# *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.

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# New Hebrews

## Making National Culture in Zion

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