

“Israel’s Edge” by Jason Gewirtz

A review by Alan Potash

As a devoted advocate of Israel I am always on the lookout for ways to promote the country. Over the past several years it has been very easy to find great stories about Israel’s entrepreneurial nature. I have been a proponent of Israel’s technological advancements for a long time even more so when I read *Start Up Nation*. Before *Start Up Nation*, the website www.Israel21C.com was a great resource for learning about new advancements. *Start Up Nation* referenced a unit in the Israel Defense Forces that handles the hi tech weapons.

Jason Gewirtz, in his latest book brings to the public another unit of the IDF that brings experts in science, math, engineering, and computer science together to really look at the long term needs of protecting Israel. While reading the book I felt as though many of the things he was writing about should be classified. He tells the development of this unique unit in a way that protects the information but celebrates the contributions that the soldiers make. The Unit is called Talpiot. It might have been a secret for a while but when the Wall Street Journal and Forbes references it for the technological advancements it has made; I guess the secret is out.

Last week, when Intel announced the purchase of Israel based Mobileye for \$15 Billion. I wouldn’t have thought anything of it. But, since reading Gewirtz’s book I have a deeper understanding of the significance and where the technological advances come from. If you are intrigued by Israel’s ability technologically outperform most western countries reading *Israel’s Edge* will give you a greater understanding on how and why Israel has been able to do it.

But the real secret is, Israel is educating people and in science and math. They are taking STEM to a whole different level. Please join us for a presentation by Jason Gewirtz on Wednesday, March 29, 2017 at 7 p.m. in the Social Hall of the Jewish Community Center. This presentation is offered to the community free of charge by The Jewish Federation of Omaha through the Jewish Book Council.