



New Hebrews

The literature on Zionism as a political ideology is extensive, but this book takes a different approach by focusing on the cultural dimensions of the movement and their profound impact on the history of Israel and the Jewish people. *New Hebrews* explores the cultural history of Zionism, starting from the meeting of the First Zionist Congress in Basel in 1897, and culminating with the establishment of the state of Israel fifty-one years later, in 1948. Yaron Peleg explores how innovative approaches in language, literature, architecture, art, music, and body culture transformed modern Jewish culture. His study delves into the contentious facets of early Zionist culture, such as colonialism, social engineering, minority discourse, and Jewish–Arab relations. *New Hebrews* presents an interdisciplinary examination of nationalism, drawing from a diverse array of primary sources to uncover the psychology of modern Israel. This title is also available as open access on Cambridge Core.

YARON PELEG is Kennedy-Leigh Professor in Modern Hebrew Studies at the University of Cambridge. His monographs include *Directed by God: Jewishness in Contemporary Israeli Film and Television* (2016) and *Israeli Culture between the Two Intifadas* (2008). He is co-editor of numerous scholarly anthologies, including *New Directions in Israeli Media, Film, Television & Digital Content* (2025), with Eran Kaplan and Ido Rosen.

New Hebrews

Making National Culture in Zion

YARON PELEG

University of Cambridge



CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS



Shaftesbury Road, Cambridge CB2 8EA, United Kingdom

One Liberty Plaza, 20th Floor, New York, NY 10006, USA

477 Williamstown Road, Port Melbourne, VIC 3207, Australia

314–321, 3rd Floor, Plot 3, Splendor Forum, Jasola District Centre,
New Delhi – 110025, India

103 Penang Road, #05–06/07, Visioncrest Commercial, Singapore 238467

Cambridge University Press is part of Cambridge University Press & Assessment,
a department of the University of Cambridge.

We share the University's mission to contribute to society through the pursuit of
education, learning and research at the highest international levels of excellence.

www.cambridge.org

Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781009591478

DOI: 10.1017/9781009591430

© Yaron Peleg 2025

This publication is in copyright. Subject to statutory exception and to the provisions of
relevant collective licensing agreements, with the exception of the Creative Commons
version the link for which is provided below, no reproduction of any part may take place
without the written permission of Cambridge University Press & Assessment.

An online version of this work is published at doi.org/10.1017/9781009591430 under a
Creative Commons Open Access license CC-BY-NC 4.0 which permits re-use, distribution
and reproduction in any medium for non-commercial purposes providing appropriate credit
to the original work is given and any changes made are indicated. To view a copy of this
license visit <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/4.0>

When citing this work, please include a reference to the DOI 10.1017/9781009591430

First published 2025

Front cover illustration of Judah Maccabee by Tzvi Livni (Malevanchik) from a
collection of stories for children, *The Chain of Heroism* (שלשלת הגבורה). Israel Museum,
Illustration Library, courtesy of Ilana Gil.

Printed in the United Kingdom by CPI Group Ltd, Croydon CR0 4YY

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Names: Peleg, Yaron author

Title: New Hebrews : making national culture in Zion / Yaron Peleg.

Description: New York : Cambridge University Press, 2025. | Includes
bibliographical references and index.

Identifiers: LCCN 2025004089 | ISBN 9781009591478 hardback | ISBN
9781009591423 paperback | ISBN 9781009591430 ebook

Subjects: LCSH: Zionism | Zionism in literature | Zionism in art

Classification: LCC DS149 .P4225 2025 | DDC 956.94–dc23/eng/20250305

LC record available at <https://lcn.loc.gov/2025004089>

ISBN 978-1-009-59147-8 Hardback

Cambridge University Press & Assessment has no responsibility for the persistence
or accuracy of URLs for external or third-party internet websites referred to in this
publication and does not guarantee that any content on such websites is, or will
remain, accurate or appropriate.