



The Prime Ministers: An Intimate Narrative of Israeli Leadership

By Yehuda Avner

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The Prime Ministers is the first and only insider account of Israeli politics from the founding of the Jewish State to the near-present day. It reveals stunning details of life-and-death decision-making, top-secret military operations and high level peace negotiations. The Prime Ministers brings readers into the orbits of world figures, including Menachem Begin, Yitzhak Rabin, Ronald Reagan, Jimmy Carter, Henry Kissinger, Yasser Arafat, Margaret Thatcher, Princess Diana and the Lubavitcher Rebbe. Written in a captivating literary style by a political adviser, speechwriter and diplomat, The Prime Ministers is an enthralling political memoir, and a precisely crafted prism through which to view current Middle East affairs. The Prime Ministers is the basis of a major documentary produced by Moriah Films, the Academy Award-winning film division of the Simon Wiesenthal Center.

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Editorial Review

From Booklist

Avner, born in Manchester, England, arrived in Palestine in 1947 as a dedicated 19-year-old Zionist, on the eve of the birth of the Jewish state. He eventually entered Israel's foreign service and served as speechwriter, secretary, and advisor to four Israeli Prime Ministers — Levi Eshkol, Golda Meir, Yitzhak Rabin, and Menachem Begin. This often-fascinating insider's account of the careers and personalities of these leaders is a semiautobiographical rendering of Avner's own experiences during critical episodes in Israeli history, especially during the War of Independence. Occasionally, Avner's narrative is overly gossipy, but for the most part this is a revealing story of how these men operated in moments of both calm and crisis. Avner reserves his greatest admiration for Begin, and his near-worship of the man is likely to discomfit many in Israel and in the U.S. Overall, this book provides valuable insights into many of the key events and personalities in the history of Israel. --Jay Freeman

Review

... a gripping, intimate, intricately detailed and fast-paced account of Israeli politics at the highest levels...a front-row seat to the drama of Israeli statecraft in moments of crisis and triumph, tragedy and joy. I couldn't put it down. --Bret Stephens, *The Wall Street Journal*

...one of the most remarkable accounts we are ever likely to get of how Israel has been governed over the decades...All of it is here...the intellectual arguments made and those that were not marshaled; the decisions taken and those that were ducked...the ultimate insider's account. --David Horovitz, *The Jerusalem Post*

It is extremely rare that a skilled diplomat is placed at the pinnacle of power across several Israeli governments and can truly deliver an insider's perspective with such skill and clarity... a must-read for anyone seeking to understand Israel. Dore Gold, Former Israeli Ambassador to the UN.

...the rare kind of history which comes alive for any reader, and will stay with them long after they finish the book. --Samuel Lewis, Former US Ambassador to Israel

...a sweeping tome of Israeli politics and history. --Hillary Rodham Clinton, US Secretary of State

...a fascinating account of someone who was an eye witness to many historic moments in the history of the Jewish state...provide[s] insight into the actions of our nation's leaders and offers important lessons for the future. --Benjamin Netanyahu, Prime Minister of Israel

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About the Author

Yehuda Avner served as adviser and English speechwriter to Israeli Prime Ministers Rabin, Begin, Meir and Eshkol. He is a former Israeli Ambassador to Britain, Ireland and Australia, and served in diplomatic positions at the Israeli Consulate in New York and the Israeli Embassy in Washington, DC. Ambassador

Avner was born in Manchester, England. He has lived in Israel since 1947.

Users Review

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