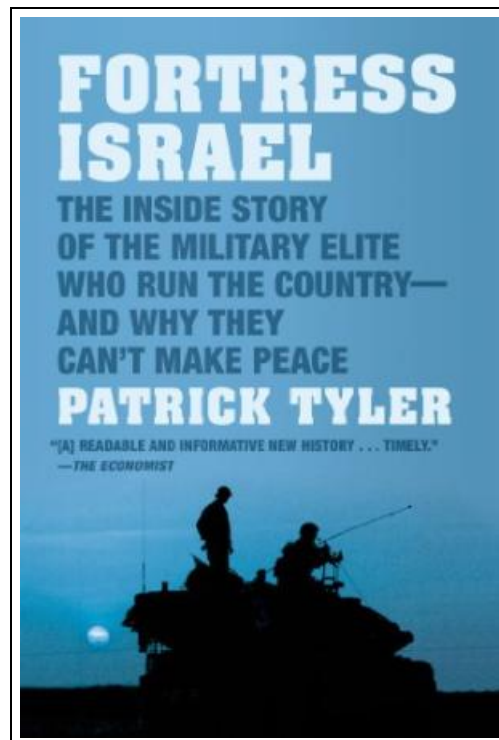


Fortress Israel: The Inside Story of the Military Elite Who Run the Country and Why They Can't Make Peace



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FORTRESS ISRAEL: THE INSIDE STORY OF THE MILITARY ELITE WHO RUN THE COUNTRY AND WHY THEY CANT MAKE PEACE

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Farrar Straus Giroux. Paperback. Condition: New. 576 pages. Dimensions: 8.4in. x 5.8in. x 1.6in. Once in the military system, Israelis never fully exit, writes the prizewinning journalist Patrick Tyler in the prologue to Fortress Israel. They carry the military identity for life, not just through service in the reserves until age forty-nine . . . but through lifelong expectations of loyalty and secrecy. The military is the country to a great extent, and peace will only come, Tyler argues, when Israels military elite adopt it as the national strategy. Fortress Israel is an epic portrayal of Israels martial culture of Sparta presenting itself as Athens. From Israels founding in 1948, we see a leadership class engaged in an intense ideological struggle over whether to become the light unto nations, as envisioned by the early Zionists, or to embrace an ideology of state militarism with the objective of expanding borders and exploiting the weaknesses of the Arabs. In his first decade as prime minister, David Ben-Gurion conceived of a militarized society, dominated by a powerful defense establishment and capable of defeating the Arabs in serial warfare over many decades. Bound by self-reliance and a stern resolve never to forget the Holocaust, Israels military elite has prevailed in war but has also at times overpowered Israels democracy. Tyler takes us inside the military culture of Moshe Dayan, Yitzhak Rabin, Ariel Sharon, and Benjamin Netanyahu, introducing us to generals who make decisions that trump those of elected leaders and who disdain diplomacy as appeasement or surrender. Fortress Israel shows us how this martial culture envelops every family. Israeli youth go through three years of compulsory military service after high school, and acceptance into elite commando units or air force squadrons brings lasting prestige and a network for life. So ingrained is the martial outlook and...



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