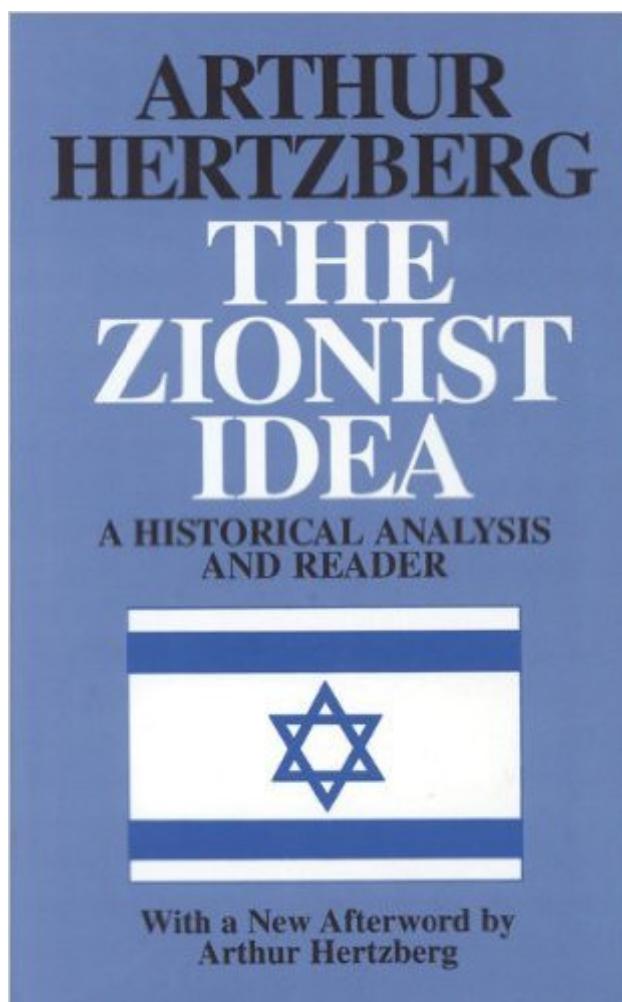


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The Zionist Idea: A Historical Analysis And Reader



Synopsis

A classic since its initial publication in 1959, The Zionist Idea is an anthology of writings by the leading thinkers of the Zionist movement, including Theodor Herzl, Ahad Ha-Am, Martin Buber, Louis Brandeis, Rabbi Abraham Isaac Kook, Judah Magnes, Max Nordau, Mordecai Kaplan, Vladimir Jabotinsky, Chaim Weizmann, and David Ben-Gurion.

Book Information

Paperback: 656 pages

Publisher: The Jewish Publication Society (October 1, 1997)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0827606222

ISBN-13: 978-0827606227

Product Dimensions: 5.3 x 1.4 x 8.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 11.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 starsÂ See all reviewsÂ (12 customer reviews)

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Customer Reviews

the a hundred page introduction of this work is absolutely essential for people of every ilk who want to understand the whole zionist ideology in one fine, easy-read scoop. the rest of this work is a presentation of every important leader of zionism in the course of 19th and 20th centuries with a short description of the writers life, endeavors, and accomplishments in the beginning of every excerpt. this book serves on two fronts which makes it into a bona-fide classic of zionist literature: (a) someone who wants to throughly understand the conception of the movement must read this book because without it even fine, scurpulous research is incomplete. (b) someone who wants to cursorily scan the movement to form a capsule of the zionist idea in his mind for all practical intents and purposes. i'm not a zionist, but this book gave me a clearer percpective of zionism. now i'm confident to vouch that i know precisely what zionism holds and so should you!

This is an anthology of works by major Zionist thinkers. It introduced me to the fact that Zionism was primarily a radical project of self-criticism and not a whining diatribe against the Gentiles. The

ruthless mode of thought and pitiless self criticism of the founding fathers of Zionism makes one realize that this is our strength in the face of our enemies, who clearly lack the ability to engage in self-criticism. I try to follow in the footsteps of this tradition of Zionist self-criticism in my own book "The Optimistic Jew: a Positive Vision for the Jewish People in the 21st Century" The Introduction by Rabbi Hertzberg is brilliant and worth the price of the book alone. If you want to know something about Zionism, Israel, and modern Jewish history, buy this book and read the Introduction!

This is simply the most important book on Zionism written. The introduction of 100 pages is very dense and brilliant and the following prime source material, selections from all the early and later Zionist thinkers of vast merit.

This is an excellent compilation of classic writings of the pioneers of Zionism. I gained so much insight into their thoughts and writings . This a must book for anyone interested and involved in Zionism.

This book is first and foremost a gathering of original primary sources material, and as such it is an important addition to any library or student of Zionism. That being said, it is a collection of speeches and writings, and as such it must be judged by what was excluded as much as by what is included. To include Rabbi Mohilever but exclude Zangwill, and to dedicate a combined 45 pages to Klatzkin, Ahad Ha-Am, and Berdichevski while affording Jabotinsky and Ben-Gurion only a mere 5 pages combined, speaks volumes about the authors agenda and point of view. This is to be expected from an author whose view point on the Israeli - Palestinian conflict as well as American Jews - Israel relations were rejected and dismissed by both Golda Meir and Begin. The Introduction has a pronounced Rabbinical, Diaspora, 'civil rights-like' slant and the selected material reflects the authors bias. It may reflect some of the Zionist ideas, but certainly not The Zionist Idea.

This remains the most comprehensive collection of Zionist thought, and the introductory notes to selected writings from the various schools of thought within the movement are clear and well written. One caution: it is a work for college-level or graduate level study, and not appropriate for younger readers.

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