

Zionism's Redemptions

In this volume, Arieh Saposnik examines the complicated relations between nationalism and religious (and nonreligious) redemptive traditions through the case study of Zionism. He provides a new framework for understanding the central ideas of this movement and its relationship to traditional Jewish ideas, Christian thought, and modern secular messianisms. Providing a longue-durée and broad view of the central themes and motivations in the making of Zionism, Saposnik connects its intellectual history with the concrete development of the Zionist project in Israel in its cultural, social, and political history. Saposnik demonstrates how Zionism offers lessons for a politics in which human perfectibility continues to serve as a guiding light and as a counternarrative to the contemporary politics of self-interest, selfpromotion, and "post-truth." This is a study that bears implications for our understanding of modernity, of space and place, of history and historical trajectories, and of the place of Jews and Judaism in the modern world.

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Images of the Past and Visions of the Future in Jewish Nationalism

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"To ignore the paradox is to miss the truth."

-Abraham Joshua Heschel



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Two of the book's chapters appeared in earlier forms as an article and a book chapter. An earlier version of Chapter 3 appeared as "The Desert Comes to Zion – A Narrative Ends its Wandering," in *Exodus in the Jewish Experience – Echoes and Reverberations*, edited by Pamela Barmash and W. David Nelson (Lexington Books, 2015). Similarly, an earlier version of much of Chapter 6 appeared as "Wailing Walls and Iron Walls: The Western Wall as Sacred Symbol in Zionist National Iconography," in the *American Historical Review* 120:5 (December 2015). I am thankful to Lexington Books and to the *American Historical Review* for permission to republish these (in modified form) as chapters in the present book.

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