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978-0-521-49925-5 - Security Threatened: Surveying Israeli Opinion on Peace and War
Asher Arian

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SECURITY THREATENED

Public opinion has played a crucial role in the transitions from war to peace in Israel since the 1967 Six Days war. *Security Threatened* is the first major analysis of the interactions among opinion, politics, and policy in that period, based on opinion surveys of thousands of adult Jews carried out in the 33-year period between 1962 and 1994.

The author documents the public division during these years between militant hardliners and those maintaining more conciliatory security positions. Power either shifted between, or was shared by, the right-wing Likud and left-of-center Labor parties. In the late 1980s and early 1990s, with the onset of the intifada, the collapse of the Soviet Union, and the American victory in the Gulf war, all segments of the Israeli public became more conciliatory.

Policy initiatives reflected shifts in political power which in turn magnified changes in public opinion. Leaders were constrained by public opinion and by perceptions of threat, but they could also alter policy if they had the will because opinion was rather equally divided; since most people had their minds made up, the opposition could not block their policy.

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*Surveying Israeli Opinion on Peace
and War*

ASHER ARIAN

The City University of New York and the University of Haifa



Jaffee Center for Strategic Studies
TEL AVIV UNIVERSITY

and



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The Center for Strategic Studies was established at Tel Aviv University at the end of 1977. In 1983 it was named the Jaffee Center for Strategic Studies in honor of Mr. & Mrs. Mel Jaffee. The objective of the Center is to contribute to the expansion of knowledge on strategic subjects and to promote public understanding of and pluralistic thought on matters of national and international security.

The Center relates to the concept of strategy in its broadest meaning, namely, the complex of processes involved in the identification, mobilization, and application of resources in peace and war, in order to solidify and strengthen national and international security.

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To Carol

– *who outdid herself* (Proverbs 31:29)

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Carol Gordon developed the notion of threat in a protracted conflict in her work, and it influenced mine. That influence is especially evident in the sections on the Gulf war in Chapter 3 and in Chapter 7, some of which was published as Arian and Gordon 1993. Raphael Ventura did much of the preliminary work on the nuclear weapons section of Chapter 3 and was one of the coauthors of the intifada article mentioned above.

In addition to those, earlier versions of some of the analyses appeared in articles I published in the *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, the *Public Opinion Quarterly*, and in the volume edited by Avner Yaniv, as listed in the bibliography. All are used here with the permission of the respective publishers.

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AA

Haifa, Israel