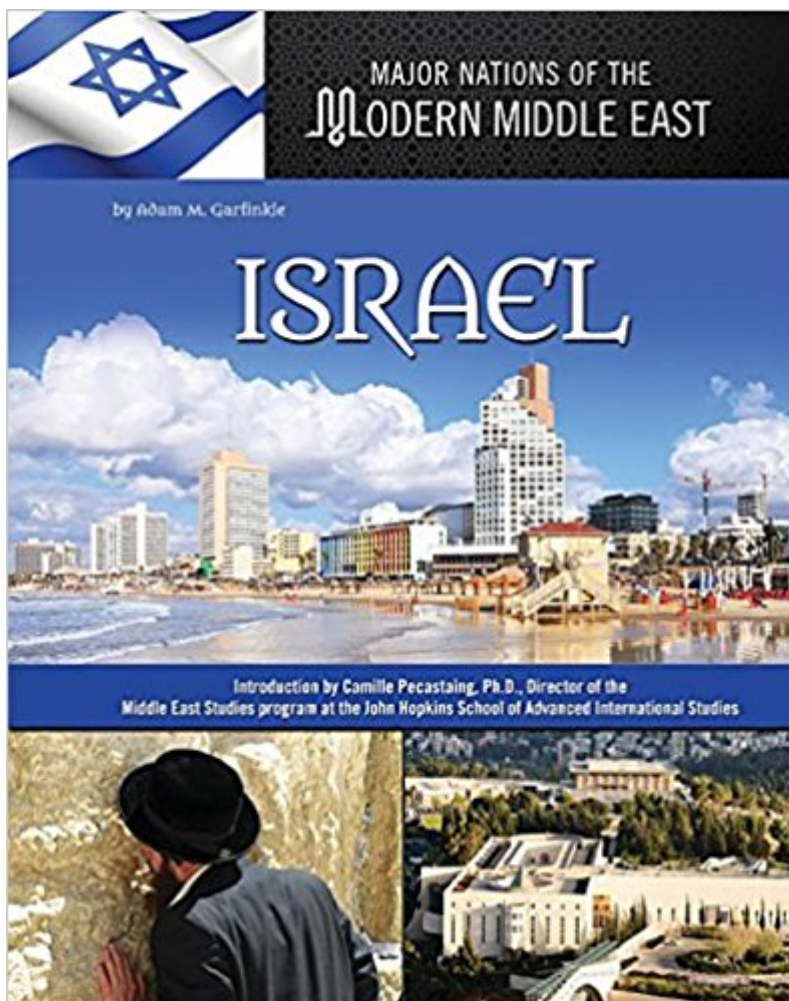


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# Israel (Major Nations Of The Modern Middle East)



## Synopsis

In 1948 the world witnessed an extraordinary event: the birth of Israel. After nearly 2,000 years as a stateless people scattered across the globe and frequently persecuted by the societies in which they lived most tragically during the Holocaust of World War II Jews finally had a homeland in Palestine, the ancestral land of the Jewish people. In the years since 1948, Israel has become the Middle East's most powerful, and most democratic, country. But the foundation and defense of the Jewish state ultimately came at the expense of a state for the Palestinians, another people with ancient ties to Palestine. For decades Israeli and Palestinian blood has stained the land, a string of peace initiatives collapsing amid the seemingly endless cycle of attack and retaliation. Resolving the conflict in a manner that preserves Israel's security remains an elusive goal not just for Israel, but also for the many countries with interests in the strategic Middle East, including the United States. Each title in this series contains color photos, maps, timelines and graphics that will help student readers put events into historical and present day perspective as well as back matter including: an index, further reading lists for books and internet resources, and a series glossary. Mason Crest's editorial team has placed Key Icons to Look for throughout the books in this series in an effort to encourage library readers to build knowledge, gain awareness, explore possibilities and expand their viewpoints through our content rich non-fiction books. Key Icons are as follows: Words to Understand are shown at the front of each chapter with definitions. These words are then used in the prose throughout that chapter, and are emboldened, so that the reader is able to reference back to the definitions- bui

## Book Information

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Age Range: 12 - 17 years

Grade Level: 7 - 12

## Customer Reviews

Gr 7 Up-Previously published in two editions as "Modern Middle East Nations and Their Strategic Place in the World" (2003) and "Major Muslim Nations" (2010), this set has been minimally revised. Changes include some new information about the momentous events and changes that have roiled the region and its governments in the last decade, updated statistics, and new photos. Books are objective and well written and cover standard geographic topics such as history, land, peoples, religions, political organizations, economic structures, foods, and celebrations. Each has several maps, which is a plus, and the large photos are attractive. War, terrorism, and political turmoil have radically altered the customs, religions, and populations of many Middle Eastern countries. Because the revisions don't reflect many of those changes, this set's content is rapidly becoming dated, reducing its value as a report resource. VERDICT Of limited use. (c) Copyright 2011. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.

This book sets out a fine matter-of-fact set of information about the state of Israel with which it is hard to disagree, even if one is the most anti-Israel person under the sun. The book covers all the ways in which Israel is different from its neighbors (and every other nation under the sun), putting the discussion into the context of the Middle East. It also presents the ways in which Israel is like every where else. It's sad to say that readers have to be reminded that in Israel, like every where else, the sun rises and sets, the seasons change and the weather is a topic of conversation. Israelis care about the past, the present and the future, and they like sports. And so on. There are plain, factual presentations concerning the government, economy, geography and land. The book also covers the Oslo accords and their aftermath, the beginning of the second intifada and the disagreements internationally and within Israel over the Jewish "settlements" in the West Bank and Gaza. My only quarrel with this discussion is that it fails to note the larger creation of Arab settlements in the same areas since 1993, and does not correctly refer to these areas as the disputed territories that they are. For further discussion on that topic, read *Israel and Palestine: Assault on the Law of Nations*. But for the most part, this book contains just the facts. And on that score alone, it is by far one of the best introductions to Israel I have ever seen.--Alyssa A. Lappen

This is nothing more than a government propaganda view of Israel, its policies and its place in the world. There is no useful content and no intellectual content. Its great for Fundamentalist Christian Tourists to Israel, but for everyone else (including Israelis) its not worth looking at.

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