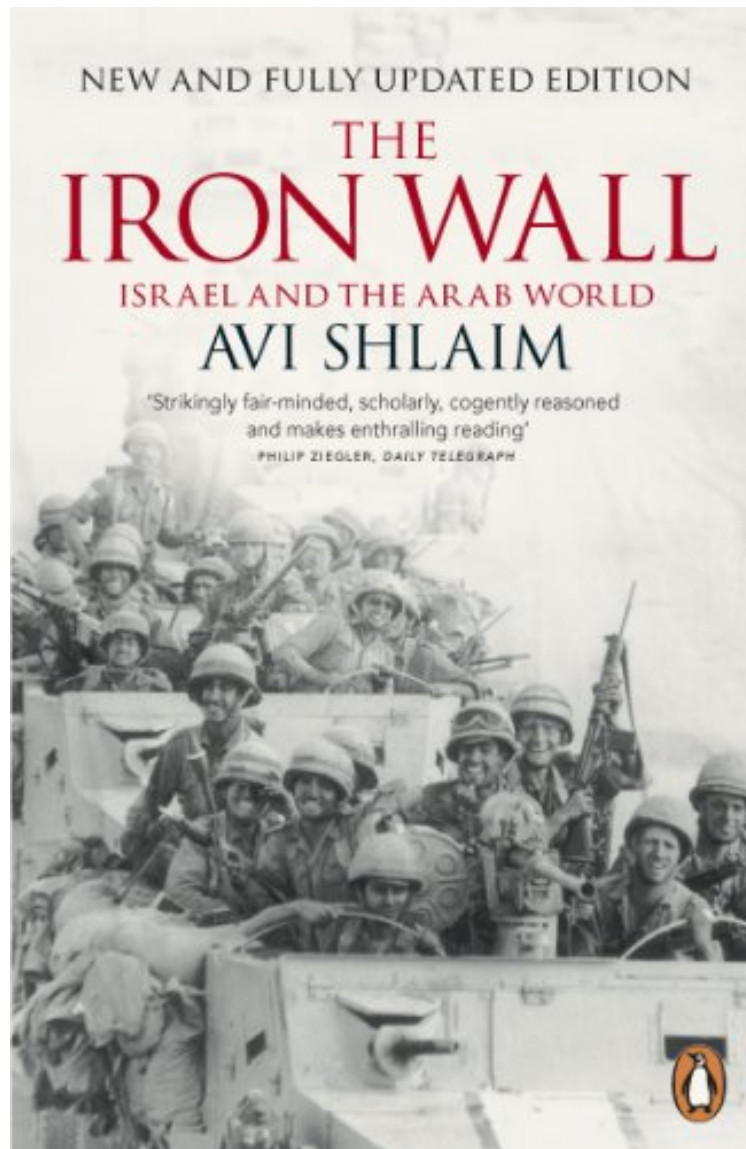


(Ebook pdf) The Iron Wall: Israel and the Arab World

## The Iron Wall: Israel and the Arab World

Von Avi Shlaim

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**Von Avi Shlaim : The Iron Wall: Israel and the Arab World** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Iron Wall: Israel and the Arab World:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen0 von 3 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Gefllt mirVon Biplab BasuThe book arrived on time. the condition of the book was good. Hope, the seller all the success. I would buy from him again3 von 3 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Sharp and reliable historyVon Ms. Kathleen KernThis is one of the most readable general histories of the Israeli-Arab conflict I've encountered. Benny

Morris's *Righteous Victims* suffers in comparison. Although Shlaim is considered a "revisionist" historian (meaning he uses primary sources regarding the formation of the state of Israel instead of cultivated propaganda), this book is still definitely written from an Israeli perspective. He sees immense differences between Labor and Likud's philosophies, whereas from a Palestinian perspective, they've got just as much land and been treated with just as much contempt under Labor as they have under Likud. On the other hand, having lived and worked in the West Bank city of Hebron during the Rabin/Peres/Netanyahu years, I have to say his coverage of that period of time rings true for me.<sup>3</sup>

von 3 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Brilliant und unverzichtbar Von Herbert Frei-Schindler Der israelisch-britische Historiker Shlaim hat ein brillantes und zudem äußerst lesbares Buch über die Entwicklung und tieferen Ursachen des Palästina-Konflikts geschrieben. Das faktenreiche, gut recherchierte und analytisch scharfsinnige Buch zeigt vor allem, dass in Israel bezüglich der Politik gegenüber den palästinensischen Arabern immer mindestens zwei Konzeptionen im Widerstreit lagen, die eine eher auf Verständigung gerichtet, die andere auf Expansion. Kein Werk kann einen absoluten Wahrheitsanspruch erheben, aber dieses Buch gehört, wenn es um Palästina geht, sicher zu den Standardwerken.

Kurzbeschreibung Avi Shlaim's *The Iron Wall: Israel and the Arab World* is the outstanding book on Israeli foreign policy, now thoroughly updated with a new preface and chapters on Israel's most recent leaders. In the 1920s, hard-line Zionists developed the doctrine of the 'Iron Wall': negotiations with the Arabs must always be from a position of military strength, and only when sufficiently strong Israel would be able to make peace with her Arab neighbours. This doctrine, argues Avi Shlaim, became central to Israeli policy; dissenters were marginalized and many opportunities to reconcile with Palestinian Arabs were lost. Drawing on a great deal of new material and interviews with many key participants, Shlaim places Israel's political and military actions under an uncompromising lens. His analysis will bring scant comfort to partisans on both sides, but it will be required reading for anyone interested in this fascinating and troubled region of the world. 'The Iron Wall is strikingly fair-minded, scholarly, cogently reasoned and makes enthralling ... reading' Philip Ziegler, *Daily Telegraph* 'Anyone wanting to understand the modern Middle East should start by reading this elegantly written and scrupulously researched book' Trevor Royle, *Sunday Herald* 'A milestone in modern scholarship of the Middle East' Edward Said 'Fascinating ... Shlaim presents compelling evidence for a reevaluation of traditional Israeli history' Ethan Bronner, *The New York Times* Book Avi Shlaim is Professor of International Relations at St. Antony's College, Oxford. His previous books include *Collusion Across the Jordan* (1988) and *War and Peace in the Middle East* (1995).

de In 1897, under order of First Zionist Congress president Theodor Herzl, two Austrian rabbis travelled to Palestine to explore the possibility of locating a Jewish state there. "The bride is beautiful", the rabbis cabled Herzl, "but she is married to another man". That "other man" was the Palestinian Arab nation, long established in the region as a political entity. Undeterred, Herzl pressed on with his programme of emigration, ignoring Palestine's existing occupants and creating in the process what came to be known as the "Arab question". In this far-ranging history, Avi Shlaim analyses that question in remarkable detail, tracing the shifting policies of Israel toward the Palestinians and the Arab world at large. Herzl, he writes, followed a policy that consciously sought to enlist the great powers--principally Britain and later the United States--while dismissing indigenous claims to sovereignty; after all, Herzl argued, "the Arab problem paled in significance compared with the Jewish problem because the Arabs had vast spaces outside Palestine, whereas for the Jews, who were being persecuted in Europe, Palestine constituted the only possible haven". This policy later changed to a stance of confrontation against the admittedly hostile surrounding Arab powers, especially Syria, Jordan and Egypt; this militant stance was a source of controversy in the international community, and it also divided Israelis into hawk and dove factions. The intransigence of those hawks, Shlaim shows, served to alienate Israel and made it possible for the Palestine Liberation Organisation and other Arab nationalist groups to enlist the support of the great powers that Herzl had long before courted. Both sides, in turn, had eventually to face the "historic compromise" that led to the present peace in the Middle East--a peace that, the author suggests, may not endure. --Gregory McNamee

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