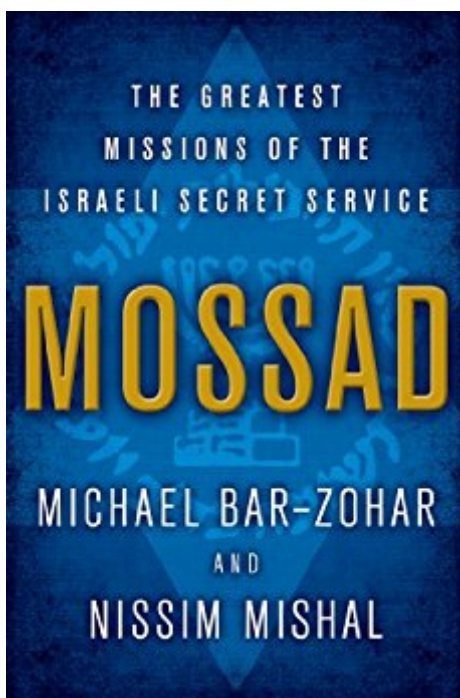


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Mossad: The Greatest Missions Of The Israeli Secret Service



Synopsis

"This book tells what should have been known and isn't—that Israel's hidden force is as formidable as its recognized physical strength."—Israeli President Shimon Peres For decades, Israel's renowned security arm, the Mossad, has been widely recognized as the best intelligence service in the world. In Mossad, authors Michael Bar-Zohar and Nissim Mishal take us behind the closed curtain with riveting, eye-opening, boots-on-the-ground accounts of the most dangerous, most crucial missions in the agency's 60-year history. These are real Mission: Impossible true stories brimming with high-octane action—from the breathtaking capture of Nazi executioner Adolph Eichmann to the recent elimination of key Iranian nuclear scientists. Anyone who is fascinated by the world of international espionage, intelligence, and covert "Black-Ops" warfare will find Mossad electrifying reading.

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Customer Reviews

I like spy books. This one is a little underwhelming. Especially in the first few chapters, the writer is more of a cheerleader than an objective reporter. I wish the book had more "spy craft", which I've learned in other spy books, such as ones by John Le Carre. Nevertheless, no one can argue that, for given Israel's small size and constant danger it faces, the Mossad is probably the best, most effective secret security organization in the world. It was fun to learn how the Mossad tracked down infamous Nazis. Those are satisfying stories. The time range the book covers is impressive, from before Israel formed almost to the present day. I was surprised the book reveal so much about Israel's nuclear program. I thought that was still an unconfirmed program. I credit the author for demystifying that. If you're really into spy books, the gold standard is still Peter Wright's "Spy Catcher". I hope a book of similar technical detail is written about the Mossad someday. SPY CATCHER - The Candid Autobiography of a Senior Intelligence Officer

In light of current events unfolding on the world stage, this book provides insight into the longstanding feud with Iran, and those on both sides who have made it their personal mission to protect or destroy Israel. It changed my view of Mossad as a sophisticated secret agency to a community of dedicated but all too human agents. While still covert in their undertakings and stealthy in their execution, they are far from impassive. I was impressed that while their enemies struck at them often without constraint, Mossad was targeted and precise in their response, and careful to avoid harm to civilians.

I finished book, Mossad: The Greatest Missions of the Israeli Secret Service, and found it an excellent read, riveting. I read through it quickly as I found it difficult to put down. The book is one of the best non fiction historical books that I have read. I would recommend it for anyone who would like to know more about the state of Israel and middle eastern politics from an honest perspective.

Though the style of writing sometimes more resembles a report than it does story, it is not hard to read and the interesting nature of the material outweighs any personal preferences of writing technique. Enlightening and provides yet another glimpse into the darker side of political intrigue that has helped define human history. In this case, highlighting a small, young democratic nation's struggle to survive while surrounded by an exceedingly hostile and theocratic world bent on eradicating it.

"Brief" is the operative word for this book. For example, the chapter

covering the capture of Adolf Eichmann is about 30 pages, whereas the book *Hunting Eichmann* is about 400 pages. So the book is recommended for its breadth of material on the Mossad, but not on its depth of material (though, given the book is about a secretive organization, such lack of detail should be expected). Note: As Jon Pollard was released from federal prison shortly before I read this book, I was disappointed (but not surprised) to see that there was no coverage of the Pollard case (though, on a single page, the book did refer to that case as having been an "embarrassment" to the Mossad). The book has a "just the facts" style, so as you read through the various cases covered, there is no sense of excitement or tension. Given this is a non-fiction book that covers several assassinations, perhaps that too is not surprising. But the book is a bit dry as a result.

This is how it's done. Thank you, Israel, for holding the line so that the rest of us can sleep and dream at night and so that our children won't have to live in what President Reagan called "a thousand years of darkness." Readers of this book may also like "Jenna's Flaw," a novel about the death of God, the crumbling of Western civilization, and how to save it.

Mossad: The Greatest Missions of the Israeli Secret Service by Michael Bar-Zohar starts slowly. First mentions of the exploits of the world's most famous, or infamous, intelligence service seemed, at first, not so very great. But soon after getting into the book's increasingly complex accounts of the history of the Mossad as well as its many bizarre missions the content more than lived up to the book's subtitle. This is a book about rescues, heroics, compromise and assassination. It also, as background, provides fascinating insight into Israel's culture, politics and continuing, sometimes desperate seeming efforts to survive. If you enjoy reading about the inner workings of secret, superlative organizations, you will enjoy this work on the Mossad. The individual accounts are supplemented with copious notes.

This was a very good book which told the story of 22 Mossad operations from the 1950s up until present day operations against the Iranian nuclear program. The book is a quick interesting read, although I enjoyed the second half of the book more than the first, probably because by the second half of the book the author begins to cover operations which I was more familiar with (ie the war on Black September after Munich, Killing of Imad Muginiyah etc) The author does critique certain aspects of missions of Mossad that went bad. Surprisingly the book doesn't cover the Johnathan

Pollard affair. I assume he had a lot of interaction with Mossad as he was spying for Israel, but the book does not cover his case.

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