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The Birth of Israel, 1945-1949: Ben-Gurion and His Critics, by Joseph Heller (Gainesville, FL: Florida U.P., 2000; pp. 379. \$49.95).

Joseph Heller of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, in response to the debate amongst the `revisionist' Israeli historians, has, in *The Birth of Israel, 1945-1949: Ben-Gurion and His Critics*, offered a riposte to their focus on the First Arab, Israeli War of 1948-9. Heller asserts that `1945 is a more felicitous point of departure, marking the reappearance of the Palestine question on the agenda of the Western powers and coinciding with the dawn of a new era following World War II and the Holocaust' (p. 295). His attempt at achieving a balance is to offer an analysis of `the internal decision-making process of the Zionist leadership in the crucial period of 1945-49' (p. ix). This focus does illuminate...

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David Ben-Gurion (/bɛn ˈɡʊərɪən/ ben GOOR-ee-ən; Hebrew: דָּוִד בֶּן-גּוּרִיּוֹן [daˈvid ben ɡuɾiˈjon] (listen); born David Grün; 16 October 1886 – 1 December 1973) was the primary national founder of the State of Israel and the first Prime Minister of Israel. He was the preeminent leader of the Jewish community in British Mandate Palestine from 1935 until the establishment of the State of Israel in 1948, which he led until 1963 with a short break in 1954–55. This interesting investigation of the Birth of Israel is a very comprehensive analysis of the Politics that led to the creation of the State. The author begins with a general introduction to what he intends to accomplish his work. The bulk of the work focus's on Ben Gurion and the politics of the Yishuv from 1945-1949. Here the book does a wonderful job in navigating the many challenges Gurion faced as he first confronted the English then courted the Americans, the Russians and finally faced up the fact of an Arab invasion. This wonderful book does something that few, if any, have done be