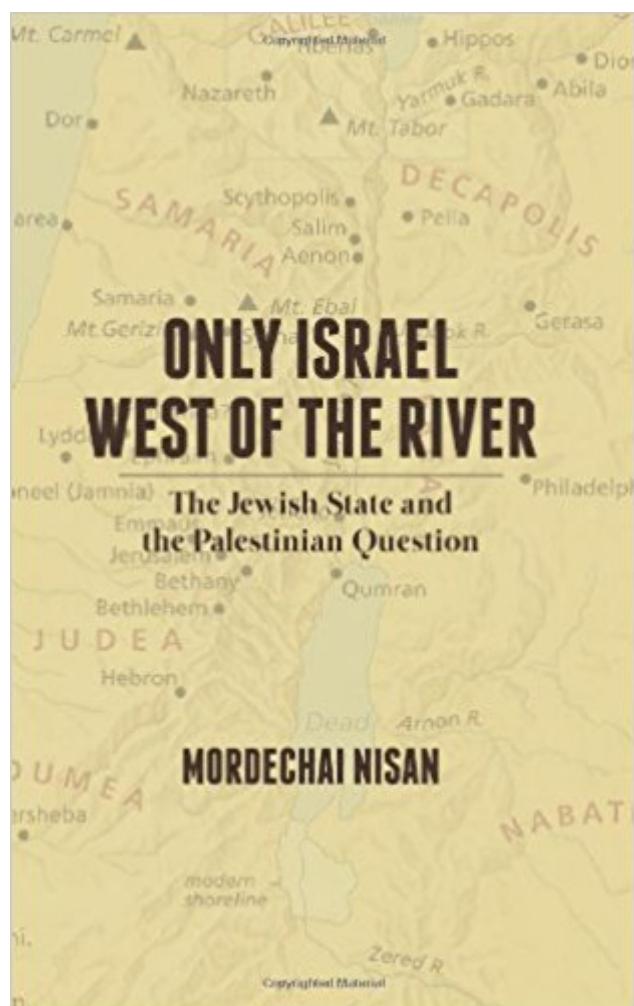


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Only Israel West Of The River: The Jewish State & The Palestinian Question



Synopsis

This book offers a coherent paradigm to contend with the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. It first clarifies the national Jewish character of Israel, the danger of domestic Arab challenges, and the imperative of Israeli rule throughout the area west of the Jordan River. It secondly considers the Palestinian population in Judea and Samaria, and the complexity of arranging Jewish-Arab accommodation and political stability. The book then argues for the consolidation of a Palestinian entity east of the river in Jordan. This innovative approach to conflict-resolution offers the only reasonable political solution for a problem that is more than one hundred years old. The two-state solution, currently monopolizing political discourse, is a non-starter; our proposal is the only worthy and serious option to consider.

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Customer Reviews

Mordechai Nisan taught Middle East studies at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. He is a prolific writer on Zionism, Islam, and Arab history; minority peoples and pluralistic states; Lebanon, American foreign policy in the Middle East; and the intractability of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

This is one of the very few, recent books that deals with the one-state solution, though Caroline Glick's book also attempts to do that, this one is very different in what it considers- a one state solution. I agree wholeheartedly with the author's basic premise, in that the only real solution to the current, stalemate and occupation, is to move the Palestinians from the West Bank and perhaps Gaza, back to Jordan or Egypt, and give that land to Israel. That is what the author means by the very title, that The Jewish State will exist as only Israel west of the Jordan River, without any

significant, Palestinians at all. Though this sounds rather drastic, it is the logical outcome of the 67 war, in that Jordan lost, there was never a Palestinian State anywhere in the world before or after the 67 war, and modern Israel should include Judea and Samaria, which were parts of the original, Jewish State before it was destroyed by the Romans in the first century, AD. The Palestinians and Jews will never, ever live in true peace with the West Bank becoming a Palestinian State, because such borders are totally indefensible for Israel and will, eventually, lead to its total destruction by Hamas, Fatah, ISIS, Al Qaeda and who knows what others. The basic premise of the entire book makes a great deal of sense, though, of course, not to those now living in the West Bank or Gaza or the Jordanians.

As I read Professor Nisan's compact and hard-hitting book on why Israel must reject any further land-for-peace deals with the Palestinians, the words of Patrick Henry - the hero of the American Revolution - ring in my ears. "Is life so dear or peace so sweet as to be purchased at the price of chains and slavery? Forbid it, Almighty God! I know not what course others may take, but as for me, give me liberty or give me death." Professor Nisan makes it crystal clear that Israel must never give up another inch of Israel simply in the hope that the Muslims will like them better and keep their word to be better neighbors. Like the Professor vividly points out, the Israelis must learn from Gaza. As I suggested to Benjamin Netanyahu and the Professor by email, all future land-for-peace talks should be held atop Masada or at the Auschwitz Death Camp in Poland, because those two venues scream to the world, "NEVER AGAIN!" Roger Johnson US Navy Commander (retired)

An excellent book about the current situation in Israel, the appearance of the dead end sign on the 'Roadmap' of the peace process that reminds of the urgent need for the paradigm shift about the two state solution. Recommended!

Poorly written book in a confusing matter, although I got its point. I am not sure replacing the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan with a PLO state will bring peace to Israel and the region.

Written in great detail and with much thought. Somewhat difficult to follow his arguments. The logic of his main argument is convincing.

"The political debate in Israel, as to whether an independent Palestinian state would be a blessing for Israel or a curse, is more of a self-contained monologue than a dialogue with ideas and

adversaries. The paradigm of the two-state solution has closed all debate." These powerful words from Mordechai Nisan describing the political reality in Israel, is what this new book, "Only Israel West of the River", is trying to overcome. In a concise 151 page book Nisan manages to analyze various aspects of the Israeli-Palestinian issue with clarity and understanding that is illuminating. Rather than ignoring or glossing over difficult issues, Nisan tackles them in a way that is direct and honest without being abrasive or confrontational. Agree or disagree with his analysis, it is evident that he is being intellectually honest. His goal is to change the paradigm of how Israel deals with the Palestinian issue since he believes that the closed debate regarding the two-state solution is detrimental to Israel's future. He writes, "It is the responsibility of government and the creativity of its leaders to address a problem in a spirit of realism; the threat emanating from the problem can catalyze energies to formulate a solution. Inasmuch as Israel's very existence is threatened by the Palestinians (and their Arab brothers and allies), there can be no resolution without a sound accounting of the immediacy and urgency of the problem." In this realm he believes that Israel's politicians have failed; they have not honestly addressed the problems and therefore they have not provided proper solutions. Still further, he claims that the way Israel deals with this issue will ultimately have an effect on Israel itself. "For how Israel deals with and treats the Palestinian problem will indicate what kind of Israel will emerge along the political highway of its future." By trying to change the paradigm, it is obvious that Nisan wants to assure a healthy future for Israel. In this regard he envisions Jordan, with its 70% Palestinian population, eventually becoming the hoped for Palestinian state alongside an Israel having complete sovereignty west of the Jordan River. This he sees as the only realistic solution that can bring stability to the region. In this vein he bemoans the current way of thinking which only perpetuates the problem. Nisan writes, "It is difficult to make the argument that Jordan's survival in its present constitutional character carries greater moral weight than the political rights of the Palestinians and the region's need for reconciliation and stability." He then adds "Hashemite regime survival cannot be a more legitimate imperative than Palestinian national self-expression and political rights." For anyone who is genuinely concerned about Israel and the Palestinians yet tired of the usual rhetoric, this book is a must.

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