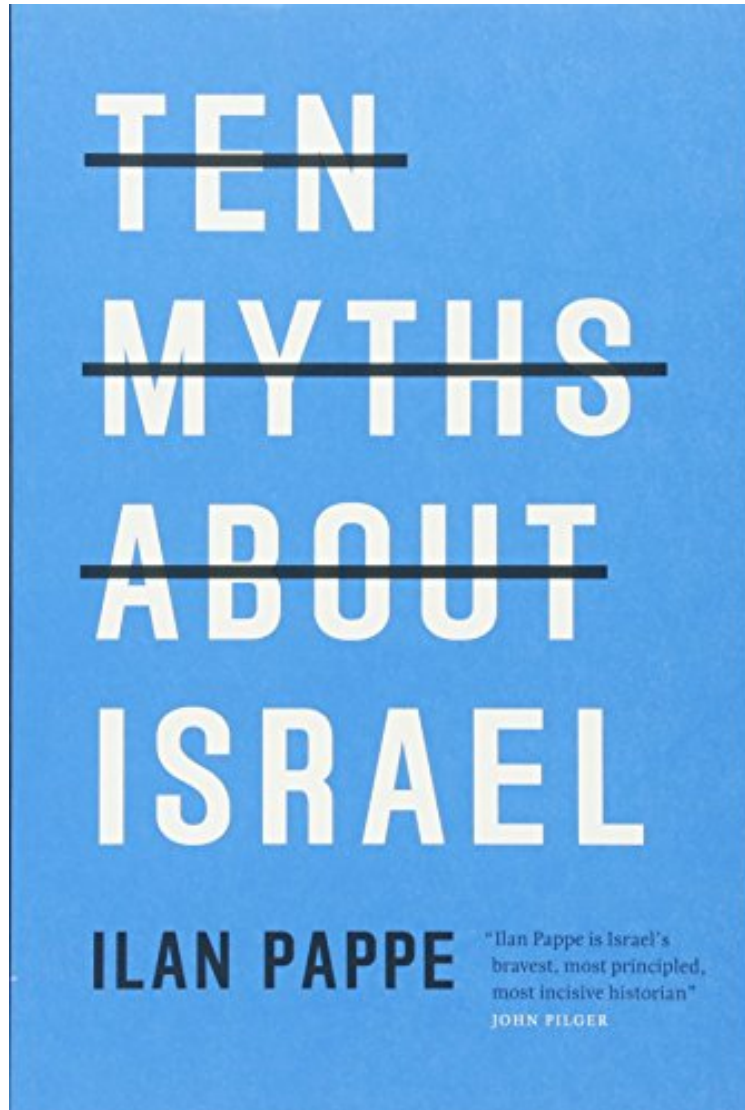


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## Ten Myths About Israel

*Ilan Pappé*

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**Ilan Pappé : Ten Myths About Israel** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Ten Myths About Israel:

22 of 26 people found the following review helpful. Very informative By Phelps Gates Having read a lot over the years about Israel, I've always felt that I was pretty well informed, but I learned a lot from this book, The most notorious old myth is the one about Israel being "a land without a people for a people without a land." Does anyone still believe this? Apparently some do: Pappé quotes the official website of the Israeli foreign ministry, which continues to take this line. He goes into detail about the historical demographics and thoroughly refutes the claim. Another myth: Israeli historians

have often claimed that Palestinians were told to leave their homes during the 1948 war, to make way for the advancing Arab armies. Is this widely believed? I don't know, but Pappé describes the process by which this example of "fake news" got its start. One example of a myth which I had believed was that the Israel's 2005 withdrawal from Gaza was a step toward peace. Actually, the opposite is true: this was, in effect, an inoculation against any possibility of withdrawal from the West Bank. The uproar in the country about moving the settlers from Gaza was nothing compared to what would happen if the West Bank settlements were touched! It's time, alas, to hold a funeral for the "Two State Solution." Some of Pappé's conclusions may be overstated, such as his view that Israel is not a democracy (based on the fact that the Arab citizens don't have full rights). And as he states right at the outset, the book doesn't claim to be "balanced." It's an attempt to make redress for some of the things that are widely believed in the media about the country. I won't go into more details about the other myths, other than to say that this is a book worth reading by anyone with an interest in Middle Eastern affairs, regardless of what their views are. It will buttress those on one side and challenge those on the other. Go read it.

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. An important effort, well argued and clearly written. By Elisa 20 Our outrage over the Holocaust and empathy for Jews and their need for a protected homeland, cannot blind us to the injustices involved in Western countries created that new country by taking away land that already belonged to others. If we accept the geopolitical reality of the formation of Israel--fair or not--nearly 70 years ago, it does not address the present injustice being meted out to the Palestinian people who are, ironically, ghettoized by the conservative Israelis (particularly right-wing party that's been in power for decades) and walled off from their previous homeland. To criticize "Israel" is not to be anti-Semitic. It is to criticize the rightwing prime ministers whose anti-Arab philosophies have dominated Israeli-Palestinian policies for decades, Sharon being previously one of the worst and now, the entrenched Netanyahu. As much as he and Obama may have disliked each other, there's no question that Obama continued to support and help militarize Israel more than any previous president. There is guilt to be shared by the U.S. in the plight of the Palestinians today. It was a start--although brief and largely symbolic--when, at John Kerry's urgin, the U.S. finally did not veto a U.N. resolution condemning the occupation of the West Bank and ongoing persecution of Palestinians, often with U.S. tanks and weaooonry. Americans do not often get to hear the Palestinian point of view toward Israel (and the U.S., its foremost ally). That is why this book is so important. "Ten Myths About Israel" are what often passes not for myth, but for truth, for conventional wisdom in the U.S. media. By cocntrast, Pappé's truths are as follows: 1. Palestine was already settled by Arabs when it was changed to Israel. It was not "empty land"; 2. He questions the premise that Israel's existence serves the interest of all Jews around the world. Were Jews really a "people without a land"? 3. "Zionism" is not the same as "Judaism". (Corollary of this is that to oppose Zionism is not to be against Jews.) Many leaders, including Gandhi, supported the idea of a Jewish homeland, but not with the consequence of the Palestinian people losing their homeland Pappé is unequivocal about the "Jews as the Chosen People" reclaiming their ancestral homeland giving them a right to take Palestine. This extension from Biblical stories thousands of years old as a justification for seizing land of others is a myth. 4. He sees Israelis as colonizers-- the myth? "That Jews are not Colonizers" 5. The 1967 War did not force Israel to occupy the West Bank and Gaza. 6. He challenges the assumption that "Israel is the only democracy in the Middle East", citing the treatment of Palestinians throughout the Occupation including 35,000 Palestinians killed (including 2000 children) since 19 67--, and continuing seizing upends the myth of "benign democracy." 7. He argues that Hamas, the organization in the Gaza Strip, is not a terrorist organization. 4. He feels the idea that the Two State Solution is the Only Way Forward" is also a Myth. 9. The Palestinians have a right to struggle for liberation from Israel and have a right to have an army to help them do it and reclaim their land sand rights. 10 The Oslo Accord was not an ideal solution (the myth of the two-state solution being the answer ) but another way of rationalizing partition. You may find yourself changing your mind, at least on some things, as you read through his chapters, particularly if you approach the book openly.. 7 of 8 people found the following review helpful. Educational By L. Mars 2017 has become my year of seeking fuller explanations for the top issues in our world, and working to answer the question "how did we get here?" This book was very enlightening in that it explained historical issues that I will continue to research. I am not pro or anti group. I am seeking truth and felt this book challenged so much that I assumed was fact.

The myths and reality behind the state of Israel In this groundbreaking book, published on the fiftieth anniversary of the Occupation, the outspoken and radical Israeli historian Ilan Pappé examines the most contested ideas concerning the origins and identity of the contemporary state of Israel. The ten myths that Pappé explores repeated endlessly in the media, enforced by the military, accepted without question by the world's governments reinforce the regional status quo. He explores the claim that Palestine was an empty land at the time of the Balfour Declaration, as well as the formation of Zionism and its role in the early decades of nation building. He asks whether the Palestinians voluntarily left their homeland in 1948, and whether June 1967 was a war of no choice. Turning to the myths surrounding the failures of the Camp David Accords and the official reasons for the attacks on Gaza, Pappé explains why the two-state solution is no longer viable.

Ilan Pappé is Israel's bravest, most principled, most incisive historian. John Pilger One of the most prominent Israeli political dissidents living in exile He is also one of the few Israeli students of the conflict who write about the Palestinian side with real knowledge and empathy. Avi Shlaim, Guardian Along with Edward Said, Ilan Pappé is the most eloquent writer of Palestinian history. New Statesman Ten Myths About Israel is a useful primer for people just becoming familiar with the Palestinian liberation struggle but it is far more than that. It is also a valuable tool for veteran organizers seeking to explain cogently and simply how Israel's foundational myths and ongoing propaganda perpetuate the oppression of the Palestinian people. Electronic Intifada This book is an absolute must for an interested public, the political and the media class to understand what Israel is all about. American Herald Tribune About the Author Ilan Pappé is an Israeli historian and socialist activist. He is a professor with the College of Social Sciences and International Studies at the University of Exeter, Director of the university's European Centre for Palestine Studies, and Co-Director of the Exeter Centre for Ethno-Political Studies. He is the author of the highly acclaimed *The Ethnic Cleansing of Palestine* and *The Idea of Israel* which was shortlisted for the JQ Wingate History Prize, as well as two co-authored projects with Noam Chomsky: *On Palestine and Gaza in Crisis*.