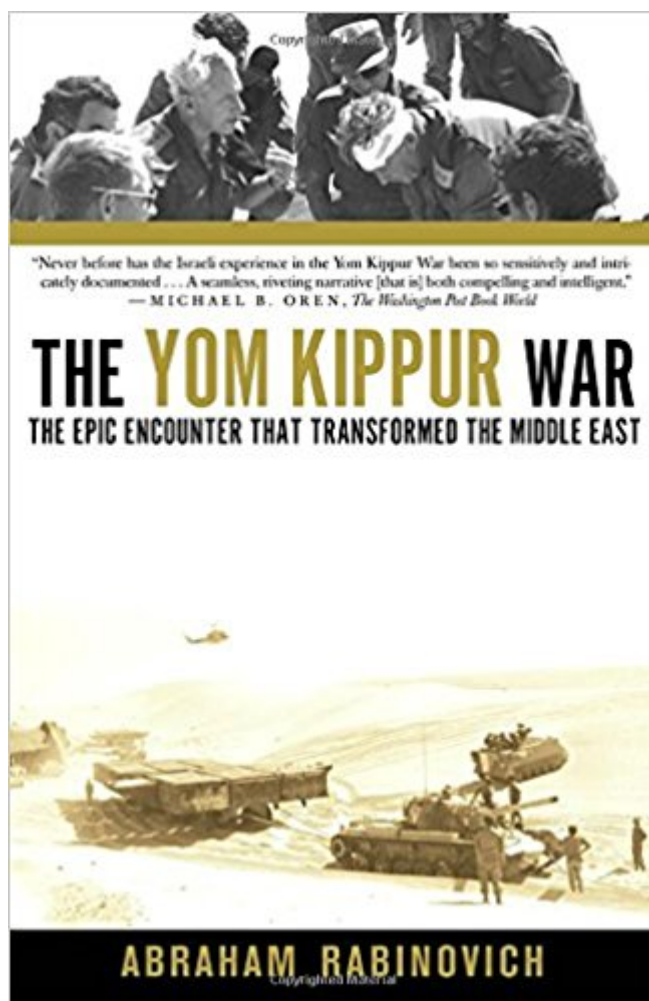


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The Yom Kippur War: The Epic Encounter That Transformed The Middle East



Synopsis

A galvanizing account of the 1973 Yom Kippur War by a journalist who covered it for The Jerusalem Post. The most dramatic of the Arab-Israeli conflicts, the surprise two-front war triggered apocalyptic visions in Israel, hopes and fears in the Arab world, and heated internal conflicts on both sides. Using extensive interviews and personal stories, as well as recently declassified materials, Abraham Rabinovich begins his masterful narrative as Israel is convincing itself there will be no war, while the Arabs are in fact plotting it. The account continues through the explosive start of hostilities and follows the harrowing conflict to its climactic end.

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Customer Reviews

Rabinovich, a reporter for the Jerusalem Post, has researched thoroughly and written with clarity, balance and compassion for the victims of a war much larger and fiercer than most Western readers have believed. Anwar Sadat emerges as a major player, having reformed the Egyptian Army and evolved a national strategy of limited objectives. The Israelis, Rabinovich argues, then played into Sadat's hands by intelligence failures that delayed their mobilization, gross underestimation of Arab fighting qualities, and not reckoning on new enemy weapons (the SA-6 antiaircraft missile and the Sagger antitank missile) that would make the Israeli Air Force and armor-heavy ground troops vulnerable. The result was a war that began with serious Israeli losses and major Arab advances, in the Sinai and on the Golan Heights, within miles of Israeli civilians. Sheer hard fighting by the Israelis at the front limited the damage, however, and in spite of leadership conflicts and a few outright failures that Rabinovich dramatizes with flair, a viable Israeli strategy supported by

improved tactics gradually emerged. The result was a victory for Israel that was actually more devastating than the Six-Day War, with the added effect of leading to a partial peace with Egypt and later Syria and Jordan. Rabinovich may overpraise Henry Kissinger, and he may underplay the Israeli Air Force, but his book covers everything else at a level equally useful to both the newcomer and the experienced student of the subject. Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

The thirtieth anniversary of the Yom Kippur War just passed, and this is the second major work to commemorate that conflict. Howard Blum's *Eve of Destruction* [BKL S 1 03] tended to focus on more sensational aspects, such as Israeli plans for nuclear war, double agents, and suicide pills for leaders. A resident of Jerusalem, Rabinovich is a journalist who covered the war for the *Jerusalem Post*. His work is more restrained than Blum's and emphasizes the military and political struggles. Yet the story contains inherent drama and tension, and Rabinovich effectively captures both. He uses recently declassified materials and information gleaned from participants to reveal how Israel was caught unprepared but managed to turn the tide with some bold tactical maneuvers. His portraits of familiar figures--Sadat, Meir, Sharon, Kissinger--are revealing and often surprising. His analysis of the long-term effects of the war is likely to stoke controversy in both Israel and the Arab world. Jay Freeman Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Besides giving some detailed descriptions of combat on the both the Syrian and Egyptian fronts, the author gives us a "big picture" description of the war from the days preceding the war when Israeli intelligence utterly failed to protect the nation to the geo-political maneuvering to bring the war to an end. Besides the description of combat, the book looks at the military planning and execution from a high level: the generals. We also see Moshe Dyan and Golda Meir in action. This book is more than a good read about an important conflict, it is a catalog of success and failure at the leadership level. I also recommend *The Heights of Courage: A Tank Leader's War On the Golan* by Avigdor Kahalani to see combat at the tank battalion level and *Duel for the Golan: The 100-Hour Battle That Saved Israel* by Jerry Asher to hear more detail about tank combat in the Golan. I think the book by Abraham Rabinovich is an important book to understand the important role of leadership in war.

Super thorough detail on all aspects of the politics and battles. Takes a while to get to the fighting but I was engrossed with the politics and world situation in the first part of the book. You really understand the atmosphere and the whys of the situation. Once the fighting starts the book shines with lots of detail and brings individual skirmishes to life by inserting the actual combatants into the story. Good detail and perspective from the Arab side (especially Egyptian) on the challenges and changing political landscapes that not only led to the War but also changed the post-war Middle East. Did not realize all the US-Russia stuff going on (Watergate/end of Nixon administration) and cast an incredible light on Kissinger and his role and how he shaped battles as well as diplomacy.

I knew nothing about this war before I read it, and now feel so much "smarter" after just this one book. This book covers the massive intelligence analysis (notably not collection) failures on the part of Israel and to a lesser extent USA. It narrates a small revolution in warfare - the introduction of the anti-tank guided missile (ATGM) - small because at least in 1991 and 2003 it did not make a difference against the coalition armored forces. I knew that Israel did not "lose" this war before I read the book, but the details of how it ended surprised me and kept me in suspense. Like any good history book, it does not make moral judgments on which side is right or wrong; it presents both perspectives, from historical, ideological, and political points of view. Liam H Dooley www.liamhdooley.com

I know next to nothing about Israel's wars. Even though I am a very well educated with a degree in history. I wanted to remedy this and so set out to buy a book on each of Israel's wars. This book surpasses all of my expectations. Engaging, well written - it almost reads like a novel the skill with wordcraft Rabinovich has. Want a definitive book on the Yom Kippur war, look no further.

Out of three books I read about the Arab-Israeli conflict, this one was my favorite (1948 and Six Days of War were the other two). I digested *The Yom Kippur War - The Epic Encounter That Transformed The Middle East* by Abraham Rabinovich (Shoken Books, New York 2004). This is primarily a "war book" - focusing on military strategy - yet includes the essential human and geo-political insights that served to shape the historical context, and the outcome. Of all three, I believe I enjoyed *The Yom Kippur War* by Abraham Rabinovich the most...populated with the names of Golda Meir, Dayan, Sharon, Begin, Kissinger, et al. Yet, the demonstration of courage in the face of certain death by so many - was - for me - shocking (for lack of a more poignant term). Bottom Line for me after completing this study (it will take me several decades to "digest" the

meanings that will continue to resonate through me):

I read this one first to get a better history of Israel. I followed this one with "The Six Day War" by Michael Oren. The two together make for a cohesive history of happenings. I was very young at the time of these two wars and so didn't have any sense of what happened or what it meant for the Middle East. These 2 books helped put things in context. I would recommend both books read in "order" - this one followed by "The Six Day War". There are many tomes about Israel, Palestine, the Middle East and how today's troubles came to exist. There are historical books, religious books and editorial style books. I would suggest reading books from all sides, educate yourself and then make your own conclusions. I found these two books to be an excellent start. Highly recommend it.

This is one of the finest historical accounts of a tragic but very significant war. Mr. Rabinovich provides a thorough three dimensional view of the conflict, from the tank commander in the battlefield to the highest echelons of the Israeli leadership, interspersed with the Egyptian, Syrian, Soviet and American counterparts. I was shocked to learn how dangerously close Israel came to the possibility of being overrun. The surprise attack by Egyptian and Syrian forces was as much the result of Israeli misreading of intelligence denial and complacency after the victory of the Six Day War. Yet the professionalism, flexibility and innovation of the Israeli military was spectacular, snatching victory from disaster. Towards the end of the war, the roads to Damascus and Cairo lay open to the Israeli Defence Force. On the diplomatic front, an historic agreement and peace was cemented between Israel and Egypt. This war led the United States to place its forces on nuclear alert, Defcon 3, one of the few times in history this has happened. On an individual level, this work scores the sacrifice, toil and suffering of the soldiers in the field. Omar Cuan

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