

Israel: neither a theocracy, nor a secular state
On the relation between state and religion in Israeli society

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His research concentrates on early modern and modern Jewish history, both in Europe and Israel. His current research project is titled 'Memory and Reconstruction, A History of Dutch Jewry 1945-2010'. He published extensively on early modern Yiddish historiography, integration processes of Jews in Western Europe and postwar reconstruction policies of European Jewry.

Recommended readings

- Simeon D. Baumel, 'Weekly Torah Portions, Languages, and Culture among Israeli Haredim', *Jewish Social Studies* 10.2 (2004) 153-178
- Guy Ben-Porat and Bryan S. Turner eds., *The Contradictions of Israeli Citizenship. Land, Religion, and State* (Milton Park, Abingdon, 2011)
- David Hartman, *Israelis and the Jewish Tradition. An Ancient People debating its Future* (New Haven/London 2000)
- Yoram Hazony, *The Jewish State. The Struggle for Israel's Soul* (New York 2000)
- Yeshayahu Leibowitz, *Judaism, Human Values, and the Jewish State* (Cambridge, Mass./London 1997)
- Menachem Mautner, *Law and the Culture of Israel* (Oxford 2011)
- Aviezer Ravitzky, *Religion and State in Jewish Philosophy. Models of Unity, Division, Collision and Subordination* (Jerusalem 2002)
- Tom Segev, *1949. The First Israelis* (New York 1998)
- Yair Sheleg, *The Jewish Renaissance in Israeli Society. The Emergence of a New Jew* [Hebrew] (Jerusalem 2010)
- Uriel Simon, 'The Place of the Bible in Israeli Society: from National *midrash* to Existential *peshat*', *Modern Judaism* 19.3 (1999) 217-239
- Bart Wallet, 'Israël geen westerse seculiere staat, maar ook geen theocratie à la Iran' [Dutch] *Reformatoisch Dagblad* 14 januari 2012

Key documents

- Declaration of the establishment of the State of Israel (1948),
<http://www.mfa.gov.il/MFA/Peace+Process/Guide+to+the+Peace+Process/Declaration+of+Establishment+of+State+of+Israel.htm>
- Basic Law: Human Dignity and Liberty (1992),
http://www.mfa.gov.il/MFA/MFAArchive/1990_1999/1992/3/Basic%20Law-%20Human%20Dignity%20and%20Liberty-