

ment theory. In it the author presents material about apparent mistakes the Zionists made in populating Palestine during the early Mandate. Errors included poorly chosen land purchases, an overbearing bureaucratic style, clumsy intrusions into the economy, rigidity, and applying a one-size-fits-all technique to people. The worst blunder—they picked the wrong settlers, waving aside eager farmers in favor of intellectual dreamers.

Finally, when the Zionists needed financial support, they turned to the Diaspora, which responded. At first, the author found, the recipients felt wounded pride in implied dependence. But, she says, since “consensus and compromise were necessary,” they solved the problem, as follows (quote somewhat shortened): “Zionism’s ambition was to proclaim homeland and exile into bipolar opposites. This proving impossible, devaluation of the Diaspora experience and unquestioned presumption of exile are typically invoked.”

Readers seriously interested in Israel would do well to dip into this valuable work. Photographs would have been a welcome addition. Acknowledgement, bibliography, glossary, index. **JW**



THE WAR OF ATONEMENT: THE INSIDE STORY OF THE YOM KIPPUR WAR

Chaim Herzog

Casemate Publishers, 2009. 300 pp. \$32.95
ISBN: 978-1-935149-13-2

Casemate Publishers has reissued *The War of Atonement: The Inside Story of the Yom Kippur War* by Chaim Herzog. When this book was first published in 1975 it was widely acknowledged as one of the best accounts of the Yom Kippur War, and it still is. Herzog, who was Director of Israeli Military Intelligence, knew all the major decision-makers on the Israeli side. These relationships enabled him to provide useful background information and analysis.

There are many books recounting the battles between Egypt and Israel and Syria and Israel during the Yom Kippur War, but *The War of Atonement* also includes chapters concerning the abortive diplomatic efforts of the Arab states and Israel between the Six-Day War and the 1973 Yom Kippur War. These chapters are

particularly useful in explaining the causes of the Yom Kippur War by providing the relevant diplomatic and historical context.

The Yom Kippur War was the last major war fought between multiple Arab states and Israel. Most people recall that Egypt and Syria launched a surprise simultaneous attack against Israel on Yom Kippur. But by the war’s end, Israel was also fighting troops from Iraq, Morocco, and Jordan. During the war, Egypt and Israel engaged in the largest tank battle since the Battle of Kursk in World War II. In addition, this was the first war where the combatants engaged in naval battles using ship-to-ship guided missiles rather than naval guns or torpedoes.

In addition to providing a detailed account of each of the major battles as well as useful information on the political leaders and generals of both sides, the author recounts in detail the heroism of individual Israeli army units that were greatly outnumbered during the first few days of the war. In reading his account of the war, one is reminded that he was writing at a time when the Israeli army was at its peak and had not yet declined into an army characterized by tactical mediocrity.

The author was also prescient in many respects. In noting the Soviet Union’s shipment of FROG ballistic missiles to Syria and SCUD missiles to Egypt prior to the war, he wrote, “Civilian populations will be exposed to no less a degree than the military forces in any future war.” This prediction was borne out during the 1991 Gulf War when Iraq launched 39 SCUD missiles at Israeli cities as well as the 2006 Second Lebanon War when more than 1,000 rockets and missiles were launched against Israeli cities and towns. **GE**

MODERN JEWISH THOUGHT & EXPERIENCE



THE TEN COMMANDMENTS: HOW OUR MOST ANCIENT MORAL TEXT CAN RENEW MODERN LIFE

David Hazony

Scribner, 2010. 304 pp. \$26.00
ISBN: 978-1-4165-6235-1

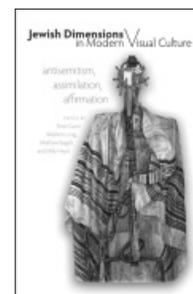
Although the Ten Commandments are frequently a subject of political and reli-

gious debate today, more a symbol than a living document, David Hazony argues that the Commandments still have profound significance. Hazony, former editor of the Israeli journal *Azure* and a frequent contributor to such publications as *The New Republic* and the blog of *Commentary*, analyzes each commandment using both traditional sources and personal experience to show how the Commandments can renew the spirit of redemption in an increasingly hectic and multitasking world.

The original intent of the Commandments was to create an orderly and just society. Interpreting the Commandments in this light, Hazony reveals the meanings that lie beneath these ten seemingly simple statements and their recognition of both human weakness and potential for redemption. Unfolding layer upon layer of meanings, Hazony draws us into ourselves, our sense of life’s purpose, and our ability to moderate our drive for personal and professional achievement in order to reach out to others and create the healthy, vibrant individual and communal world envisioned by the Commandments.

In his Introduction, Hazony states that his interpretation of the Commandments is based on his own thoughts about the Bible. As some may suggest that the rabbi of Talmud interpreted the Commandments in the light of their experience and society, readers may come away from Hazony’s *Ten Commandments* with a similar sense. But few readers will argue with Hazony’s deeply felt desire for greater understanding of ourselves and life’s joys and difficulties and for the need to recognize our ability and expand our efforts to better the world. **MLW**

SCHOLARSHIP



JEWISH DIMENSIONS IN MODERN VISUAL CULTURE: ANTISEMITISM, ASSIMILATION, AFFIRMATION

Rose-Carol Washton Long, Matthew Baigell and Milly Heyd, eds.

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This collection of previously published scholarly essays analyzes the art world of