

# CHOICE

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## SOCIAL & BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES

History, Geography & Area Studies - Middle East & North Africa

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*The following review appeared in the July 2012 issue of CHOICE:*

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Rozin, Orit. **The rise of the individual in 1950s Israel: a challenge to collectivism**, tr. by Haim Watzman. Brandeis University Press, 2011. 254p bibl index afp ISBN 9781584658924, \$85.00; ISBN 9781611680812 pbk, \$35.00

Rozin (Jewish history, Tel Aviv Univ., Israel) makes an important contribution to understanding how Israel moved from a society that emphasized national and communal needs first, to one that gradually allowed average Israelis to seek--and expect the state to grant--individual freedoms that steadily led to a rising standard of living and personal fulfillment. When Israel was founded in 1948, it quickly became a home not only for devoted Zionists, but also for thousands of impoverished Holocaust refugees from the displaced persons camps in Europe, thus overwhelming the resources of the fledgling nation. The book examines how Israel's political leadership reacted to the hardships that resulted from the influx of a new and culturally different population, thus transforming the Zionist ideal of a communal society, exemplified by the Kibbutz, to one that by the 1950s espoused individualism at the expense of the collectivist ideology of the nation's founders. Based on research in archival, legal, and media resources, Rozin analyzes the voices of black market profiteers, politicians, judges, middle-class homemakers, and recently arrived immigrants. A major contribution to Israeli social history. **Summing Up:** Highly recommended. All levels/libraries.  
-- J. Fischel, emeritus, Messiah College