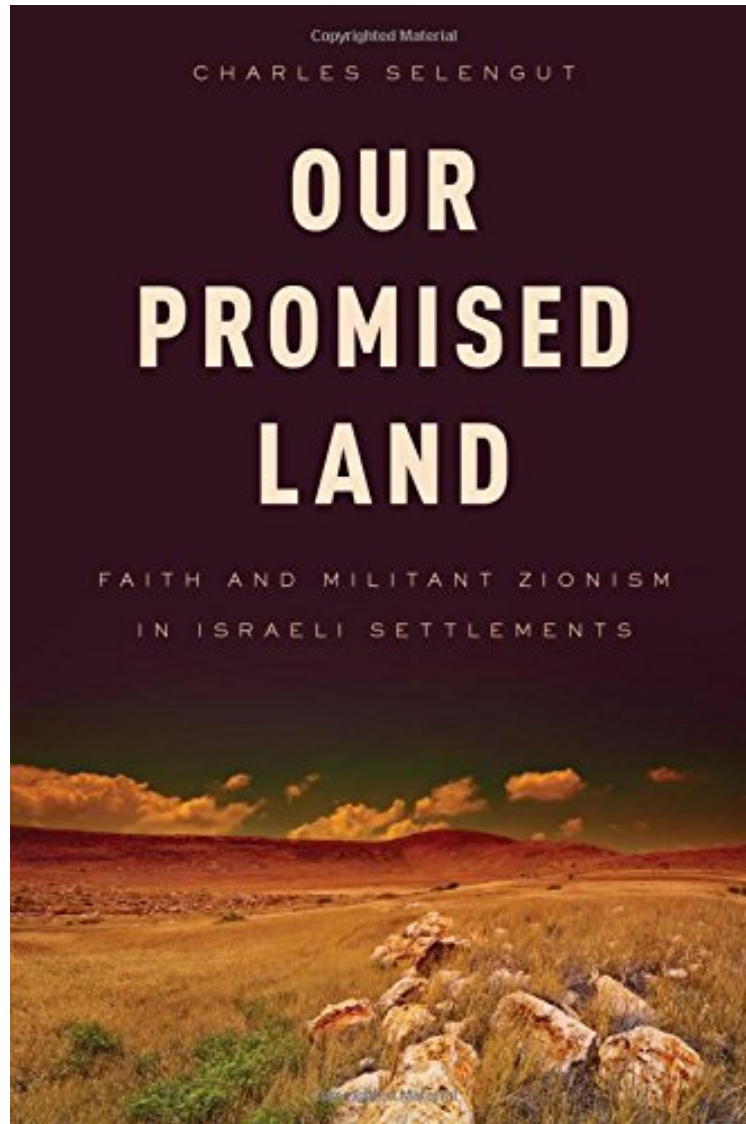


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Our Promised Land: Faith and Militant Zionism in Israeli Settlements

Charles Selengut

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Charles Selengut : Our Promised Land: Faith and Militant Zionism in Israeli Settlements before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Our Promised Land: Faith and Militant Zionism in Israeli Settlements:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Interesting and accessibleBy Myles baerThis is a clear, thoughtful and very readable discussion of one of the most complicated and controversial stews that we have in the world today -

the conflict that has arisen from the settlement of the West Bank. Selengut does several things remarkably well. He explains the underpinnings of the settler movement in religious texts and Jewish thought, and traces its history from a fringe to a mainstream movement. He discusses how the settlements are viewed today by various segments of Israeli society, as well as by Jews in the Diaspora, and explores their political, social and religious ramifications for Israelis. He also speculates about the future of the settlements, and to what extent the Israeli-Palestinian conflict surrounding them is capable of resolution. Selengut brings life to his discussion by generously quoting local civic and religious figures, as well as ordinary settlers from across the political and religious spectra. The book is even-handed; if the author has a personal view, he is careful not to convey it to us. "Our Promised Land" is free of academic jargon, accessible to the general reader, and always interesting. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A must read! A book that provides, a ...By Customer A must read! A book that provides, a layman, insight and historic perspective, into a complex societal issue facing Israel today. 0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. does not read like a dry textbook By Dr. Jonathan D. Gordon Dr. Selengut's well-written book clearly lays out the history of how militant Zionism grew, and what it is today. The narrative presents a compelling, historical context, giving the reader a broad perspective and deep understanding of the roots, growth and importance of the religious Zionist settlement movement. The book is hard to put down, does not read like a dry textbook, but rather puts the reader right there with Professor Selengut in the outposts, fields, roads and towns that are the source of so much controversy as well as danger. He presents a very human and psychological perspective as well, getting into the psyche and religious underpinnings of the leaders and builders of this phenomenon. I highly recommend this work for all readers interested in getting a deep and balanced understanding of this subject matter, whether in a college setting, Government think tank, or at home, simply to expand one's personal horizons. Selengut's writing style is superbly smooth, balanced, fair and objective, as he paints a comprehensive picture of the entire region on his well-researched canvas.

Our Promised Land takes readers inside radical Israeli settlements to explore how they were formed, what the people in them believe, and their role in the Middle East today. Charles Selengut analyzes the emergence of the radical Israeli Messianic Zionist movement, which advocates Jewish settlement and sovereignty over the whole of biblical Israel as a religious obligation and as the means of world transformation. The movement has established scores of controversial settlements throughout the contested West Bank, bringing more than 300,000 Jews to the area. Messianic Zionism is a fundamentalist movement but wields considerable political power. Our Promised Land, which draws on years of research and interviews in these settlements, offers an intimate and nuanced look at Messianic Zionism, life in the settlements, connections with the worldwide Christian community, and the impact on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Selengut offers an in-depth exploration of a topic that is often mentioned in the headlines but little understood.

Yeshaan acronym made up of the Hebrew initials of Judea, Samaria, and Gaza, the lands Israel wrested from Syria, Jordan, and Egypt in the 1967 Six-Day War is also the name of the movement to reestablish Jewish control of all of biblical Israel by resettlement. Stereotyped as violent, intransigent fundamentalists, the people of Yesha, as sociologist Selengut, who has studied them for many years, demonstrates, show a broad range of ideas about how their bedrock conviction that Jews are duty-bound to occupy the land God gave them should be realized. Some are downright pacifist, while at the other extreme are settlers who practice eye-for-an-eye retaliation for attacks. In five long, sober chapters, Selengut reviews the rise of the settlements after the Six-Day War, the evolution of some Zionists into messianic nationalists, the culture and faith of settler communities, authoritative settlement figures, and the future of Yesha in the ongoing Middle East conflict. Selengut's dense, compact report is an invaluable resource for everyone studying modern Israel. (Booklist, Starred) For knowledge of messianic Zionist discourse, this is the book to read. (Journal of Church and State) Charles Selengut has turned his attention to the religious Zionist fundamentalist settlers who have made claims on what they view as their divinely promised Land of Israel and put their views and actions under his careful sociological lens. The result is a fascinating and highly informed account of these people whose beliefs and activities are rattling the Middle East. (Samuel Heilman, distinguished professor of sociology, Harold M. Proshansky Chair of Jewish Studies, CUNY Queens College and The Graduate Center) This interesting and engaging book brings us inside the world and the world view of the militant Zionist settlers who see Palestinian territories as Jewish sacred land. It should be required reading for anyone concerned about the rise of religious activism around the world and about the prospects for peace in the Middle East. (Mark Juergensmeyer, University of California, Santa Barbara) Our Promised Land is a must-read for experts in the field, yet it is also accessible and will be deeply educational to the millions with a stake in the issues discussed. Due to the near perfect combination of strengths Selengut brings to the task, this comprehensive and courageous book sheds light, grows understanding, and brings us further down the path to human betterment. (Frank Kaufmann, international director, Inter-Religious Federation for World Peace) Our Promised Land takes readers inside radical Israeli settlements to explore how these settlements were formed, what the people in them believe, and their role in Israel and the Middle East today. Drawing on three years of research in these settlements, Our Promised Land offers an in-depth exploration of a topic that is often mentioned in headlines but little understood. Attempting to take a neutral perspective on a contentious topic, the book offers an

overview of settlements in Israeli past and present, filled with the voices and stories of people who live there. About the Author Charles Selengut is professor of sociology at Morris College and a former professor of religion at Drew University. He is the author of several books, including *Sacred Fury: Understanding Religious Violence*.