

1983

"Among Lions: The Definitive Account of the 1967 Battle for Jerusalem," "The Politics of Pressure: American Arms and Israeli Policy Since the Six Day War"

Benson L. Grayson

Robert J. Moskin

David Pollock

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digital-commons.usnwc.edu/nwc-review>

Recommended Citation

Grayson, Benson L.; Moskin, Robert J.; and Pollock, David (1983) "Among Lions: The Definitive Account of the 1967 Battle for Jerusalem," "The Politics of Pressure: American Arms and Israeli Policy Since the Six Day War," *Naval War College Review*: Vol. 36 : No. 4, Article 27.

Available at: <https://digital-commons.usnwc.edu/nwc-review/vol36/iss4/27>

This Book Review is brought to you for free and open access by the Journals at U.S. Naval War College Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Naval War College Review by an authorized editor of U.S. Naval War College Digital Commons. For more information, please contact repository.inquiries@usnwc.edu.

stage on the international scene at least since the early 1970s. It is an extremely readable book which the layman will readily understand and which the political scientist and lawyer will find extremely instructive. It will prove a valuable tool for anyone interested in a candid evaluation of the operations of the United Nations in the very important field of the control of international violence in all of its forms.

HOWARD S. LEVIE
Newport, R.I.

Moskin, J. Robert. *Among Lions: The Definitive Account of the 1967 Battle for Jerusalem*. New York: Arbor House, 1982. 401 pp. \$16.95

Pollock, David. *The Politics of Pressure: American Arms and Israeli Policy Since the Six Day War*. Westport, Conn.: Greenwood Press, 1982. 328pp. \$35.

Israel's capture of East Jerusalem from Jordan and its retention since the 1967 Middle East War has been one of the more important Middle East events of the past twenty years. The Arab nations remain adamant in rejecting any peace settlement with the Jewish state unless the future of East Jerusalem is at least open to discussion. The story of the Israeli seizure of East Jerusalem—which contains some of the holiest shrines of the Jewish, Moslem and Christian religions—would seem to provide the material for a timely and fascinating history basic to an understanding of what is today one of the

world's most sensitive crisis areas. J. Robert Moskin, an experienced American journalist who was the Foreign Editor of *Look* magazine and Senior Editor of *Colliers*, has tackled the job with mixed results in his new book, *Among Lions*.

The problem is not the author's style, he writes well, nor his failure to do adequate research. Neither is it a lack of objectivity, although Moskin has leaned primarily upon Israeli sources and his account is told largely from the Israeli point of view. Rather, the difficulty, for this reviewer at least, is that the book resembles less a traditional history than what might properly be referred to as television journalism. The narrative is almost exclusively a compilation of personal recollections of the participants—some important and others low-placed, interviewed by the author. The anecdotes related are frequently entertaining, sometimes poignant and occasionally embarrassing; as for example the case of Yitzhak Rabin, Israeli Chief of Staff and subsequent Prime Minister, who suffered a psychological breakdown on the eve of the war and had his duties taken over by his newly appointed Chief of Operations Haim Barlev, recalled from political exile in Paris.

The difficulty with this style of history is that the big picture, if not omitted entirely, at least receives lesser attention than in more traditional accounts. Rather than researching the admittedly sometimes boring official records and personal memoirs, Moskin appears to have

depended for his material upon what individuals he could personally interview and then emphasizing the recollections that were best from a human-interest standpoint. The result is certainly an entertaining book, but hardly the definitive history of the event.

David Pollock, a consultant on international affairs to government and industry and formerly Assistant Professor of Political Science at George Washington University in Washington, D.C., has written a very different type volume. His book *The Politics of Pressure* is detailed and well-researched, constituting an excellent contribution to the available scholarly literature on the subject of Washington's use of military assistance to influence Israeli national policy. Like Moskin, Pollock interviewed personally many of the leading US and Israeli officials involved in the provision of American arms to Israel. But he did not stop there, his work reflects a thorough knowledge of official records and diplomatic archives open to the public.

Pollock's treatment of the evolution of US arms aid to the Jewish state is chronological in nature, a technique which seems well-suited to the material related. He carefully points out the factors that have had a major impact in shaping American policy, including the important consideration of how successive administrations expected the provision or denial of US weapons to Israel would impact upon Soviet Middle East policy. Of partic-

ular interest is his description of how the Nixon administration in its early years postponed weapons deliveries to Israel and then, concluding that this only accelerated Moscow's own arms shipments to the region, began an almost uninterrupted flow of military aid to the Jewish state.

The author concludes that despite disavowals by the American and Israeli governments and the tendency of both to avoid a major confrontation, US arms supplies have periodically given Washington a limited but significant leverage to influence Israeli policy. It is difficult to argue with this judgment. In sum, Pollock has written a first-rate book which is highly recommended for the specialist in the field.

BENSON L. GRAYSON
McLean, Virginia

Asencio, Diego and Asencio, Nancy. *Our Man is Inside*. Boston, Mass.: Little, Brown, 1983. 244pp. \$17.50

For a diplomat, Diego Asencio reminds us in this highly readable account of his 61 days as a hostage in the hands of Marxist terrorists in the Dominican Embassy in Bogota, Colombia, in 1980, dialogue is everything. Or, as he puts it more bluntly in the specific context of his crisis, "bullshit is always cheaper than bullets."

Asencio reminds his readers of another aspect of modern-day terrorism; that is every terrorist incident is different—different in locale, in demands, in the impact on our interests,