Periphery: Israel's search for Middle East Allies

By Yossi Alpher (Lanham: Rowman & Littlefield, 2015), 169 pages

Reviewed by Gallia Lindenstrauss

Research Fellow, Institute for National Security Studies (INSS)

Yossi Alpher's book *Periphery* is an extraordinary attempt to provide, a comprehensive analysis of the Israeli strategy aimed at forging alliances with non-Arab states and minorities in the greater Middle East, as well as with remote Arab states, in order to break the isolation inflicted on Israel due to the Arab-Israeli conflict. The plan, although never precisely articulated (p. 4) was implemented during the first three decades of Israel's existence and lost some of its appeal after the Iranian Revolution and the signing of the peace treaty with Egypt, both in 1979.

Drawing on both personal experience from his long service in military intelligence and the Mossad, as well as interview and printed sources, Alpher thoroughly examines this doctrine. He claims that the Arab Awakening and the (temporary) rise to prominence of political Islam gave impetus to a "new" periphery doctrine. While also addressing critics of the policy. Alpher's bottom line is that overall, the strategy was a success.

For full article see: 10.1080/23739770.2016.1164492