

Readings in Israeli Society and Cultures

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This is a course for graduate students. These are some of the over-arching questions for the course, and please be prepared to relate the reading assignments to these questions in our class discussion.

- (1) What is Zionism? Where was it anchored in the intellectual vista of the modern European nationalism? What are the main manifestations of the Zionist discourse in the State of Israel?
- (2) To what extent can Israel be described as a Jewish and democratic society? What are the main features of the Israeli Society?
- (3) Like other modern nationalistic movements, Zionism has its archaic facets in the process of its nation-building, trying to legitimize itself with a remote and rosy past. How has it reclaimed a Jewish “usable past”? What are the tensions between tradition and innovation in doing so?
- (4) Whether is that which is Jewish tantamount to that which is Israeli?

Requirements and Evaluations:

- Reading: Students MUST attend class having read the assigned readings each week and having prepared thoughtfully to discuss the issues raised. This will be measured through summarizing the major points and arguments of the readings.
- Attendance: One absence will be considered unremarkable. More than two absences will require explanation and will affect the final grade.
- Participation: The course will emphasize discussion. Full participation is expected.
- Presentation: Each student will make a presentation of at least 30 minutes on a topic of his/her choice.
- Final paper: The paper, with minimum 4,000 Chinese characters, should be based on the presentation. It is expected to be fully annotated and included with a bibliography.
- Grading: attendance 10%, class participation 30%, presentation 20%, and final paper 40%.

Required texts:

- (1) Anita Shapira, *Israel: A History*, Waltham: Brandeis University Press, 2012.

- (2) 张倩红:《以色列史》(Zhang Qianhong, *A History of Israel*), 第2版, 人民出版社, 2014年。(History of Modern Israel in a Chinese Perspective. Note its periodization.)
- (3) Itamar Rabinovich and Jehuda Reihartz, eds., *Israel in the Middle East: Documents and Readings on Society, Politics, and Foreign Relations, Pre-1948 to the Present*, 2nd edn., Hanover: Brandeis University Press, 2008.

A preliminary reading of these is desirable:

- (1) 唐娜·罗森塔尔:《以色列人》(Donna Rosenthal, *The Israelis*), 华东师范大学出版社, 2010年。(On Israeli society)
- (2) 丹·塞诺、索尔·辛格:《创业的国度》(Dan Senor and Saul Singer, *Start-Up Nation*), 中信出版社, 2010年。(On Israeli economy)

Week 1: Introduction: Reflections on the Disciplinary Framework

- (1) 杨夏鸣:“美国的中东问题研究: 理论、论战与影响,”(Yang Xiaming, “Middle Eastern Studies in the U.S.: Paradigms, Debates and Impact”)《美国研究》2004年第3期。
- (2) 王宇洁:“试析美国伊斯兰研究中的‘犹太因素’, ”(Wang Yujie, “Analysis on the Jewish Elements in Islamic Studies of United States”),《阿拉伯世界研究》2008年1月。
- (3) Liel Leibovitz, “Battle of the Chairs,” *Moment Magazine*, February 2006.
- (4) Alvin Rosenfeld, “Climate of Opinion,” *Jewish Review of Books* (Spring 2015). (On current BDS [boycott, divestment, sanctions] movement in the West.)
- (5) Benjamin Schwartz, “Presidential Address: Area Studies as a Critical Discipline,” *Journal of Asian Studies*, Vol. 40, No. 1 (Nov., 1980), pp. 15-25. (It contains perhaps the most insightful critique of Edward Said. The author was the leading Jewish Sinologist in the US.)【Optional】

Week 2: Political Zionism in the Metaphor of Bar Kokhba

- (1) Shlomo Avineri, *The Making of Modern Zionism*, New York, 1981, pp. 3-13 (“Introduction: Zionism as a Revolution”).
- (2) 王铁铮:“从犹太复国主义到后犹太复国主义”(Wang Tiezheng, “From Zionism to Post-Zionism,”) 载《世界历史》2012年第2期, 第4-14页。(Compare the viewpoints of Avineri and Wang Tiezheng.)
- (3) Shapira, *Israel*, pp.13-24. (also for week 3)
- (4) 张倩红:《以色列史》, 第120-140页。(also for week 3)
- (5) Leo Pinsker: “Auto-Emancipation,” in Hertzberg, ed., *The Zionist Idea: A Historical Analysis and Reader*, Philadelphia: The Jewish Publication Society of

America, 1997, pp. 178-198. [or Itamar Rabinovich and Jehuda Reinharz, eds., *Israel in the Middle East*, pp. 12-16.]

(6) Theodor Herzl: "The Jewish State," in Hertzberg, pp. 204-226. (有肖宪中译本)

(7) Max Nordau: "Jewry of Muscle," in Paul R. Mendes-Flohr, Jehuda Reinharz, *The Jew in the Modern World*, 3rd edn., pp. 344-345; "Zionism," in Hertzberg, pp. 242-43.

(8) 拉克:《犹太复国主义史》(Walter Laqueur, *A History of Zionism*), 第2章, 第47-102页。(also for week 3)【Optional】

Week 3: Cultural/Spiritual Zionism in the Metaphor of Yavneh

(1) Shapira, *Israel*, pp.54-62.

(2) Ahad Ha'am, "The Law of the Heart"; "Flesh and Spirit"; "The Jewish State and the Jewish Problem"; in Herzberg, pp. 249-269.

(3) Ahad Ha'am, "Truth from Eretz Yisrael (1891)," in Eran Kaplan and Derek J. Penslar, eds. *The Origins of Israel, 1882-1948: A Documentary History*, Madison: University of Wisconsin Press, 2011, pp. 27-38.

(4) Shapira, *Israel*, pp.408, 469-475.

(5) 高乔克:《理性之光——阿哈德·哈姆与犹太精神》(Alfred Gottschalk, *Ahad Ha'am: the Bible and the Biblical Tradition*), 内蒙古人民出版社1999年, 第1-53页。【Optional】

Week 4: The Birth of the Jewish State

(1) Declaration of Independence

<http://www.mfa.gov.il/MFA/Peace%20Process/Guide%20to%20the%20Peace%20Process/Declaration%20of%20Establishment%20of%20State%20of%20Israel>

(2) "Balfour Declaration," "The Law of Return," in Itamar Rabinovich and Jehuda Reinharz, eds., *Israel in the Middle East*, pp. 29; 102-3.

(3) Shapira, *Israel*, pp.460-464.

Week 5: A Jewish, Democratic and Western State?

(1) Alan Dowty, "Is Israel Democratic? Substance and Semantics in the 'Ethnic Democracy' Debate," *Israel Studies* 4:2 (1999), pp. 1-15.

(2) Aviezer Ravitzky, "Religious and Secular Jews in Israel: A Kulturkampf?" Israel Democracy Institute, 2000.

(3) Sammy Smooha, "Is Israel Western?" in Eliezer Ben-Rafael and Yitzhak Sternberg, eds., *Comparative Modernities: Pluralism versus Homogeneity: Essays in Homage to Shmuel N. Eisenstadt*. Leiden: Brill, 2005, pp. 413-442.

(4) 大卫·比尔:《犹太世俗主义》(David Biale, “Jewish Secularism”), in宋立宏主编:《从西奈到中国》(Lihong Song, ed., *From Sinai to China*), 三联书店, 2012年, 第191-202页。【Optional】

Week 6: Palestinians in Israel

(1) Elie Rekhess, *The Arab Minority in Israel: An Analysis of the “Future Vision” Documents*, American Jewish Committee, 2008.

(2) Itamar Rabinovitch: “From ‘Israeli Arabs’ to ‘Israel’s Palestinian Citizens,’” in Rabinovitch and Reihartz, doc. 51 (pp. 183-7).

(3) 艾仁贵:“Nakba: 现代巴勒斯坦的难民问题与创伤记忆”(Ai Rengui, “Nakba: the Refugee Problem and its Traumatic Memory in Modern Palestine”)《史学理论研究》2013年第2期, 第41-52页。

(4) Sammy Smooha, “Ethnicity as a Factor in the Israeli Jews’ Attitudes toward Arabs,” in Peter Molt and Helga Dickow, eds. *Kulturen und Konflikte im Vergleich: Comparing Cultures and Conflicts: Festschrift für Theodor Hanf*, Baden-Baden: Nomos, 2007, pp. 300-319.

(5) Mahmoud Darwish, “The Appeal of the Palestinian People on the Fiftieth Anniversary of *al-Naqba*,” in Rabinovitch and Reihartz, eds., *Israel in the Middle East*, pp. 514-16 (doc. 140). 【Optional】

Week 7: Jewish Ethnicities

(1) Eliezer Ben-Rafael, “Jewish Ethnicities in Israel,” in Alain Dieckhoff, ed. *Routledge Handbook on Modern Israel*, London: Routledge, 2013, pp. 96-104.

(2) Ella Shohat, “Rupture and Return: Zionist Discourse and the Study of Arab-Jews,” *Social Text* 21, 2 (Summer, 2003), pp. 49-74.

(3) 周承:《以色列新一代:俄裔犹太移民的形成及影响》(Zhou Chen, *A New Generation of Israel: the Formation and Impact of the Russian Jewish Immigrants*), 时事出版社, 2010年。【Optional】

Week 8: Ethnic Minorities

(1) Steve Kaplan and Hagar Salamon, “Ethiopian Jews in Israel: A Part of the People or Apart from the People,” in Uzi Rebhun and Chaim I. Waxman, eds., *Jews in Israel: Contemporary Social and Cultural Patterns*, Brandeis University Press, 2004, pp. 118-148.

(2) 王宇:“德鲁兹社团与以色列国家的关系”(Wang Yu, “On the Relations between the Druze Community and the State of Israel”),《阿拉伯世界研究》, 2014年第1期, 第76-87页。

(3) Havatzelet Yahel, Ruth Kark, and Seth J. Frantzman, “Are the Negev Bedouin an Indigenous People?” *Middle East Quarterly*, Summer 2012, pp. 3-14.

Week 9: Women in Israel

- (1) Hanna Herzog, "Israel's Road to Feminism: 1973-2000," in Rabinovich and Reihartz, doc. 78 (pp. 287-96).
- (2) Ruth Halpern-Kaddari, *Women in Israel: A State of Their Own*, University of Pennsylvania Press, 2004, Chapter 11 ("The Halachic Trap: Marriage and Family Life").
- (3) Pnina Lahav, "Roundtable on the Status of Women in Israel," *Israel Studies*, vol. 18, no. 3 (2013), pp. 1-4.

Week 10: Israel and the Shoah

- (1) 张倩红:《以色列史》(Zhang Qianhong, *A History of Israel*), 第185-188页。
- (2) 钟志清:《“艾赫曼审判”与以色列人对大屠杀的记忆》(Zhong Zhiqing, "Eichmann Trial and the Memory of the Holocaust in Israel"), 《中国图书评论》2006年第4期。
- (3) 宋立宏:“大屠杀记忆与犹太认同——对一位以色列汉学家的反思”(Lihong Song, "Holocaust Memory and Jewish Identity: Reflections on an Israeli Sinologist"), 载《犹太研究》2014年。An abridged version, in three installments, is available on the online Chinese version of *The Times of Israel*:
<http://cn.timesofisrael.com/%E4%B8%80%E4%BD%8D%E4%BB%A5%E8%89%B2%E5%88%97%E6%B1%89%E5%AD%A6%E5%AE%B6%E7%9A%84%E6%8A%89%E6%8B%A9%EF%BC%88%E4%B8%8A%EF%BC%89/>
- (4) Dina Porat, "Some Effects of the Holocaust on Israeli Society and Foreign Policy," in Aharon Oppenheimer, ed., *Sino-Judaica: Jews and Chinese in Historical Dialogue*. An international colloquium, Nanjing, 11-19 October, Tel Aviv University, 1996, pp. 159-168.
- (5) Anita Shapira, "The Holocaust: Private Memories, Public Memory," *Jewish Social Studies* (Winter, 1998), pp. 40-58.

Week 11: Party Politics

- (1) 王彦敏:《以色列政党政治研究》(Wang Yanmin, *Party Politics in Israel*), 人民出版社, 2014年, 第1-5、60-76、82-87、117-130、173-184、185-199、231-253页。
- (2) 王宇:《论以色列阿拉伯人的政治参与》(Wang Yu, "On Israeli Arab Citizen's Political Participation"), 《阿拉伯世界研究》2010年第2期, 第42-48页。
- (3) Ayreh Dayan, "Arye Deri's Speech of April 23, 1997," in Itamar Rabinovich and Jehuda Reihartz, eds., *Israel in the Middle East*, pp. 459-462 (doc. 124).
- (4) Shapira, *Israel*, pp. 393-399 (Shas); 403-406 (the judicial ascendancy).

Week 12: Religious Jews

- (1) Shlomo Avineri, *The Making of Modern Zionism*, pp. 187-197 (“Rabbi Kook: The Dialectics of Redemption”).
- (2) Shapira, *Israel*, pp.342-346 (Gush Emunim).
- (3) Samuel C. Heilman and Menachem Friedman, “Religious Fundamentalism and Religious Jews: The Case of the Haredim,” in Martin E. Marty and R. Scott Appleby, eds., *Fundamentalism Observed*, University of Chicago Press, 1991, pp. 197-264.
- (4) Gideon Aran, “Jewish Zionist Fundamentalism: The Bloc of the Faithful in Israel (Gush Emunim),” *Ibid.*, pp. 265-344. 【Optional】
- (5) 海尔曼:《犹太人与基要主义》(Samuel Heilman, “Jews and Fundamentalism”), in宋立宏主编:《从西奈到中国》(Lihong Song, ed., *From Sinai to China*), 三联书店, 2012年, 第203-216页。【Optional】

Week 13: Reclaiming a Useful Jewish Past

- (1) 徐龙:《犹太和以色列国钱币》(Xu Long, *Money of Ancient Judaea and the State of Israel*), 世界图书出版公司, 2010年, 第236-265页的图版。(Compare the symbols employed in ancient Jewish coins and modern Israeli coins.)
- (2) Genesis 22:1-19. Haim Gouri (“Heritage”), Amir Gilboa (“Isaac”), Adi Nes (“Abraham and Isaac”).
- (3) Ruth Kartun-Blum, “Isaac Rebound: The Aqedah as a Paradigm in Modern Israeli Poetry,” *Israel Affairs* 1:3 (1995), pp. 185-202.
- (4) Yael Zerubavel, “Patriotic Sacrifice and the Burden of Memory in Israeli Secular National Hebrew Culture,” in Ussama Makdisi and Paul A. Silverstein, eds., *Memory and Violence in the Middle East and North Africa*, Indiana University Press, 2006, pp. 73-100.
- (5) Anita Shapira, “The Bible and the Israeli Identity,” *AJS Review*, 28:1 April 2004, pp. 11-42.【optional】

Week 14: Israel and China

- (1) 孙中山的英文信 (Dr. Sun Yat-sen’s letter to N.E.B. Ezra in support of Zionism)。
- (2) 高斯坦主编:《中国与犹太——以色列关系100年》(Jonathan Goldstein, ed., *China and Israel, 1948-1998: A Fifty Year Retrospective*), 中国社会科学出版社, 2006年。
- (3) Michael Freund, “From Kaifeng to the Kotel: A Chinese Rabbi in the Making,” *Asian Jewish Life*, 7 (Sept 2011).
http://asianjewishlife.org/pages/articles/AJL_Issue_7/AJL_Feature_Kaifeng.html
- (4) Yiyi Chen, “China’s Relationship with Israel, Opportunities and Challenges, Perspectives from China,” *Israel Studies* 17:3 (2012).

(5) 泽夫·苏赋特:《中国以色列建交亲历记》(E. Zev Suffott, *A China Diary: Towards the Establishment of China-Israel Diplomatic Relations*), 新华出版社, 2000年。【optional】

Weeks 15-16: Student Presentations