



The Revolt: Story of the Irgun

Menachem Begin

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The Revolt: Story of the Irgun Details

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From Reader Review The Revolt: Story of the Irgun for online ebook

Nancy says

This is a thrilling book about the battle to oust the British from Palestine. It's the original David and Goliath story re-told. Menachem Begin is modest about his own role and full of praise for everyone around him. His personal story is gripping and he has a knack for telling a good tale. The story also refutes many points in "official" histories on the birth of Israel, which take the point of the view of Jewish Agency officials who later became the first leaders of Israel. Begin's book also is far more readable than the autobiography of Ben Gurion, which comes off as dull, bureaucratic, and self-important. But both do emphasize a great sensitivity for human life. Begin's Irgun soldiers are termed "terrorists" -- but they never attacked civilians, only British soldiers. What a contrast to today's so-called freedom fighters.

Patrick Clark says

Not a literary standout, but the book has a lot of first-person history that I found very interesting. The author's personal bias aside, it's an interesting insight into the formation of the state of Israel in 1948, an event that continues to effect America to this day. My motivation was research for a new espionage novel I'm working on (it will be called The King David: Collapse of an Empire) set in 1946 and focusing on the conflict between the British and the Jewish resistance. I wasn't disappointed.

Kitty Red-Eye says

So, Menachem Begin might have been many things, but author, he was not. This isn't a brilliantly written book by any means, but for someone who is either 1) a historian or 2) a student, 3) extremely interested in the process which should result in the creation of Israel, 4) particularly interested in the Irgun and its different personalities or finally 5) for some reason interested in Israeli leaders, or all or some of the above, it's definitely interesting enough.

I'm not all of the above, but more than one of those categories apply, and even I find that a book written by a "real" historian and/or biographer would be far more interesting. This is more for source-reading and shouldn't be one's first nor only book on point 3 above.

Leah says

There was some more action at the end, but it was a hard book to read. Made me want to brush up more on my history.

Stanley Lee says

Simple to understand history of how Israel formed.

Laila Kanon says

To appreciate this book, you need to have at least read something on the history of Israel as a country. I highly recommend 'Lioness: Golda Meir And The Nation Of Israel' by Francine Klagsbrun. From this book you'll read not just about Golda but also the central figures and events that led to the birth of Israel as a homeland for the Jewish people. From there you can read respective individuals and/or events separately. This book is not about the life of Menachem Begin as I initially thought but his role while he was the commander of Irgun Zvai Leumi's and the narratives of this underground revolutionary group in orchestrating a successful Jewish revolt against British occupation of Eretz Israel until Israel rebirth on May 14th, 1948.

I think I'm not the only one who had formed a prejudiced notion about the man, but I accepted my folly by saying I was wrong. He earned my utmost respect for what he stood for and didn't waver on his belief of his duty to his fragile country which was: to free Eretz Israel from British occupation. Ironically I formed my prejudice toward Mr Begin from reading 'Lioness: Golda Meir And The Nation Of Israel'!

His writing style, the prose he used and the occasional wittiness he applied here and there had the power to move me like no other writers I ever encountered before. And I read heck of a lot. Reading this book, I figured he was a born leader, a strategist, a visionary, a patriot and a lover of truth. There are several chapters in this book that have profoundly moved me: The "Altalena" Affair; When The Heart Weeps; The Flogging; Ordeal Of The Gallows; Dov Gruner; The Choice; Dawn; We Bow Our Heads. I shared his sadness, sorrow and pride.

Without giving away too much, you'll read the roles of British government/politicians and its policy towards the Jews pre, during and post WWII. And the general nature of British occupation in Eretz Israel--it was shocking and not widely known. And the frustrating relations between Irgun with Haganah, the Jewish Agency, Mapai leaderships.

I can go on with this, but I would like to highlight what Mr Begin said in the closing of his book which I think still acutely relevant today for Israelis and the Diaspora Jews (who are pro-Israel) out there also because he had somehow foreseen the trouble ahead:

"Citizens of the Hebrew State, soldiers of Israel, we are in the midst of battles. Difficult days lie ahead of us... We cannot buy peace from our enemies with appeasement. There is only one kind of 'peace' that can be bought--the peace of the graveyard, the peace of Treblinka. Be brave of spirit and ready for more trials. We shall withstand them. The Lord of Hosts will help us; he will sustain the bravery of the Hebrew youth, the bravery of the Hebrew mothers who, like Hannah, offer their sons on the altar of God." (pg. 376)

Ayelet says

Reading this book you would think that the Irgun was the sole force behind the creation and existence of the state of Israel. I'm just not as extreme as Begin and find some of the claims far-fetched. The book jumped between time periods so it was hard to figure out where a story fit in the overall chronology. It is interesting how much has changed since it was written in the 1950's.

Leslie Ladd says

I recall being in high school and seeing Jimmy Carter, Begin and Sadat in the peace accords. I had NO idea that Begin was instrumental in leading Israel in their fight for independence and that he was so utterly brilliant. What a proud and determined people! Fighting for what God had given them. God's people!

Olethros says

-Mirando hacia atrás sin ira pero con mucha convicción.-

Género. Ensayo (no exactamente pero sí, aunque tenga biografía, aunque tenga historia. En realidad es crónica, pero no tenemos esa clasificación en el blog).

Lo que nos cuenta. Recuerdos y reflexiones del autor, que llegó a Primer Ministro y recibió incluso el Premio Nobel de la Paz, sobre la lucha por la independencia de su país contra el enemigo británico y árabe, que nos llevan desde su juventud en la URSS bajo ataque alemán durante la Segunda Guerra Mundial hasta el día siguiente de la Declaración de independencia de Israel (casualmente, un día como hoy de hace 68 años), pasando por su participación activa en la lucha en la organización paramilitar (o terrorista para muchos en aquel tiempo, o rebelde para otros) Irgún.

¿Quiere saber más de este libro, sin spoilers? Visite:

<http://librosdeolethros.blogspot.com...>

James says

Very powerfully written book by Menachem Begin. Menachem Begin was once derided as a terrorist. Indeed as a warrior he did cause some deaths. The result of his struggle was the miraculous creation of the land of Israel. This eloquent book sings, the same way condemned fighters sang Hatikvah on the gallows.

I was surprised by the man's writing style, intelligence and sensitivity. I only give it a "four" since the book, as in any book written by a participant, elevates his role.

Serion Etherics says

This book was riveting. My brother had just come back from Israel and was reading it, and I borrowed it from him on the plane ride back and could not put it down. It's an adventure movie in a book, and the amazing thing is that it all happened. You don't see this kind of derring-do in these modern times. This is the story of a scattered people who suddenly got sassy and decided not to be victims anymore, and the fight that ensued with a world who refused to allow them to be free. The modern state of Israel exists probably mostly because of this man and what he did.

William Mills says

So anti British I stopped reading it. He was a terrorist who murdered brave British soldiers.
