

PREFACE

For historical, religious and political reasons, the status of Jerusalem has stirred widespread interest. The city's future status is a major point of contention in the Arab-Israeli conflict; but for many others as well, who are not directly involved in the conflict, the terms of the future settlement are of cardinal importance. As a result, numerous proposals for a resolution of the Jerusalem question have been put forward by individuals and institutions throughout the world. The present book describes and analyzes more than fifty of these proposals and positions. We hope that this study will benefit scholars in various disciplines, such as history, political science, international relations, and law. Naturally, we shall be more than gratified if the book also serves as a tool for those actively seeking a resolution to the Jerusalem question.

The book's structure enables the reader to follow the historical development by which certain types of proposals were espoused in a particular period and subsequently abandoned in favor of utterly different ideas as circumstances changed (for example, the solution of a British Mandate for the city proposed in the 1930s and 1940s). Some of the political models surveyed have been tried elsewhere (autonomy regimes, for example) while others have never been put into practice. Many of the proposals and viewpoints are based on the author's interpretation of the city's legal status according to international law and will therefore be of interest also to scholars and practitioners in that field.

The *first chapter* begins with a survey of the historical and legal background to the question of Jerusalem's status, from the British conquest of the city in 1917 to our own day. This background is essential for an understanding of various proposals. The second part of the chapter surveys different opinions on the city's legal status according to international law. *Chapter 1* concludes with a brief description of the city's status under Israeli law. *Chapter 2* presents a survey of the various proposals and positions regarding the city's future status. The main points of each plan are given, with special emphasis on national aspirations, the Holy Places, and municipal administration. In addition, a brief sketch is provided of the individual or institution behind each proposal, and in some cases the political background is described. The *third chapter* presents a comparative analysis of the positions and proposals surveyed in Chapter 2 according to a cross-section of the principal themes. This may be helpful both to those who are interested in a solution relating to a specific subject (Holy Places, for example) and to those who may wish to combine several proposals into a single new plan. The lexicon (*Chapter 4*) explains certain terms that appear in the book, especially in Chapter 2.

Chapters 1 and 3 were written by Moshe Hirsch, and Chapter 4 by Ruth Lapidot. Most of the proposals dealt with in Chapter 2 were analyzed by Moshe Hirsch, and some by Deborah Housen-Couriel. As far as possible, the summaries of the various proposals have been sent to their respective authors, and we have corrected the text in accordance with their wishes.

It is our pleasant duty to thank those who contributed so much to the book. First of all we wish to thank the authors of the various proposals for having taken the time to review our summaries. Ambassador Mordechai Gazit read Chapter 1 and offered many helpful comments. Ora Ahimeir, director of the Jerusalem Institute for Israel Studies, oversaw the work and provided comfortable research conditions. Dr. Yitzhak Reiter was most helpful reviewing the lexicon entries on the "Waqf" and the "Supreme Muslim Council"; Naomi Teasdale offered illuminating comments on the entries for the "Church of the Holy Sepulcher" and "The Holy Places"; Amnon Ramon advised us on geographical questions and Dr. Ifrah Zilberman advised us on the position of Jordan; Ronit Ben Dor was of great assistance in the final research stages; Tsyiona Hizkiah from the Jerusalem Institute for Israel Studies provided efficient and congenial administrative support; Ralph Mandel provided an excellent translation, faithful to the original and Robert Amoils's meticulous proof-reading contributed considerably to the accuracy of the text. Israel Kimhi and Vered Shatil provided the clear maps; and Esti Boehm, also from the Jerusalem Institute for Israel Studies, designed the book and gave it its special character. All of them have our deepest gratitude.