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Anthony Wanis-St John
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#2973669 in Books Ingramcontent 2017-01-20Original language:English 9.01 x .75 x 6.00l, #File Name: 0815635230376 pagesBack Channel Negotiation Security in Middle East Peace Process Syracuse Studies on Peace and Conflict Resolution | File size: 57.Mb

Anthony Wanis-St John : Back Channel Negotiation: Security in Middle East Peace Process (Syracuse Studies on Peace and Conflict Resolution) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Back Channel Negotiation: Security in Middle East Peace Process (Syracuse Studies on Peace and Conflict Resolution):

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Defies conventional wisdom on secret negotiationsBy Suzanne GhaisVery thoroughly researched exploration of secret ("back channel") and publicly known ("front channel") negotiations in the many years of the Israel-Palestine peace process going back to the mid-1980s. While the conventional wisdom in negotiation is that you often need secrecy to prevent unproductive posturing and make any progress toward settlement, Wanis-St. John shows that there is a high cost to this strategy: negotiators increasingly lose touch with or even alienate their constituents, and while agreements might get signed, implementation and thus true resolution become more elusive. Hence you have the high hopes after the (secretly negotiated) Oslo accords that faded to the frustration behind the second intifada and the despair we see now. While this book might be seen as a single case study, the author breaks that case down into multiple instances of both back- and front-channel negotiations to allow comparisons of the two channels, which often take place simultaneously (i.e., there has on many occasions been a secret negotiation at the same time as a non-secret one, allowing us to compare and contrast the two). In this manner the results become easier to generalize to more cases, though certainly the Israel/Palestine case is saddled with a uniquely high degree of public visibility. The sources of data include published first-hand accounts as well as numerous interviews conducted by the author, exposing some secret negotiations that were, I believe, previously unknown to the public. A great read both for people interested in the Middle East conflict and for those seeking more theoretical treatment of peacemaking and negotiation issues.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. and I highly recommend it to anyone interested in negotiation and the Israeli/Palestinian ...By Carolina FI had the opportunity to read this book thoroughly (as it deserves to be read!) this past summer, and I highly recommend it to anyone interested in negotiation and the Israeli/Palestinian saga. The dance between what the public, the politicians, and the negotiators themselves see in front and behind the negotiating table is fascinating and beautifully detailed in this tome. Both the approach to the material and the prose in each chapter were a welcomed change from the

wordiness I typically encounter in my graduate research. Give this book a chance and take his class if you have the privilege to do so! 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Middle East Peace Process made comprehensible! By Maija Jespersen In America, mainstream media portrays the situation in the Middle East as a bunch of lying, uncontrollable thug terrorists being barely controlled by the most moral military on earth. Other news sources present the opposite point of view; Israel as an unjust occupation. The only thing most of them can agree on is that peace would be an improvement. With so many international actors interested in peace in the region, as well as the Israelis and Palestinians themselves being largely unhappy about continued violence, why is it that peace agreement after peace agreement either fails to materialize, or is signed and then not implemented? Wanis St.-Jonh's book delves into this question with depth and precision. He explores the difference between, and the simultaneous use of, front and back channel negotiations -- in other words, negotiations subject to public scrutiny and pressure, and those which are held in secret. Each have their ideal uses and are subject to different spoiler factors. The book also traces the influence that the change of political leadership and of political climate had for the negotiation processes, in Israel, Palestine, and the United States, and the changing roles played by the key characters over time. It weaves the whole tapestry. This book is valuable for both a theoretical understanding of negotiation processes, and for a fact-based look at the actual events in the Middle East. The author does not seem to have a particular bias, which I think makes his analysis even more cogent.

Wanis-St. John takes on the question of whether the complex and often perilous, secret negotiations between mediating parties prove to be an instrumental path to reconciliation or rather one that disrupts the process. Using the Palestinian-Israeli peace process as a frameshy;work, the author focuses on the uses and misuses of ldquo;back channelrdquo; negotiations. Wanis-St. John discusses how top level PLO and Israeli government officials often resorted to secret negotiation channels even when they had designated, acknowledged negotiation teams already at work. Intense scrutiny of the media, pressure from conshy;stituents, and the publicsquo;s reaction, all become severe constraints to the process, causing leaders to seek out back channel negotiations. The impact of these secret talks on the peace process over time has largely been unexplored. Through interviews with major negotiashy;tors and policymakers on both sides and a detailed history of the conflict, the author analyzes the functions and consequences of back channel negotiations. Wanis-St. John reveals the painful irony that these methods for peacemaking have had the unintended effect of inflaming the conflict and sustaining its intractability.

Valuable for a theoretical understanding of the complex world of conflict resolution and for providing balanced analysis of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict/peace process. (of Middle East Studies) This is a very important, engrossing work for professionals and lay readers interested in how international diplomacy works behind the scenes. Highly recommended. (Choice) In a remarkably objective manner, the author analyzes what is, in today's media frenzy of coverage of public diplomacy, probably the most accurate account of what has actually transpired between Israeli officials and designees and their Palestinian counterparts over a negotiated settlement of conflicted issues. (Association of Jewish Libraries s) Wanis-St. John has opened an important line of inquiry with his focus on back channel negotiating. I appreciate the care with which he assembled the case study and pulled together a wide array of accounts into one detailed narrative, adding admirably to our understanding. (Eileen F. Babbitt Negotiation Journal) Represents a decade-long devotion to scholarship, using government documents and interviews with key negotiators. (Communication Research Trends) About the Author Anthony Wanis-St. John is assistant professor at American University in Washington, D.C. He is an advisor to the United States Institute of Peace and has consulted with the World Bank. He has facilitated several workshops for Palestinian and Israeli official negotiation staff and advisors.

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