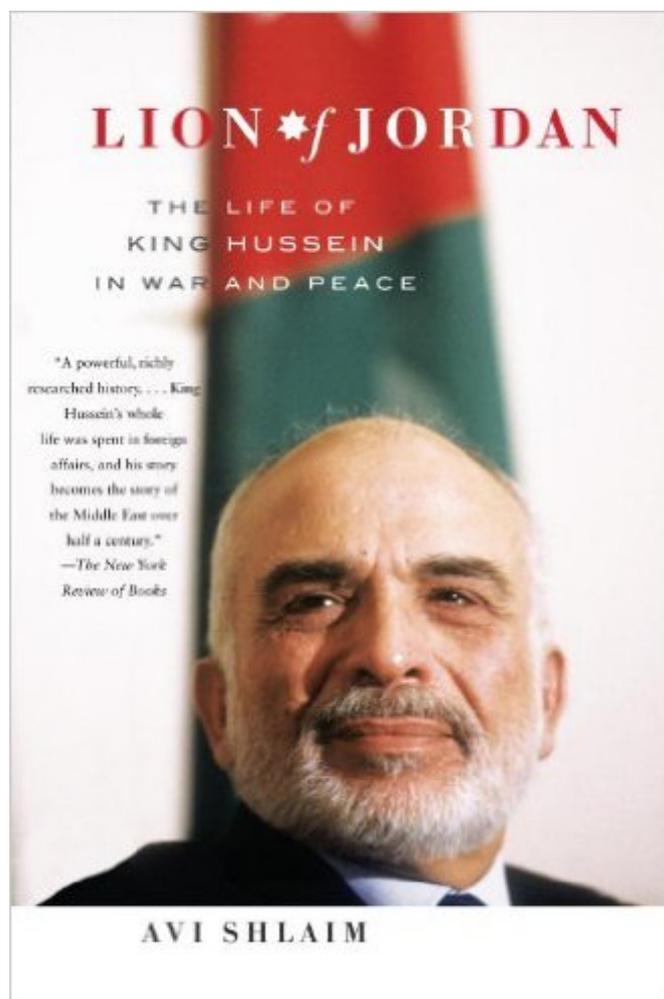


The book was found

# Lion Of Jordan: The Life Of King Hussein In War And Peace



## Synopsis

The first major account of the life of an extraordinary soldier and statesman, King Hussein of Jordan. Throughout his long reign (1953–1999), Hussein remained a dominant figure in Middle Eastern politics and a consistent proponent of peace with Israel. For over forty years he walked a tightrope between Palestinians and Arab radicals on the one hand and Israel on the other. Avi Shlaim reveals that Hussein initiated a secret dialogue with Israel in 1963 and spent hundreds of hours in talks with countless Israeli officials. Shlaim expertly reconstructs this dialogue from previously untapped records and first-hand accounts, significantly rewriting the history of the Middle East over the past fifty years and shedding light on the far-reaching impact of Hussein's leadership.

## Book Information

Paperback: 768 pages

Publisher: Vintage (October 6, 2009)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1400078288

ISBN-13: 978-1400078288

Product Dimensions: 6.1 x 1.5 x 9.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.9 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (16 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #1,484,256 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #64 in [Books > History > Middle East > Jordan](#) #1099 in [Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Historical > Middle East](#) #2048 in [Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Leaders & Notable People > Royalty](#)

## Customer Reviews

Hussein's life was principled on the premise that " King Hussein was fundamentally and structurally a client king ...for all practical purposes the Hashemite legacy inherited from his grandfather was one of continuing dependence on the West." P.154 His wide recognition, acclaim and complexity were due to " the principle of balancing applied at all levels: the inter -Arab, the regional, (domestic) and the global...this meant balancing between Arab and conservatives and Arab radicals, between the Arab world on the one hand and Israel on the other, and the global level between the West and the Soviet bloc...The survival of the Hashemite dynastic interests were paramount (and) the guiding principle behind his foreign policy, the key to constant shifts and maneuvers , to all the alliances and realignments " P.212 With these two elements as the deciding factors in Hussein's life, Avi Shlaim

delivers a superb biography that is well written, researched, revealing, passionate and to a great extent objective. Regardless if one agrees or not with the King's inherited role, he was able to save his dynasty and country. Although King Hussein's life revolved on the previous mentioned principles, not all of the King's actions can be aligned with those principles if one takes a simplistic view of those actions without serious reflection and reading between the lines. Avi Shlaim does an excellent job on analyzing the King and his actions from the day he reached the throne until the last moments on his deathbed. For example, when Iraq invaded Kuwait, the King sided with Iraq, which is contradictory to King's "balancing principle."

In his book, *Lion of Jordan: The Life of King Hussein in War and Peace*, Avi Shlaim describes a man determined to make peace in the Middle East by risking his life and the future of the Hashemite dynasty of Jordan in this relentless but unsuccessful quest. Witnessing the assassination of his beloved grandfather at the age of seventeen, Hussein stepped into the role of king in 1952, a young man at the bottom of a very steep learning curve. He honed his skills quickly and defied all bets against the survival of his throne. The new king inherited the Palestinian cause, which necessitated the dexterity of a firewalker between the Arab world, Israel, the Soviets, and the West. Shlaim meticulously details the tireless efforts of Hussein to make peace with Israel, discrediting beyond any doubt the persistent Zionist claims that no Arab partner to peace ever existed. Distrust was rampant in the Arab world, and under shifting loyalties of Arab friends and enemies alike King Hussein maintained secret contacts with Israel for, at least 1000 hours of meetings with Prime Ministers and other top Israeli officials over the course of some thirty years until his death in 1999. From monumental mistakes in the 1967 War to his success at the Oslo Accords, Hussein adapted to events and players around him saving not only himself, but often the less pragmatic leaders with whom he dealt. The assassination of Yitzhak Rabin toward the end of Hussein's life devastated the king and proved the undoing of the peace he worked so hard to secure. The next Israeli Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, was devious, dishonest, and completely unreliable.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

*Lion of Jordan: The Life of King Hussein in War and Peace*  
King Hussein and the Challenge of Arab Radicalism: Jordan, 1955-1967 (Studies in Middle Eastern History)  
Anglo-American Support for Jordan: The Career of King Hussein  
Inner Peace: Stepping into Serenity to Find Peace of Mind (Inner Peace and Happiness, Peace of Mind Book 1)  
From Abdullah to Hussein: Jordan in Transition (Studies in Middle Eastern History)  
*Lion of Jordan*  
The Jordan Memorial: Family Records

Of The Rev. Robert Jordan And His Descendants In America  
Flesh and Blood: a John Jordan Mystery Book 3 (John Jordan Mysteries)  
JORDAN Country Studies: A brief, comprehensive study of Jordan  
Blood of the Lamb: a John Jordan Mystery Book 2 (John Jordan Mysteries)  
Blood Oath: a John Jordan Mystery Book 11 (John Jordan Mysteries)  
Vietnam War: The Vietnam War in 50 Events: From the First Indochina War to the Fall of Saigon (War Books, Vietnam War Books, War History) (History in 50 Events Series Book 6)  
World War 2 History's 10 Most Incredible Women: World War II True Accounts Of Remarkable Women Heroes (WWII history, WW2, War books, world war 2 books, war history, World war 2 women)  
King Abdullah, Britain and the Making of Jordan (Cambridge Middle East Library)  
Collusion Across the Jordan: King Abdullah, the Zionist Movement, and the Partition of Palestine  
World War 1: World War I in 50 Events: From the Very Beginning to the Fall of the Central Powers (War Books, World War 1 Books, War History) (History in 50 Events Series)  
World War 1: Soldier Stories: The Untold Soldier Stories on the Battlefields of WWI (World War I, WWI, World War One, Great War, First World War, Soldier Stories)  
World War 2: World War II in 50 Events: From the Very Beginning to the Fall of the Axis Powers (War Books, World War 2 Books, War History) (History in 50 Events Series Book 4)  
Saddam Hussein and the Crisis in the Gulf  
Mayada, Daughter of Iraq: One Woman's Survival Under Saddam Hussein

[Dmca](#)