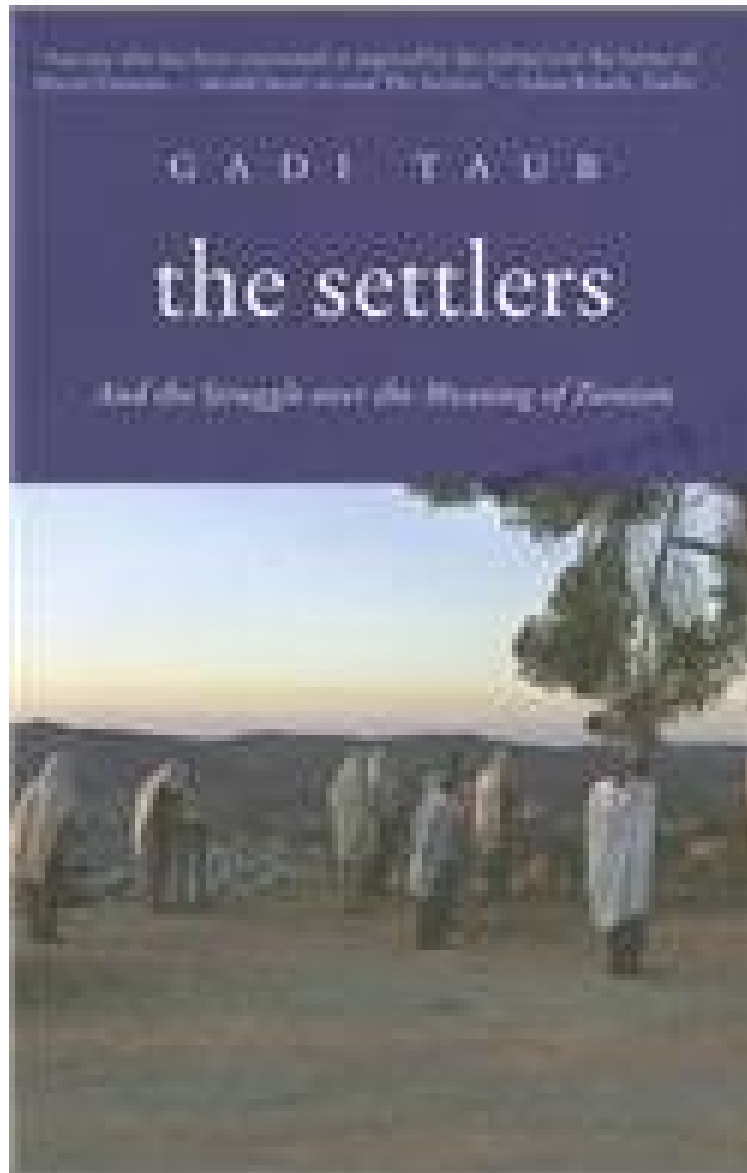


[Download] The Settlers and the Struggle over the Meaning of Zionism

## The Settlers and the Struggle over the Meaning of Zionism

Gadi Taub

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**Gadi Taub : The Settlers and the Struggle over the Meaning of Zionism** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Settlers and the Struggle over the Meaning of Zionism:

8 of 10 people found the following review helpful. Not what I expectedBy Matthew SmithThis book wasn't at all what I expected, instead of a look at the settlers themselves this book is an exploration of the settler ideology of the later

movements. This book doesn't look at the early leftist settlers, but instead examines the right's version of the settler movement. The author looks at the settler's leaders and how they intellectualize their movement. What the author shows is that this movement is in no way static but ever evolving with the times. This makes them more difficult to confront because they are willing to change their arguments to better fit the times. The problem with this fluidity for the settlers is that it ultimately makes their movement shallow and intellectually hollow. The author follows this movement from its inception as a messianic movement designed to initiate the end times by reclaiming all of the holy land. After the seemingly miraculous victory in 67 it seemed that their movement was God's will, but as the years past and the victory proved not to be the initiator of the end times but a much more ambiguous victory which produced more questions than answers the settlers ideology lost some of its luster. This is the crux of the work. What started out as a messianic movement has morphed several times into many different things. It pragmatically evolved into a movement of security. As vanguards of the security establishment's vision of providing the state with strategic depth their ideology became a mix of religion and secular military considerations. This allowed them the best of both worlds in that they became the brave, stoic settlers in a harsh land like the earlier settlers but they could also keep their religious undertones as well. What this book does well is give readers a straight line narrative of how the philosophical underpinnings of this movement has adapted to the very precarious position of a human rights issue today. The author alludes to the fact that this evolution will be the movements downfall because they cannot justify their existence on the same plain as the more secular governments pragmatic considerations. The author suggests since their messianic mission has failed they have been forced from the ethereal realm to the pragmatic secular world, and this is a realm where they have little intellectual or philosophical backing. The author may be correct, and his discussion of the, realistic, ease of dismantling some of the settlements may bear his arguments out, but I am not sure how gently these settlers may go into that good night. Israel has deep fissures and any confrontation has the ability to open some of these up. In the end we will see because the flow of history seems to be against these settlers. This is a very interesting book that treats its topic very well. The author obviously knows his subject thoroughly and that comes through. Anyone looking to understand the settlers and their movement will be remiss if they skip this excellent work. I highly recommend this book.

3 of 5 people found the following review helpful. A lot of potential, very little follow through

By Christopher M. Whitman Jr. Gadi Taub, a professor at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem where I go, writes a book about the religious and religious Zionist settlers in the West Bank and Gaza. The book reads like long editorials instead of an academic or scholarly work. He put a good amount of personal research, meaning going to settlements and talking to them, but not much academic research. The book is a bit disorganized and does not do in depth analysis. It has some very interesting points and questions brought up but is not consistently coherent. He jumps around so much and gives little new information. The book is a rather quick read and a good introduction to one sect of the settler movement, but there are many other better books for more analysis/history. He seems to be writings from a "why can't we go back to the good ole labor" days instead of really delving into the subject of religious Zionism. He seems to be yearning for a golden age of Zionism, and not its most recent form, which muddles the book's points greatly. Lastly, where he does little to no research he relies on narrative instead of researching the subject and pushes the narrative as fact. The first part of the "Disengagement" chapter is a perfect example of this where he relies on Israeli narrative of Camp David II, and the narrative of Khartoum in 1967, angers the reader.

8 of 12 people found the following review helpful. excellent sharp intelligent book

By Robbie Gringras Gadi Taub writes clearly and sharply about the nature of Zionism, and how the settlements are its antithesis. It's a book for any lover of Israel who hates the occupation. Here is the book to help you articulate why the settlements are the enemies of a democratic Jewish state, without spouting ill-informed anti-zionsim. Taub is pro-Israel, anti-settlements, and provides his readers with the balance to keep walking on the tightrope.

The controversy over settlements in the occupied territories is a far more intractable problem for Israel than is widely perceived, Gadi Taub observes in this illuminating book. The clash over settlement is no mere policy disagreement, he maintains, but rather a struggle over the very meaning of Zionism. The book presents an absorbing study of religious settlers ideology and how it has evolved in response to Israel's history of wars, peace efforts, assassination, the pull-out from Gaza, and other tumultuous events. Taub tracks the efforts of religious settlers to reconcile with mainstream Zionism but concludes that the project cannot succeed. A new Zionist consensus recognizes that Israel must pull out of the occupied territories or face an unacceptable alternative: the dissolution of Israel into a binational state with a Jewish minority.

From Booklist Jewish settlements in occupied territories have always been a particular point of contention in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Taub examines them through the lens of Zionism, which he argues has always been an explicitly secular and democratic movement that seeks political self-determination for the Jews. A small minority, however, define Zionism as the redemption of the Land of Israel, not the establishment of political independence in the state of Israel, thereby justifying settlements. His thesis is that settlements are a manifestation of an underlying struggle concerning the definition of Zionism itself and not simply an internal political debate. By clearly and concisely tracing

the history of religious Zionists and examining their ideology, settlement activities, and shifting political rhetoric, Taub does a great service presenting a very complex situation that, viewed from afar, may seem quite simple. -- Christopher McConnell "Anyone who has been concerned or angered by the debate over the future of liberal Zionism ... should hurry to read "The Settlers.""--Adam Kirsch, "Tablet Magazine"--Adam Kirsch "Tablet Magazine "About the AuthorGadi Taub is assistant professor, Department of Communications and the School of Public Policy, Hebrew University of Jerusalem.