

## **Hist 489: History of Israeli Foreign Policy**

Emerson Hall E103, We 4:00PM - 6:00PM

Spring Semester 2009

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The seminar will deal with various issues pertaining to Israel's foreign policy. Every meeting we will discuss articles and issues relating to the articles that are in the syllabus. Every student will present an article, and a discussion will ensue.

Please note:

- All students must attend all classes.
- Every week, three students will present the articles that are in syllabus. The presentation is part of the course's duties.
- All students must read the articles and are expected to take part in the ensuing debate.

The presentation should address the following issues:

- Brief summary of the paper.
- What is the paper's thesis? Why do we need this paper? What are the historic and historiographical contexts of the paper?
- Who is the author? Does he qualify for the task? What kind of sources he is using?
- What do you think are the main points of the paper? What do you think is worth paying special attention to?

Please note: you must know as much as possible about the events the paper relates to.

- Grading will be based on the following:
  - Class presentation: 25%
  - Final paper- 50%
  - Attendance and participation- 25%

Assignments:

Intro of thesis and debate- up to 5 pages; submission- March 4.

Final paper- up to 15 pages; submission- May 1.

### **January 14: Orientation and Introduction**

#### **January 21: Some general observations**

Avi Shlaim and Avner Yaniv, "Domestic Politics and Foreign Policy in Israel," *International Affairs* 1980 56(2): 242-262

Shibley Telhami, "Israeli Foreign Policy: A Static Strategy in a Changing World," *Middle East Journal* 1990 44(3): 399-416

Yaacov Bar-Siman-Tov, "Ben-Gurion and Sharett: Conflict Management and Great Power Constraints in Israeli Foreign Policy," *Middle Eastern Studies* 1988 24(3): 330-356.

#### **February 4: Israel's Foreign Policy- the Domestic Factor**

Gershon R. Kieval, "The Foreign Policy of the Labor Party," in Bernard Reich and Gershon R. Kieval (eds.), *Israeli National Security Policy* (New York: Greenwood Press, ), 19-54.

Ilan Peleg, "The Foreign Policy of Herut and the Likud," in Reich & Kieval, *ibid*, 55-78.

Maurice M. Roumani, "The Ethnic Factor in Israel's Foreign Policy," in Reich & Kieval, *ibid*, 79-103.

#### **February 11: Defiant Foreign Policy**

Neil Caplan, "*Oum Shmoom* Revisited: Israeli Attitude Towards the UN and the Great Powers, 1948-1960," in Abraham Ben-Zvi and Aharon Klieman (eds.), *Global Politics* (London: Frank Cass, 2001), 167-198.

Michael B. Oren, "Ambivalent Adversaries: David Ben-Gurion and Israel vs. the United Nations and Dag Hammarskjold, 1956-57", *Journal of Contemporary History*, Vol. 27, No. 1 (1992), 89-127.

#### **February 18: Israel's Foreign Policy Orientation**

Avi Shlaim, "Israel between East and West, 1948-56," *International Journal of Middle East Studies*, 2004 36(4): 657-673.

Uri Bialer, *Between East and West: Israel's Foreign Policy Orientation, 1948-1956*, (Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 1990), pp. 206-234.

Laurent Rucker, "Moscow's Surprise: The Soviet- Israeli Alliance of 1947-1969," *The Cold War International History Project Working Paper Series*.

#### **February 25: Israel in the Middle East**

Elie Podeh, "Israel in the Middle East or Israel and the Middle East- a Reappraisal," Elie Podeh and Asher Kaufman (ed.), *Arab – Jewish Relations- From Conflict to Resolution?* (Brighton: Sussex University Press, 2006), 93- 113.

Uri Bialer, "The Iranian Connection in Israel's Foreign Policy - 1948-1951," *Middle East Journal* Vol. 39, No. 2, (1985), 292-315.

Jacob Abadi, "Israel and Sudan: The Saga of an Enigmatic Relationship," *Middle Eastern Studies*, Vol. 35, No. 3, (July 1999), 19-41.

#### **March 4: Nuclear & Foreign Policy**

Mordechai Gazit, "The Genesis of the Us-Israeli Military-Strategic Relationship and The Dimona Issue," *Journal of Contemporary History* 2000 35(3): 413-422

Zaki Shalom, "Israel's Nuclear Option Revisited," *Journal of Israeli History*, Vol. 24, No. 2 (September 2005), pp. 267 – 277.

Binyamin Pinkus, "Atomic Power to Israel's Rescue: French-Israeli Nuclear Cooperation, 1949-1957," *Israel Studies*, Vol. 7, No. 1, pp. 104-138.

#### **March 18: In Pursuit of an Ally: US & Israel: Special Relations (?)**

Yaacov Bar Siman Tov, "The United States and Israel since 1948: A "Special Relationship?" *Diplomatic History*, Vol. 22:2 (Spring 1998), pp. 231- 262.

Abraham Ben-Zvi, "The Dynamics of the US-Israel Special Relationship," in Abraham Ben-Zvi and Aharon Klieman (eds.), *Global Politics* (London: Frank Cass, 2001), 219-235.

Zach Levey, "Israel's Quest for a Security Guarantee from the United States, 1954-1956," *British Journal of Middle Eastern Studies*, 1995 22(1-2): 43-63.

### **March 25: In Pursuit of an Ally (2)**

Orna Almog, *Britain, Israel and the United States, 1955-1958* (London: Frank Cass, 2003), 34-56.

Zach Levey, "Israeli Foreign Policy and the Arms Race in the Middle East 1950-1960," *Journal of Strategic Studies* 2001 24(1): 29-48

Shimon Peres, *Battling for Peace* (London: Weidenfeld & Nicolson, 1998), 117-142.

### **April 1: Israel & the USSR: Unhappy Relationship**

Gabriel Gorodetsky, "The Soviet Union's Role in the Creation of the State of Israel," *The Journal of Israeli History*, Vol. 22, No. 1 (Spring 2003), 4-20.

Yaacov Ro'i, "The Deterioration of Relations: From Support to Severance," *The Journal of Israeli History*, Vol. 22, No. 1 (Spring 2003), 21-36.

Matityahu Mintz, "Ben-Gurion and the Soviet Union's Involvement in the Effort to Establish Jewish State in Palestine," *The Journal of Israeli History*, Vol. 26, No. 1, (March 2007), pp. 67-78.

### **April 8: The 1958 Crisis in the Middle East**

Avi Shlaim, "Israel, the Great Powers, and the Middle East Crisis of 1958," *Journal of Imperial and Commonwealth History*, 1999 27(2): 177-192.

David Tal, "Seizing Opportunities: Israel and the 1958 Crisis in the Middle East." *Middle Eastern Studies* Vol. 37, No. 1 (Jan. 2001), pp. 142-158.

Michael Bar-Zohar, "Ben-Gurion and the Policy of the Periphery, 1958: Analysis" in Itamar Rabinovitch and Jehuda Reinharz (eds.) *Israel in the Middle East: Documents and Readings on Society, Politics, and Foreign Relations, 1948-Present*, Waltham, MA, Brandeis University Press, 2007.

### **April 15: Israel – War & Peace**

Ibrahim Karawan, "Sadat and the Egyptian-Israeli Peace Revisited," *International Journal of Middle East Studies*, 1994 26(2): 249-266.

Mordechai Gazit, "Egypt And Israel: Was There A Peace Opportunity Missed In 1971?" *Journal of Contemporary History*, 1997 32(1): 97-115.

Michael Barnett, "Culture, Strategy and Foreign Policy Change: Israel's Road to Oslo," *European Journal of International Relations*, Vol. 5 No. 1, 5-36.

### **April 22: The Israeli- Palestinian Conflict**

Sabri Jiryis, "Forty Years since the Seizure of Palestine," *Journal of Palestine Studies*, Vol. 18, No. 1 (Autumn 1988), 83-95.

Shlomo Ben-Ami, "So Close and Yet So Far: Lessons from the Israeli-Palestinian Peace Process," *Israel studies*, Vol. 10, No. 2, 72-90.

Muhammed Muslih, "Toward Coexistence: An Analysis of the Resolutions of the Palestine National Council," *Journal of Palestine Studies*, Vol. 19, No. 4 (Summer 1990), 3-29.

### **April 27: Concluding Remarks**