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978-1-107-42803-4 - Tested by Zion: The Bush Administration and the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict

Elliott Abrams

Frontmatter

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This book tells the full inside story of the George W. Bush administration and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Written by a top National Security Council officer who worked at the White House with Bush, Dick Cheney, and Condoleezza Rice and attended dozens of meetings with figures like Ariel Sharon, Hosni Mubarak, the kings of Jordan and Saudi Arabia, and Palestinian leaders, it brings the reader inside the White House and the palaces of Middle Eastern officials. How did 9/11 change American policy toward Yasser Arafat and Sharon's tough efforts against the Second Intifada? What influence did the Saudis have on President Bush? Did the American approach change when Arafat died? How did Sharon decide to get out of Gaza, and why did the peace negotiations fail? In the first book by an administration official to focus on Bush and the Middle East, Elliott Abrams brings the story of Bush, the Israelis, and the Palestinians to life.

Elliott Abrams was educated at Harvard College, Harvard Law School, and the London School of Economics. After working on the staffs of the late Senators Henry M. Jackson and Daniel P. Moynihan, he served all eight years of the Reagan administration as an assistant secretary of state and received the Secretary's Distinguished Service Award from Secretary of State George P. Shultz. Abrams is former president of the Ethics and Public Policy Center in Washington, DC. He was a member and later chairman of the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom from 1999 to 2001, and he was reappointed to membership in 2012. He is currently a member of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Council, which directs the activities of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum. Abrams is the author or editor of six books. He served at the White House as a deputy assistant to the president and deputy national security advisor in the administration of President George W. Bush, where he supervised U.S. policy in the Middle East. Abrams is now a Senior Fellow for Middle Eastern studies at the Council on Foreign Relations and teaches about U.S. policy in the Middle East at Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service.

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“Elliott Abrams has written an excellent book on a hitherto neglected aspect of Bush administration foreign policy. Meticulous and yet gripping, *Tested by Zion* weighs the opportunities for diplomacy against its limitations more convincingly than any other account I’ve seen of the recent Israeli-Palestinian relationship. Highly recommended.”

– John Lewis Gaddis, Yale University

“The book is not only a fascinating yarn for those of us who report on or follow closely the Middle East but also a tour de force of diplomatic history which captures an era and set of characters like few books have done.”

– Jennifer Rubin, *The Washington Post*

“Israelis, Americans, and others who read *Tested by Zion* will gain important insights not only into the history and nature of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict but also the inner workings of American foreign policy.”

– Itamar Rabinovich, *Jewish Review of Books*

“... [*Tested by Zion*] represents the single most cogent statement of the neoconservative analysis of the Arab-Israeli conflict.”

– Michael Doran, *The Weekly Standard*

“... *Tested by Zion* will be catnip for anyone interested in diplomatic history or the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Abrams’s account of the difficult choices faced by the administration – and the policy decisions it made – will fuel endless debate for generations of students studying international affairs.”

– Glenn Kessler, *Washington Post*

“From his experience as a senior adviser on the U.S. National Security Council, Abrams provides an intelligent and astonishingly detailed chronicle of the George W. Bush administration’s failed attempts at solving the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.”

– John Waterbury, *Foreign Affairs*

“... Abrams’ work constitutes a very important addition to the library of books by American officials on Washington’s role in Middle East peacemaking.”

– Oded Eran, *The Israel Journal of Foreign Affairs*

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## Tested by Zion

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“If liberty can blossom in the rocky soil of the West Bank and Gaza, it will inspire millions of men and women around the globe who are equally weary of poverty and oppression, equally entitled to the benefits of democratic government.”

George W. Bush, Speech in the Rose Garden, the White House,  
June 24, 2002

“Israel’s population may be just over 7 million. But when you confront terror and evil, you are 307 million strong, because America stands with you.”

George W. Bush, Speech to the Knesset, Jerusalem, May 15, 2008

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*For Rachel, of course*



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