myths of Israel, Princeton University Press, 1999 (paperback) ISBN: 0691009678.

Maps: [Israel History in Maps](#)

### **Grading:**

There will be two examinations: a mid-term and a final. The first examination will cover the period up to Israel's establishment in 1948; the final examination will focus primarily on the period from 1948 to the present. The mid-term examination will be held on March 2006. The final examination will be held on May 4, 2006, from 8:30-11:00am. For the mid-term and final examinations, please bring two (2) large blue books to class; please do not write in or on the blue books before the examination. If you would like your final examination paper returned to you by mail, please provide me with a self-addressed manila envelope with sufficient postage. Otherwise, your final examinations will appear in a box outside my office door at 121 Bowden Hall until September 15, 2006.

Students are expected to do all the readings assigned, both the required texts and reserved readings. Students should complete the readings for a particular week *prior* to meeting each Monday. Students are expected to be at every class. Unless there are exceptional circumstances, if you miss one class session, you can expect your grade to be reduced by one full grade.

### **CLASS ASSIGNMENTS:**

**\*Indicates assigned articles are available at the Reserves Desk in Woodruff Library or Reserves Direct through Euclid.**

### **January 23:**

Course orientation and syllabus distribution

From Abraham to Haskalah: Evolution of Jewish Political Culture (Stein Lecture)

### **Readings:**

Laqueur, pp. xi-269; 384-437.

“Writings of Early Zionist Thinkers- Adler, Borochoy, Ginsburg, Herzl, Nordau, and Pinsker”

“Herzl- The Jewish State” Six Chapters

\*Avineri, Shlomo. “Zionism as a National Liberation Movement,” Jerusalem Quarterly, Winter 1979, pp. 133-144.

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\*Kolatt, Israel. “The Organization of the Jewish Population of Palestine and the Development of its Political Consciousness Before World War I,” in Moshe Ma’oz (ed.) Studies in Palestine During Pre-Ottoman Period (Jerusalem: Magnes Press, 1975), pp. 211-245.

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\*Katz, Jacob. “The Forerunners of Zionism,” Jerusalem Quarterly, 7, Spring 1978, pp. 10-21.

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Richard Gottheil, uses the material from the Jewish Encyclopedia, [Zionism, 1906](#) to write one of the best summaries on the origins of European Zionism, its thinkers, controversies; it ends just before WW!

\*Landes, David S. “Palestine Before the Zionists,” Commentary, February 1976, pp. 47-56.

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### **January 30:**

Origins of Zionism to World War I (Stein Lecture)

The Arabs in Palestine in the late Ottoman and mandate period. [The 1931 Census for Palestine](#) is invaluable for understanding how the two major communities differed in so many ways.

Porath, Yehoshua Porath, Yehoshua. “[Social Aspects of the Emergence of the Palestinian Arab National Movement](#).” In Menachem Milson (ed.) *Society and Political Structure in the Arab World*, Jerusalem, Van Leer Foundation, (1973): 93-144 - with permission from the author before his death.

[Forming a Nucleus for the Jewish state](#), is a series of 20 maps that show where and when Jewish immigrants were linked to land in Palestine, Eretz Yisrael, covering the period from ancient times through 1947. This teaching and learning tool may be conveniently used with the video, [Israel in Context: How did the Zionists Make the State: 1882-1949](#), (49:32)

### February 6:

World War I Promises and the Making of the Mandate” (Stein Lecture)

[Husayn-McMahon Correspondence](#)

[Sykes-Picot Agreement, 1916](#)

### Readings:

\*Kedourie, Elie. “Sir Herbert Samuel and the Government of Palestine,” [Middle East Studies](#), 5, 1969, pp. 44-68.

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\*Verete, Mayir. “The Balfour Declaration and Its Makers,” [Middle Eastern Studies](#), Vol. 4, 1970, pp. 48-76. Ken Stein, [The Balfour Declaration with context and analyses](#),

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\*Wasserstein, Bernard. “Clipping the Claws of the Colonizers,” [Middle Eastern Studies](#), Vol. 13, No. 2, May 1977, pp. 171-194.

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### February 13:

The British Mandate, 1920-1929: Jewish Institutional Development” (Stein Lecture)

League of Nations, [The Mandate for Palestine](#), 1922

### Readings:

Dowty, pp. 3-60.

Sternhell, pp. ix- 314 -----, -----, -----, -----

\*Kolatt, Israel. "The Zionist Movement and the Arabs," Studies in Zionism, No. 5, April 1982, pp. 129-157.

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\*Stein, Kenneth W. "[Palestine's Rural Economy, 1917-1939](#)," Studies in Zionism, Vol. 8, No. 1, 1987, pp. 25-49.

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## **February 20:**

The Palestine Mandate, 1930-1939" (Stein Lecture)

## **Readings:**

\*Berkson, Isaac B. "Jewish Education in Palestine," in Harry Vitteles and Khalil Totah (eds.) The Annals of The American Academy of Political and Social Science, 164, Philadelphia, November 1932, pp. 139-154.

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\*Cohen, Michael J. "Appeasement in the Middle East: The British White Paper on Palestine, May 1939," Historical Journal, Vol.16, September 1973, pp. 571-596.

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\*Cohen, Michael J. "The British White Paper on Palestine, May 1939, Part II: The Testing of a Policy, 1942-1945," The Historical Journal, Vol. 19, No. 3, 1976, pp. 727-758.

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Stein, Kenneth W. "The Jewish National Fund: Land Purchase Methods and Priorities, 1924-1939," Middle Eastern Studies, Vol. 20, No. 2, April 1984, pp. 190-205.

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Stein, Kenneth "[Rural Change and Peasant Destitution: Contributing Causes to the Arab Revolt in Palestine, 1936, 1939](#), in Kazemi and Waterbury, Peasants and Politics in the Modern Middle East, Florida International Press, 1991, pp. 143-170.

## February 27:

·“The Palestine Mandate, 1939-1949” (Stein Lecture)

[The 1947-1949 War](#) (here you will find Arab, Jewish, American, Zionist analyses of how events unfolded in 1947-1949) The material provided is analytical and not polemical.

Arab Refugees- Ken Stein, “[One Hundred Years of Social Change: The Creation of the Palestinian Refugee Problem](#),” New Perspectives on Israeli History, 1991

## Readings:

Laqueur, pp. 270-337; 441-600.

Sternhell, pp. 318-345.

\*Cohen, Michael J. “Truman, the Holocaust and the Establishment of the State of Israel,” [The Jerusalem Quarterly](#), No. 23, Spring 1982, pp. 79-94

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\*Shapira, Anita. “Conclusion: The Birth of the State,” [Land and Power The Zionist Resort to Force 1881-1948](#), Oxford University Press, 1992, pp. 355-370.

\*Stein, Kenneth W. “One Hundred Years of Social Change: The Creation of the Palestinian Refugee Problem,” in Laurence J. Silberstein (ed.) [New Perspectives on Israeli History](#), New York, pp. 57-81.

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Yigal Allon, “[Lessons from the War of Independence](#),” [Sefer Halpalmach](#), 1952-53, pp. 430-436.  
1945-1949 [Reasoned Views for Palestinian Arabs Dysfunctional Condition](#)

## March 6:

·“Israel’s Early Years: Political and Social Foundations and Foreign Policy” (Stein Lecture)

## Readings:

\*Horowitz, Dan. “[The Israeli Concept of National Security in Israel](#),” copied and printed with permission of the author and publisher in Avner Yaniv, 1993.

Mahler, Gregory, Politics and Government in Israel: The Maturation of a Modern State, ( read as much as possible during the break)

March 13: **Spring Break** - No Class

**March 20:**

Mid Term Examination

*Bring two large unmarked blue books*

**March 27:**

Arab-Israeli Wars, 1956, 1967 and 1973 and Their Diplomatic Aftermath (Stein Lecture)

**Readings:**

\*Brecher, Michael. "Jerusalem: Israel's Political Decisions, 1947-1977," The Middle East Journal, Vol. 32, No.1, Winter 1978, pp. 13-34.

\*Safran, Nadav. "America's Israel Connection," Jerusalem Quarterly, Summer 1977, pp. 3-30.

**April 3:**

·"Israeli Society, Politics and Culture - Religion and Ethnicity" (Stein Lecture)

**Readings:**

Dowty, pp. 61-183.

Goldscheider, pp. 3-64; 109-237.

Michael Berger "Religion and State in Israel," Center for Israel Education, video

<https://israeled.org/religion-and-state-in-israel/>

Eli Sperling, " The Progression of Israeli Culture," Center for Israel Education, 2020, Video (1:01)

Kamil, Omar. "Rabbi Ovadia Yosef and his 'Culture War in Israel'," MERIA Journal, Vol. 4, No. 4, December 2000, <http://meria.idc.ac.il/journal/2000/issue4/jv4n4a3.html>

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\*Avruch, Kevin. "The Emergence of Ethnicity in Israel," American Ethnologist, Vol. 14, No. 2, May 1987, pp. 327-339.

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\*Cohen, Asher and Bernard Susser. Israel and the Politics of Jewish Identity: The Secular-Religion Impasse (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1998), Ch. 1.

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\*Don-Yehiya, Eliezer. "Religious Leaders in Political Arena: Case of Israel," Middle Eastern Studies, Vol. 20, No. 2, April 1984, pp. 154-171.

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\*Eisenstadt, S.N. "Change and Continuity in Israeli Society II. Dynamic Conservatism vs. Innovation," The Jerusalem Quarterly, No. 2, Winter 1977, pp. 3-11.

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\*Eisenstadt, S.N. "Israeli Society -- Major Features and Problems," The Jerusalem Quarterly, No. 1, Fall 1976, pp. 28-35.

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\*Peres, Yochanan. "Ethnic Relations in Israel," American Journal of Sociology, Vol. 76, No. 6, July 1970-May 1971, pp. 1021-1047.

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Stein, Ken, "[Origins of Israeli Democracy: Jewish Political Culture and Pre-State Practice](#), Center for Israel Education, March 2021.



## **April 10**

·“Israeli Economy” (Stein Lecture)

### **Readings:**

Shiraby, Linda. "Israel's Economic Growth: Success Without Security," MERIA Journal, Vol.6, No.3, September, 2002 <http://meria.idc.ac.il/journal/2002/issue3/jv6n3a3.html>

\*Taub, Y.J. "Israel's Economy: The Challenge of Peace," Jerusalem Quarterly, Fall 1979, pp.18- 32.

## **April 17:**

Israeli Foreign Affairs: Israel and the United States, 1977-2005

### **Readings:**

Dowty, pp. 216-248.

\*Eisenberg, Laura Zittrain. “Passive Belligerency: Israel and the 1991 Gulf War,” The Journal of Strategic Studies, Vol. 15, No. 3, September 1992, pp. 304-329.

## **April 24**

### **Passover – No Class (To be made up at mutually convenient time)**

Israeli Foreign Affairs: Israel and the Arab world, 1977-2005

Stein, Kenneth W. “Continuity and Change In Egyptian Israeli Relations, 1973-1993,” Israel Affairs, Vol. 3, Nos. 3 & 4, Spring/Summer 1997, pp. 296-320.

Stein, Kenneth “[US-Israeli Relations 1947-2010: The View from Washington](#).” In Alfred Wittstock (ed.) The World Facing Israel: Images and Politics, Berlin 2011,

Steinberg, Gerald M. AIsrael and the United States: Can the Special Relationship Survive the New Strategic Environment?@ MERIA Journal, Vol. 2, No. 4, December 1998.

Lieber, Robert J.”U.S-Israeli Relations Since 1948,” MERIA Journal, Vol. 2, No. 3, Sept. 1998,

## **Tuesday, May :**

·**Final Examination, 8:30 am**

·*Bring two large unmarked blue books*