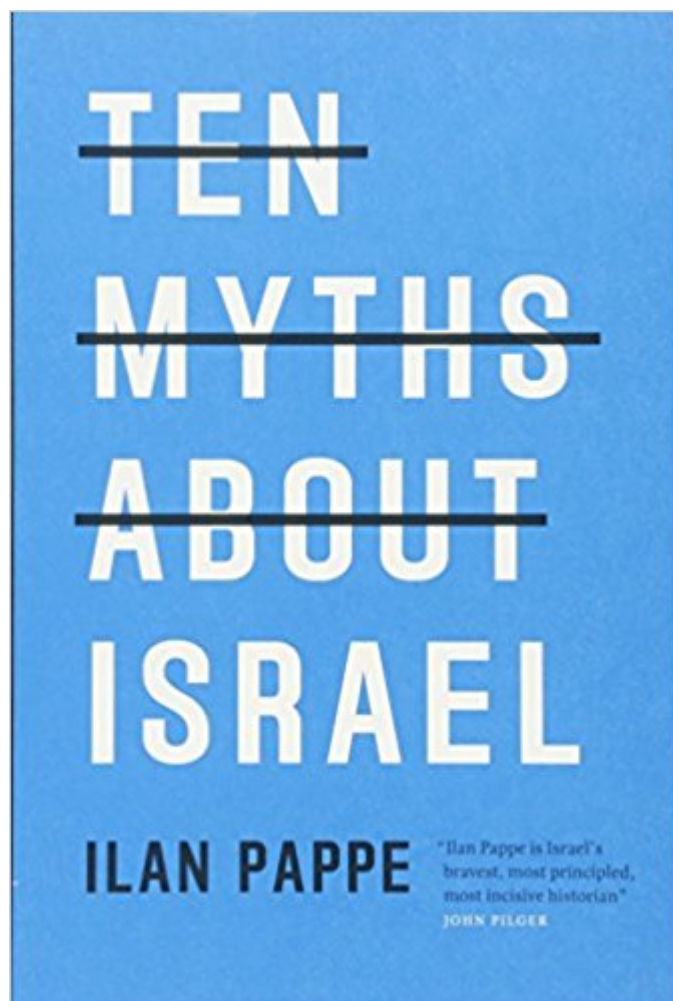


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# Ten Myths About Israel



## Synopsis

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 are repeated endlessly in the media, enforced by the military, accepted without question by the world’s governments to 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.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

“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

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*.

The truth about the Israeli/Palestinian situation simply and clearly stated. As someone who has spend more than a dozen years living and working in the Middle East, I strongly feel that it's something all Americans should be aware of, but I fear only few will ever be exposed to it.

excellent

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.

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.

This book is written by an extremely knowledgeable person and is full of references at the end but the text flows well and it's easy to read. It concentrates the top ten Zionist lies, many of which are considered unquestionable truths due to the avalanche of propaganda the Zionists dumped on us in the last 50 years or more. This small, straightforward book, unlike other more "academic" (and harder to read) books by the same author like "The Ethnic Cleansing of Palestine" which I recommend to readers who want deeper explanations. It's a good book to give to your recalcitrant uncle, provided the uncle is willing to spend a couple of hours reading.

"Ten Myths About Israel" by Ilan Pappé offers an invaluable perspective on Israel and its conflicted relationship with Palestine. Mr. Pappé is an Israeli academic, historian and activist who is a respected voice for peace, justice and reconciliation. Open-minded individuals seeking a greater understanding of this contentious issue should seriously consider reading Mr. Pappé's excellent book. To the extent that the dominant narrative has been constructed by Israel and its powerful allies in the U.S. and Europe, Mr.

Pappé's choice to deconstruct these myths proves to be very effective.

Part I: Fallacies of the Past critiques the origin myths of the Israeli state including the 1967 war. Part II: Fallacies of the

Present discusses the problems of a pseudo-democratic Israeli state including its brutal occupation of Gaza. Part II: Looking Ahead explains why the two-state solution represents a false choice that distracts us from the pressing need for

socio-economic justice in the region. More than anything else, Mr. Pappe's book succeeds in humanizing the struggle. Mr. Pappe helps us appreciate the consequences for ordinary people who have been fated to live under the auspices of late colonialism. To be sure, those who are accustomed to uncritically accepting pro-Israeli propaganda will likely get their feathers ruffled by Mr. Pappe's critically on-point writing. But those who genuinely want peace will value the author's plea to reconcile this painful history by working for a better, more inclusive future. I highly recommend this outstanding book to everyone.

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