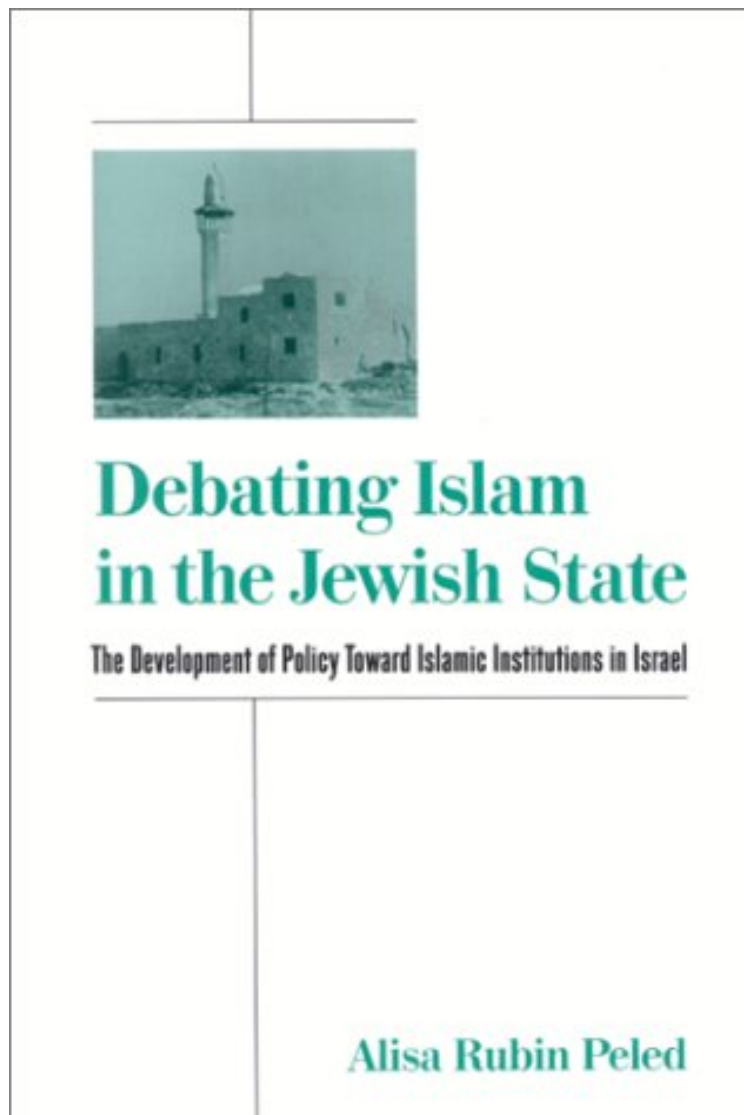


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## Debating Islam in the Jewish State: The Development of Policy Toward Islamic Institutions in Israel (Suny Series in Israeli Studies)

*Alisa Rubin Peled*

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**Alisa Rubin Peled : Debating Islam in the Jewish State: The Development of Policy Toward Islamic Institutions in Israel (Suny Series in Israeli Studies)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Debating Islam in the Jewish State: The Development of Policy Toward Islamic Institutions in Israel (Suny Series in Israeli Studies):

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Israel Muslim Religion-Protection Issues (1950-2000)By William Garrison Jr.For such of a small county, so many history, political, religious and legal disputes. The author attempts in a brief 158 pages to discuss the high-lights of the issue as to: how well did the emerging Jewish state attempt to protect minority (Muslim Christian) religious sites and their supporting financial programs? (The remaining 80 pages [the last third of the book] are filled with appendices, notes and bibliography.) Some of the Content topics are: The struggle for jurisdiction over Muslim affairs; Behor Shitrit and the Ministry of Minority Affairs; Conflicting reports; The search for a model for Muslim communal affairs; Joshua Palmon; Accounting for waqf finances; Taher al-Tabari; Establishing legal foundations for the Sharia court system and qadi appointments; The Muslim voice; The foreign policy dimension; Incidents of neglect regarding Muslim holy places; Protection of holy places; the rise of Arab nationalism in the minority schools; Israel's Islamic policy: a mosaic of motives and ministries; and UN involvement. In one aspect, the author has chosen many topics to discuss, but can only briefly discuss them. The author depicts some of the Israeli governments attempt to respect and protect Islamic institutions, however, during the late 1950s-1960s "policies were also designed to prevent any Muslim organization or institution from developing into a center of national leadership with the ability to mobilize the minority community." With the Israeli military victory in the Six Day War, the author opined: "By 1967, a crises of succession developed as the demise of Muslim religious instruction in the state resulted in the collapse of the Muslim intelligentsia...as a consequence...a national grassroots Islamist Movement has emerged to fill this leadership vacuum" (p. 3). The author wrote this book in 2000 after gaining access to declassified government documents. From these documents the author briefly documents the many conflicts within the government's programs to enhance the viability of its Muslim citizens. The main debate revolved around "how much" autonomy should be granted to the Muslim academicians; an unresolved topic still today [2009] - and one that continues to `evolve' with Palestinian unrest. The author noted: "Islamist leader Raed Salah leads a group of about 500 volunteers to work on Temple Mount renovations almost every Saturday. All of these episodes point to a rising assertiveness in the quest to reassert control over Islamic institutions" (p. 157). Israelis are concerned that the Muslim `archeologists' are really more interested in locating and destroying any Jewish artifacts found on the Mount [a holy Islamic site], in order to lessen any Israeli claim to what they contend is the site of their Second Temple - and what is supposed to be the foundation for their future Third Temple. An all-to-brief look at many complex issues, perhaps a book for the more discerning religious-legal scholar.

Covers Israel's policy toward Islamic institutions within its borders, 1948-2000.

Peled discusses a very important topic the Islamic movement in Israel and relates it to the wider topic of Islamic movements in the Arab world. This is essential reading in the study of Arab-Jewish relations in Israel, and also contributes to the scholarship on majority-minority relations in ethnically divided societies. Mohammed Abu-Nimer, author of Dialogue, Conflict Resolution, and Change: Arab-Jewish Encounters in Israel""Peled discusses a very important topic--the Islamic movement in Israel--and relates it to the wider topic of Islamic movements in the Arab world. This is essential reading in the study of Arab-Jewish relations in Israel, and also contributes to the scholarship on majority-minority relations in ethnically divided societies." -- Mohammed Abu-Nimer, author of Dialogue, Conflict Resolution, and Change: Arab-Jewish Encounters in IsraelFrom the Back CoverUsing declassified documents from Israeli archives, Alisa Rubin Peled explores the development, implementation, and reform of the state's Islamic policy from 1948 to 2000. She addresses how Muslim communal institutions developed and whether Israel formulated a distinct "Islamic policy" toward shari'a courts, waqf (charitable endowments), holy places, and religious education. Her analysis reveals the contradictions and nuances of a policy driven by a wide range of motives and implemented by a diverse group of government authorities, illustrating how Israeli policies produced a co-opted religious establishment lacking popular support and paved the way for a daring challenge by a grassroots Islamist Movement since the 1980s. As part of a wider debate on early Israeli history, she challenges the idea that Israeli policy was part of a greater monolithic policy toward the Arab minority.About the AuthorAlisa Rubin Peled is Lecturer in the Department of Public Policy and Administration at Ben-Gurion University of the Negev.