

This volume is useful to those who need information on terrorist incidents by date and place using one convenient source. In this, this volume delivers. The bibliography is fine but there is a better source (Amos Lakos, *Terrorism, 1980-1990*) available.

This volume is recommended for researchers and libraries that want to insure continuity of chronological coverage of terrorist incidents in one easily available source.

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Slater, Robert. *Rabin of Israel*. New York: St. Martin's 1977, 1993.

Those who watched Yitzhak Rabin and Yasser Arafat exchange that very tentative handshake may have been curious about the background of the old soldier who reluctantly shook the hand of the former terrorist leader. The story of his early military and political career has already been told. Now is the time for the telling of his career as a peacemaker.

It is also the story of a remarkable political comeback, approached in American politics possibly only by Nixon's triumph in 1968. Imagine Jimmy Carter having been forced to resign in 1980 after a scandal involving his wife. He is then replaced by Ted Kennedy (or Jerry Brown – take your pick) as party leader, who then loses to Reagan twice. Carter then becomes secretary of defense in a national unity government of Democrats and Republicans in which Bush and Kennedy swap places halfway through. Finally, Carter beats Kennedy for the party leadership and defeats Bush in a general election for the presidency. If you can imagine this you can begin to understand Rabin's political career and the frozen state of Israeli politics.

Robert Slater's book first appeared in October 1973, some five months after the end of Rabin's first term as prime minister. I read it in 1980 after having completed a BA in Israel and found it satisfactory as a biography, but not nearly as revealing or informative as Rabin's own autobiography which was published in 1979. This is no criticism of the author but only a natural phenomenon. In August 1993 St. Martin's Press published a revised edition of the biography with about 50 percent more material than the previous edition. The new material mainly covers Rabin's political career from 1977 to the end of 1992, but also includes a few points from the autobiography which were then added to the text of the original chapters.

The new material – 168 pages – is organized into five chapters. The first covers Rabin's period in exile from 1977 to 1984, when he was simply a member of *Knesset* (the Israeli parliament). It deals with his difficult relationship with party rival Shimon Peres who replaced Rabin as Labor Party leader in 1977, and lost two

straight elections before barely winning a third in 1984. The second new chapter deals with Rabin's period as defense minister during the *intifada*. It deals with the second and third governments of national unity (1984-90) in which Rabin was the defense minister under premiers Peres and Yitzhak Shamir. The third chapter details the collapse of the third unity government when Peres attempted to form a coalition with several small religious parties and was left out to dry when the religious leaders failed to keep their word. This led to the rehabilitation of Rabin within the Labor Party as Peres was discredited.

The fourth chapter covers the election of 1992 following the collapse of the minority Likud coalition in early 1992. This is probably the best chapter of the five. It is the heart of the new material as it deals with the perceptions of Rabin and Shamir by the Israeli electorate and with the Israeli electoral system, which may be difficult to understand for North Americans. Labor ran its campaign around Rabin in the way that Americans run for president. The promise was not what Labor will do, but rather what Rabin will do.

Slater contends that Rabin has replaced Moshe Dayan as "Mr. Security" in the minds of most Israelis. Rabin is the pragmatic hawk willing to make peace but without sacrificing their security. Just as Yitzhak Shamir's background is very similar to Menachem Begin's, so is Rabin's like Dayan's: both have an agricultural upbringing in leading Israeli pioneer families, both were colonels in the Israeli War of Independence, and both were chiefs of staff during a victorious war followed by successful political careers. Rabin's later career seemed to lag behind Dayan's by about a decade.

The final chapter covers the formation of Rabin's second government and its first six months in office. During this time he took the first steps toward peace with the Arabs and he expelled 415 Hamas activists to southern Lebanon. Those wishing to understand the limitations under which Rabin – or any Israeli prime minister – operates can do no better than to read the new material in this biography. It covers the difficulties of peacemaking for someone operating within a multiparty democracy in which no single party has ever ruled except as part of a wider coalition and in which the two main parties were separated by a razor-thin margin of victory for a decade from 1981 to 1992.

I would recommend this book not only for the general reader, but also for those foreign leaders who must deal with Rabin.

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