



Israel: Is It Good for the Jews?

Richard Cohen

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A very personal journey through Jewish history (and Cohen's own), and a passionate defense of Israel's legitimacy.

Richard Cohen's book is part reportage, part memoir—an intimate journey through the history of Europe's Jews, culminating in the establishment of Israel. A veteran, syndicated columnist for *The Washington Post*, Cohen began this journey as a skeptic, wondering in a national column whether the creation of a Jewish State was “a mistake.”

As he recounts, he delved into his own and Jewish history and fell in love with the story of the Jews and Israel, a twice-promised land—in the Bible by God, and by the world to the remnants of Europe's Jews. This promise, he writes, was made in atonement not just for the Holocaust, but for the callous indifference that preceded World War II and followed it—and that still threatens.

Cohen's account is full of stories—from the nineteenth century figures who imagined a Zionist country, including Theodore Herzl, who thought it might resemble Vienna with its cafes and music; to what happened in twentieth century Poland to his own relatives; and to stories of his American boyhood.

Cohen describes his relationship with Israel as a sort of marriage: one does not always get along but one is faithful.

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