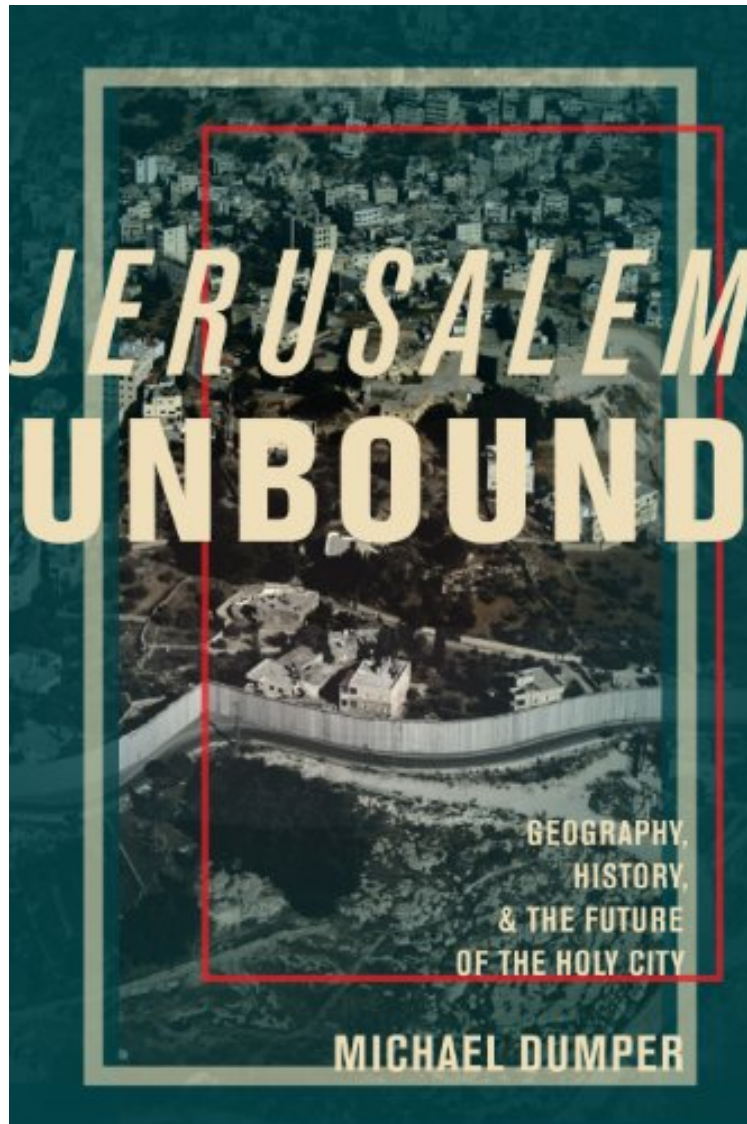


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Jerusalem Unbound: Geography, History, and the Future of the Holy City

Michael Dumper

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Michael Dumper : Jerusalem Unbound: Geography, History, and the Future of the Holy City before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Jerusalem Unbound: Geography, History, and the Future of the Holy City:

Jerusalem's formal political borders reveal neither the dynamics of power in the city nor the underlying factors that

make an agreement between Israel and the Palestinians so difficult. The lines delineating Israeli authority are frequently different from those delineating segregated housing or areas of uneven service provision or parallel national electoral districts of competing educational jurisdictions. In particular, the city's large number of holy sites and restricted religious compounds create enclaves that continually threaten to undermine the Israeli state's authority and control over the city. This lack of congruity between political control and the actual spatial organization and everyday use of the city leaves many areas of occupied East Jerusalem in a kind of twilight zone where citizenship, property rights, and the enforcement of the rule of law are ambiguously applied. Michael Dumper plots a history of Jerusalem that examines this intersecting and multileveled matrix and in so doing is able to portray the constraints on Israeli control over the city and the resilience of Palestinian enclaves after forty-five years of Israeli occupation. Adding to this complex mix is the role of numerous external influences -- religious, political, financial, and cultural -- so that the city is also a crucible for broader contestation. While the Palestinians may not return to their previous preeminence in the city, neither will Israel be able to assert a total and irreversible dominance. His conclusion is that the city will not only have to be shared, but that the sharing will be based upon these many borders and the interplay between history, geography, and religion.

Dumper, a leading expert on contemporary Jerusalem, provides an excellent guide to Jerusalem's current dynamics. This is the most updated and comprehensive account on the frontier city, where conflicting national claims and operations meet religious resacralization. (Menachem Klein, author of *The Shift: Israel-Palestine from Border Struggle to Ethnic Conflict*) Jerusalem Unbound is a truly masterful examination of the layers of complex politics surrounding indeed, embedded in contemporary Jerusalem. Michael Dumper uses the concept of a 'many bordered' city to explore the local and international forces that shape patterns of social as well as political interaction. He then, by way of conclusion, builds on this analysis to suggest how the issue might be addressed in the context of a future Palestinian-Israeli peace agreement. The research is excellent, and the result is a delight to read. Jerusalem Unbound is not only essential reading for anyone interested in Jerusalem or the Arab-Israeli conflict but also represents a significant contribution to the literature on divided cities, religious sites, and cities in conflict. (Rex Brynen, Department of Political Science, McGill University) An original look at a city in flux amidst impasse. Jerusalem Unbound presents a new argument about how to think about this contentious city, asserting that its fluid, 'many-bordered' nature constrains the unilateral imposition of political power and opens up new alternatives for political compromise. (Scott A. Bollens, author of *City and Soul in Divided Societies*) Full of fascinating new insights on the complex and contentious subject of Jerusalem, not only is this book very well documented and authoritative, but it is also written with eloquence and compassion. As of now, no one should dare to pronounce on the future of this city without first reading this work. On the basis of painstaking research, Mick Dumper extrapolates from the findings of a major new inter-disciplinary project on 'Conflict in Cities' to reveal how life in Jerusalem has been shaped and reshaped by the introduction of new structures, barriers and security measures, to the extent that, as Dumper contends, the whole notion of defining 'borders' between the Israeli and Palestinian inhabitants of the city defies conventional understanding. (Rosemary Hollis, City University London) This title will be of interest to those hoping for a peaceful solution to Middle Eastern conflict. (Library Journal) A very worthwhile addition to any library... A very accessible text that can be read and enjoyed by scholars within the field as well as educated and informed readers with an interest in Middle Eastern affairs more generally. (LSE of Books) Jerusalem Unbound is a clearly organized, meticulously researched, highly readable guide to Jerusalem's complex social and political landscape. (Washington Report on Middle East Affairs) In short, this should become the standard reference on the Jerusalem issue (CHOICE) Outstanding... A must-read for Jerusalem researchers and an important contribution to the bookshelf of anyone interested in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict or, more broadly, in the political and urban geography of contested cities. (Society and Space) This is a must-read book for the general public, academics, and analysts. (Muhammad Yaseen Gada American Journal of Islamic Social Sciences) About the Author Michael Dumper is professor in Middle East politics at the University of Exeter and the author of *The Future of the Palestinian Refugees*; *The Politics of Sacred Space: The Old City of Jerusalem and the Middle East Conflict, 1967-2000*; and *The Politics of Jerusalem Since 1967*.