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Novak, David. *Zionism and Judaism: A New Theory*. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2015. 272 pp. \$90.00. (9781107099951).

“Not to deal with Zionism as a theological question is to miss how deeply Jewish is the Jewish attachment to the land of Israel.” So writes David Novak of the University of Toronto in his *Zionism and Judaism: A New Theory*. Novak’s book provides a systematic theological analysis of Zionism: the selection of the Land of Israel for the Hebrew nation is considered within the context of God’s decisions to create the universe, to create the human race in the divine image, and to elect the People of Israel to a covenantal relationship with the Creator. Since humans are social beings, their relationship to God is not only a private, individual one but is also as a part of a community, and so the covenant includes “the relation of a polity to a particular territory...” (Novak’s own emphasis). Dr. Novak also discusses the proper nature of a Jewish state including its relationship to the gentiles who dwell within it. In this regard, the author draws upon his previous writings on the seven Noahide laws that are binding upon Hebrew and gentile alike. The book has elements that some will find controversial, including, for example, the assertion that the Creator makes decisions within time and so is, in a sense, a temporal being; the idea that it is proper to ascribe emotions to God; the adoption of a natural rights political philosophy, and the argument that, in principle, a non-Hebrew state is allowable alongside a Hebrew state within the Land of Israel. This scholarly work is accessible to the educated layperson. However, the book’s chapters on Spinoza and the Shoah seem extraneous, and the overall quality of editing is uneven.

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