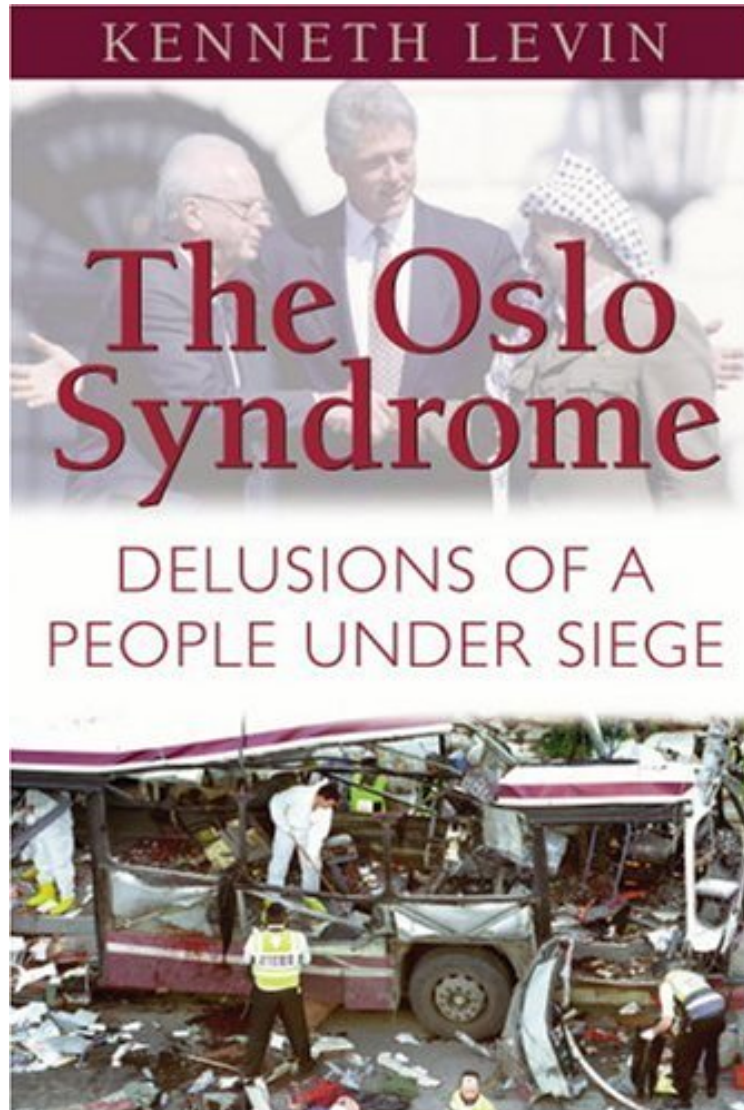


The Oslo Syndrome: Delusions Of A People Under Siege

Kenneth Levin

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Kenneth Levin : The Oslo Syndrome: Delusions Of A People Under Siege before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Oslo Syndrome: Delusions Of A People Under Siege:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Essential reading for understanding how Israeli Jews sometimes exhibit self- defeating activities in the pursuit of "peace"By SKLevin, a Harvard psychiatrist and historian, explains how even many Israeli Jews show a penchant for suicidal thoughts and deeds. Should be read in conjunction with Jewish Self- Hatred, by Levin, who is also a psychiatrist. I have purchased a few copies to give to others.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy KarenBrilliant book by a brilliant man.34 of 38 people found the

following review helpful. A Unique History of the Delusions of an Oppressed People By Henry Oliner Why would the Israelis and the Jews sacrifice everything for a shallow peace accord with a "peace partner" who increases terror attacks, indoctrinates intensely virulent anti-Semitism at all levels of education and the media, and continues to vow annihilation of the state they feign to be negotiating peace with? Kenneth Levin's answer approaches a perspective that is different from much of the current histories of the region. Levin illuminates a delusion that is the result of the stress of five decades of being under siege, and the result of centuries of demonization in Europe. He explores the history of the responses of the Jews in Europe to the hatred that spanned centuries and the futility of the Jews who vainly sought to appease their state sponsored tormentors by trying ever harder to assimilate. Ultimately the more they tried to assimilate the more the host nations persecuted them. Thus in spite of serving heroically in the German army in WWI they were ultimately rewarded with the holocaust. The delusion that was Oslo was just a continuation of a desire of the Jewish community to either fit in or be left in peace. But it was also a delusion that the Jews could control the will of another party by giving more and more concessions, even when nothing is given in return. It is a unique form of arrogance and is ultimately self destructive. The siege is not likely to end soon and Levin's prescription for Israel's survival is to educate its people on the history and moral purpose underlying the existence of the nation. Under Oslo many in the Israeli educational establishment pushed a curriculum that diminished the Jewish history and culture in favor of a more universalist approach. Revisionist historians embellished this approach with an anti Zionist slant to the story of Israel's history. Levin retorts the revisionists, but draws parallels to much of the self criticism from the Jews in Europe hoping to appease their state sponsors. Meanwhile the Palestinian educational structure, in clear defiance of Oslo, taught that the Jews had no right to the land or any historical connection to it and that it was their divine moral purpose to drive the Jews from their homeland. The results of Oslo have taught what the Jews should have learned from centuries of oppression: that while it takes two people to make peace; it only takes one to make a war. This book is a wonderful addition to the writings and analysis of the situation in Israel and is uniquely illuminating. I highly recommend it.

The Oslo Syndrome examines the Oslo debacle in which Israel sought to win peace through territorial and other concessions even as Palestinian leaders assured their people their objective was still Israel's destruction. Psychiatrist and historian Kenneth Levin relates Oslo to the long history of Jews under siege, subjected to defamation, discrimination and other abuses, seeking to end the assaults through self-blame and accommodation to their oppressors.

From Publishers Weekly While the subject of this study is specific "the delusional thinking that underlay Israel's attempt to achieve peace with its neighbors through the so-called Oslo process" the author's interests and conclusions are wide-ranging. Levin, a clinical instructor of psychiatry at Harvard Medical School and a commentator on Israeli politics, attempts to analyze why many Israeli Jews chose to believe in the peace negotiations of the early 1990s, even when Yasser Arafat was refusing calls to publicly renounce terrorism. Levin analyzes this through both historical and psychoanalytic lenses, mapping out how people who have lived under siege are likely to internalize the hatred they encounter and become "delusional" about their own self-interest. Levin also discusses European and American anti-Semitism and its effect on Jewish identity, from the mid-19th century to 1948, with some background material on the emergence of Zionism and the British Mandate. While the word "delusional" may be too strong, Levin's psychoanalytic arguments about the "corrosive impact of... besiegement" are fascinating and generally persuasive. But once stated, their truth becomes self-evident and their explanatory application over 600 pages of Jewish and Israeli history begins to feel thin. Levin's documentation of the Arab-Israeli conflicts of the past three decades is exhaustive, but while there is mention of the U.S. response to the 9/11 attacks, Levin might have spent more time exploring how his ideas affect other countries or political situations. (June) Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. "...Levin is concerned with a pathology that has prompted the Jews....to embrace the false promise of peace...." -- WASHINGTON TIMES, June 1, 2005 "Israel's Deadly Illusions" "...tells the appalling story of what has been called the greatest self-inflicted wound of political history...." -- NEW YORK POST, June 13, 2005 "Ken Levin explains why so many Jews and Israelis delude themselves about the malevolent intentions of their enemies..." -- Ruth Wisse, Martin Peretz Professor of Yiddish Literature and Professor of Comparative Literature, Harvard University "Kenneth Levin....has written a definitive, magisterial book about what went wrong during the Oslo era." -- JERUSALEM POST, June 1, 2005 "That Arafat would honor what he undertook to do in the Oslo accords is but one false belief referenced ..." -- Fred Frankel, Professor Emeritus of Psychiatry, Harvard Medical School. "The Oslo Syndrome is an indispensable contribution to understanding the roots of the Oslo process" -- Yossi Klein Halevi, Senior Fellow, the Shalem Center, and Israel correspondent for The New Republic. "This book is a major endeavor of using both psychoanalytic and historical methods to explain the Oslo phenomenon." -- JERUSALEM CENTER FOR POLICY ANALYSIS, April 15, 2005 "this hugely interesting, highly informed and very timely work is a must read ..." -- Professor Efraim Karsh, Head, Mediterranean Studies Programme King's College, University of London. Levin's book analyzes why so many Israeli Jews saw promise..despite Yassar Arafat's public refusals to renounce terrorism. -- The Dartmouth, October 11, 2005 This is the title of an important new book by Dr. Kenneth Levin, a psychiatrist and

historian. -- Center for Security Policy, Decision Brief, May 2005
From the Inside Flap
In the 1993 Oslo accords, Israel embraced Yasser Arafat as its "peace partner." It then installed him in Gaza and the West Bank as head of a nascent Palestinian government, allowed him to bring with him some 7,000 of his loyalist gunmen, and provided the gunmen with weapons, even as Arafat continued to support terrorist attacks on Israelis and to assure Palestinians and other Arabs his goal remained Israel's destruction. Why did Israel pursue the path of Oslo? Why did it persist on that path when, in the wake of the initial Oslo agreements, the Palestinians unleashed an unprecedented wave of anti-Israel terror? Palestinian leaders also routinely called for holy war against Israel and compared Oslo to the Treaty of Hudaibiya, which Mohammed had signed in 628 and abandoned when his forces became strong enough to overwhelm his adversaries. Arafat and his subordinates told Arab audiences that Oslo was a step in the PLO's 1974 "plan of phases," a strategy of acquiring whatever land could be won by negotiations and using that territory as a base for pursuing Israel's annihilation. Yet Israel responded with additional concessions. What psychological, historical and communal forces spawned policies that undermined Israel's security and even threatened its survival? Dr. Levin's original and powerfully persuasive analysis relates Israeli diplomacy of the nineteen-nineties to psychological responses common among chronically besieged populations, whether minorities subjected to defamation, discrimination and assault or small nations under chronic attack by their neighbors. More particularly, he demonstrates links between the evolution of Oslo and the long history of Diaspora Jews being subjected to persistent abuse. The reaction of many enduring such abuse was to seek to improve their predicament by endorsing elements of the surrounding societies' bigoted indictments and embracing delusions of salvation through self-effacement and concessions. This case study in the psychology of a community under chronic attack takes on broader significance at a time when even traditionally safe and secure societies such as the United States are confronting the psychological challenges posed by terrorist assaults.