

(Mobile pdf) Sands of Sorrow: Israel's Journey from Independence (Icon Editions)

Sands of Sorrow: Israel's Journey from Independence (Icon Editions)

Milton Viorst

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Milton Viorst : Sands of Sorrow: Israel's Journey from Independence (Icon Editions) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Sands of Sorrow: Israel's Journey from Independence (Icon Editions):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. This Land is Mine--Whose?By RousalkaMr Viorst presents the usual, well-known narrative of how the long-exiled Jewish people finally regained their land after a 2000 year absence. He remembers nostalgically how, when he was a little boy, he used to put coins in the "pushka" to help the project. The wars with the evil Arabs are recounted. Israel is always the winner. God wants Jews to have this land. The British wanted the Jews to have this land, which they offered even though they did not own it. Never mind that during 2000 years many events transpired, such as the failure of Jews to move to Palestine, even though it was possible and would have been a better situation than staying in Europe, where the Christians persecuted them mercilessly, not only confiscating their wealth but torturing, burning, exiling them continuously. Even in the Middle East, Mizrahim and Sephardim preferred other areas, such as North Africa, neighbouring Arab territories and Persia. Not too many wanted to live in Palestine. There was, however, a community, call the natives what you will, but they did stay and farm and manufacture. Mark Twain's dismissive labelling of Palestine as a deserted wasteland was a matter of opinion rather than fact. Even Twain mentions the fertile black soil of Nablus and the orange groves of Jaffa, a Palestinian port. Yet the narrative of how the Jews finally rescued this arid no man's land is repeated ad nauseam. This then is the basic

viewpoint of Mr Viorst, nothing new, maybe a bit of lamentation over Israel's nimety of publicity. For clearer understanding of Israel and Palestine, I suggest Tom Segev's "One Palestine, Complete." 5 of 7 people found the following review helpful. A Truly Independent Perspective By A Customer I first saw Mr. Viorst on PBS an an expert on Middle East affairs and was impressed by his keen insights. Considering that he is a Jewish writer living in the United States, he has established a highly independent and well-founded perspective on the state of Israel and its relationships with both the Arab world and the United States. After reading all of Henry Kissinger's writings on the Arab-Israel struggle, I found this book a wonderful counterpoint to the cold war outlook on Mideast politics taken by so many American administrations. I would compare it to David Shipler's perspective in his book on Arab and Jew; Wounded Spirits in a Promised Land. Perhaps with the end of the cold war, Mr. Viorst's perspective on the Arab-Israeli struggle will begin to find more resonance in the capitols of the western world. I would highly recommend this book to any serious student of Mid-East politics and history. In a time when we are fighting a battle against Osama bin Laden, Mr. Viorst illuminates the reasons why American policy in the Middle East may have, purposefully or inadvertently, helped to inflame so many Arabs while bringing no lasting peace to the region. He also does an excellent job, through the political history of Israel since its inception, sorting out the movements, Ashkenazi and Sephardi, Zionist and Revisionist, etc. that have pushed and pulled Israel in conflicting directions over the past 50 years. For that alone, this book should be compulsory reading for any student of Israeli political history. While it was written in the late 1980's, it still shines a light on the events which have since transpired.

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From Publishers Weekly Viorst (Fire in the Streets, etc.) draws on many interviews to offer this solid analysis of the Arab-Israeli conflict. He focuses on Israel the complex religious and secular forces that have shaped the country, and the reasons why Israelis have won the battles but "lost the peace" since the Six-Day War of 1967. The latter event transformed the Jewish homeland into an "empire," increased internal factionalism and gave rise to aggressive forces opposed to relinquishing the status quo, including captured Arab territory, writes Viorst. His own view is that peace in the Middle East will come only with the creation of a Palestinian state on the West Bank and in Gaza. A blend of history and personal observations, the book includes a sharp look at the unofficial patron-client relationship between the U.S. and Israel. Copyright 1987 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Library Journal Experienced journalist Viorst looks at Israel's 40 years of development, and finds that the tiny country's increasing military strength, marked by major victories against its Arab neighbors, has brought instability, not security. While military might favored Israel, she abandoned a rational approach to regional stability in favor of a rising ideology and zealotry. Viorst believes that since 1967 the Arabs have come to accept Israel's presence, and would be willing to live in peace. He argues that Israeli intransigence, supported by American Cold War strategy, is responsible for continuing tension and hostility. This analysis is presented dramatically and convincingly in the first chapter, and supported in chapters describing the military and diplomatic events of the last decades. Elizabeth R. Hayford, President, Associated Colleges of the Midwest, Chicago Copyright 1987 Reed Business Information, Inc.