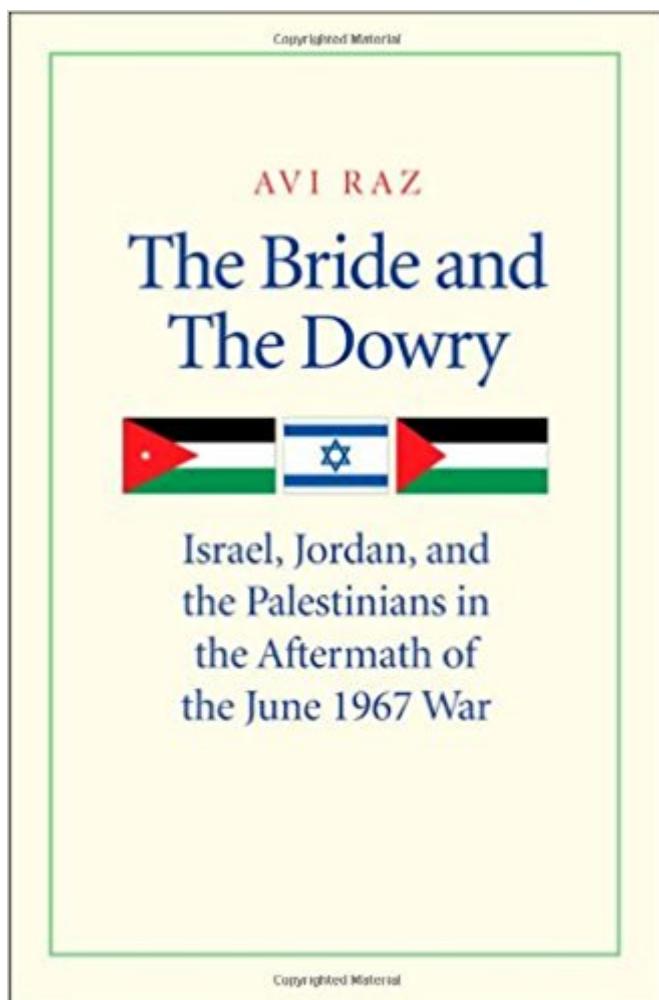


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The Bride And The Dowry: Israel, Jordan, And The Palestinians In The Aftermath Of The June 1967 War



Synopsis

Israel's victory in the June 1967 Six Day War provided a unique opportunity for resolving the decades-old Arab-Zionist conflict. Having seized the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, the Sinai Peninsula, and the Golan Heights, Israel for the first time in its history had something concrete to offer its Arab neighbors: it could trade land for peace. Yet the political deadlock persisted after the guns fell silent. This book asks why. Avi Raz places Israel's conduct under an uncompromising lens. His penetrating book examines the critical two years following the June war and substantially revises our understanding of how and why Israeli-Arab secret contacts came to naught. Mining newly declassified records in Israeli, American, British, and United Nations archives, as well as private papers of individual participants, Raz dispels the myth of overall Arab intransigence and arrives at new and unexpected conclusions. In short, he concludes that Israel's postwar diplomacy was deliberately ineffective because its leaders preferred land over peace with its neighbors. The book throws a great deal of light not only on the post-1967 period but also on the problems and pitfalls of peacemaking in the Middle East today.

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Customer Reviews

The story of Israeli policy in the late 1960s has been told before...But no one has provided as thorough - or as damning - an account as Avi Raz, a former reporter for *Ma'ariv* who has read every pertinent document in every available archive, in Hebrew, Arabic and English. The *Bride and the Dowry* is a work of meticulous scholarship. •Adam Shatz, *London Review of Books*

(Adam Shatz London Review of Books 2012-10-11)’s conclusions may be radical, but his case is set out with the utmost scruple, and in damning detail.’ Michael Kerrigan, The Scotsman (Michael Kerrigan The Scotsman 2012-09-08)’Received wisdom has it that an opportunity to reach a settlement between Israel and the Arabs was missed in the weeks and months following the turmoil of the 1967 war. This excellent book shows that indeed it was - and it wasn’t. The author presents a meticulously researched study, using mainly primary sources, of how this window appeared to open briefly but in reality remained closed.’ •Asian Affairs (Asian Affairs 2014-03-01)’Avi Raz’s scholarship is outstanding in its rigour. This book presents an exceptionally thorough and rich exploration of the aftermath of the 1967 war, focusing on the Palestinian refugee question. By grounding present political debates and diplomatic dilemmas in solid historical research, it enables deep and incisive understanding of the options available to the Israeli government at the time and of the particular paths it subsequently took. This is a ground-breaking and potentially conclusive contribution to a longstanding and contentious debate.’ •Yezid Sayigh, author of Armed Struggle and the Search for State: The Palestinian National Movement 1949–1993 (Yezid Sayigh)’This is an original, meticulously researched and highly readable study of Israel’s consolidation of its hold on the territories it occupied during the war of 1967. Raz traces in persuasive detail the ways in which the military campaign and the new opportunities it opened up were variously interpreted and exploited by Palestinians, by the Israeli government and by the Jordanian authorities. He makes extraordinarily good use of Israeli, American and British archival material to create a substantial and reliable account of the formative first couple of years of military occupation, the paths not taken and the slow destructive consequences of decisions made in the first flush of victory. This allows him to enliven the study with the voices of the main protagonists, capturing their beliefs about what was possible—some of which were realized, often with perverse and troubling consequences. In doing so, Raz is to be congratulated for providing not only a fascinating historical account of these years, but also a profound reflection on the costs of victory not simply for the defeated, but, as the past four decades have shown, for the victors as well.’ •Charles Tripp, School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London (Charles Tripp)’A scouring academic investigation of the fallout from the Six-Day War. . . Raz delivers a compelling study of Israeli intransigence and deception after the huge territory gains it made in June 1967 by seizing the West Bank and Arab Jerusalem, the Golan Heights, the Sinai Peninsula and the Gaza Strip . . . A scrupulously researched work likely to open deep old wounds.’ •Kirkus Reviews (Kirkus Reviews)’[An] essential, meticulously researched study of post-war

diplomacy." •Gershom Gorenberg, The Daily Beast (Gershom Gorenberg The Daily Beast 2012-07-05)"Avi Raz offers a meticulous and incisive analysis of the archival record of early Israeli-Palestinian-Jordanian contacts and the dismaying conclusion that Israeli willingness to negotiate from a position of strength is not necessarily the path to peacemaking but an alternative to it." •Gershon Shafir, co-editor of *Struggle and Survival in Israel and Palestine* (Gershon Shafir)"Avi Raz's excellent work is an essay on the politics of immobilism and faits accomplis of Israel's leaders in the wake of the 1967 war. This is an indispensable study for our understanding of how and why Israel got trapped in the tragic connundrum of a continuous occupation of Palestinian lands instead of using its military supremacy to change the nature of its relations with the Arab world." •Shlomo Ben-Ami, former foreign minister of Israel; Vice President, Toledo International Centre for Peace (CITpax), and author of *Scars of War, Wounds of Peace: The Israeli-Arab Tragedy* (Shlomo Ben Ami)"This book is a milestone in scholarship on Israel's foreign policy. Avi Raz uses the full panoply of primary sources in all the relevant languages to brilliantly illuminating effect. He also succeeds in weaving together his wide-ranging archival trawling into a fascinating narrative. And he argues compellingly that in the aftermath of the June 1967 War, Israel's leaders preferred territorial expansion to peace with their Arab neighbours." •Avi Shlaim, author of *The Iron Wall: Israel and the Arab World* and *Lion of Jordan: A King Hussein's Life in War and Peace* (Avi Shlaim)

Avi Raz is a member of the faculty of Oriental studies, University of Oxford, research associate at Oxford's Centre of International Studies, and research fellow at Wolfson College, Oxford.

I bought this book when it came out, which was over a year ago I think, hence I will not be going into detail about what the book is about. Basically the book delves into the issues that Israel dealt with immediately after the 1967 war. The author details what the government, army, and various ministries were debating regarding specifically the West Bank and Gaza Strip. I thought it was a great read if you are interested in the subject. This is not an intro book, it is a very specialized topic, dealing with a small time frame, the first 6 months or so after the beginning of the occupation. The detail and research are superb, as is the writing style. I highly recommend.

This is a book on the aftermath of the 1967 war. The author has an excellent command of the source material and manages to bring something close to seeming new to a topic that was long ago written to death. Its best in its study of the options available to and choices made in terms of Israeli

foreign policy in the aftermath of the war. The book is particularly good at pointing the disconnect between public statements and private actions of many of those at the top of Israeli politics such as Dayan and Eshkol. The whole thing sort of leaves an impression that future historians should almost entirely discount or disregard the public statements of these people in gaining understanding of events. The fault in the book that the author lacks an appropriate detachment. He often wants to preach rather than just letting events speak for themselves. He also sometimes sees deliberate action in decisions when there was none. Rather than seeing a coordinated cynical policy, it would be equally possible to see a weak, divided "national unity" government full of individuals out for themselves whose "decisions" were often the result of the government as a whole not being able to make decisions. He has a mastery of the sources but his tendency to editorialize undermines the book. His statement at the end of the book in that the inequality in the outcome of the 1967 war allows for an account of its aftermath to be unequal is a foolish and self-destructive thing to say. On the positive side, he doesn't confine the narrative to just events in Israel or perhaps Egypt/Syria (as many books have done). Jordan and the whole range of palestinian leadership is covered as well. In terms of the United States, his ideas are on occasion rather odd. He takes note of the victory fever the swept Israel after 1967 and had people like Dayan thinking that in a next war they could occupy Cairo, Damascus and Amman if not restructure all the governments of the region. He oddly sees the antidote to that victory fever to have been a different response from Washington. That is rather unrealistic. At best, American action could curtail the options a particular Israeli government might have available to it. But it cannot ever change the political viewpoint or agenda in Israel. They can be stopped from doing something foolish, but they cant be stopped from thinking something foolish. The author makes the mistake, as all too many do these days, of overtly editorializing rather than allowing the material itself to make the same point in a more subtle manner. In the end, an interesting book. But a book that could have been better still.

Raz Dva TriThe cover of the book is superb. It shows well that the Arabs of the Eastern Palestine (the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan) and the Arabs of the Western Palestine (Arab Authority with the seat in Ramallah) share the same flag and the same national colors. After all, there are East and West Banks in Palestine bisected by the River Jordan. The author proclaims his intention to "avoid value-laden phrases" but he does not keep his promise and he brings his terminology in sync with his Oxford masters who allow him to reside and write volumes in their midst. His book cannot be considered a serious research project since even the border between Palestine (Transjordan, later Jordan) and the Saudi Arabia in 1948 is not shown correctly. The author writes a lot about the

assassinated Aziz Shehadeh without much investigation in his roots. Mr. Shehadeh was an Anglican; his ancestors converted from the Greek Orthodox faith when the British came to the Middle East. He was not "forced to flee from Jaffa to Ramallah" as Avi Raz wants us to believe. The Shehadeh family owned a great summer home in Ramallah. Aziz could stay in Jaffa in the winter 1948-1949. Yet Mr Shehadeh was an ethnic Greek who aspired to be a leader of Muslim Arabs in the hills of Judea and Samaria. In his post-1967 negotiations with the Palestinian Jews leading the winning State of Israel, he "made it appear as gaining support in his quest towards the independent state on the West Bank." But another prominent Jerusalem family led by Anwar Nuseibeh--a Muslim whose victorious ancestors were close to Prophet Muhammad-- had another opinion. His supporters insisted--according to the book--on the 1947 partition plan (it meant that the State of Israel, as a result of the Six Day war, must cede the territories won in the Independence war in 1948 in Galilee, move from the large tracts of land near Gaza and transfer Beer Sheva to the Arab rule. Jewish Jerusalem must be deep inside the Arab state occupying the entire Judea and Samaria.) Mr. Nuseibeh's faction demanded the return of the Arabs who left the areas of confrontation initiated in 1948 by the British-led Arab Legion based on the East Bank, by the militants based in Lebanon and the local brigands and skirmishers. The Muslim leaders also called for the referendum to approve all the negotiation results. Such a referendum could have sent all the peace plans in a tailspin since the Arab masses got their own sense of justice which has never included the Palestinian Jews. As Albert Camus wrote, there are many truths, not one. To serve his British colonialist masters well, Avi Raz allows himself leaps in logic. Since British officers lead the Arab Legion of the Eastern Palestine (Transjordan) in 1948, Mr. Raz is bound to pay great respect to his Oxford bosses providing him his sustenance and the (shameful) sense of self-esteem. He goes as far as claiming that "the 1949 armistice agreement amounts to the recognition of the annexation of the West Bank in the Western Palestine by the Eastern Palestinian Kingdom of Transjordan. A new Oxonian Avi Raz even invents a new geography--he calls the Golan Heights a "Syrian Plateau." This topology is not found in any atlas except the erroneous book by our Avi. In his fervor to make his British hosts happy, Mr. Raz repeats-- after Jew-haters-- that "Jewish settlers lived lavishly among 1.4 million destitute Palestinians." He forgets to say how hard the Gaza Jews worked in agriculture and how well the rich Gaza Arabs lived. They got dinners from the best Israeli restaurants and brought many fair-skinned Slavic wives from Eastern Europe. Mr. Raz does not care that the density of the Jewish population in Palestine including Tel Aviv is three times higher than the Arab population. He does not notice that Arabs who are Israeli citizens control more land than Israeli Jews and buy more land from Jews. He forgets to inform us that his beloved Arabs are punished by death if they sell any land to Jews. Avi

Raz claims that "the Israeli volte-face was influenced by Intifada." He conveniently forgets to mention which one--a first one or second one. Why does Avi Raz hate Jews corralled in Palestine, in their Bantustans? Why does he want the Jewish revolt in Palestine to be rolled back and suppressed? Ah, it is easy. The "laurels" of Josephus Flavius are deemed desirable by many people in academia. They want to hover above and, better yet, aside. In exchange, they get their pounds of sterling instead of shekels. No wonder, a competing "Josephus Flavius"--Avi Shlaim--praises another Avi. The ancestors of Avis tried to become free people, they Hebraized their names, and they studied Ivrit. Ginuk! Their much smarter offspring study the Germanic tongue of the Brits and enjoy the Bodleian Library before their non-kosher lunch with polished anti-Semites. Splendid!

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