

assertion (p. 16) that Iran under the Shah supplied oil to "southern Russia" is questionable. One perplexing aspect of this fine volume is the strange spelling of place and personal names. Differentiating between typos and intentionality is quite difficult as many seemingly unusual spellings are repeated. Among those that are particularly vexing are the Strait of Hamouz (Hormus) on p. 168, Ogadan (Ogaden) on p. 232 and 255, Sea of Mamora (Marmara) on p. 33, Golda Meier (Meir) on p. 40, Suleyman Demeril (Demirel) on p. 250 and Nikolai Tikonov (Tikhonov) on p. 256.

Despite some minor flaws, this book is analytically superb and comprehensive in its treatment of the subject. It should serve as an excellent source for students and Dr. Golan must be complimented highly for synthesizing her earlier studies and adding numerous new perspectives which help provide as complete a treatise on Soviet policy toward the Middle East as we are likely to encounter.

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Bickerton, Ian J., and Carla L. Klausner. *A Concise History of the Arab-Israeli Conflict*. Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice-Hall, 1991.

In recent years, there have been a few textbooks on the history of the Arab-Israeli conflict written and designed for college students as well as the general public. These include Ritchie Owendale's *The Origins of the Arab-Israeli Wars* (London: Longman, 1984), Michael J. Cohen's *The Origins and Evolution of the Arab-Zionist Conflict* (Berkeley, CA: University of California Press, 1987) and Charles D. Smith's *Palestine and the Arab-Israeli Conflict* (New York: St. Martin's Press, 1988). Bickerton and Klausner's book is quite similar in organization and scope to the latter work and interestingly both these authors and Smith had their respective manuscripts read and critiqued by Arthur Goldschmidt, Jr. prior to publication.

Bickerton, of the University of New South Wales, and Klausner, of the University of Missouri-Kansas City, conceived the idea for their book while team-teaching a history colloquium at the latter's institution: they, like Smith, could not find a textbook suitable for their students. While Smith's work is rich in endnotes, Bickerton and Klausner have preferred to include brief lists of suggested readings at the end of each chapter. Moreover, they provide numerous maps and documents throughout the text that are, for the most part, reprinted from a wide array of previously published sources as well as chronologies for each chapter and historical photographs; none of these features are found in Smith's text.

A Concise History of the Arab-Israeli Conflict begins with a brief introduction that provides the fundamentals of Judaism and Islam, defines the

terms “Arab” and “Jew” and describes the geography of Palestine. The bulk of the text includes nine chapters, each concerned with specific chronological periods from the nineteenth century to the ongoing *Intifada*, but within which various topics are dealt with separately; two-thirds of this narrative is devoted to developments since 1948. In general, the authors focus on the political issues of the conflict and are very careful to present both the perspectives of the Israelis and the Arab parties involved. Furthermore, as to be expected, they give ample coverage of the respective roles of the Western powers and the Soviet Union in Middle Eastern affairs.

Overall, Bickerton and Klausner handle a very complex and emotionally charged subject with a great degree of objectivity. Yet, some may not be pleased with their usage of the words “terrorist” and “terrorism” applying solely to the Palestinians since the establishment of the state of Israel. As Smith points out in *Palestine and the Arab-Israeli Conflict* (p. 289):

Accusations of terrorism are more easily made against groups seeking to destabilize states than vice versa. In both cases, however, the appellation can be applied if one assumes that “terrorism is defined by the nature of the act, not the identity of its perpetrators.” If Palestinian or other Arab attacks on Jews — with the intent to kill, inspire fear, and undermine Israel’s will to resist — are terrorist, why are preemptive Israeli raids against Palestinian camps and surrounding villages [in Lebanon] — intended to kill civilians and arouse fear and hatred of Palestinians among their Arab neighbors — any less terrorist?

The issue of “state terrorism” aside, Bickerton and Klausner do an excellent job of chronicling a conflict that unfortunately seems no closer to resolution than it was before the Gulf War. Being historians, the authors in their conclusion entitled “Prospects for Resolution of the Conflict” are reluctant to state their ideas concerning the course of Arab-Israeli relations in the future. Instead, they offer four “possible outcomes of the Arab-Israeli conflict . . . put forward by commentators”: 1) “Continuation of the *status quo*”; 2) “Autonomy, or a version of the Camp David formula”; 3) “Variations of the ‘Jordan is Palestine’ option”; and, 4) “The creation of a Palestinian state alongside Israel . . . [with] appropriate military provisions.” (p. 260-63) It is hard to imagine that peace can be achieved by any means other than the last option listed!

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