

Gideon's Spies: The Secret History of the Mossad

By Gordon Thomas

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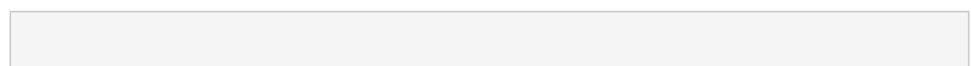
Mossad. The word has a hundred different meanings: To some, Mossad is the precise--and at times lethal--instrument of Israel's will, a fiercely dedicated group of men and women who masterminded the abduction of Nazi war criminal Adolf Eichmann and stole a MiG jet out from under the nose of the Iraqis. To others, Mossad is a fearsome intelligence organization, loyal only to those who can control it, a shadowy, ruthless cabal of spies who have managed to plant an agent in the Clinton White House and smuggle enough weapons-grade plutonium out of the United States to jump-start their own nuclear arms program. But no one has ever gotten close enough to Mossad to know the truth.

Until now.

Created in 1951 to ensure the future of an embattled Israel, the Mossad is an elite intelligence arm whose handful of agents have been responsible for the most audacious and thrilling feats of espionage, counterterrorism, and assassination ever ventured. For the first time ever, drawing on closed-door interviews between the author, Gordon Thomas, and Mossad agents, informants, and spymasters, as well as classified documents and top-secret resources, the truth about Mossad is about to be revealed.

In *Gideon's Spies*, you'll learn how Mossad undercut the CIA as the Vatican's prime intelligence source by discovering the identity of those behind the failed attempt on Pope John Paul's life in May 1981; how TWA Flight 800 was ruthlessly exploited by the Mossad, resulting in the FBI spending hundreds of fruitless man-hours seeking proof of a terrorist act that never happened; about the assassination of Yassar Arafat's chief aide; and most explosive of all, about Mossad's involvement in the deaths of Princess Diana and Dodi Fayed.

Woven together in a narrative that rivals the very best thrillers, *Gideon's Spies* reveals the Mossad as it truly is: brilliant, ruthless, flawed, but ultimately, awesome.



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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

The Mossad was formed in 1951 to coordinate the intelligence-gathering efforts of the still-young nation of Israel. In the nearly half century since, it has become a force to be reckoned with, boasting an impressive track record of counterterrorist actions and assassinations. *Gideon's Spies* is loaded with anecdotes of their greatest exploits (and a few colossal blunders). Among the most interesting sections are the suggestions that Mossad agents killed media tycoon Robert Maxwell in 1991, that the agency's attempted recruitment of Henri Paul, the driver of Princess Diana's car that fateful night, may have caused sufficient emotional distress to be a contributing factor in the accident, and that Mossad operatives in America had tapes of the phone-sex conversations between President Bill Clinton and his lover Monica Lewinsky. There's also some extensive material on the links between the Israelis and the Vatican, including the Mossad's role in the investigation into the attempted 1981 assassination of Pope John Paul II and the agency's constant battles against the PLO. An interesting nonfiction read for fans of international spy thrillers.

From Publishers Weekly

The discipline of Israel's Mossad is legendary: members and former members fiercely guard the intelligence agency's methods and rarely talk to journalists. But many, apparently, did talk to Thomas, a former reporter for Britain's Daily Express, whose numerous books include *Chaos Under Heaven*, about China's democracy movement. Astute readers, however, will question whether these unnamed informants have given the straight scoop. The opening tale is a case in point. Thomas grabs attention with a riveting yarn about Ritz Hotel chauffeur Henri Paul, driver of the car in which he, Princess Diana and Dodi Al-Fayed all died. Thomas portrays Paul as a slick operator who accepted bribes from photographers seeking to snap the various celebrities he was charged with protecting. According to Thomas, the Mossad threatened to reveal Paul's scam to Ritz authorities if Paul didn't agree to spy for Israel. Thomas breathlessly raises a series of questions before hammering his point: "Was [Paul] not only responsible for a terrible road accident but also the victim of a ruthless intelligence agency?" The story, while titillating, ultimately goes nowhere. The question-mark ending is a device on which Thomas relies all too often, giving readers the impression that his book is full of many more questions than answers. Thomas writes with the pulpy charm familiar to readers of English tabloids; however, his use of unnamed sources and his reliance on conjecture will leave readers intrigued but determined to reserve judgment. Foreign rights sold in Germany, Holland, Israel and the U.K.

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From Library Journal

The Mossad is one of Israel's elite security agencies, responsible mainly for operations outside the country's borders. Its reputation (somewhat tarnished in recent years) for efficiency and daring combined with more than a touch of ruthlessness still evokes fear in Israel's perceived enemies. Thomas, a prolific author of fiction and nonfiction on espionage and international security, has pieced together a book based largely on interviews with people both inside and outside the Mossad, as well as from other international intelligence agencies. Each chapter examines a particular action, operation, or political crisis and offers an entertaining and heavily anecdotal account. While the book is neither as scholarly in approach as Ian Black and Benny Morris's *Israel's Secret Wars: A History of Israel's Intelligence Service* (LJ 6/1/91) nor as controversial as ex-Mossad agent Victor Ostrovsky and Claire Hoys's *By Way of Deception* (LJ 11/15/90), Thomas has a winner here. Recommended for academic and larger public libraries, especially those collecting in Israeli politics or international intelligence. Stephen W. Green, Auraria Lib., Denver

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Users Review

From reader reviews:

Mavis Strain:

Have you spare time to get a day? What do you do when you have far more or little spare time? That's why, you can choose the suitable activity regarding spend your time. Any person spent all their spare time to take a go walking, shopping, or went to often the Mall. How about open or maybe read a book called Gideon's Spies: The Secret History of the Mossad? Maybe it is to be best activity for you. You recognize beside you can spend your time with the favorite's book, you can more intelligent than before. Do you agree with it is opinion or you have other opinion?

David Hosford:

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Chrissy Stallings:

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