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AUTHOR OFFERS A NEW VISION FOR THE FUTURE OF ISRAEL

THE FUTURE OF ISRAEL

Devin Sper

Had earlier Israeli governments been infected with their current defeatism, Israel would never have launched the preemptive strike in 1967, taken out the Iraqi nuclear reactor, or attempted the rescue at Entebbe. Israel would have ceased to exist decades ago. Unless she dramatically changes course, Israel will cease to exist within a few decades.”- Devin Sper

In his new book, **THE FUTURE OF ISRAEL** (November 2004; \$27.95), Devin Sper, scholar and passionate Zionist, offers a timely examination of the Israel’s current crisis. He asks why a nation possessing a formidable military industry second only to the United States in terms of arms technology, not to mention the most advanced economy and powerful military in its region, has failed to safeguard her peaceful existence.

Sper maintains that beginning in the early 1990s, the Israeli elite deluded itself into believing that Israel’s struggle for survival was over and became obsessed with a false peace “process.” Sper maintains that the peace process has from the beginning been based on false premises. After 30 years this peace “process” has not only failed to bring peace, it has heightened Arab terror, observes Sper, while world support for Israel’s cause has actually declined. Israeli concessions are invariably followed by demands for further concessions while her Palestinian enemies are portrayed as perpetual victims and never held responsible for their own actions. “This double standard for Jews has been around for a long time and has a name: anti-Semitism. The Jewish people must recognize it as such and treat it accordingly.” He warns Jews against allowing “the moral judgment of the nations who, for generation upon generation kept us imprisoned within ghetto walls” to discourage Israelis from protecting their national freedom. To survive, Israel must play by the same rules as other states and stop allowing them to dictate a unique standard, applicable only to her. “

The Jewish Problem defined

For the first time, this book attempts to define the Jewish problem: “The cause of Israel’s current problems and centuries of Jewish suffering are one and the same,” explains Sper: A strong trend within Judaism that in seeking to achieve a utopian moral purity has come to view power as evil in and of itself. This trend did not begin (or end) with "post-Zionism" or the Oslo accords of the 1990s but has ancient roots going back to the Pietist movement of the 2nd century B.C.E. This trend, the author believes, has largely hampered past- and present-day Israel’s ability to effectively deal with forces that seek to destroy her.

The Historic and Philosophical Origins of the Problem

Sper describes a great split in Judaism that began in the second century B.C.E. and runs like a fault line through all of Jewish history. Sper explores the two strains of Judaism, the first, a Judaism whose spirit crushed by Rome, and whose fear of the corruption of power led to a defeatism that has crippled Israel's sense of purpose even to this day. The second: the dynamic Judaism of King David, Esther and the Maccabees, a Judaism unafraid to engage and challenge the world; the Fourth (Zealot) Philosophy was ultimately suppressed by Rome and replaced by a pacified rabbinic Judaism.

Turning Point

The defeat of the Jews by Rome, following a titanic struggle lasting 700 years, observes Sper, marks the turning point of Jewish history. Prior to that, Judaism was a rapidly expanding religion and the Jewish people a major force in world affairs, says the author. Afterwards, the Jewish people, led by their Rabbis, began to turn in on themselves, notes Sper, while Christianity went on to conquer the world. And yet the authentic, ancient, Judaism of the Fourth Philosophy lives on in the hearts of the Jewish people as expressed in their prayers, their holidays, and their historic struggle to regain their land and their sovereignty. Sper explains why the resurrection of the Fourth Philosophy is the only path to a secure future for the Jewish people.

The Accumulation and Exercise of Power

Picking up where Theodore Hertzl's groundbreaking *The Jewish State* left off, Sper proposes a new direction and vision for the future of Israel. Sper argues that having regained state power, the Jewish people must abandon the defeatism imposed on them in a situation of utter powerlessness and relearn the accumulation and exercise of power. Sper outlines immediate actions Israel can and should take to declare and stabilize her borders and create a decent life for her citizens. He lays out a concrete long-term plan for rebuilding Israel's strength and stability and securing the Jewish future.

Israel's Destiny

Based on an original reinterpretation of Jewish history, Sper concludes that the world will not allow the Jews to exist in peace as a small people or a small state, i.e. that Israel can exist in peace only as a major power and that achieving this must now become the focus of the Jewish people. "For 2,000 years, we have attempted other solutions and failed. A hostile world has shown that she will accept us no other way." Sper acknowledges that the goal of bringing Israel to the level of a major power will take generations, but adds that the Jewish people have demonstrated nothing if not stamina and that this is in any case a matter of survival for the Jewish people. "Restore to modern Israel her original covenant and you have the makings of a great nation, you have the makings of a cause that will again shake the world."

Visionary yet practical, hard-hitting yet lyrical, *The Future of Israel* is a tour de force and must reading for anyone who cares about the Jewish people and the future of the State of Israel.

About Devin Sper

Born and raised in New York, Devin Sper emigrated to Israel, at the age of 17, just prior to the 1973 Yom Kippur War. He lived in Israel for ten years and has a degree in Jewish History from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and served three years in the Israel Defense Forces primarily on the Golan Heights and in Lebanon. Since returning to the United States in 1982, Sper has spoken in defense of Israel to numerous audiences at synagogues, universities, civic organizations, and military institutions. The president of Sper Scientific Ltd., he lives in the United States with his wife and two children.

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