

# Biography - Full

Dr. Daniel Gordis is Koret Distinguished Fellow at [Shalem College](#). The author of thirteen books, Gordis also writes the widely read blog and podcast on Substack, "[Israel from the Inside](#)," which have tens of thousands of subscribers.

Gordis' history of the State of Israel, entitled *Israel: A Concise History of a Nation Reborn*, received the 2016 National Jewish Book Award as "Book of the Year." Ambassador Dennis Ross, reflecting on the book, wrote, "When I am asked 'Is there one book to read about Israel?' I now have an answer." Yossi Klein Halevi wrote, "Daniel Gordis has written a luminous history .... Gordis gives us the soul of Israel, and helps explain why the most hated country on the planet is also among the most beloved."

Gordis' writing has appeared in magazines and newspapers including the *New York Times*, *The New Republic*, the *New York Times Magazine*, *Azure*, *Commentary Magazine*, *TIME*, *The Atlantic* and *Foreign Affairs*.

His books have received numerous awards. Gordis won the National Jewish Book Award for *Saving Israel*, in 2008, and both *Becoming a Jewish Parent* and his book (co-authored with Dr. David Ellenson of the Hebrew Union College), *Pledges of Jewish Allegiance: Conversion, Law, and Policy-Making in 19th and 20th Century Orthodox Responsa* (published by Stanford University Press in 2012) were Finalists for the National Jewish Book Award. *The Promise of Israel: Why Its Seemingly Greatest Weakness is Actually Its Greatest Strength*, was named by Jewish Ideas Daily as one of the "best Jewish books of 2012." *Commentary Magazine* has called Gordis' biography, *Menachem Begin: The Battle for Israel's Soul*, "the gold standard in Begin studies." When the Hebrew edition of his Begin biography appeared in July 2015, it quickly rose to Israel's national bestseller list.

Gordis has garnered praise from leading figures across the political spectrum. Professor Alan Dershowitz has called him "one of Israel's most thoughtful observers." *The Forward* has called him "one of the most respected Israel analysts around." Leonard Fein wrote that Gordis is "perhaps the single most popular speaker on Israel to American Jewish audiences." In 2014, the *Jerusalem Post* listed him as one of the world's 50 most influential Jews, while Jeffrey Goldberg of the *Atlantic* [has written](#), "If you asked me, 'of all the people you know, who cares the most about the physical, moral and spiritual health of Israel?' I would put the commentator and scholar Daniel Gordis at the top of the list."

Gordis' most recent book is *Impossible Takes Longer: 75 Years After Its Creation, Has Israel Fulfilled its Founders' Dreams?* examines the ways in which Israel has, and has not, succeeded in the decades since its establishment. That book received Yeshiva University's Rabbi Sacks Book Prize for 2023.

Gordis and his wife live in Jerusalem. They are the parents of three married children and have several grandchildren.