A History of Israel by Ahron Bregman. Palgrave Macmillan 2003.

Ahron Bregman's A History of Israel is part of a series of compact national histories published by Palgrave Macmillan that already includes histories of the British Isles, the United States, India and China.

Concise histories always run the risk of missing essential details, but Bregman has not only avoided this pitfall but has included some unexpected and hitherto unpublished material, including a transcript of a conversation between Israeli fighter pilots and their control prior to the destruction of the USS Liberty. Those expecting comment on the minutiae of events may be disappointed but anyone looking for a well-researched and well-written history of one of the most important and troubled countries in the international community will be well satisfied.

Rabbi Dr Charles H Middleburgh