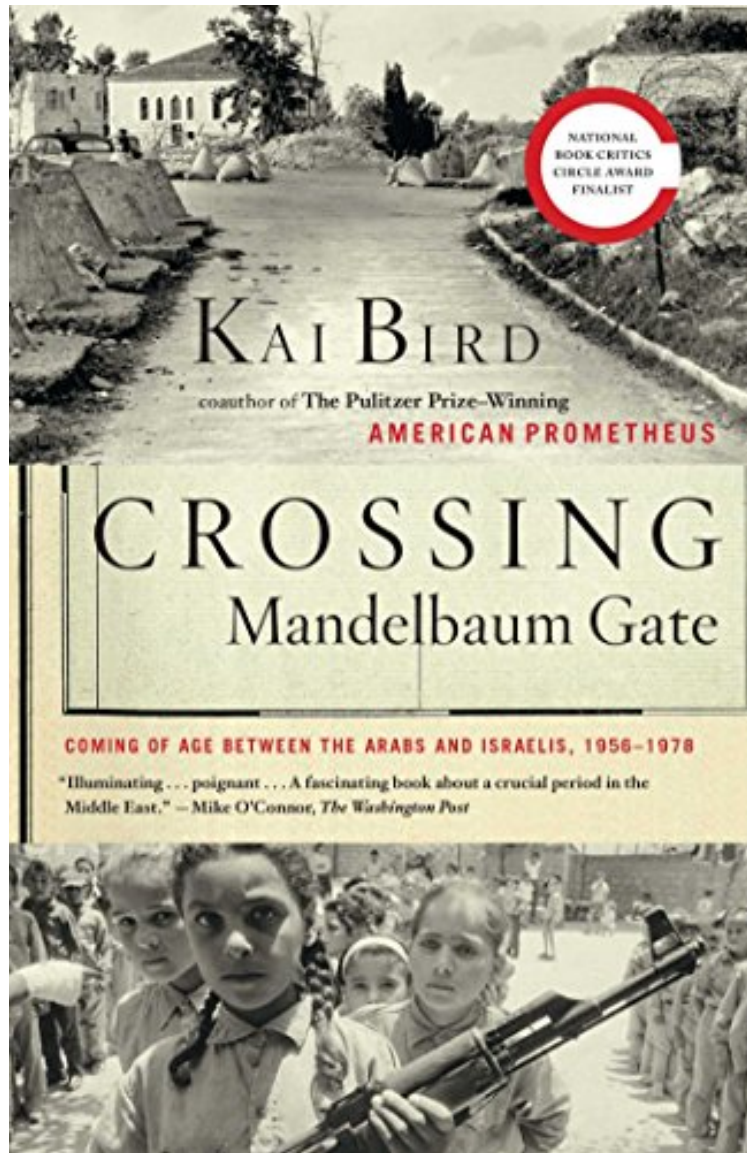


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## Crossing Mandelbaum Gate: Coming of Age Between the Arabs and Israelis, 1956-1978 (English Edition)

Von Kai Bird

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Von Kai Bird : Crossing Mandelbaum Gate: Coming of Age Between the Arabs and Israelis, 1956-1978 (English Edition) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Crossing Mandelbaum Gate: Coming of Age Between the Arabs and Israelis, 1956-1978 (English Edition):

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. HR SpiegelVon HRSWer gut informiert sein will, warum Teile des Islam heute so sind, wie sie sind, dem muss man dieses Werk des Autors von "American Prometheus" dringend empfehlen. Es ist pure Aufklärung für jeden, der sich Verschwörungstheorien verweigert. Es ist eine tolle Ergänzung zu L. Wright's "Und der Tod findet Euch doch" (The Looming Tower).

KurzbeschreibungPULITZER PRIZE WINNER KAI BIRDS fascinating memoir of his early years spent in Israel, Jordan, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and Lebanon provides an original and illuminating perspective into the Arab-Israeli conflict. Weeks before the Suez War of 1956, four-year-old Kai Bird, son of a garrulous, charming American Foreign Service officer, moved to Jerusalem with his family. They settled in a small house, where young Kai could hear church bells and the Muslim call to prayer and watch as donkeys and camels competed with cars for space on the narrow streets. Each day on his way to school, Kai was driven through Mandelbaum Gate, where armed soldiers guarded the line separating Israeli-controlled West Jerusalem from Arab-controlled East. He had a front-seat view to both sides of a divided city and the roots of the widening conflict between Arabs and Israelis. Bird would spend much of his life crossing such lines as a child in Jerusalem, Saudi Arabia, and Egypt, and later, as a young man in Lebanon. Crossing Mandelbaum Gate is his compelling personal history of growing up an American in the midst of three major wars and three turbulent decades in the Middle East. The Zelig-like Bird brings readers into such conflicts as the Suez War, the Six Day War of 1967, and the Black September hijackings in 1970 that triggered the Jordanian civil war. Bird vividly portrays such emblematic figures as the erudite George Antonius, author of *The Arab Awakening*; Jordan's King Hussein; the Palestinian hijacker Leila Khaled; Salem bin Laden, Osama's older brother and a family friend; Saudi King Faisal; President Nasser of Egypt; and Hillel Kook, the forgotten rescuer of more than 100,000 Jews during World War II. Bird, his parents sympathetic to Palestinian self-determination and his wife the daughter of two Holocaust survivors, has written a masterful and highly accessible book at once a vivid chronicle of a life spent between cultures as well as a consummate history of a region in turmoil. It is an indispensable addition to the literature on the modern Middle East.

PressestimmenEngaging and insightful Crossing Mandelbaum Gate is a compelling corrective that can force even reluctant readers to look at the Middle East anew. A powerful and unflinching book. James Gibney, *The American Scholar* Acute and engaging Bird puts me somewhat in mind of Edward Saïd's memoir, *Out of Place*. Bird devotes the last third of his text to a reconstruction of his Austrian Jewish wife's family history during and after the Shoah. His intention here is as admirable as it is plain, and these pages contain some stirring and even uplifting material about human survival. But this serves only to make his genuine evenhandedness more poignant. Christopher Hitchens, *The Atlantic*

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