

CONTEMPORARY  
**ISRAEL**

---

Domestic Politics,  
Foreign Policy, and  
Security Challenges

---

edited by

**Robert O. Freedman**

Johns Hopkins University



A Member of the Perseus Books Group

# Contents

<i>Preface</i>	<i>ix</i>
<i>Acknowledgments</i>	<i>xi</i>
<i>About the Authors</i>	<i>xii</i>
<i>Maps</i>	<i>xiv</i>
<i>Acronyms</i>	<i>xvii</i>

1 Introduction	1
<i>Robert O. Freedman</i>	

## PART ONE — ISRAEL'S DOMESTIC POLITICS

2 The Israeli Right	21
<i>Ilan Peleg</i>	
3 After Rabin: The Malaise of the Israeli Zionist Left	45
<i>Mark Rosenblum</i>	
4 Israel's Religious Parties	77
<i>Shmuel Sandler and Aaron Kampinsky</i>	
5 Israel's "Russian" Parties	97
<i>Vladimir (Ze'ev) Khanin</i>	
6 Israel's Arab Parties	115
<i>Hillel Frisch</i>	
7 Israel's Supreme Court	135
<i>Pnina Lahav</i>	
8 The Israeli Economy	159
<i>Ofira Seliktar</i>	

## PART TWO — ISRAEL'S FOREIGN POLICY

- |    |   |     |
|----|---|-----|
| 9  | Israel and the Palestinians<br><i>Barry Rubin</i>                         | 175 |
| 10 | Israel and the Arab World<br><i>David W. Lesch</i>                        | 197 |
| 11 | Israel's Strategic Relations with Turkey and India<br><i>Efraim Inbar</i> | 227 |
| 12 | Israel and the United States<br><i>Robert O. Freedman</i>                 | 253 |

PART THREE —  
ISRAEL'S SECURITY CHALLENGES

- |    |  |     |
|----|--|-----|
| 13 | Existential Threats to Israel<br><i>Steven R. David</i>                              | 299 |
| 14 | Israel's 2006 War with Hizbollah: The Failure of Deterrence<br><i>Elli Lieberman</i> | 317 |

- |  |                                   |     |
|--|-----------------------------------|-----|
|  | <i>Appendix: Election Results</i> | 355 |
|  | <i>Bibliography</i>               | 357 |
|  | <i>Index</i>                      | 367 |