1. Record Nr. UNINA9910452644703321

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Titolo Israel has moved [[electronic resource] /] / Diana Pinto

Pubbl/distr/stampa Cambridge, Massachusetts, : Harvard University Press, 2013

ISBN 0-674-07566-8

0-674-07563-3

Descrizione fisica 1 online resource (215 pages)

Disciplina 956.9405/4

Soggetti Economic history

Geschichte Asiens
Political science

Religion Social history

HISTORY / Middle East / Israel & Palestine

Electronic books.

Israel Economic conditions
Israel Politics and government

Israel Religion

Israel Social conditions

Israel

Lingua di pubblicazione Inglese

Formato Materiale a stampa

Livello bibliografico Monografia

Note generali Translated from the French.

Nota di bibliografia Includes bibliographical references and index.

Nota di contenuto Frontmatter -- CONTENTS -- INTRODUCTION -- 1 THE

INTERGALACTIC CAFÉ, OR BEN- GURION AIRPORT -- 2 THE TWO ROADS TO JERUSALEM -- 3 THE LESSON FROM EAST TALPIOT -- 4 IN THE EYE OF THE STORM -- 5 ROOTED UTOPIAS -- 6 THE AQUARIUM -- 7 THE BUBBLE -- 8 THE TENT -- 9 BETWEEN MEMORY AND MEMORY CHIP --

10 STARGATE -- EPILOGUE: ISRAEL QUO VADIS? -- NOTES --

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Sommario/riassunto Israel has changed. The country was born in Europe's shadow, haunted

by the Holocaust and inspired by the Enlightenment. But for Israelis today, Europe is hardly relevant, and the country's ties to the broader West, even to America, are fraying. Where is Israel heading? How do

citizens of an increasingly diverse nation see themselves globally and historically? In this revealing portrait of the new Israel, Diana Pinto presents a country simultaneously moving forward and backward, looking outward and turning in on itself. In business, Israel is forging new links with the giants of Asia, and its booming science and technology sectors are helping define the future for the entire world. But in politics and religion, Israelis are increasingly self-absorbed, building literal and metaphorical walls against hostile neighbors and turning to ancient religious precepts for guidance here and now. Pinto captures the new moods and mindsets, the anxieties and hopes of Israelis today in sharply drawn sketches of symbolically charged settings. She takes us on the roads to Jerusalem, to border control at Ben Gurion Airport, to a major Israeli conference in Jerusalem, to a hill overlooking the Dome of the Rock and Temple Mount, to the heart of Israel's high-tech economy, and to sparkling new malls and restaurants where people of different identities share nothing more than a desire to ignore one another. Vivid and passionate but underpinned by deep analysis, this is a profound and sometimes unsettling account of a country that is no longer where we might think.