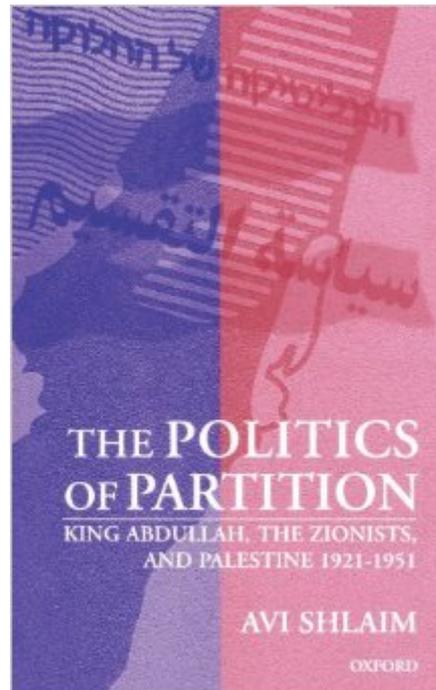


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The Politics Of Partition: King Abdullah, The Zionists, And Palestine 1921-1951



Synopsis

In this reissue of the abridged paperback edition of his critically acclaimed *Collusion Across the Jordan*, Professor Shlaim chronicles King Abdullah's relationship with the Zionist movement from his appointment as Emir of Transjordan in 1921 to his assassination in 1951. With a new Introduction, placing the book in the wider context of the on-going debate about 1948, this masterly and authoritative study is essential reading for all those interested in the politics of the Middle East.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

THE 1948 WAR Like all things dealing with the state of Israel, the 1948 war has been thoroughly distorted. Most Americans think that hordes of savage Arabs invaded Palestine only to be attacked and outwitted by a tiny Zionist David. The reality is much different. The United Nations partition plan had assigned the coastal plains to the Jews with a large section west of the Jordan River assigned to the Arabs. When the war began on or prior to the British withdrawal of May 15, the Jews showered mortar fire into the Arabs in the coastal city of Jaffa, killing many and driving large numbers into the ocean to drown. Many Arab villages, fearing the upcoming violence, had made non-aggression pacts with the Jews which the Jews promptly violated when the war began. Another myth of the war is that the Jews were outnumbered and outgunned. In fact, the Arabs were operating with obsolete World War one weapons. The Zionists, by contrast, were heavily armed with up-to-date weapons. During World War Two, the Zionists had raided British military installations and accumulated large quantities of arms. After the first month of fighting a truce ensued on June 11.

The Zionists then acquired airplanes and fighters from Zatec in Communist Czechoslovakia, including Messerschmitt fighters. These armaments, plus modern tanks and artillery, were to prove decisive in the subsequent fighting. The story that the Egyptian, Jordanian, Syrian and Iraqi armies "invaded" Israel is propagandist nonsense. The Egyptian army never got further than Gaza. The Syrian army in the north only briefly entered Israeli territory. The Iraqi army only fought with the Jordanians in the west bank territory allotted by the partition plan to the Zionists.

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