A Death in Jerusalem

By Kati Marton

Genre: Middle East

Release Date: 1994-11-08

A Death in Jerusalem by Kati Marton is Middle East On the evening of September 17, 1948, a car carrying Count Folke Bernadotte, the first United Nations-appointed mediator in the Middle East, traveled up a narrow Jerusalem street. As the car shifted gears for the climb toward the New City, an Israeli Army jeep nosed into the road, forcing Bernadotte’s car and the two following him to come to a full stop. From the jeep sprang three uniformed men clutching automatic weapons. In a moment that set the stage for a legacy of violence that has since characterized Arab-Israeli negotiations, Count Bernadotte was shot six times and killed. The assassins were never brought to justice. A Death in Jerusalem reveals the forces behind this assassination, the passion that first dictated the tactics of terrorism in Israel and that continue to shape the thinking and actions of those even now determined to block accommodation with the Palestinians. At its birth in 1948, the State of Israel was endangered as much by a fratricidal war between Jewish moderates and extremists as it was by the invading armies of its Arab neighbors. In the first test of its authority, the fledgling United Nations forged a temporary truce between Arabs and Jews and dispatched Count Bernadotte to negotiate a permanent peace. A Swede with a reputation for skillful negotiations with the Nazis for the release of prisoners, including Jewish concentration-camp victims, Bernadotte had seemed the ideal choice for mediator. But he was dangerously unversed in the Israeli underground’s passionate visions of a homeland restored to its biblical geographical proportions. To the Stern Gang, led by future Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, any concession of land was as threatening to Israel’s integrity as the Arabs’ invading armies. And the Sternists did not trust Count Bernadotte, whom they saw as threatening Israel’s claim to the holy city of Jerusalem. As Bernadotte prepared his plan for the allocation of disputed territory, the Stern Gang plotted his murder. Drawing on previously untapped sources, including Bernadotte’s family and former Stern Gang members, Kati Marton tells the vivid and haunting story of what propelled the Sternists, how they achieved their goal, and how and why the assassins were shielded from prosecution. From the Hardcover edition.

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Israel zegt geen sorry meer

By: Derk Walters

Per 1 juli 2017 kreeg Derk Walters geen nieuwe werkvergunning meer van de Israëlische autoriteiten, waarmee er een einde kwam aan zijn tijd als buitenlandcorrespondent voor NRC Handelsblad. De krant schreef het besluit niet anders te kunnen zien dan als ‘een poging van Israël
om vrije en kritische nieuwsgaring over dat land te belemmeren’. In zijn boek beschrijft Walters zijn uitzetting als een goed voorbeeld van Israëls toenemende zelfverzekerdheid. Zo schaamt het land zich niet langer voor de bezetting, maar zegt het nu openlijk: de Westelijke Jordanoever behoort ons toe. Voor een buitenlandse journalist betekent dit extra inzet en scherpere, meedogenloosheid wat betreft de feiten en een rechte rug. In Israël zegt geen sorry meer schrijft Derk Walters aan de hand van zijn eigen ervaringen over de druk die wordt uitgeoefend door de autoriteiten, en op de sociale media. Israël levert een continue pr-strijd, die volgens het land zelf letterlijk van levensbelang is. Maar waar brengt dit Israël naartoe? Derk Walters was correspondent voor NRC Handelsblad met als standplaatsen Tel Aviv en Oost-Jeruzalem. Vanaf juli 2017 ontzegde Israël hem zijn werkvergunning, als reactie op zijn kritische stukken. Walters werkt momenteel als recensent non-fictie bij de NRC-boekenredactie.

**Islamic State**

By : Abdel Bari Atwan

Islamic State (also known as ISIS, ISIL, and Daesh) stunned the world when it overran an area the size of Great Britain on both sides of the Iraq-Syria border in a matter of weeks and proclaimed the birth of a new Caliphate. In this timely and important book, Abdel Bari Atwan draws on his unrivaled knowledge of the global jihadi movement and Middle Eastern geopolitics to reveal the origins and modus operandi of Islamic State. Based on extensive field research and exclusive interviews with IS insiders, Islamic State outlines the group's leadership structure, as well as its strategies, tactics, and diverse methods of recruitment. Atwan traces the Salafi-jihadi lineage of IS, its ideological differences with al Qaeda and the deadly rivalry that has emerged between their leaders. He also shows how the group's rapid growth has been facilitated by its masterful command of social media platforms, the "dark web," Hollywood blockbuster-style videos, and even jihadi computer games, producing a powerful paradox where the ambitions of the Middle Ages have reemerged in cyberspace. As Islamic State continues to dominate the world's media headlines with horrific acts of ruthless violence, Atwan considers the movement's chances of survival and expansion and offers indispensable insights on potential government responses to contain the IS threat.

**The Evolution of a Revolt**

By : T.E. Lawrence

This short (22 page) article by T.E. Lawrence (a.k.a. Lawrence of Arabia) was first published in the Army Quarterly in 1920. It is incredibly concise and well written. It contains all of the major analysis and conclusions of Seven Pillars of Wisdom (his book and most famous work) without the narrative of his war experiences. It is the "cliff notes" to Lawrence, written by Lawrence himself. It is essential reading for anyone with an interest in World War I, the Arab world, military history, unconventional, irregular, or guerrilla warfare.

**Israel**

By : Michael Brenner

Israel Is Real

By : Rich Cohen

"It's a great irony that Israel was more secure as an idea than it's ever been as a nation with an army." In AD 70, when the Second Temple was destroyed, a handful of visionaries saved Judaism by reinventing it—by taking what had been a national religion, identified with a particular place, and turning it into an idea. Jews no longer needed Jerusalem to be Jews. Whenever a Jew studied—wherever he was—he would be in the holy city. In this way, a few rabbis turned a real city into a city of the mind; in this way, they turned the Temple into a book and preserved their faith. Though you can burn a city, you cannot sack an idea or kill a book. But in our own time, Zionists have turned the book back into a temple. And unlike an idea, a temple can be destroyed. The creation of Israel has made Jews vulnerable in a way they have not been for two thousand years. In Israel Is Real, Rich Cohen's superb new history of the Zionist idea and the Jewish state—the history of a nation chronicled as if it were the biography of a person—he brings to life dozens of fascinating figures, each driven by the same impulse: to reach Jerusalem. From false messiahs such as David Alroy (Cohen calls him the first superhero, with his tallis as a cape) and Sabbatai Zevi, who led thousands on a mad spiritual journey, to the early Zionists (many of them failed journalists), to the iconic figures of modern Jewish Sparta, David Ben-Gurion, Golda Meir, Yitzhak Rabin, and Ariel Sharon, Cohen shows how all these lives together form a single story, a single life. In this unique book, Cohen examines the myth of the wandering Jew, the paradox of Jewish power (how can you be both holy and nuclear?), and the triumph and tragedy of the Jewish state—how the creation of modern Israel has changed what it means to be a Jew anywhere.

A First Century Traveller's Guide to Palestine

By : Dennis Hawkes

"A 1st Century Traveller's Guide to Palestine" is a small, easy-to-read ebook, by Professor Hawkes that aims to give an impression of what it was like in the time of the New Testament part of the Bible. Set in the year AD60 and written as a contemporary guide book it covers topics such as traveling to Palestine, what people eat, politics, what accommodation is like etc. The book is well researched with a comprehensive bibliography ideal for history teachers, bible teachers and bible students as well as a general readership.

Iran's Revolutionary Guard

By : Steven O'hern

Since the Iranian Revolution more than thirty years ago, the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), also known as the Revolutionary Guard, has conducted covert and overt military operations, built an economic empire, and trained, financed, and guided terrorists to pursue one goal—the preservation and expansion of the Islamic revolution. Inside Iran the IRGC influences the country’s politics, economy, and foreign policy, and controls its nuclear program. Outside Iran the operations of the IRGC and its proxies, including Hezbollah in Lebanon and Shiite militias in Iraq, have left a trail of death—from the 1983 truck bombings in Beirut that killed 241 U.S. peacekeepers and 58 French paratroopers to numerous attacks on U.S. (and allied) troops in Iraq and Afghanistan. Now, no longer content to strike in Iraq and Afghanistan or at targets in the Middle East and south Asia, the IRGC and Hezbollah operate throughout North and South America, developing the capability to strike the continental United States and deliver a blow to America’s economy far worse than today’s financial crisis. In Iran’s Revolutionary Guard, Steven O’Hern reveals new information about the IRGC and Hezbollah operations inside America based on interviews with former and active members of the FBI, CIA, local law enforcement, military intelligence, and even one former Revolutionary Guard officer. The author details how the IRGC has grown into such a dangerous foe and explains how its members’ activities have put the American economy and American lives at risk. His research
suggests that the IRGC may be planning to explode, high above a Midwestern city, a nuclear weapon that would emit an electromagnetic pulse strong enough to render anything with a computer chip useless, including the hundreds of transformers that control the country’s electrical grid. One thing is certain, according to O’Hern: the Revolutionary Guard is a serious threat to the well-being of all U.S. citizens.

**Consorts of the Caliphs**

**By : The Editors of the Library of Arabi**

Lyrical biographical sketches of the concubines of ancient Baghdad. Consorts of the Caliphs is a seventh/thirteenth-century compilation of anecdotes about thirty-eight women who were consorts to those in power, most of them concubines of the early Abbasid caliphs and wives of latter-day caliphs and sultans. This slim but illuminating volume is one of the few surviving texts by the prolific Baghdadi scholar Ibn al-Sa’i, who chronicled the academic and political elites of his city in the final years of the Abbasid dynasty and the period following the cataclysmic Mongol invasion of 656 H/1258 AD. In this work, Ibn al-Sa’i is keen to forge a connection between the munificent wives of his time and the storied lovers of the so-called golden age of Baghdad. Thus, from the earlier period, we find Harun al-Rashid pining for his brother’s beautiful slave, Ghadir, and the artistry of such musical and literary celebrities as Arib and Fadl, who bested the male poets and singers of their day. From times closer to Ibn al-Sa’i’s own, we meet women such as Banafsha, who endowed law colleges, had bridges built, and provisioned pilgrims bound for Mecca; slave women whose funeral services were led by caliphs; and noble Saljuq princesses from Afghanistan. Informed by the author’s own sources, his insider knowledge, and well-known literary materials, these singular biographical sketches bring the belletristic culture of the Baghdad court to life, particularly in the personal narratives and poetry of culture heroines otherwise lost to history.

**De Tempeliers**

**By : Dan Jones**


**Mesopotamien**

**By : Karen Radner**

JERUSALEM — The Orthodox Jewish men were facing east, to honor the Old City site where the ancient temples once stood, when two Palestinians armed with a gun, knives and axes burst into their synagogue Tuesday morning, shouting “God is great!” in Arabic. Within moments, three rabbis and a fourth pious man lay dead, blood pooling on their prayer shawls and holy books. The assailants, cousins from East Jerusalem, were killed at the scene in a gun battle with the police that wounded two officers; one died of his injuries Tuesday night. Politicians and others around the world condemned the attack Death Valley. My Jerusalem. Album Preachers. Death Valley Lyrics. Oh kiss me one more time Before the sun goes down And all the creatures of the night Crawling over this town I'm lost in the city The city of angels Down in the valley Valley of devils Under the blood red sky Under. a pumpkin moon Run for your life I'm lost in the city The city of angels Down in the valley Valley of devils Under the blood red sky Under. a pumpkin moon Run for your life I'm lost in the city The city of angels Down in the valley Valley of devils Under the blood red sky Under. a pumpkin moon Run for your life I'm lost in the city The city of angels Down in the valley Valley of devils. More on Genius. &quo