

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910973320803321
Autore	Morris Benny <1948->
Titolo	1948 : a history of the first Arab-Israeli war / / Benny Morris
Pubbl/distr/stampa	New Haven [Conn.], : Yale University Press, c2008
ISBN	9786612352089 0-300-14524-1 1-282-35208-3 1-282-08949-8 9786612089497
Edizione	[1st ed.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (556 p.)
Disciplina	956.04/2
Soggetti	Israel-Arab War, 1948-1949 Palestine History, Military 20th century Palestine Politics and government 1917-1948 Palestine History 1917-1948 Israel History, Military 20th century Israel Politics and government 1948-1967 Israel History 1948-1967 Israel Foreign relations Arab countries Arab countries Foreign relations Israel
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Bibliographic Level Mode of Issuance: Monograph
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references (p. 421-505) and index.
Nota di contenuto	Frontmatter -- Contents -- Acknowledgments -- Abbreviations -- List of Maps -- 1. Staking Claims: The Historical Background -- 2. The United Nations Steps In: UNSCOP and the Partition Resolution -- 3. The First Stage of the Civil War, November 1947–March 1948 -- 4. The Second Stage of the Civil War, April–mid-May 1948 -- 5. The Pan-Arab Invasion, 15 May–11 June 1948 -- 6. The First Truce, 11 June–8 July 1948, the International Community, and the War -- 7. The “Ten Days” and After -- 8. Operations Yoav and Hiram -- 9. Operation Horev, December 1948–January 1949 -- 10. The Armistice Agreements, January–July 1949 -- 11. Some Conclusions -- Notes -- Bibliography -- Index

## Sommario/riassunto

This history of the foundational war in the Arab-Israeli conflict is groundbreaking, objective, and deeply revisionist. A riveting account of the military engagements, it also focuses on the war's political dimensions. Benny Morris probes the motives and aims of the protagonists on the basis of newly opened Israeli and Western documentation. The Arab side—where the archives are still closed—is illuminated with the help of intelligence and diplomatic materials. Morris stresses the jihadi character of the two-stage Arab assault on the Jewish community in Palestine. Throughout, he examines the dialectic between the war's military and political developments and highlights the military impetus in the creation of the refugee problem, which was a by-product of the disintegration of Palestinian Arab society. The book thoroughly investigates the role of the Great Powers—Britain, the United States, and the Soviet Union—in shaping the conflict and its tentative termination in 1949. Morris looks both at high politics and general staff decision-making processes and at the nitty-gritty of combat in the successive battles that resulted in the emergence of the State of Israel and the humiliation of the Arab world, a humiliation that underlies the continued Arab antagonism toward Israel.

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