

Raphael Cohen-Almagor, University of Haifa, Israel

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Israeli Institutions at the Crossroads

This is a fascinating collection of essays about Israeli society and its institutions. It is written by practitioners who have experience and understanding, who are equipped with the insight and knowledge, and who bore responsibility while serving the public in the various institutions. Among the authors are former State President Yitzhak Navon, former cabinet minister Gad Yaakobi, former Deputy Speaker of the Knesset Naomi Chazan, former Attorney General Elyakim Rubinstein, Former Supreme Court President Meir Shamgar, and the State Comptroller Eliezer Goldberg. Indeed, some of the best authors in their respective fields take part in this project.

The book aims to tackle timely concerns, analyzing the relationships between democracy and bureaucracy, the military-political complex, the issue of separation of powers in democracy and more specifically the role of the Supreme Court, and the need for a written, solid constitution. It also sheds light on the roles of other influential institutions: the government, the Presidency, the Knesset, the Legal Advisor to the Government, and the State Comptroller. In addition, the book discusses citizenship education in Israel as well as the press council and its role in a democratic society.

The book will be useful to researchers on Israeli democracy, students, teachers, historians, sociologists, political scientists and legal scholars who wish to better understand this fascinating society and its institutions.

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Israeli Democracy at the Crossroads

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Raphael Cohen-Almagor received his doctorate in politics from Oxford University (1991). In 1999-2000 he was awarded the Fulbright-Yitzhak Rabin Award and was a Visiting Professor at UCLA School of Law and Department of Communication. He was Chairperson of Library and Information Studies (2000-2003) and is Assoc. Prof. at the Department of Communication, University of Haifa, where he directs the Center for Democratic Studies. Raphael is the author of *The Boundaries of Liberty and Tolerance* (1994), *Speech, Media and Ethics* (2001, 2005), *The Right to Die with Dignity* (2001), and *Euthanasia in the Netherlands* (2004). He also wrote two poetry books: *Middle Eastern Shores* (1993), and *Travels* (forthcoming). Raphael is also the editor of several books, among them *Basic Issues in Israeli Democracy* (1999, Hebrew); *Liberal Democracy and the Limits of Tolerance: Essays in Honor and Memory of Yitzhak Rabin* (2000), *Medical Ethics at the Dawn of the 21st Century* (2000), and *Challenges to Democracy: Essays in Honour and Memory of Isaiah Berlin* (2000). His newest book *The Scope of Tolerance* will be published by Routledge in 2006.

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