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Hoffman, Bruce. *Anonymous Soldiers: the Struggle for Israel 1917-1947*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2015. 640 pp. \$35.00. (9780307594716).

Bruce Hoffman, a professor at Georgetown University and director of its Security Studies Program, has written a fine, scholarly, jargon-free history of the Jewish underground resistance movements (Haganah, Etsel, and Lehi) and their fight against British rule over the Land of Israel in the 1940s. Hoffman takes advantage of the great increase in publically available documentation, especially records of the British government. His detailed history is an important advance from the still valuable *Terror Out of Zion* (1977) by J. Bower Bell. Hoffman concentrates on the effect of these underground movements upon British decision making and concludes that this type of warfare (especially that of Etsel) played an important role in Britain's decision to abandon its mandate and leave. He further argues that Etsel's successful strategy was not only to undermine British prestige but to employ innovative "daring and dramatic acts of violence to attract international attention..." Because the book is devoted to the war against Britain, Dr. Hoffman does not deal with Lehi's assassination of United Nations representative Count Folke Bernadotte in 1948. Less understandable is why the book contains only a passing mention of the arrangement for the Polish military to train Etsel fighters before the Second World War. There is a minor error in the author's statement that Lehi radio broadcaster and future MK Geula Cohen followed Avraham Stern when he left Etsel to form Lehi. In fact, she did so after the assassination of Stern (whom she never met). Also, at least one reviewer claims, not without reason, that Hoffman is credulous regarding Churchill's 1944 partition proposal. Despite these few criticisms, *Anonymous Soldiers* is an important, well researched history. Highly recommended.

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