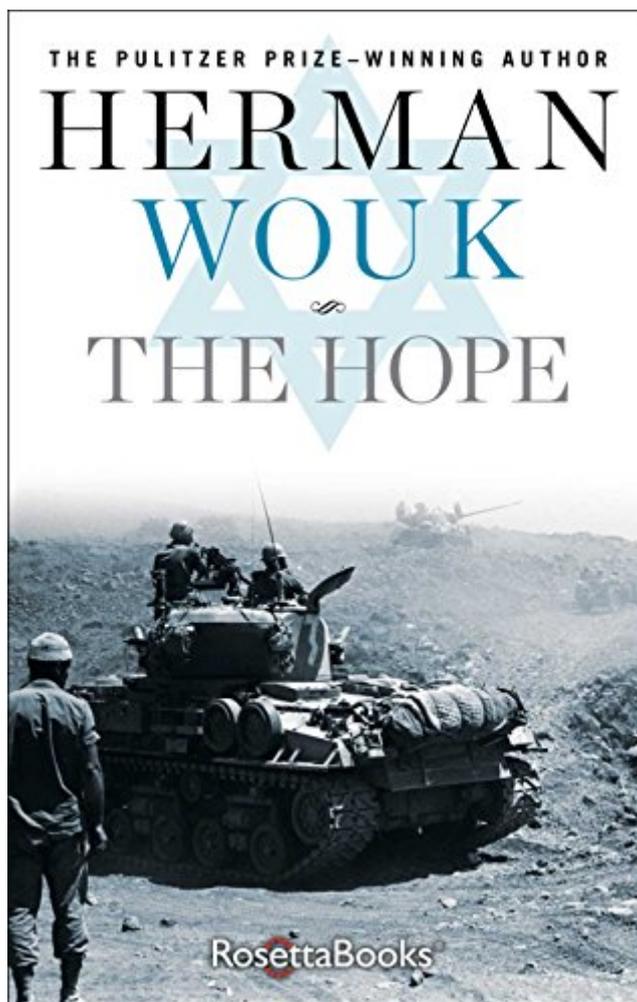


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The Hope



Synopsis

“One of our best writers today” — a modern Charles Dickens — is Herman Wouk. The Hope is not only a good read, but it also causes a good think. — William Safire, New York Times

Starting in 1948 and reaching its climax during the Six-Day War of 1967, *The Hope* begins the story of Israel, a country fighting for its life — outmatched and surrounded by enemies. Zev Barak, Sam Pasternak, Don Kishote, and Benny Luria are all officers in the Israeli Army, caught up in the sweep of history, fighting the desperate desert battles and meeting the larger-than-life personalities that shaped Israel — its fight for independence. The four heroes, and the women they love — three Israelis and one American — weave a compelling tapestry of individual destinies through the grand social history of one nation — its struggle against the odds. Their story — and Israel — is concluded in *The Glory*, which picks up from the Six-Day War and carries through to the hope for peace of the Camp David accords. In this two-part epic, Pulitzer Prize-winning author Herman Wouk brings out the passion, romance, and heroism of Israel — its struggle for survival — adding to his oeuvre yet another enthralling saga that — its impossible to put down.

About the Author Herman Wouk is one of the most widely-read American authors in the world. His books have been translated into 27 languages, and many of his works have become best sellers. He is perhaps best known for *The Winds of War* and *War and Remembrance*, an exhaustively-researched two-part historical series telling the story of World War II from the perspective of two fictional families whose lives were irrevocably changed by the war and the Holocaust. Sixteen years in the making, the epic involved extensive archival research including travel for research to England, Germany, Italy, Poland, and Israel. *The Winds of War* and *War and Remembrance* were adapted for television in a thirty-hour series that won the 1989 Emmy Award for Outstanding Miniseries and was, according to ABC, “the most watched television show in history.”

Born in New York City to Russian-Jewish parents, Wouk graduated from Columbia University and started out working as a comedy writer for Fred Allen — its radio show. After the attack on Pearl Harbor in December 1941, he joined the Navy, serving in eight Pacific invasions and earning several battle stars. During his service in the Pacific he had turned to writing, like Lieutenant Keefer in *The Caine Mutiny*, for an hour or two before dawn. After his discharge in 1946, Wouk finished his first novel, which became a Book-of-the-Month Club selection, and he soon followed up with the international best sellers *The Caine Mutiny*, and *Marjorie Morningstar*. Wouk won the 1952 Pulitzer Prize for fiction for *The Caine Mutiny*. He has also been awarded numerous academic honors, including a degree from the

Hebrew University in Jerusalem. In January 2001, UC San Diego established the Herman Wouk Chair of Modern Jewish Studies, and in 2008 he was given the first Library of Congress Lifetime Achievement Award for the Writing of Fiction.

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Customer Reviews

First, I am not Jewish or a Zionist nor the supporter of any Arab country. I do support Israel as a US ally. I heard Herman Wouk was a very good author. The Hope was a 693 page burner I read in 4 days. Lots of exciting war action, tanks, planes, CIA, strong character development with love triangles and much, much more. Herman Wouk tells us he is an avid Zionist and supporter of Israel but did not slander the other guy in the book (the Arab nations) with fictitious Arab sayings or wrong historical Arab facts. He concentrated on Jewish Israel true and fictitious characters although he does mention Egypt's Nasser and other Arab leaders. Please remember this is a novel based on the 1948 creation of the Israel nation through the 6 day war in 1967. I liked that Herman Wouk tells us in the back of the book about the true events and people that took place in each section of the book. He mixes these true facts and true people with fictitious people, fictitious occurrences, love triangles and more. The book flows very well. I learned a lot about the creation of the Israel nation in

1948 through the 6 day war. The different Prime ministers, defense ministers and generals as well as other officers. Lots of exciting battle action with tanks, paratroopers, and jets. We see the complete ultra quick destruction of Egypt's air force. The Israelite jet pilots destroyed hundreds of planes supplied by the USSR to Egypt on the ground. We also see the quick thrust of Israel armor and its army against Egypt tanks and infantry. Also other Arab nations involved. I was amazed that such a small nation could defend herself against the Arab countries surrounding her. We see France helping Israel for about 10 years with Mirage jets, etc. before abandoning her. We see the US and Britain not wanting to get involved challenging the USSR who propped up Egypt. We see the Russians supplying superior Mig 22s and T55 tanks to Egypt. Israel must make do with older Mirage jets, Sherman, Patton and other modified older tanks. So Israel goes it alone. We see the superior training of Israel's pilots and armor personnel. The world is amazed at the quick successful 6 day war by small Israel. We see Presidents Eisenhower, JFK and LBJ and their interactions with Israel and at times no support for Israel and then when it is the US interest to counteract Russia to support Israel. This book was very well done. I enjoyed it. 4 1/3 stars. I liked *The Hope* so much I ordered the sequel *The Glory* and *The Caine Mutiny* by Herman Wouk.

I expect the best from each Herman Wouk novel, and he consistently exceeds expectations, weaving human stories with history, and having real world personages interact with his fictional characters in interesting and believable ways. From Israel's birth through the six-days war, Mr. Wouk grips you in suspense and drama even though you know the outcome. It's not what happened, it's how it happened, and how individuals played their parts. In particular I felt the power of Moshe Dyan, exuding competence and inspiring confidence in Israelis that they could triumph over impossible odds. Of his fictional characters, Don Kishote (Yossi) is brilliantly conceived, and I hearken to the words of "The Impossible Dream" from "The Man of La Mancha" when I think of what Israel has done, and how they did it.

This is not quite as good, to this reader, as Wouk's "War and Remembrance" but it is along the same vein. For that reason this reader gave it 4 out of 5 stars. This lengthy book interweaves fictional characters into the actual history of Israel's birth and struggles for the first 20 years. It has romance, war battles, politics, and spans across players in Europe and America. The outline of the events is truthful but supplemented by the activities of the fictional characters. It is a solid read. I would highly recommend it.

This is actually a pretty entertaining book. Basically all it is is a soap opera set in Israel over many years. Revolving around the establishment then defense of Israel there are love triangles aplenty, unrequited love, and heroic men. It gives some insight into the situations and the world view from the Jews perspective. While I am a Christian who loves Israel and it's people, I prefer less melodramatic books, and more historical than historical fiction. Still, it's worth reading and it keeps the reader wanting to find out what happens to the characters next.

Taken as a novel, this is a really great read. It is based upon history and gives insight into the "what could have been" aspects of studying the developing years of the Jewish State of Israel. I enjoyed the book tremendously as an entertaining and enlightening read. It is not a true historical account of events, but it puts a very personal touch with its characters into this study. I have enjoyed Herman Wouk's books in the past and this one does not disappoint.

An exciting account of the founding of the nation Israel. Wouk puts you there in the middle of it. If you are a Jew it will make you feel proud; if you are not you might wish you were. The book takes you through the Six-day War and is then followed by, THE GLORY which includes the Yom Kipper battle. I have read both books twice-- as I have done with most of Wouk's books. Highly recommended.

A page turner from beginning to end on a subject that is as current and important today as the day it was written. If you have never read this work or it has been a long time since you opened it last, open it again and refresh your historical knowledge and enjoy a well-written address to a significant topic. Should be required reading for national level politicians!

Totally engrossing. Taken separately or as one of a piece, this huge Wouk work is a surefire winner. To be sure there are some small historical errors, but they are not in your face errors or intentional mistakes. They are widely spaced, and colored by the author's world view and political predisposition. They bring some political adrenaline, but in its totality an extremely brilliant and entertaining novel(s). These books are well worth your attention and interest and you will have an entertaining time meeting the characters and their trip through history.

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