

**Advanced Institute, Winter 2016**  
**GREAT FIGURES OF THE 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY: DAVID BEN-GURION**  
**Instructor: Michael Doran**  
**Washington, D.C.**

**Ben-Gurion: From Militia Commander to Statesman**

Our goal with these weekend seminars will be to examine the worldviews and leadership styles of four important figures of the twentieth century, in order to surface underlying questions about statesmanship. We will ask questions such as: What is statesmanship? How does one recognize it? And if one can, in fact, speak of statesmanship, what are (or should be) its fundamental constituent components?

These seminars are not intended to be mere biographical surveys of great lives well lived. While the (relatively brief) readings will give you the background that you need, you may also want to familiarize yourself with the basic biographies of our figures, with something as simple as their Wikipedia entries. Our goal, ideally, will be to spend some time covering the basic narratives of what transpired during each figure's career, but then to engage in extended, thoughtful seminar-style discussion of the issues that these events and narratives raise, exploring their unfolding in our past and reflecting on their implications for our future. We will hope not to simply learn *about* our figures – Churchill, Reagan, Thatcher, and Ben-Gurion – but *from* them.

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**Saturday, March 19, 2016**

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**9:00 am to 10:30 am**            ***The "Saison"***

Readings:

- Michael Bar-Zohar, *Ben Gurion: A Biography*, Chapter 7, "The War Years."
- Protocols of Begin-Golomb Meeting, November 3, 1944.
- Bruce Hoffman, *Anonymous Soldiers*, Chapter 10, "Tears of Bereaved Mothers."

**11 am to 12:30 pm**            ***The Altalena***

Readings:

- Bar-Zohar, Chapter 10, "The Fight for Survival."

**1:30 pm to 3:00 pm**            ***The 1948 War***

Readings:

- Eliot Cohen, *Supreme Command*, Chapter 5: "Ben-Gurion holds a Seminar."

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**Sunday, March 20, 2016**

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**9:00 am to Noon**

***The Sinai War, 1956***

*Readings:*

- Bar-Zohar, Chapter 14, “The Sinai Campaign.”
- Excerpts from Ben-Gurion’s Diary in *The Suez-Sinai Crisis*, Chapter 21
- Text of Eisenhower’s television address, February 20, 1957:  
<http://www.presidency.ucsb.edu/ws/index.php?pid=10980>