The Israeli Nation-State:
Political, Constitutional, and Cultural Challenges

Edited by Fania Oz-Salzberger & Yedidia Stern

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Summary:

This volume of original essays, by some of Israel’s most remarkable public and academic voices, offers a series of state-of-the-art, accessible analyses of Israel’s ever-evolving theater of statecraft, public debates, and legal and cultural tension fields, deep divisions and—more surprisingly, perhaps—its internal affinities and common denominators.


About the Editors:

Fania Oz-Salzberger (PhD Oxford University) Fania Oz-Salzberger (PhD Oxford University) is professor of history at the University of Haifa Center for German and European Studies and Faculty of Law, where she directs the Posen Research Forum for Political Thought. She was Professor and Leon Liberman Chair of Modern Israel Studies at Monash University (2007–2012), and Laurence S. Rockefeller Visiting Professor for Distinguished Teaching at Princeton University (2009–10). Among her books are Translating the Enlightenment (1995), Israelis in Berlin (2001), and Jews and Words, co-authored with Amos Oz (2012). She recently edited, with Thomas Maissen, The Liberal-Republican Quandary in Israel, Europe, and the United States (2012).

Yedidia Stern is the Vice President of Research at Israel Democracy Institute, where he heads the projects on “Religion and State” and “Human Rights and Judaism.” He is a full professor at Bar-Ilan University Law School, and served as its Dean. His areas of professional interest are religion and state, Jewish law, public law, and corporate law. His awards include the Zeltner Prize for excellence in Legal Research in Israel (2009) and the Gorni Prize for special contribution in public law (2012).
Praise for The Israeli Nation-State:

“There can be no more urgent issues facing the contemporary State of Israel than the relationship between democracy and its Jewish identity. In these trenchant and timely essays, the authors—all of them distinguished Israeli scholars—approach the question with tools of political theory, history, law and the philosophy of religion.”

—David Biale, Emanuel Ringelblum Distinguished Professor, University of California, Davis

“An outstanding collection of essays by the leading scholars writing on modern Israel. Anyone who wants to think deeper about the Jewish and democratic character of Israel and the complicated relationship between state and religion should read this book.”

—Michael Brenner, Distinguished Historian in Residence and Director of the Center for Israel Studies, American University

“The essays in this volume are always illuminating, often passionate, and at times provocative. They enrich our understanding of Israel’s political and legal system, and they are particularly useful for providing differing perspectives on the ongoing debate over whether Israel can be both a Jewish and democratic state. Clearly and accessibly written, this volume will be a valuable resource for undergraduates and general readers as well as specialists.”

—Derek Penslar, Stanley Lewis Professor of Israel Studies, University of Oxford
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