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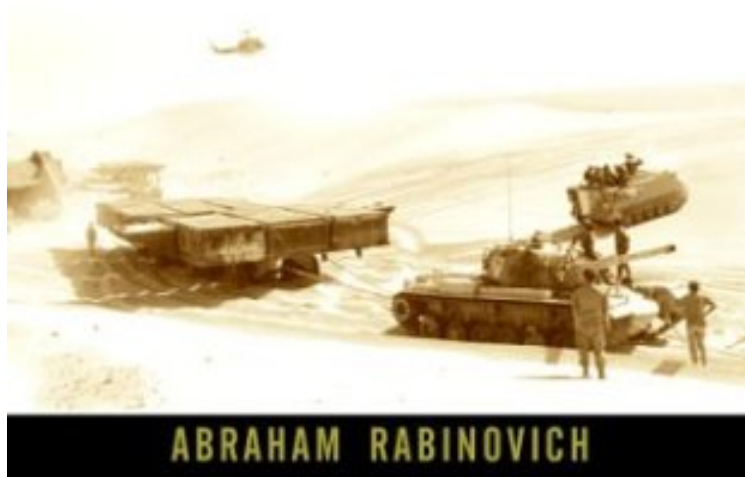
*Abraham Rabinovich*

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## THE YOM KIPPUR WAR

THE EPIC ENCOUNTER THAT TRANSFORMED THE MIDDLE EAST



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**Abraham Rabinovich : The Yom Kippur War: The Epic Encounter That Transformed the Middle East** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Yom Kippur War: The Epic Encounter That Transformed the Middle East:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A fascinating war history that needs no embellishment By Liam H

Dooley I knew nothing about this war before I read it, and now feel so much "smarter" after just this one book. This book covers the massive intelligence analysis (notably not collection) failures on the part of Israel and to a lesser extent USA. It narrates a small revolution in warfare - the introduction of the anti-tank guided missile (ATGM) - small because at least in 1991 and 2003 it did not make a difference against the coalition armored forces. I knew that Israel did not "lose" this war before I read the book, but the details of how it ended surprised me and kept me in suspense. Like any good history book, it does not make moral judgments on which side is right or wrong; it presents both perspectives, from historical, ideological, and political points of view. Liam H Dooley [www.liamhdooley.com](http://www.liamhdooley.com)

0 people found the following review helpful. Surprisingly good! By JB1976 I know next to nothing about Israel's wars. Even though I am a very well educated with a degree in history. I wanted to remedy this and so set out to buy a book on each of Israel's wars. This book surpasses all of my expectations. Engaging, well written - it almost reads like a novel the skill with wordcraft Rabinovich has. Want a definitive book on the Yom Kippur war, look no further. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Spectacular By William Dahl Out of three books I read about the Arab-Israeli conflict, this one was my favorite (1948 and Six Days of War were the other two). I digested *The Yom Kippur War - The Epic Encounter That Transformed The Middle East* by Abraham Rabinovich (Shoken Books, New York 2004). This is primarily a "war book" - focusing on military strategy - yet includes the essential human and geopolitical insights that served to shape the historical context, and the outcome. Of all three, I believe I enjoyed *The Yom Kippur War* by Abraham Rabinovich the most...populated with the names of Golda Meir, Dayan, Sharon, Begin, Kissinger, et al. Yet, the demonstration of courage in the face of certain death by so many - was - for me - shocking (for lack of a more poignant term). Bottom Line for me after completing this study (it will take me several decades to "digest" the meanings that will continue to resonate through me):

In this galvanizing account of the most dramatic of the Arab-Israeli hostilities, Abraham Rabinovich, who reported the conflict for the *Jerusalem Post*, transports us into the midst of the 1973 Yom Kippur War. Rabinovich's masterly narrative begins as Israel convinces itself there will be no war, while Egypt and Syria plot the two-front conflict. Then, on Yom Kippur, Saturday, October 6, 1973, we see Arab armies pouring across the shattered Bar-Lev Line in the Sinai and through the Golan defenses. Even the famed Israeli air force could not stop them. On the Golan alone, Syria sent 1,460 tanks against Israel's 177, and 115 artillery batteries against Israel's 11. And for the first time, footsoldiers wielding anti-tank weapons were able to stop tank charges, while surface-to-air missiles protected those troops from air attack. Rabinovich takes us into this inferno and into the inner sanctums of military and political decision making. He allows us to witness the dramatic turnaround that had the Syrians on the run by the following Wednesday and the great counterattack across the Suez Canal that, once begun, took international intervention to halt. Using extensive interviews with both participants and observers, and with access to recently declassified materials, Rabinovich shows that the drama of the war lay not only in the battles but also in the apocalyptic visions it triggered in Israel, the hopes and fears it inspired in the Arab world, the heated conflicts on both sides about the conduct of the war, and the concurrent American face-off with the Soviets in Washington, D.C., Moscow, and the Mediterranean. A comprehensive account of one of the pivotal conflicts of the twentieth century.

From *Publishers Weekly* Rabinovich, a reporter for the *Jerusalem Post*, has researched thoroughly and written with clarity, balance and compassion for the victims of a war much larger and fiercer than most Western readers have believed. Anwar Sadat emerges as a major player, having reformed the Egyptian Army and evolved a national strategy of limited objectives. The Israelis, Rabinovich argues, then played into Sadat's hands by intelligence failures that delayed their mobilization, gross underestimation of Arab fighting qualities, and not reckoning on new enemy weapons (the SA-6 antiaircraft missile and the Sagger antitank missile) that would make the Israeli Air Force and armor-heavy ground troops vulnerable. The result was a war that began with serious Israeli losses and major Arab advances, in the Sinai and on the Golan Heights, within miles of Israeli civilians. Sheer hard fighting by the Israelis at the front limited the damage, however, and in spite of leadership conflicts and a few outright failures that Rabinovich dramatizes with flair, a viable Israeli strategy supported by improved tactics gradually emerged. The result was a victory for Israel that was actually more devastating than the Six-Day War, with the added effect of leading to a partial peace with Egypt and later Syria and Jordan. Rabinovich may overpraise Henry Kissinger, and he may underplay the Israeli Air Force, but his book covers everything else at a level equally useful to both the newcomer and the experienced student of the subject. Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

From *Booklist* The thirtieth anniversary of the Yom Kippur War just passed, and this is the second major work to commemorate that conflict. Howard Blum's *Eve of Destruction* [BKL S 1 03] tended to focus on more sensational aspects, such as Israeli plans for nuclear war, double agents, and suicide pills for leaders. A resident of Jerusalem, Rabinovich is a journalist who covered the war for the *Jerusalem Post*. His work is more restrained than Blum's and emphasizes the military and political struggles. Yet the story contains inherent drama and tension, and Rabinovich effectively captures both. He uses recently declassified materials and information gleaned from participants to reveal how Israel was caught unprepared but managed to turn the tide with some bold tactical

maneuvers. His portraits of familiar figures--Sadat, Meir, Sharon, Kissinger--are revealing and often surprising. His analysis of the long-term effects of the war is likely to stoke controversy in both Israel and the Arab world. Jay Freeman Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved "The Yom Kippur War of 1973, exceeding in scope even the 1942 Battle of al-Alamein, has found its ideal chronicler. Abraham Rabinovich has long enjoyed a distinguished reputation for the acuity of his insights into Middle Eastern political and military issues. Nevertheless, while his earlier articles and books have been widely read and praised, the current volume may well be his magnum opus. Its revelations are astonishing. Its prose is gripping. Its conclusions, richly documented and austere objective, are intensely relevant to the Middle Eastern crisis of our own day."--Howard M. Sachar, author of A History of Israel From the Rise of Zionism to Our Own Time As no one before, Abraham Rabinovich recounts the whole story of the 1973 Yom Kippur War, that most elusive round of the Arab-Israeli conflict. Based primarily on Israeli sources, his well-written history skillfully covers everything from the individual soldier's experience to the deep implications of the war."--Daniel Pipes, author of Miniatures: Views of Islamic and Middle Eastern Politics