## **Contents**

Introduction — 1
Scholars as Redeemers —— 2
The Argument —— 5
An Imprint of the National Self —— 8
Encyclopedism as a Political Position —— 12
Chapter One
Amass: Knowledge in the Making of a Nation —— 16
The Redemptive Science —— 18
Palestine: Longing for a Distant Land —— 29
Explaining the Ways of the Gentiles —— 32
Conclusions —— 46
Chapter Two
Introspection: Creating Singularity at the Outset of the Zionist
Movement —— 48
Against the Narrative: Contesting the Book of History —— <b>50</b>
Against the Myth: Contesting the Anthology of Folklore —— 54
Deterritotializing the Nation: The Encyclopedia as a New Homeland —— 5
The Expert: Yearning for a Jewish Polymath —— 71
A Hybrid Model for a Diverse Nation —— <b>75</b>
The Subversive Dogma —— 80
Jewish Theology and other Zionist Perplexities —— 89
Conclusions — 94
Chapter Three
Decentralization: The Breakdown of the National Utopia —— 96
The Demise of Unity —— 98
American Conservatism as Zionist Avant Garde —— 103
Worshipping the Present: A Russian Opposition to the National
Utopia <b>—— 124</b>
Up Against the Zionist Utopia —— 130
Conclusions —— 139
Chapter Four
Chapter Four Normality: The Migration of Knowledge to Palestine —— 142
Berlin: An Intellectual Getaway —— 144
Bernii. Air Intellectual Getaway 144



Yiddish, the Language of Progress —— 150
Becoming Native —— 154
Bracha Peli and the Making of a Normal Nation —— 157
The Nation's Young Vanguards —— 167
Conclusions —— 170

## **Chapter Five**

Omnipotence: Making the Israeli Canon —— 172

The Bible and the Cosmopolitan Levant —— 174
The Encyclopedic Lexicon —— 187
Light unto the Nations —— 188
The Demise of the Vision —— 198

## **Aftermath**

Zionist Historiography from a Bird's Eye View --- 205

Bibliography --- 208

Index ---- 214