Israel’s Counterterrorism Strategy: Origins to Present summarizes a research project spanning many years that has examined Israel’s counterterrorism strategy since its inception in 1948 through the end of the second decade of the twenty-first century. It is based on an analysis of literature and publications that saw light in either Hebrew or English on Israel’s policy within the examined time frame. The book also relies on a large number of interviews conducted over the years with the most senior Israeli decision makers: prime ministers, defense ministers, chiefs of staff, directors of the Israeli Security Agency (ISA, or Shin Bet) and Mossad heads, counterterrorism advisors to the prime minister, and others.

Rarely does a researcher get the opportunity to review his research topics or a part thereof by observing the decision-making process in real time. I have been fortunate to have been exposed to some of the topics dealt with in this book not only through secondary material (documents, articles, and books) or even primary material (personal interviews I conducted with the decision makers themselves); at certain periods examined in this book, I found myself observing, closely and in real time, terror attacks and their harsh outcomes in Israel as well the affect they had on the Israeli counterterrorism decision-making process and the decision makers themselves. That exposure occurred during my military service or in my various roles as an advisor in the Office of the Prime Minister, the Bureau of the Advisor

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The book therefore gives the reader a peek into Israel’s counterterrorism activities over a period of seventy years and the decision-making processes, challenges, dilemmas, and considerations at the core of these activities.

Note that I have translated Hebrew literature cited in the notes into English.

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