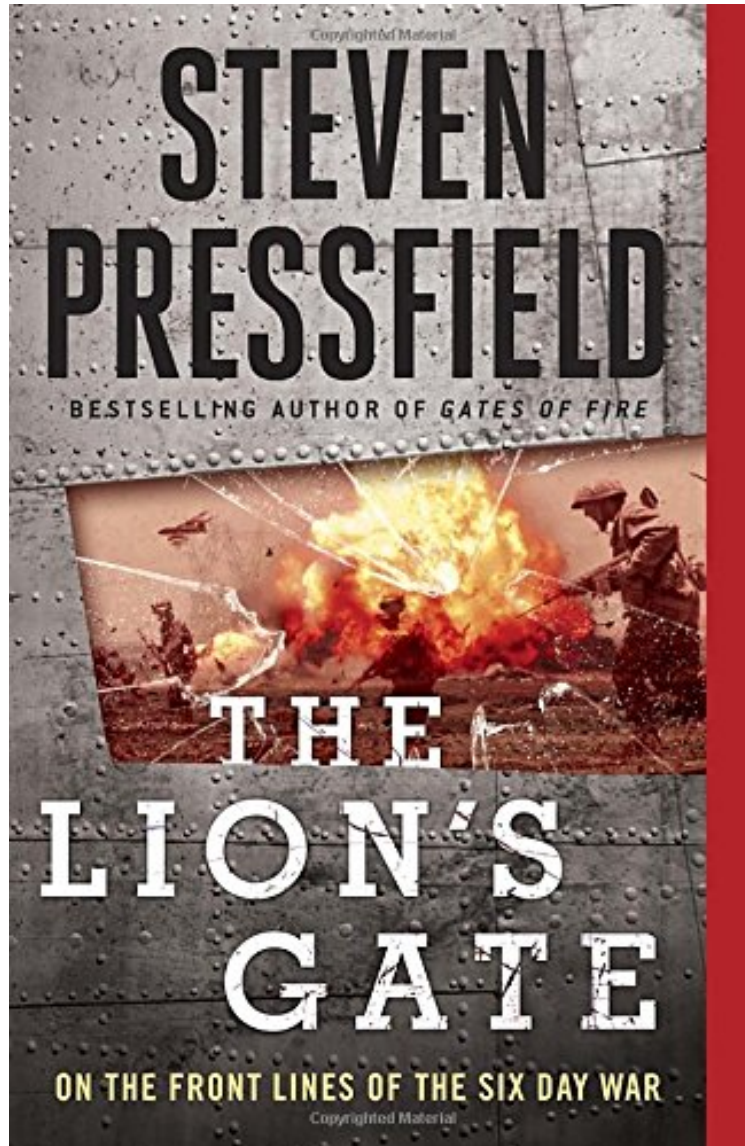


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## The Lion's Gate: On the Front Lines of the Six Day War

*Steven Pressfield*

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**Steven Pressfield : The Lion's Gate: On the Front Lines of the Six Day War** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Lion's Gate: On the Front Lines of the Six Day War:

44 of 46 people found the following review helpful. HumblingBy Robert Johnston Pressfield serves up another extraordinary story. This time he binds together a collage of first person accounts into an extraordinary narrative. Pressfield tells this story from up and down the Israeli, IDF, and IAF ranks and across the international machinations into the run-up and conduct of the 6-day war. Pressfield sets the stage to zoom into the microscopic society of

civilian/soldier kids in combat. The kids are led by surprising and extraordinary civilian/commanders to simply never give an inch. The reason was pretty simple as no less than victory and more, that no battle can be lost in so small a geography and no loss is too great to grant the last man standing a retreat. In typical Pressfield style, the meat of story grows to an unstoppable read. Pressfield explains up front that this is an unapologetically biased portrayal from his perspective. Reviewers that might pan the book as one sided are more than adequately warned. Pressfield has the eyewitnesses named for the skeptic to question. Reading a book delivers a particular experience to the reader. The experience here is the combination of a superb book multiplied by one's own recall of the events and the still central and current global realpolitik. I can recall the UN withdrawal from Sinai at Nasser's demand and we knew it was for the express purpose of clearing the way for the Muslim Nationalist's run at their own final solution. I had forgotten that the US was not Israel's ally. I had forgotten that France, alone, was Israel's only material ally. I mentally moved the French up a few notches of respect."In '67 the army is too poor to have its own trucks for troop transport. We must use civilian vehicles ..." This is not an easy book for a `pro-Israel' American to read. It's uncomfortable. Its gut wrenching, actually. My stomach churned at every instance of America's overt abandonment of Israel. Pressfield simply states the facts and the resignation that 'it is what it is' from the kids fighting to survive with the weapons of past generations. Pressfield leaves the reader to ponder the matter. I had so erroneously imagined that the US and Britain did something, anything to help Israel in this war. The US and Britain outrageously abandoned Israel to fate. Just as outrageously, the USSR weaponized the Muslim Nationalists with their very best tech. Israel fought this war against the `state of the art' military tech, surrounded on three sides, with their backs against the water and outnumbered in all ways by 2, 3, or 4 to 1 with no friends willing to make a stand. Israel triumphed mightily all by themselves to earn the respect that has come to define them as the eternally underestimated underdog. Kudos to Pressfield for writing the book he wanted and I appreciate. It blew the fog out of my own memory to deliver a total experience. 13 of 13 people found the following review helpful. Understanding Israel By Papa Chuck The book is one of those that once you begin is hard to put down, the individuals whose lives are being shared come alive in a way that's hard to explain. Living as we do in a dream world here in the U.S. where our idea of a stressful day is not finding a parking place at the mall can't compare with families born and raised in what is, was, and will continue to be a war zone. I have a much better understanding of the size of Israel and more importantly the spirit of the people who we, Christians, refer to as God's Chosen, the Jews. First book I've read on the Six Day War. Many of the participants names I've heard all my life are fleshed out, warts and all. A worthwhile read. 59 of 60 people found the following review helpful. The Six Day War: You are there By Customer While I usually do not read war or action stories, my adrenaline was kicking in on overdrive as I sped through THE LIONS GATE. I knew many of the details before I had even opened the book, but it was so real and fresh that I felt I was actually there: in the airplanes, helicopters, jeeps, tanks, and trudging along in IDF boots. I remember following the Six Day war as it happened, beginning with Egypt's closure of the Straits of Tiran and the UN leaving the Sinai. I was living in Ohio and all the media reports were talking about all the damage being inflicted on the Israeli military and Israeli cities and civilians. It was frightening. Soon after the end of the war, the real story got out: Against amazing odds, Israel had destroyed the Egyptian air force within a few hours and had captured all of the Sinai, The West Bank, and Golan Heights. Afterwards, I followed media reports and read books about the war. None of them matched the story revealed in Steven Pressfield's THE LIONS GATE. Formatted as a chronological oral history, Pressfield presents key segments of the war. He interviewed sixty three military personnel who fought in the Sinai, Jerusalem, and the Golan and lets them tell what they experienced at that critical time. We are there as the plans of attack for Sinai, Jerusalem, and Golan are drawn and redrawn. Through their words, they tell us what was going on in the minds of the Israeli military personnel directly involved. They relate how the IDF operates: Orders from the top are frequently ignored or altered because of the situation on the ground. While there were orders to not attack civilians or religious sites, they had to decide what should be done when they were attacked by civilians or from mosques or schools? We learn what Israel and Jerusalem mean to the Jews and why. IDF members also tell of their experiences with some of the Arab civilians they encounter during the battle and of a meeting with an 80-year-old Jewish grandmother who had to flee her home in the Jewish Quarter of Jerusalem in 1948. THE LIONS GATE tells of the frustration of the military personnel waiting for Prime Minister and Minister of Defense Levi Eshkol to decide to take action. Russia was shipping arms and personnel to Egypt. Eshkol was waiting for the US to intervene. Meanwhile, the Egyptian forces were getting stronger and better prepared which would result in more casualties for the Israelis. Despite assurances from Israel that areas under Jordanian control would be left alone if he stayed out of the battle, we are told why King Hussein got involved, which resulted in the his loss of The West Bank. Moshe Dayan had died long before the book was written, but he left his own writings and his daughter and wife were interviewed. He was very prescient: He warned that if Israel won, the world would change its characterization of Israel from being David to being Goliath and demand from us retrenchment and retreat. He warned that if the actions of religious extremists were allowed to grow, the results would be catastrophic. Born in Israel, he also spoke of how to allow the Arabs to maintain their pride and what they will do to save face. The books brought out many interesting points, some of which were new to me: In the 1956 War, which was partly a cause of the Six Day War, under Ariel Sharon, Israel captured more Egyptian territory than France and England had planned; Egypt's lies kept the UN from calling a cease fire and the

Russians from sending more aid; In 1967, Israel's population was 2.7 million people, many of them recent immigrants who had been evicted from their homes in the Middle East and North Africa. They lacked the skills necessary to defend their new home; many did not yet speak Hebrew. Israel was surrounded by 122 million Arabs; Sharon believed As long as the Arabs preserve a gleam of hope that they will succeed in getting rid of us, nothing in the world can cause them to relinquish this hope because they are not a rabble but a living people....Only when the extremist groups...lose their influence and only then will their influence be transferred to more moderate groups...[who will be able to] offer suggestions for compromise....so that both people can live together in peace, like good neighbours. Hebrew is notoriously deficient in profanity; While in exile, Jews yearned to return to Israel. The national anthem, Hatikva, speaks of The Hope. Even today, some preferred to deal with the dream rather than the reality; THE LIONS GATE brought out all the involvement of a well-presented documentary. This book was an advanced copy from Goodreads.

The thrilling true story of one of the most unlikely and astonishing military victories in history. June 5, 1967. Israel is surrounded by enemies who want nothing less than her utter extinction. The Soviet-equipped Egyptian Army has massed a thousand tanks on the nation's southern border. Syrian heavy guns are shelling her from the north. To the east, Jordan and Iraq are moving mechanized brigades and fighter squadrons into position to attack. June 10, 1967. The Arab armies have been routed, their air forces totally destroyed. Israel's citizen-soldiers have seized the Gaza Strip and the Sinai Peninsula from Egypt, the Golan Heights from Syria, East Jerusalem and the West Bank from Jordan. Moshe Dayan has entered the Lions Gate of the Old City of Jerusalem to stand with the paratroopers who have liberated Judaism's holiest site, the Western Wall. Drawing on hundreds of hours of interviews with veterans of the warfighter and helicopter pilots, tank commanders and Recon soldiers, paratroopers, as well as women soldiers, wives, and others, bestselling author Steven Pressfield tells the story of the Six Day War as you've never experienced it before.

From Booklist The geopolitical effects of the Six Day War, in 1967, have continued to exert immense power over both the Middle East and the wider world. So it is useful to be reminded that the war was fought over relatively small territories by generally young and inexperienced men on both sides. Pressfield has compiled an impressive collection of firsthand accounts by many men and women who took part in the war on the Israeli side. Some of these recollections are from professional soldiers who were veterans of the Israeli War of Independence or the 1956 Sinai campaign. But most interesting and poignant are the accounts by youthful citizen-soldiers who reveal their fears, hopes, and even their impatience with their political leaders as their nation moves toward war. Of course, this is a highly skewed collection, since we hear nothing from Egyptians, Syrians, or Palestinians. Still, this is an effective recounting of soldiers thrust, in a compressed time span, into life-and-death situations for themselves and their nation. --Jay Freeman Few histories of this critical war peel back the layers of elation and tension running through the six days of battle like *The Lions Gate*. The Wall Street Journal Deeply reported and compellingly told. The Los Angeles Times I was in awe of *The Lions Gate*. Huffington Post This story from the Israeli air force is one of the greatest management lessons you'll read. Forbes A brilliant look into the psyche of combat. Where he once took us into the Spartan line of battle at Thermopylae, Steven Pressfield now takes us into the sands of the Sinai, the alleys of Old Jerusalem, and into the hearts and souls of soldiers winning a spectacularly improbable victory against daunting odds. General Stanley McChrystal, U.S. Army, ret.; author of *My Share of the Task* About the Author Steven Pressfield is the author of twelve previous books, including the bestselling novels *Gates of Fire* and *The Legend of Bagger Vance*, as well as the cult classic on creativity *The War of Art*. He lives in Los Angeles.