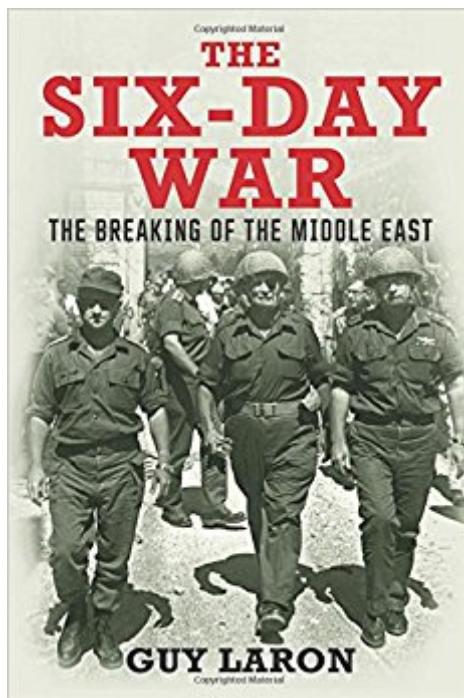


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# The Six-Day War: The Breaking Of The Middle East



## Synopsis

An enthralling, big-picture history that examines the Six-Day War, its causes, and its enduring consequences against its global context One fateful week in June 1967 redrew the map of the Middle East. Many scholars have documented how the Six-Day War unfolded, but little has been done to explain why the conflict happened at all. As we approach its fiftieth anniversary, Guy Laron refutes the widely accepted belief that the war was merely the result of regional friction, revealing the crucial roles played by American and Soviet policies in the face of an encroaching global economic crisis, and restoring Syria's often overlooked centrality to events leading up to the hostilities. The Six-Day War effectively sowed the seeds for the downfall of Arab nationalism, the growth of Islamic extremism, and the animosity between Jews and Palestinians. In this important new work, Laron's fresh interdisciplinary perspective and extensive archival research offer a significant reassessment of a conflict—and the trigger-happy generals behind it—that continues to shape the modern world.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"In this fine work, Guy Laron, a young historian at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, takes a fresh look at the war and its causes. . . . Like all the best history, Laron's book is studded with fascinating facts and anecdotes that shed light on his theories." Michael Sheridan, *Sunday Times* "With the occupation now in ripe middle age, an engaging crop of new books is re-examining its consequences—and, in the case of Guy Laron's *The Six Day War*, making us look afresh at the events that led to conflict between Israel and its neighbours.

Laron, a historian at Jerusalem's Hebrew University, argues that the war was no accident; rather, it was "designed and even desired by prominent military figures in the warring countries." John Reed, *Financial Times* "For Laron, there are no simple binaries. . . . Laron's critical approach echoes that of Segev, while his diligent and eye-opening archival work complements that undertaken by Oren. He describes the war from a number of different perspectives, and places it in a global context . . . he paints a comprehensive and captivating picture of a complex reality." Ari Shavit, *Times Literary Supplement* "A new history of the lead-up to the war by Guy Laron . . . presents the economic and geopolitical conditions that made the conflict almost inevitable for all the combatants." Gal Beckerman, *New York Times Book Review* "A penetrating study of a conflict that, although brief, helped establish a Middle Eastern template that is operational today. . . . Readers with an interest in Middle Eastern geopolitics will find much of value." Kirkus Reviews "Guy Laron's forthcoming book on the 1967 Six-Day War is fittingly slated for publication in the year of the war's 50th anniversary. . . . is both impressive and disheartening. And it should be required reading for President-elect Donald Trump. . . . Readers will learn that it's sometimes much easier for leaders to go to war than to make peace. So perhaps, despite everything else on his calendar right now, this is a book the president-elect should read. At the very least, we ordinary citizens should read it." Jack Reimer, *Jewish News Service* "Guy Laron's challenging new book, *The Six-Day War: The Breaking of the Middle East*, is well worth reading." Moment "Laron uses sources no one else has and challenges all those who would understand these events as confined to its Middle Eastern context. . . . Fifty years after the outbreak of the June 1967 war and there is finally someone with something new to say about it." Robert Vitalis, author of *A White World Order, Black Power Politics* "This timely and riveting work, drawing upon new archival materials from all the warring sides as well as US, Soviet, and Warsaw-Pact sources, provides a meticulously detailed political and military narrative along with a perceptive analysis of the origins, course, and outcome of the conflict that changed the Middle East and world politics." Carole Fink, author of *Defending the Rights of Others* and *A Cold War: An International History* "A finely balanced account that puts the politics back into the study of the origins of the June 1967 War. . . . Outstanding scholarship . . . this new book confirms Laron as a leading authority on the Arab-Israeli conflict." Eugene Rogan, author of *The Arabs: A History* "A new and exciting interpretation of the war that broke the Middle East, with the Soviet and Cold War aspects covered in full for the first time. . . . A very valuable corrective to the existing literature." Odd Arne Westad, Harvard University, author of *The Cold War: A World*

## History

Guy Laron is lecturer in international relations, Hebrew University of Jerusalem, and has been a visiting scholar at the University of Maryland, Northwestern University, and Oxford. He is the author of *Origins of the Suez Crisis* and lives in Tel Aviv, Israel.

This is not the book for those looking for a military history of the six-day war in June 1967. They should instead refer to Michael Oren's excellent "Six Days of War: June 1967 and the Making of the Modern Middle East". (Tellingly, Guy Laron subtitles his book, "The Breaking of the Middle East"). Laron only covers the military campaign in 25 pages of the conclusion chapter of a 313 page book (not counting end-notes and index). Rather, this is a history of the key diplomatic, economic, and financial events in the years leading up to that war, with particular emphasis on decisions made in Egypt, Syria, Israel, the United States, and the Soviet Union. Laron brings a new perspective to the origins of the 1967 Arab-Israeli war. He blames political infighting in Syria and between Syria and Egypt for political primacy and legitimacy within Syria, for causing Syrian adventurism and provocations against Israel in May 1967. He cites the struggle between Syria's military Baathist regime and the Egyptian-backed Muslim Brotherhood as being a cause of friction between those two countries, which the Syrian government tried to exorcise by embarrassing the Egyptian government with its own claimed aggressiveness against Israel. He also points to Syrian Baathist intervention in the mid-1960s on the side of the radical Fatah organization against the more moderate PLO. He describes the relationship between David Ben Gurion and Levi Eschol as much more hostile than I've previously read. Laron portrays Yitzak Rabin and the other IDF generals as hawkish to the point of provoking a war with Syria in 1966 to 1967, which makes Rabin's nervous breakdown shortly before the beginning of the Six-Day War all the more ironic. He reveals information I've never seen before. For example, one of the reasons for the very lopsided Israeli Air Force victory over the Syrian Air Force in a dogfight in April 1967 was due to the fact that the Syrian MiGs were unarmed because of fears about their use in a coup by the Air Force led by Hafiz Assad. I disagree with his characterization of John Kennedy as someone who "felt equally comfortable selling his liberal values using tough Cold War rhetoric." Kennedy was a flat-out hardline cold warrior, and what Laron claims are liberal values would be considered neo-conservative today. He does make his fair share of minor technical issues. The Soviet Su-7 is not a heavy bomber, but a fighter bomber. The USS Liberty was an American naval ship, not the "SS Liberty" that would suggest a commercial ship. The Israeli jamming planes were "Vautour", not

"Votour". All in all a valuable addition to the scholarship around the 1967 war.

This book should rightly be titled "The political events and back stabbings leading up to the Six Day War." Of the 313 pages, if you want to read about the "War" start about page 275 I'm guessing. and you will still be disappointed. The book's main tease is the destruction of 4 countries air forces, and possibly 3 paragraphs are dedicated to this. There is no real coverage of the war, only the Geo-political start and ramifications of it. Go to Wikipedia for a better read.

a very heavy book but well researched .it had a great look at the Egyptian , Syrian , USA , Russian sides.

A wonderful tribute to the State of Israel.

Very good book . I also read "1967" by Tom Segev, on the same subject , it gave a more complete overview of the war and its aftermath.

great

Very good explanation of the factors leading to the war and the historical backdrop. Some maps in the E-book version would have been very helpful.

Too much detail on approach to war; not enough on the battles.

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