The War Inside

*The War Inside* is a groundbreaking history of the contribution of British psychoanalysis to the making of social democracy, childhood, and the family during World War II and the postwar reconstruction. Psychoanalysts informed understandings not only of individuals, but also of broader political questions. By asserting a link between a real “war outside” and an emotional “war inside,” psychoanalysts contributed to an increased state responsibility for citizens’ mental health. They made understanding children and the mother–child relationship key to the successful creation of a democratic citizenry. Using rich archival sources, the book revises the common view of psychoanalysis as an elite discipline by taking it out of the clinic and into the war nursery, the juvenile court, the state welfare committee, and the children’s hospital. It traces the work of the second generation of psychoanalysts after Freud in response to total war and explores its broad postwar effects on British society.

**Michal Shapira** is Assistant Professor of History and Gender Studies at Tel Aviv University. Her research deals with the domestic, socio-cultural, crossnational and imperial legacies of World War II in Britain and beyond.
In recent years the field of modern history has been enriched by the exploration of two parallel histories. These are the social and cultural history of armed conflict, and the impact of military events on social and cultural history.

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The War Inside

Psychoanalysis, Total War, and the Making of the Democratic Self in Postwar Britain

Michal Shapira
In memory of my relatives who were murdered by the Nazis in 1941–1942 in the area of Eastern Europe where the family had lived for centuries: my great-grandparents, Zelda Fenster (Sussman) (b. 1890, homemaker and farmer), Mayer Yacob Sussman (b. 1877 or 1880, merchant and farmer), and Faiga-Tzipora Just (b. 1871, homemaker); and my great-aunts, Toba (b. 1908, tailor), Eta (b. 1916 [or 1922], tailor), and Rachel Fenster (Sussman) (b. 1923), and Temma Tanenbaum (and her family) (b. 1896, homemaker).
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Acknowledgments

This book was conceived, researched, and written in New York, London, and Tel Aviv and I feel deeply grateful to have the support of my family, friends, colleagues, and mentors as well as the funding of a number of institutions. My first thanks are to my professors in Israel, where I had many fine teachers. Throughout the years, I particularly enjoyed the kind support of Billie Melman, a truly committed British historian and dedicated mentor, as well as that of Moshe Sluhovsky and Igal Halfin. At Rutgers University, my sincere gratitude goes to my dissertation advisor Bonnie G. Smith for her scholarly rigor, continuous and level-headed moral support, and the widest academic horizons. For me, she is the intellectual model of a historian. I also thank John R. Gillis, Joan W. Scott, Seth Koven, Temma Kaplan (the first to talk with me about Anna Freud), Donald R. Kelley, and Keith Wailoo, and truly everyone else in the history department. Special thanks go to Elizabeth Grosz for her intellectual guidance and real kindness. I thank everyone at Amherst College for my first full-time assistant professorship and for their collegiality, intellectual support, and assistance, especially Catharine Epstein, Margaret Hunt, and Bob Bezucha. At Barnard College and Columbia University, I was fortunate to have the best colleagues, mentors, and friends, and I am particularly indebted to Lisa Tiersten, Deborah Valenze, Samuel Moyn, Mark Mazower, Joel Kaye, Carl Wennerlind, Deborah Coen, Nara Milanich, Tarik Amar, Celia Naylor, Herb Sloane, and Gergely Baics. Each and every one of them has been so helpful at many different levels, and I have the deepest gratitude to all. I wholeheartedly thank Susan Pedersen for her generosity and ongoing support, her meticulous approach to the study of history, and our conversations on British studies and beyond.

I am grateful for the financial support of the history departments and graduate schools at Rutgers, Tel Aviv, Cambridge, Princeton, and Cornell Universities. I also thank the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation (for a travel fellowship and a British history seminar fellowship at
Columbia University) and the American Psychoanalytic Association (for the Fund for Psychoanalytic Research and for their general Fellowship Program). The completion of this book was also assisted by an ACLS New Faculty Fellow award with support of the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, and by the Thomas Arthur Arnold Fund, Tel Aviv University, and AFTAU. Thanks to all my co-fellows of the Mellon seminar of British history at Columbia University run by Susan Pedersen, the fellows of the American Psychoanalytic Association, the organizers of and participants in the Kandersteg Seminar of NYU’s Remarque Center, and those of the School of Criticism and Theory at Cornell. Thanks also to the organizers of various seminars and conferences who invited me to present my work and to my students throughout the years. Chapter 1 was published as “The Psychological Study of Anxiety in the Era of the Second World War,” Twentieth Century British History (January 25, 2012) and is here reproduced with changes with the journal’s permission. Chapter 4 was published in a different format as “Psychoanalysts on the Radio: Domestic Citizenship and Motherhood in Postwar Britain,” in Joanna Regulska and Bonnie G. Smith (eds.), Women and Gender in Postwar Europe: From Cold War to European Union (New York: Routledge, 2012), pp. 71–86, and appears here with Routledge’s permission.

Different scholars and individuals helped me in a variety of ways throughout my work on this book. I apologize for any accidental omissions from this list. I thank Daniel Pick, James Vernon, Peter Mandler, Michael Roper, Atina Grossmann, Chris Otter, Chris Waters, the late Elisabeth Young-Bruehl, Dagmar Herzog, Guy Ortolano, Veronika Fuechtnert, Dror Wahrman, Nikolas Rose, Denise Riley, Barbara Taylor, Sally Alexander, Matt ffytche, Lewis Aron, George Makari, Lesley Cladwell, Deborah Thom, Lisa Appignanesi, John Forrester, Jay Winter, Dori Laub, the late Tony Judt, Katherine Fleming, Elisabeth Roudinesco, Deborah Cohen, Alison Winter, Dominick LaCapra, Omer Bartov, Tara Zahra, Eileen Gillooly, Emma Winter, Robert Mills, Paddy Scannell, Jean Seaton, David Hendy, Sián Nicholas, Kristin Skoog, Suzanne Franks, Kate Murphy, Stephen Frosh, Alan Bass, Eduardo Duniec, Nellie Thompson, José Brunner, Amalia Ziv, Orly Lubin, Susan Grayzel, Rebecca Scales, Katherine McGilly, Judith Surkis, Teresa Delcorso, Dawn Ruskai, Rhea Cabin, Sully Rios, Eran Rolnik, Lawrence Black, Stephen Brooke, and Laura Lee Downs. Thanks to Yael Lev for help with the bibliography. Special thanks to everyone at Cambridge University Press, especially editor Michael Watson, Karen Anderson Howes, Chloe Dawson, Beata Mako, and to the readers of the typescript for their suggestions.
The staff at the Rutgers, Barnard, Columbia, and Amherst libraries, New York Public Library, NYU’s Bobst and Law Libraries, the British National Archives at Kew, and the British Library was of great help. I am also grateful to the teams at the archives of the British Institute of Psychoanalysis, the Wellcome Institute, the Tavistock Institute, the Centre for Crime and Justice Studies, the Freud Museum, the Wiener Library, the BBC Written Archives Centre (Trish Hayes in particular), the Institute of Education at the University of London, and the Kluge Research Fellowship staff at the Library of Congress. Analyst Elizabeth Spillius, Honorary Archivist of the Melanie Klein Collection, provided crucial help.


The book is dedicated to my family – old and new. It was written in an indirect dialogue with my extended Shapira, Just, Fenster, and Falkon family’s twentieth-century Jewish history in Europe, Canada, and Israel. My love and thanks to all family members. My special gratitude and love to my parents, Tzippi and Gadi, and my sister Mor Shapira for giving me unconditional support, and to my niece Maya for bringing much joy and laughter to life. I also thank with love Ely, Shoshana, and Nat Levin. In April 2002, I was extraordinarily lucky to meet Jessica Levin on a New York subway platform. Since then, she has shared everything with me, traveled with me between London, New York, and Tel Aviv, and has been constantly patient, calm, and supportive. She has always been the first to listen to my ideas and I am fortunate to have had her read and comment on my drafts. I could not have done anything without her love, encouragement, companionship, and humor (as well as movie viewing and occasional pop music appreciation). She makes life so much brighter and good in ways more than words here can express.