

TEN BEST JEWISH BOOKS

Jewish books this year are concerned about the nature of Jewish identity, especially about the problem of being an outsider. While Israel has continued to serve as a model for overcoming this sense of being an outsider, even Israel has come under more critical scrutiny. Continuing unease about the Jewish future was more prevalent than usual this year, but it was balanced by an abiding faith in Jewish survival.

Here, then, in alphabetical order, are the ten best Jewish books of 1982.

1. ACTS OF FAITH: A JOURNEY TO THE FRINGES OF JEWISH IDENTITY. Dan Ross. St. Martin's, \$15.95.

This unusual book examines ten groups of Jews who live in isolated Jewish communities in such countries as Spain, Mexico, Ethiopia, India, and China.

2. FIVE BIBLICAL PORTRAITS. Elie Wiesel. Notre Dame University Press, \$9.95.

3. THE JEWISH SOUL ON FIRE. Esther Jungreis, William Morrow, \$11.95.

The "Rebbetzin," founder of the famed Hineni movement, uses memoirs about her escape from the Holocaust, stories from the Bible, and lessons from Jewish history to encourage a return to Judaism especially by young Jews who are uncertain about their heritage.

4. THE MAKING OF MODERN ZIONISM. Shlomo Avineri. Basic Books, \$14.95.

This is a fascinating introduction to Zionist thought. Seeing Zionism as a revolutionary movement for self-determination rather than a reaction to anti-Semitism, Avineri traces this thesis through the thought of 18 major Zionist thinkers.

5. ON WOMEN AND JUDAISM: A VIEW FROM TRADITION. Blu Greenberg. The Jewish Publication Society of America, \$13.95.

The well-known Orthodox writer presents fascinating insights into the relationship between women and Judaism.

6. REFUSERS: AN EPIC OF THE JEWS. Stanley Burnshaw. Horizon Press, \$14.95.

This extremely well-written, challenging novel is really a trilogy. Book 1 is about Moses, here presented as an angry, brooding agitator and organizer. Book 2 is the tragic story of the Marrano Uriel da Costa who lived in Portugal during the 17th century who sees Judaism first as ignored and then as too rigidly practiced. The final book is about a modern Jew fervent in his desire to survive.

7. RETURN TO AUSCHWITZ. Kitty Hart, Atheneum, \$12.95.

Viewers of the television documentary will be familiar with this incredibly moving and eloquent account of daily existence in Auschwitz. Besides being one of the best of Holocaust memoirs, this book is also a valuable study of a relationship between mother and daughter.

8. THE SELF-CHOSEN. Jean Baer. Arbor House, \$15.00.

This book is well-done popular sociology of the Our Crowd type. Focusing on the post-War era, the author talks about a new Jewish elite which, in contrast to previous generations, did not achieve its status by family membership, but rather by their own initiatives.

9. WALLENBERG: THE MAN IN THE IRON WEB. Elenore Lester, Prentice-Hall, \$12.00.

Swedish diplomat Raoul Wallenberg's mission to save 230,000 Jews, his eventual arrest by the Russians, and the mystery of his fate, have transformed him into a mighty symbol of the righteous gentile. This book is a fascinating and gripping account of Wallenberg's acts and their meaning.

10. WHEN BAD THINGS HAPPEN TO GOOD PEOPLE. Harold S. Kushner, Schocken Books, \$10.95.

A Rabbi whose own child died considers what Judaism has to say about evil, God, and the search for an understanding of seemingly meaningless tragedies.

WASHINGTON DATELINE

BY TRUDE B. FELDMAN
ISRAELITE'S WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENT

Reagan Praises Habib Effort

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- President Reagan announced that Ambassador Phillip Habib had informed him that a plan to resolve the West Beirut crisis has been agreed upon by all the parties involved, and that as part of this plan, the Government of Lebanon had requested, "and I have approved the deployment of U.S. forces to Beirut as part of a multinational force."

The President added that the negotiations to develop the plan had been extremely complex and were conducted in the most arduous circumstances. "At times, it was difficult to imagine how agreement could be reached, and yet it has been reached," he said. "The statesmanship and the courage of President Sarkis and his colleagues in the Lebanese Government deserve special recognition, as does the magnificent work of Mr. Habib. He never lost hope, and in the end, his spirit and determination carried the day and we all owe him a debt of gratitude."

Reagan also stated that the parties who made the plan possible have a special responsibility for insuring its successful completion, or implementation. "I expect its terms to be carried out in good faith and in accordance with the agreed time table," he said. "This will require meticulous adherence to the cease fire. Violations by any party would imperil the plan and bring renewed bloodshed and tragedy to the people of Beirut, and under no circumstances must that be allowed to happen."

"My agreement to include U.S. forces in a multinational force was essential for our success. In the days ahead, they and forces from France and Italy will be playing an important but carefully limited combatant role. The parties to the plan have agreed to this role, and they have provided assurances on the safety of our forces."

The President continued: "Our purposes will be to assist the Lebanese armed forces in carrying out their responsibility for insuring the departure of PLO leaders, officers, and combatants in Beirut, from Lebanese territory under safe and orderly conditions. The presence of U.S. forces also will facilitate the restoration of the sovereignty and authority of the Lebanese Government over the Beirut area. In no case will our troops stay longer than 30 days."

President Reagan also noted that the participation of France and Italy in the effort is further evidence of the sense of responsibility of U.S. friends, and that successful resolution of the West Beirut crisis by implementation of the plan now agreed, will set the stage for the international action required to restore Lebanon's full sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity; obtain the rapid withdrawal of

all foreign forces from that country; and help insure the security of northern Israel.

"We must also move quickly in the context of Camp David to resolve the Palestinian issue in all its aspects, as well as the other unresolved problems in the Arab - Israeli conflict," Reagan concluded. "Only when all these steps are accomplished can true and lasting peace and security be achieved in the Mideast."

Prior to flying to Arizona for Memorial Services for Dr. Loyal Davis, Nancy Reagan's father -- who died at age 86 -- the President sent Ambassador Habib a telegram, which read: "Yours is truly a sterling achievement. You have succeeded against staggering odds. It is America's blessing to have men of your caliber and patriotism in its service. Your skill, courage and determination have been an inspiration to us all. It was a performance which was in the best tradition of the tireless professionalism we expect of our Foreign Service. You have your country's gratitude for a great and difficult job well done."

Habib was also lauded by Secretary of State George P. Shultz as a "truly great American," who now needs "a good night's sleep." In his first press conference since taking office last month, Secretary Shultz said that Ambassador Habib is a "very skilled man" who has been in the Mideast since early June because he never says 'no' to a President.

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