

THE OTHERS WITHIN US

Dan Bar-On's psychosocial approach sees identity as dynamic, constructed in contradistinction to various "Others." Drawing parallels to other societies, he looks most closely at identity formation among Israelis or, more precisely, among the largely secular Jews from European lands who formed the hegemonic backbone of Israeli society. The Others in question, Diaspora Jews, Jews from Muslim countries, and Arabs, represent repressed aspects of the collective self.

Case studies and analysis depict various stages in identity formation, as do "personal windows" onto the author as he experienced these stages. Monolithic identity construction characterized Israel's early years, but this began to disintegrate with the passing of time, in ways that were often painful and confusing, though necessary in the view of Bar-On and others. A neo-monolithic backlash has been the response to the disintegration stage in recent years. Yet the book holds out the possibility of a constructive dialogue, internal and among groups in society, that will give rise to a better-integrated and more inclusive identity construction.

Dan Bar-On is a professor of psychology in the department of behavioral sciences at Ben-Gurion University of the Negev. He is also the co-director of PRIME (Peace Research Institute in the Middle East) near Beit Jala in the West Bank. He is the author of several books, among them *Legacy of Silence: Encounters with Children of the Third Reich*, *Fear and Hope: Three Generations of Holocaust Survivors' Families*, *The Indescribable and the Undiscussable*, and *Tell Your Life Story*. In 1996, he was awarded the David Lopatie Chair for Post-Holocaust Psychological Studies. In 2001, he received the Bundesverdienstkreuz First Class from German President Dr. Johannes Rau. In 2003, he received the Eric Maria Remarque Peace Prize in Osnabrück, Germany. In 2005, he and Professor Sami Adwan, with whom he co-directs PRIME, received the Victor J. Goldberg IIE Prize for Peace in the Middle East and the EAEA Third Out-of-Europe Grundtvig Award on Active Citizenship in a Democratic Society. In 2007, they received a Fulbright scholarship at Monmouth University in New Jersey, U.S.A.

THE OTHERS WITHIN US

Constructing Jewish-Israeli
Identity

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To our children: Yariv, who did not live to see all the changes, and Yaarah, Oren, Shani, Nirit, Erez, and Haran. They have accompanied me quite a distance during my transition from monolithic identity to dialogue, while I have taken part in their own transitions.

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Acknowledgments

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Dan Bar-On
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