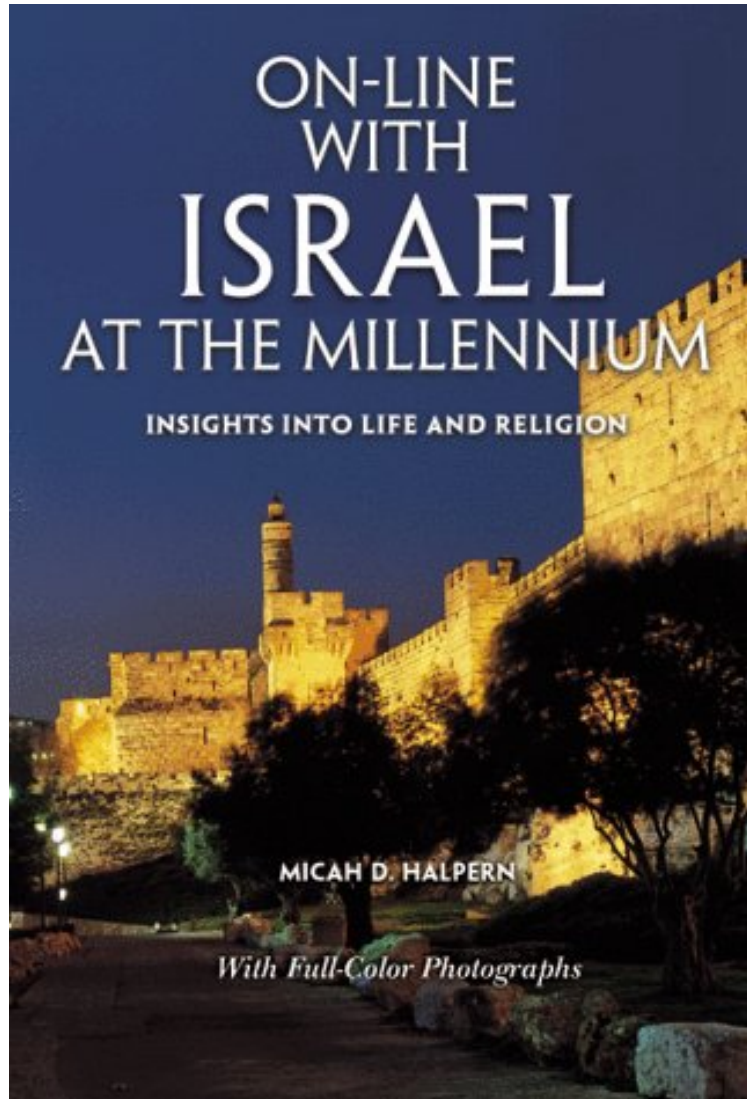


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On-Line with Israel at the Millennium: Insights into Life Religion

Micah D. Halpern

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Micah D. Halpern : On-Line with Israel at the Millennium: Insights into Life Religion before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised On-Line with Israel at the Millennium: Insights into Life Religion:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. 1999 Insights into Israel By Gary Selikow In this collection of short essays America Online columnist Micah D Halpern explores the feelings and reactions of ordinary Israelis about the happenings going on as Israel struggles for daily survival in a growing hostile world. This book was published in 1999, a year before Arafat launched the murderous 'Al Aqsa Intifada', more accurately the Rosh ha Shana War. The author is

on retrospect quite naive about the hopes for peace and coexistence, even lauding a ceremony in Gaza where the PLO were meant to amend the charter but did not. This was before opinion polls indicated that 80% of 'Palestinian' Arabs support suicide bombings. The author deals with many different issues including whether Israel is a Jewish State, the conflict between Orthodox and Progressive Judaism, road accidents and the education system. He mentions the failure by authorities in Israel to recognize the Reform and Conservative strains of Judaism as threatening support of US Jews for Israel. In fact this should not be- Reform and Conservative Jews are fully entitled to lobby for a change in policy, but Israel's survival means the survival of the world's largest Jewish community and the prevention of a second holocaust. All Jews should support Israel for this reason, regardless of disagreements over policy. The author deals with terrorism, and the fact that terrorists choose targets based on how many casualties they can cause of Israeli civilians, especially women and children, and not their relevant role within the peace talks. This is because what the terrorists of Hamas, Islamic Jihad and the Al Aqsa Martyrs Brigades aim for is not political change but the removal of all Jews from Israel i.e ethnic cleansing. The author condemns the shameful persecution of a 14 year old schoolgirl Sofi Garber for not singing the national anthem during a memorial service for the late Yitzhak Rabin. Because Sofi said she did not admire Rabin, because she expressed contrary opinions she was suspended from school and forced to retract her opinions before she could be re-admitted. The author deals with the fear in Israel, in 1999 of an attack of chemical and biological weapons by Saddam Hussein. The fear of genocide of Jews by gas, 50 years after the Holocaust, this time in their own homeland. This threat is now posed by Iran and it's Hitlerite President Mahmoud 'Haman' Ahmadinejad. Israel outlived the devil Saddam, please G-D she will outlive the Satanic Ahmadinejad and all of her enemies. 4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Magnificent Insight About Israel Today !By A Customer I was particularly interested in the chapter on the Israeli wine industry, and to know that it is an up and coming market. The photographs added greatly to the enjoyment of the book, giving the reader a true sense of being there! The author's intimate perspective is illuminating, and meshed with the modern day situations in Israel. A must read for anyone interested in Israeli culture and the making of history.

On-Line With Israel At The Millennium: Insights into Life and Religion is a first hand, up-close look at Israeli society as it enters this third millennium. A collection of short essays, this book offers insights into the reactions behind the happenings, the people behind the politics, the real Israel as it fights for its global and everyday survival in an ever-changing world. Halpern writes from the perspective of an insider, a Jewish educator and theologian. He takes a tour of the Israeli psyche what makes Israelis tick, and why. He explains the significance of the Holy Land to the Christians and explores the ramifications of the Millennium for Israel and the world. His topics cover the range: from the state of education to the state of the nation all Israeli style; from a behind the scenes look at a bus bombing to an up-close look at Jewish pilgrimages to Israel all Jewish style; from the struggles within the ranks of Ashkenazi and Sephardi Jewish youth to the revolution within the kosher wine market. This book will touch the heart and stimulate the mind of any person who has ever cared about Israel and the Holy Land, anyone curious about the place of Israel within the greater context of the Middle East, and everyone interested in the shaping of world history, religion and politics.

Micah Halpern's essays sparkle with wit and wisdom and are liberally sprinkled with delicious nuggets of knowledge. He writes about Israel with an insider's passion but is always accessible to readers who know little about the subject. -- Matthew Kalman, columnist for USA Today On-Line with Israel at the Millennium is a collection of 35 perceptive short essays about Israeli society, written from an insider's perspective. The author, an Orthodox rabbi and educator covers topics ranging from the kosher wine revolution to the Wye peace agreements, from the Mossad to ultra-Orthodox voting patterns. -- Sandee Brawarsky, The Jewish Week As a member of a family that has lived in Israel for over 200 years, I personally found the essays fascinating and engaging. This book expresses a sensitive optimism for the future and is required reading for all potential visitors and for everyone whose heart lies in Israel. -- Professor Moshe Mandelbaum, former Governor Bank of Israel About the Author Micah D. Halpern, originally from Annapolis, Maryland, has been living in Israel since 1987. An educator, theologian and historian, he lectures frequently, both in the United States and Israel, on issues relating to intellectual history, popular culture, religious studies, the Holocaust and inter-religious communication. He is the founding director of the Jerusalem Center for European Study. Previously, Micah was a long standing educator with Young Judea and lecturer at Yale University. Since early 1997, Micah has served as the Israel columnist for America Online.