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Where the ideas come from

A dedicated reader wades through a thick pile of journals, and finds some pretty inter

By Uri Dromi | Jun. 22, 2007 | 12:00 AM

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"Ratzim el mul makhar: "Tnu'at hanoar hatzioni erev hashoah, bemahalakha ve'im siyuma" ("Rur Movement Before, During and After the Holocaust") edited by Nili Keren, Massuah Institute for t Defense, 298 pages, NIS 78

"Adkan astrategi" ("Strategic Assessment") edited by Zvi Shtauber, Institute for National Security hadashim: Ktav et le'inyanei tzionut, yahadut, mediniyut, hevra vetarbut" ("New Directions: The . Eyal, 320 pages, vol. 16

"Tkhelet" ("Azure": Ideas for the Jewish Nation"), edited by David Hazony, the Shalem Center, Vc lemakhshavah leumit" ("The Nation: Forum for National Thinking"), edited by Yossi Achimeir, Ja

The journals and collections of articles cited above have been piling up on my desk over the past f read. Okay, "read" is maybe too strong a word. How many of us busy people actually give these pu we flip through them, mark an article as worthy of being read some other time, keep them on the : on the plane hoping that we won't fall asleep or watch a stupid movie instead.

As a person who has spent a lifetime putting out such material, I have great respect for the fat env logo of some institute or other (I am less tolerant when I have to drag myself to the neighborhood line by toying with the secret but futile hope that an especially pleasant surprise package will be w gone into coaxing writers to submit their work, editing the material, waiting nervously for authors these prima donnas, going to the printers and receiving the newborn as it comes squalling into th the fresh ink that never ceases to thrill, and the stress of getting the finished product out to other j cover letter ("Dear friend, I am sure you will be interested in this new issue") or a polite phone cal

But no one does. Nada. Silence. It is the lost honor of publications like these that I hoped to restor

But to do that, I had to read them all, and I would be deceiving the public and myself if I were to c article in each of these publications, and flipped through the rest. I know. They deserve more. But Anyway, there is one thing I did do: I moved the whole pile to my bedside, in the hope that one we be sick (not that I wish it on myself) or suddenly I'll be seized by a tremendous desire to read inste miracles do happen.

"Running Against Tomorrow" is a collection of essays, letters, diary entries and reminiscences abo during the Holocaust. Some of the selections have appeared before, but their assembly in a single be a worthy contribution to the growing pool of readers interested in the Holocaust. Interspersed from personal diaries and letters sent to Palestine by Zionist activists. For example, the letter of U which he complains that "anti-Zionists" were using all kinds of tricks to obtain visas, while "the pi movement are stuck here, with no chance of making aliyah."

My choice from this anthology was Dr. Nili Keren's essay on how the Zionist youth movements in Israel. The heroic stance of the Zionist youth against the Nazis served the national ethos, although chilling words in his "Seventh Column" in 1954: "The fighters and rebels said: The nation also salh will be our ruination/ and the little boy or girl who left nothing behind/ but a white sock on a rock signaled the end of the stereotypical thinking articulated in public discourse and textbooks (pittin to the slaughter.") He paved the way for a more complex view of the Holocaust, the likes of which room for other behaviors, and even for the Judenrat.

Two short articles about the Second Lebanon War by two retired generals caught my eye in "Strat "reinstatement of orders as the primary instrument in military discourse for imposing missions o thought that was always the case. Could this be the reason for the disappointments of the last war

staff said to a junior colleague: "General, do you think you could do something about the trouble v and said: "I'll see what I can do."

Col. (res.) Yehuda Wegman, a harsh critic of post-modern discourse, which he accuses of "poisoni Ofer Shelach, who says that attaining political goals by means of war is virtually impossible today. effective ground operation against the Katyushas, Wegman says it might have broken Hezbollah's

Intergenerational debate

"New Directions," the journal of the World Zionist Organization, continues to hoist the banner of Burg, has filed for divorce. Even so, it is far from being a propaganda tool, as demonstrated by Pr Land, or Freedom in the Global Village," which takes the form of a painful dialogue between a gra society. I read this dialogue with bated breath. The post-Zionist grandson utters some serious alle to which we have descended, and wonders if George Steiner didn't have a point when he said: "Je they make everything around them grow. But put them in one pile and they stink." The grandfath movement, fought with the paratroopers and worked as an engineer in the defense industry until Who wins? Let the reader judge. Fascinating stuff.

"Azure," a journal put out by the Shalem Center, is an infallible source for those seeking to unders stands out in its current issue is "Conservative Compassion Vs. Liberal Pity" by Michael Knox Ber Thomas Jefferson. Basing himself on Hannah Arendt, Beran discusses the difference between con misery of another, unprompted by intimacy with, or love for, the sufferer. Compassion, by contras and concentrates on particular persons. It can be exercised only by individuals or small groups, no not governments, but "compassion brigades" in civilian society that must work for the benefit of t outcasts, because they are better equipped to do the work effectively and grasp the needs of the ha

Finally, in "The Nation," a journal published by the Jabotinsky Institute, Dr. Yuval Arnon-Ohana : Judea and Samaria: The Jews will live on state land and the Palestinians will live on private land. will be abandoned, no one will be uprooted from their land, no one will rule over anyone else. Eve they have cultivated, and everyone will live their lives autonomously, according to their own laws agree, the author concedes, but "at least we, between ourselves, can close the deep internal rift cre occupied in 1967." How come we never thought of that before?

This profusion of periodicals and our impossible dream of reading them may one day lead some e membership club in which we list our favorite subjects and the club sends us abstracts of articles t read more will receive the articles in full. The next stage will be forwarding only the titles of the ar out for lack of readers. Articles won't be published anymore, or they will roll around in cyberspace undergone any kind of editorial scrutiny. Therefore, as a loyal fan of journals, I promise to contin to browse lovingly through their pages, to appreciate the effort invested in them, and to respectful journal.

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