

*The Six Day War:  
Gamal Abdel Nasser's Inability to Compromise & Egypt's  
Ultimate Defeat*

Jonathan M. Dobliz  
Member ID Number: NC4659948LIX

The friction between Egypt and Israel has been filled with hatred and bloodshed since Israel's inception. One of the key figures in this conflict was Egypt's second President, Gamal Abdel Nasser. Although born into poverty, Nasser graduated from the Royal Military Academy and became a proponent of a modernized and independent country. Nasser challenged western control and financial dominance that Britain maintained over Middle Eastern countries, especially Egypt. He was widely admired by all citizens, and they willingly fought and died for his belief of an Arab world free from British control and Israeli occupation. Under his leadership, the Arab people's actions and provocations toward Israel culminated in Egypt's defeat during the Six Day War. President Nasser did not possess the foresight to compromise and understand that his political decisions and alliances hindered Egypt's ability to conquer Israel.

In 1947, the independent state of Israel was recognized by the United Nations. Immediately, Israel was attacked by the armies of Egypt, Lebanon, Syria, and Iraq because the creation of Israel was viewed as an intrusion into Palestinian lands. The Arab people believed that the United Nations was not justified to liberate Arab land for the sole purpose of re-locating persecuted Jewish people. Although this newly created country was surrounded by Arab enemies, superior military leadership enabled Israel to defeat her enemies and secure thirty percent more land than the United Nations had initially allocated.<sup>1</sup> The 1948 War, which the Israelis referred to as the "War of Independence," claimed one percent of the nation's population. The nations that attacked Israel lost their chance to purge their lands of the Jews.<sup>2</sup> Nevertheless, as directed by the United Nations, armistice agreements between Israel and Egypt were signed, thus signifying one of two compromises enacted by Nasser. The occupied territories became the unofficial boundaries both countries acknowledged.

---

<sup>1</sup> Michael B. Oren, Six Days of War: June 1967 and The Making of The Modern Middle East, pp. 4-5.

<sup>2</sup> Chris Trueman, "Israel and the 1948 War," (article accessed 1 December 2007); <http://www.historylearningsite.co.uk>. Internet.

While commanding an Egyptian army in Palestine in 1952, Nasser became disenchanted with the current Royal Farouk Family, its corruption as a result of supposedly supplying faulty weapons to the army, and its defeat in the 1948 war. He established a secret group known as the Free Officers whose mission was to overthrow the current government, eradicate Israel, form a ruling party to eliminate corruption within Egypt and dissolve British colonialism, as well as institute a sense of nationalism. The Free Officers led a bloodless coup against the Royal Family. The fact that Nasser allowed King Farouk to depart unscathed demonstrated his humanitarian and socialistic beliefs that he planned on implementing during his regime.<sup>3</sup> Although Nasser acted altruistically, he harbored a strong desire to erase Israel from existence. Border altercations were predominately fueled by the thousands of Palestinian Arabs who had been displaced from their land by Israel's victory in 1948.

Regardless of this strife, one of Nasser's primary objectives was to free Egypt from colonialism, especially British and French. Unfortunately, this goal led to a confrontation with England, France, and Israel in 1956. The most obvious presence of a foreign power exerting its domination in Egypt was the Suez Canal which was controlled by Britain and France. Although the Canal was located on Egyptian soil, the citizens of Egypt derived minimal financial compensation and England controlled a majority share of the shipping revenues.<sup>4</sup> This coupled with previous escalating violence between Egyptian citizens and British soldiers solidified the desire to purge the Arab country from any foreign occupation – British, French, and Israeli. Egypt controlled the Gaza Strip used by Arab guerrillas during raids into southern Israel. Nasser instituted a blockade of Israeli shipping in the Canal, thus exhibiting his rashness, as well as his inability to compromise. Great Britain and France objected to the President's policies and joined forces with Israel in a clandestine agreement. With English and French assistance, Israel attacked and controlled the Gaza Strip and

---

<sup>3</sup> Anthony Nutting, Nasser, pp. 32-37; Robert Stephens, Nasser: A Political Biography, p. 107.

<sup>4</sup> Chaim Herzog, The Arab-Israeli Wars: War and Peace in the Middle East, pp. 112-114.

nearly all of the Sinai Peninsula. This conflict, known as the Suez-Sinai War, resulted in another defeat for Egypt at the hands of the Israelis. The United Nations ordered a cease fire and a withdrawal of foreign forces from occupied lands. In order to maintain peace, United Nations Security Forces were stationed on the Egyptian side of the Suez Canal, the Gaza Strip, and Sinai.<sup>5</sup> As a final insult, the Israeli military destroyed conquered lands before their withdrawal, thus intensifying animosity.

Although Nasser successfully ended British occupation, the future effects of his actions were never planned for or anticipated. During the early 1950's, Nasser gradually began to revitalize the Egyptian economy and contemplated constructing the Aswan High Dam across the Nile River. The purpose of this Dam was two-fold – provide hydro-electric power for the country and control seasonal flooding caused by the Nile River which negatively impacted crop production. The United States and Great Britain had initially promised to grant Egypt seventy million dollars towards the construction of the Dam.<sup>6</sup> Egypt, however, purchased military arms from Czechoslovakia, causing the United States to withdraw its funding. Nasser's actions indicated that Egypt was becoming a collaborator with Russia in the Cold War against the United States. Purging Egypt of British control, Nasser caused a further rift between Egypt and the United States. Since England was an ally of America during the Cold War, any negative impact towards one country equated to a hostile intent towards all its allies.<sup>7</sup> By alienating the United States, Egypt was forced to secure a new source of financial backing for the Dam project and a supplier of military arms, thus providing the Soviet Union with the opportunity to extend its Cold War doctrines. The exodus of not only the British, but also the financial support offered by the United States, provided Russia with the excuse to lend Egypt

---

<sup>5</sup> Stephens, pp. 238-242.

<sup>6</sup> Ibid., p. 172; Nutting, p. 131.

<sup>7</sup> Said K. Aburish, Nasser: The Last Arab, pp. 97-98, 103.

approximately one third of the one billion dollar Dam project, as well as to supply materials and engineers to oversee the project.<sup>8</sup> By eliminating one foreign power from its soil, Nasser willingly aligned himself with Russia who began to use Egypt for its own benefit – the spread of Communism.

As a result of the conflict in 1956 and the Aswan Dam project, Egypt had permanently sided with the Soviet Union and had become dependent for aid and military supplies. In turn, the United States, who previously had remained relatively neutral regarding Middle East diplomacy, decided to fund and supply Israel. This action was in retaliation to block the sudden Communist influences surfacing in Egypt. Two world powers were asserting control over their respective beneficiaries. Nevertheless, Egypt continued to maintain its ultimate desire – the destruction of Israel. In 1964, the second Arab Summit Conference declared its goal of eliminating Israel, increasing the size of its armed forces, and diverting the waters from the Jordan River before they reached the Sea of Galilee.<sup>9</sup> Israel had begun work on a national water project that entailed diverting water from the Sea for irrigation to other parts of the country. Nasser feared that an irrigated desert would support an additional three million Jewish immigrants and strengthen Israel's control of Palestine. Since his primary intent was to liberate Palestine from Jewish inhabitation, Nasser, with the help of the newly formed Palestine Liberation Organization, employed methods of sabotage to derail Israel's irrigation project.<sup>10</sup>

During the early 1960's, tensions escalated. The unsanctioned activation of Israel's use of the Sea of Galilee as a national water supplier received unfavorable responses. As border attacks intensified, Egypt joined forces with Syria and Jordan. Egypt and Syria signed a five year defense agreement, thus providing military support to prevent future conflicts. The continued presence of the

---

<sup>8</sup> Stephens, p. 172.

<sup>9</sup> "Israeli Notes to the Security Council following the Arab summit conference, S/5980, 18 September, and S/60202, 19 October," MidEastWeb. (note accessed 1 December 2007); <http://www.mideastweb.org/isrealscnotes.htm>. Internet.

<sup>10</sup> Oren, p. 19.

United Nations Security Forces prevented any direct military confrontations. As Arab propaganda against Israel increased, Nasser became more determined to free Arab lands from the constant Israeli threat. He supported Palestinian guerrillas who attacked troops and civilians on Israeli soil and allowed the antagonists to retreat to the Egyptian controlled Gaza Strip. In retaliation, Israel destroyed the village of Samu in Jordan and threatened to overthrow the Syrian government if the guerrillas refused to cease their terrorist activities.<sup>11</sup>

The Soviet Union also warned Egypt that the Israelis had mobilized their troops and were poised on the border of Syria.<sup>12</sup> Unknown to Nasser, this information was incorrect, and Russia was acting as the catalyst to provoke further confrontations. Many theories have been formulated regarding the reasoning behind the Soviet's intentions. If Egypt accomplished a resounding defeat against Israel, proof would be established that Russian military armaments were superior to those of the United States. A direct confrontation and victory over a non-Communist, United States supported country would further prove the overall military superiority of Russia. Initially, Nasser believed that a substantial Egyptian military presence at the Israeli border would deter any large-scale attacks by either country. A great deal of political pressure was placed on Nasser to remove the Security Forces controlling the Gaza Strip and the Suez Canal because it would have been difficult for Egypt to abide by its pact with Syria and provide military aid if those Forces remained in the Middle East. To solidify his perceived position as the Arab World leader, Nasser proclaimed, "We shall not enter Palestine with its soil covered in sand. We shall enter it with its soil saturated in blood."<sup>13</sup> This statement was pronounced by a man who was required to protect Arab lands and to eradicate Israel without attempting compromise.

---

<sup>11</sup> Nutting, p. 392.

<sup>12</sup> Eric Hammel, Six Days in June: How Israel Won The 1967 Arab-Israeli War, pp. 26-27.

<sup>13</sup> Samuel Katz, Battleground-Fact and Fantasy in Palestine, p.185.

As a result of his actions, Nasser was predominately responsible for the Six Day War that occurred in 1967. Upon the removal of the Security Forces, Nasser signed defense agreements with Jordan and Iraq, and declared that he was closing the Strait of Tiran, which connected the Gulf of Aqaba and the Red Sea, to Israeli shipping. Although his threat never materialized, the possibility of this economic crippling action forced Israel to retaliate.<sup>14</sup> At this point, President Nasser was forced to compromise and had to appease the United Nations, the Arab states, and the Soviet Union. In order to promote an outward appearance as peacekeepers, the United States and the Soviet Union both denounced any military action. Egyptian and Israeli leaders met with American President Lyndon Johnson who encouraged free passage through the Gulf of Aqaba; however, no compromise or unilateral agreement was reached.

Nasser publicly denied that Egypt would be the first country to instigate war, but his actions and comments contradicted this denial. During May, 1967, he reaffirmed his mission, “[The Arab people’s] basic objective will be the destruction of Israel. The Arab people want to fight. We will not accept any . . . coexistence with Israel. . . Today the issue is not the establishment of peace between the Arab states and Israel . . . The war with Israel is in effect.”<sup>15</sup> Nasser relished his position as leader of the Arab World and was required by popular mandate to defeat Israel and eradicate her people. He reflected the Arab feeling that the Israelis did not belong on Arab soil. The appropriate condemnations were uttered, and Nasser bowed to the Arab pressures and expectations associated with removing the Security Forces from Egypt. Nevertheless, the President failed to anticipate the reactions his strategies would have on Israel. Because Nasser threatened to impede Israel’s economy by closing the Straits of Tiran, the Israelis viewed this provocation seriously and chose to aggressively defend their livelihood. Nasser, however, underestimated Israel’s capabilities. In fact,

---

<sup>14</sup> Hammel, pp. 33-35.

<sup>15</sup> Ami Isseroff, “Israel-Territory Occupied in the 6-Day War,” MidEastWeb. (article accessed 1 December 2007); <http://www.mideastweb.org/isrealafter1967.htm>. Internet.

Nasser was convinced that in the event of an outbreak of war, the ratio of forces and the states of preparedness of his forces guaranteed Egypt military success.<sup>16</sup>

When presented with the plan to strike Israel first, Nasser indecisively contemplated two possible scenarios: immediate Egyptian offensive attack or possible diplomatic solution. Asked by his Free Officer colleagues when Israel would attack, Nasser replied, “. . . six to eight months, if that. The Israelis would never move without permission from the Americans, and the Americans have been stymied by the Soviets.”<sup>17</sup> Israel realized its precarious situation of facing war with not only Egypt, but also with Syria and Jordan. The possibility of victory was marginal; however, initial devastating attacks and rapid coordinated troop movements were necessary for Israel to defeat its enemies. Egypt had assumed the role of the primary aggressor and was responsible for carrying out its threats. Nevertheless, Nasser hesitated to attack Israel and allowed the Israelis to offensively strike. On June 3, 1967, Israel launched attacks on Egypt, Syria, and Jordan. During the first three hours of the conflict, over three hundred Egyptian aircraft were destroyed which represented approximately seventy five percent of the country’s air force. The Israelis proceeded into Syria, and by June 8, they had reached the Suez Canal. Even though both sides accepted a United Nations cease-fire agreement by June 11, Israel had utterly defeated the Arabs. Within six days of fierce fighting, over twenty thousands Arab soldiers were killed, and there were more than five hundred thousand new Syrian and Egyptian refugees. The Israelis occupied the area from the Suez Canal to the Jordan River, as well as the Syrian Golan Heights.<sup>18</sup> These acquisitions realigned hostile borders and improved Israel’s strategic defense of the heavily populated Jewish areas. Although several Egyptian military leaders had requested the initiation of attacks against Israel, Nasser refused to

---

<sup>16</sup> Herzog, p. 151.

<sup>17</sup> Oren, pp. 158-159.

<sup>18</sup> Hisham Sharabi, “Prelude to War: The Crisis of May-June 1967,” in The Arab-Israeli Confrontation of June 1967: An Arab Perspective, p. 57.

comply. His decision led to the defeat within the Arab world – the Israelis were not vanquished from their sanctioned land, and they had acquired additional Arab territories. One of the most important aspects of the “Six Day War” was the initial destruction of the Egyptian air force. With countless threats and actions against his enemy, Nasser’s lack of adequate preparation and defense of his key military installations was inexcusable. Immediately following Egypt’s defeat, Nasser accepted ultimate responsibility for Egypt’s losses and resigned as President.<sup>19</sup>



*Source:  
Media.npr.org*



President Nasser never fully understood or anticipated the reactions that his actions would have on the world. While enjoying the popularity of the Egyptian people, Nasser rashly voiced ultimatums and brashly threatened his enemies with his military prowess. Unfortunately, when the need to declare war and attack was imminent, Nasser faltered in his primary responsibilities as President of Egypt. While trying to appease not only the United States, Russia, and the United Nations, Nasser underestimated Israel’s popularity, thus bringing the warring nations closer to the brink of conflict. Nasser’s inability to compromise led Egypt down the path of destruction and ultimate defeat.

---

<sup>19</sup> Mahmoud Ragheb, “Experiences During Nasser’s Regime,” personal interview by author, telephone interview, Orlando, FL, 23 November 2007.

## Annotated Bibliography

### Primary Sources

Farid, Abdel Magid. *Nasser: The Final Years*. New York: Ithaca Press, 1994.

As secretary-general of the Presidency of the United Arab Republic, Farid took minutes at meetings with Nasser, thus revealing many aspects of Nasser's rule. I used this primary source because the author provided an in-depth analysis of the policies adopted by Nasser during his Presidency, and the impact Nasser's decisions had upon the outcome of the Six Day War.

Herzog, Chaim and Shlomo Gazit. *The Arab-Israeli Wars: War and Peace in the Middle East*. New York: Random House Inc., 1982.

As former President of Israel, Herzog has been involved in virtually every conflict involving Israel and its Arab neighbors. I used this book as a primary source because it explains Israel's struggle to survive and fight against Egypt while continuing to shape the destiny of the Middle East region. The authors have interviewed many of the principal figures on both sides of these wars, as well as the individuals associated with the United Nations, thus providing a detailed account from various viewpoints. Furthermore, this book became a useful source for me because Herzog and Gazit analyze the causes of victory and defeat that occurred during the Wars while relating these events back to the overall strategic picture and the desired outcome.

"Israeli Notes to the Security Council following the Arab summit conference, S/5980, 18 September, and S/60202, 19 October," MidEastWeb. (note accessed 1 December 2007); <http://www.mideastweb.org/isrealscnotes.htm>. Internet.

I utilized this document as a primary source because it actually detailed the Arab summit conference which declared the goal of eliminating Israel and made decisions regarding the unification of army commands, increased size of the armed forces, and diversion of the Jordan River before it reached the Sea of Galilee. This document enabled me to understand the overall meaning and intent of the liberation of Palestine.

News Dispatches. "Israel Presses Offensives Against Jordan, Egypt," *The Washington Post, Times Herald*, 7 June 1967, A1.

This newspaper article written on the onset of the Six Day War provided me with first hand information regarding the offensive Israel engaged in against both Jordan and Egypt. This primary source was helpful to understand the tactics Israel employed in order to offensively attack Egypt.

Ragheb, Mahmoud, "Experiences During Nasser's Regime," personal interview by author, telephone interview, Orlando, FL 23 November 2007.

As a native Egyptian, Mahmoud was able to provide first-hand information regarding everyday life, culture, and strife that existed within Egypt when Nasser was President. I considered this interview to be a primary source because it enabled me to gain a further comprehensive of not only the discord that

existed within Egypt during the 1960's, but also the humanitarian efforts Nasser undertook in order to improve the lifestyle of the general populous.

Smith, Hedrick. "Cairo's Strategy Indicted in Syria." *The New York Times*, 13 June 1967, 18.

Smith's newspaper article written towards the end of the Six Day War provided me with a first hand account of the strategies Egypt adopted in order to defend herself against Israel. This primary source was useful because it enabled me to understand Nasser's actions and the implications his decisions had upon the outcome of the War.

## Secondary Sources

Aburish, Said K. *Nasser: The Last Arab*. New York: St. Martin's Press, 2004.

Aburish, an Arab journalist who lived during the Six Day War, provided a relatively simplistic biography of Nasser, the Statesman. I used this book as one of my secondary sources because the author supported my thesis that Nasser was not an extremely competent leader, thus causing Egypt to be defeated by the Israelis. Nevertheless, Aburish examined Nasser's leadership capabilities, his dreams, his sacrifices, and his ability to fight for the causes that he believed were right for the people of Egypt. Furthermore, this book explained the inner workings of Arab politics, while answering the following questions about Nasser – What did he want and why?; What happened?; How did he respond to new events and ideas?; and What was the final outcome? Aburish's book enabled me to understand why Nasser was adored by the citizens of Egypt.

The Associated Press. *Lightning Out of Israel: The Arab Israeli Conflict*. New York: Western Printing & Lithographing Company, 1967.

Since this commemorative edition included numerous maps and photos, I used this Associated Press' book as a secondary source because it provided me with a visual understanding of the Middle Eastern conflicts. By examining the maps, I was able to comprehend the impact the countries' boundaries and locations had upon the never ceasing conflicts within the Middle Eastern territories.

Bernet, Michael. *The Time of the Burning Sun: Six Days of War, Twelve Weeks of Hope*. New York: Chester and West Wykagyl Publishers, 2004.

I used Bernet's book as a secondary source because it provided useful first hand insight into the actual points of view of Israelis and Arabs, politicians, soldiers, and civilians. The author indicated that it was not a war of aggression, but an unexpected and unnecessary war that was forced upon the countries as a result of lack of compromise and foresight.

Bleaney, Heather and Richard Lawless. *A Day That Made History: First Day of the Six Day War*. England: Trafalgar Square Publishers, 1990.

Bleaney and Lawless provided basic background information surrounding the creation of Israel, as well as the first day of the 1967 Arab-Israeli War, known as the Six Day War. I used this book as a secondary source because the authors examined the results of the war and explained the concerns of the Israelis, Palestinians, and Arab nations. This book enabled me to insightful information regarding the War because the complex facts were simplistically and concisely presented.

Bowen, Jeremy. *Six Days: How the 1967 War Shaped the Middle East*. New York: St. Martin's Press, 2003.

As a BBC journalist, Bowen provided comprehensive background information relating to the Six Days War based upon government archives and interviews with military and civilian personnel. I believe that Bowen's writing detailed insightful information regarding the causes of the war.

Brenchley, Frank. *Britain, the Six-Day War and its Aftermath*. New York: I. B. Tauris & Co. Ltd., 2005.

I used Brenchley's book as a secondary source because the author revealed Britain's involvement in the Suez Canal fiasco, as well as her involvement in the Israeli-Palestinian relationship. Furthermore, Brenchley explained the alleged British-American collusion with Israel, and the impact this alliance had upon the Six Day War. Basic British economic and political objectives are detailed, thus providing me with the necessary background information to understand Great Britain's involvement in the Middle East conflicts.

Broyles, Matthew. *The Six-Day War: War and Conflict in the Middle East*. New York: Rosen Publishing Group, 2004.

This brief sixty-four page book provided me knowledge pertaining to the military activities and the political maneuvers behind the major battles between Israel and her neighbors, including Egypt. The authors presented both sides of the conflicts, thus enabling me to understand the motives and provocations behind the on-going discord in the Middle East.

Churchill, Randolph S. *The Six-Day War*. Massachusetts: Houghton Mifflin Co., 1967.

I used Churchill's book as a secondary source because it examined the political and military aspects of the events surrounding the Middle East War of 1967. By providing a brief summary of the catalysts that caused the War, I gained further sight into the reasoning behind the Middle Eastern countries' motives and hope to either expand their territories or to eradicate the Jewish people from the Arab world.

Finkelstein, Norman G. *Image and Reality of the Israel-Palestine Conflict*. New York: Verso Publishing, 1995.

Since Mr. Finkelstein supported my claim that the Soviet Union notified both Syria and Egypt incorrectly that Israel amassed troops near the Syrian border in order to invade, I relied on this book as a secondary source for my research. In addition, the entire book analyzed the ongoing, but escalating, conflict in the

Middle East. Overall, the author further concluded that the partition is only a temporary solution to an eventual conquest of all of Palestine, thus providing valuable insight into the overall philosophies adopted by the Middle Eastern countries.

Gawrych, George W. *The Albatross of Decisive Victory: Between Egypt and Israel in the 1967 and 1973 Arab-Israeli Wars*. Connecticut: Greenwood Press, 2000.

The author analyzed the conflict between Egypt and Israel since 1967 from a policy, military strategy, and operational standpoint. I used Gawrych's book as a secondary source because his writings support my underlying thesis that Nasser, leader of the Arab World, caused events to spin out of control, thus explaining how Egypt became involved in a military conflict with Israel prior to adopting clear policy objectives or operational readiness. In addition, the author explained the situation in Israel in the weeks prior to the war and related the impact that Israeli doctrine, planning, and military abilities allowed the Israelis to defeat Egypt in six short days. Overall, Gawrych described the causes of the conflict and the impact that the internal policies of the respective countries had upon the outcome of the War.

Gordon, Joel. *Nasser's Blessed Movement: Egypt's Free Officers and The July Revolution*. New York: Oxford University Press, Inc., 1992.

I utilized Gordon's book as a secondary source because it provided insight into Egypt's Free Officers, an organization that Nasser was affiliated with. The author explained the philosophies that the Free Officers, had adopted, as well as the impact that their actions and decisions had upon the future of Egypt under the Presidency of Nasser.

Hammel, Eric. *Six Days in June: How Israel Won the 1967 Israeli-Arab War*. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1992.

Hammel documented the War by dividing the book into seven sections – the road to war with details regarding the origin of the conflicts, the Israel Defense Force, the countdown to war and the armies of Egypt and Syria, the war in the Sinai Peninsula, Jerusalem, the West Bank, and the Golan Heights. I used Hammel's book as a secondary source because he provided a detailed account of the events that led up to the war, as well as the six days of fighting in June. There were numerous maps which helped illustrate the history of the war, the order of the battles, and the lands involved in the overall Middle Eastern conflicts. Furthermore, the author explained the battles in great detail, thus enabling me to gain additional insight into the ongoing strife.

Isseroff, Ami. "Israel-Territory Occupied in the 6-Day War," MidEastWeb. (article accessed 1 December 2007); <http://www.mideastweb.org/israelafter1967.htm>. Internet.

This article provided a concise explanation and assessment on the part of not only Egypt and Israel, but also the United States and the Soviet Union in regard to the activities that occurred in the Middle East during June 1967. I used this web based article as a secondary source because I gained further insight into the motives of both Israel and Egypt. The maps also enabled me to visually understand the military tactics both countries utilized and the exact location of the territories that Israel acquired as a result of her victory during the Six Day War.

James, Laura. *Nasser at War: Arab Images of the Enemy*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2006.

I used this book by Laura James as one of my secondary sources because she analyzed the critical turning point for the modern Middle East – when President Nasser was defeated during the Six Day War. From the time of the Suez Canal conflict to the Israeli victory in 1967, Nasser ultimately controlled the Arab world and its revolution. The author, however, explained the changes that occurred not only in Egypt, but also in the United States and Great Britain as a result of the Six Day War.

Katz, Samuel. *Battleground-Fact and Fantasy in Palestine*. New York: Bantam Books, 1985.

As a member of the first Parliament of Israel, Katz identified and analyzed Israel's key problems, conflicts, and decisions that helped to act as a catalyst to the ever escalated strife that has existed in the Middle East. I chose this book as one of my secondary sources because the author explained Israel's motives, actions, and outcomes associated with the Six Day War. Furthermore, after reading Katz's book, I developed a more in-depth understanding of Israel's relationship to not only the rest of the Middle East, but also to the rest of the world.

McNamara, Robert. *Britain, Nasser, and the Balance of Power in the Middle East 1952-1967: From the Egyptian Revolution to the Six Day War*. Oregon: Frank Cass Publishers, 2003.

The author provided detailed accounts of three main events that impacted the provocations of Egyptian President Nasser – the 1952 Egyptian Revolution, the Suez Canal controversy in 1956, and the Six Day War in June, 1967. I used this book as a secondary source because McNamara's conclusions parallel my thesis that President Nasser's lack of leadership ability and his refusal to compromise led to Egypt's ultimate defeat to the Israelis.

Mikdadi, Faysal. *Gamal Abdel Nasser: A Bibliography*. Connecticut: Greenwood Press, 1991.

I used Mikdadi's book as a secondary source because the author explained in great detail Nasser's contributions to third world politics, as well as to economic and social reforms. The information provided in this book enabled me to understand the why and how Nasser transformed Egypt from a feudal state under British protection to a developing nation, thus substantiating the fact that Nasser was truly adored by the Egyptian population.

Nutting, Anthony. *Nasser*. New York: E.P. Dutton & Co., Inc. 1972.

Nutting provided an extremely detailed account of Nasser's life from his childhood filled with poverty to his resignation as President of Egypt. I viewed this book as a secondary source because it helped me to understand the man – Gamal Abdel Nasser. Based on his upbringing, education, and associations, I was able to comprehend how and why he ran the country, Egypt's involvement in the Suez Canal, reforms introduced, and decisions made regarding eradicating the Arab World of Jewish inhabitants. Nutting also supported my thesis that Nasser's inability to compromise caused Egypt's ultimate defeat during the 1967 conflicts.

Oren, Michael B. *Power, Faith, and Fantasy: America in the Middle East – 1776 to the Present*. New York: W. W. Norton & Company, Inc., 2007.

The author provided an excellent explanation regarding the United States' involvement in the Middle East crisis. This book became a useful secondary source because it allowed me to gain insightful knowledge regarding America's decision to join forces with Great Britain and withdraw her financial support to Egypt. In turn, Oren explained the impact this decision had upon President Nasser and his decision to seek financing from the Soviet Union, as well as the overall outcome of the ongoing strife that occurred during the 1960's.

Oren, Michael B. *Six Days of War: June 1967 and the Making of the Modern Middle East*. New York: Oxford University Press, Inc. 2002.

Oren chronicles detailed accounts of the six days of war, as well as the factors that led to it. I used this book as a secondary source because the author presented the facts relating to war from a military, diplomatic, political and cultural perspective. Oren provided extensive information from all perspectives – Israelis, Egyptians, Syrians, Jordanians, Americans, and Russians. Furthermore, Oren's writings supported by basic premise that President Nasser's lack of ability to compromise hindered Egypt in conquering Israel and eradicating the Jewish people from the Arab world.

"Palestine Facts: Israel 1948-1967 Six Day War Background," *Palestine Facts*. (article accessed 1 December 2007); [http://www.palestinefacts.org/pf\\_1948to1967\\_sixday\\_backgd.php](http://www.palestinefacts.org/pf_1948to1967_sixday_backgd.php). Internet.

I viewed this article as a secondary source because it detailed the events that led to the Six Day War in 1967. Furthermore, the article discussed the military provocation by Arab country and Soviet disinformation, as well as the blockade of the Straits of Tiran and Jordan's signing of a defense pact with Egypt. Overall this article answered the question – What led to the Six Day War in 1967?

Parker, Richard B. (editor). *The Six-Day War: A Retrospective*. Gainesville: University Press of Florida, 1996.

As a former United States Ambassador, Parker gathered representatives from the Israeli, Arab, Russian, and United States military and government in order to re-examine the steps and missteps that led to the conflict known as the Six Day War. I used Parker's book as a secondary source because many of the individuals that gathered to analyze and discuss the Arab-Israeli War were actual participants in the crisis, thus providing me with first hand insight into the hostilities that existed in the Middle East.

Segey, Tom. *1967: Israel, the War, and the Year that Transformed the Middle East*. New York: Metropolitan Books, Henry Hill & Company, LLC, 2005.

Segey extensively described the crisis within the Arab states and the internal Israeli politics and the difficult decision to take preemptive action. Since the author is a native born Israeli, he presents detailed image of the country prior to the war and examines the causes that led to the outbreak of war. For me this book provided basic background information regarding an extremely short war fought in the Middle East in 1967.

Sharabi, Hisham. "Prelude to War: The Crisis of May-June 1967," in *The Arab-Israeli Confrontation of June 1967: An Arab Perspective*, ed. Ibrahim Abu-Lughod. Illinois: Northwestern University Press, 1970.

Sharabi narrated his book in such a manner that allowed me to understand the dogmas adopted by the Israelis and the Arabs, as well as the impact these ideologies had upon Nasser and his decision not to engage in a compromise in order to impede potential fighting. I chose to use this book as one of my secondary sources because Sharabi supported my belief that Nasser lacked the foresight to effectively lead the Arab World since he allowed the overall strife to escalate rather than attempt to compromise with the opposing factions.

Shlaim, Avi. *War and Peace in the Middle East: A Concise History*. New York: Penguin Books USA, Inc., 1995.

The author provided excellent background information beginning with the post-Ottoman Middle East and described the region's historical milestones such as the Sykes-Picot Agreement and the Balfour Declaration. This information was useful in understanding the crisis and manipulation of power by Great Britain and the United States I included Shlaim's book as one of my secondary sources because he not only examined every phase and explained the factors that created the crisis, but also revealed the motives behind the actions and policies.

St. John, Robert. *The Boss: The Story of Gamal Abdel Nasser*. Ohio: McGraw-Hill, 1960.

I used this book as one of my secondary sources because the author supported my conclusion that Nasser was a true humanitarian who believed that it was righteous to help all classes of people in Egypt. The author explained Nasser's ideals and dedication to his work, as well as his qualities as a leader of the Arab World. During the Six Days War, however, Nasser lacked the ability to lead decisively.

Stephens, Robert. *Nasser: A Political Biography*. New York: Simon and Schuster, 1971.

Stephens presented an extremely comprehensive biography of Nasser and introduced virtually every aspect of his life from the domestic situation in Egypt to foreign policy. I viewed this book as a secondary source because the author enabled me to understand the enormity of the crises that Nasser had to deal with on the home front, as well as in relation to surrounding countries, such as Syria, Jordan, and Israel.

Truman, Chris. "Israel and the 1948 War," History Learning. (article accessed 1 December 2007); [http://www.historylearningsite.co.uk/israel\\_and\\_the\\_1948\\_war.htm](http://www.historylearningsite.co.uk/israel_and_the_1948_war.htm). Internet.

This article described Israel's internal problems, as well as the ongoing border conflicts during the 1948 War. In addition, Truman explained Israel's military capabilities and provided extensive background facts that helped to comprehend the events that led to the 1967 Six Day War. I selected this article as one of my secondary sources because the author provided pertinent preliminary information regarding Israel's military policies and political ideologies.

Varble, Derek. *The Suez Crisis 1956*. Great Britain: Osprey Publishing Limited, 2003.

Throughout this book, Varble studied all aspects of war from how it felt to be a soldier to impact that the conflict caused around the world. I used this book as a secondary source because the author presented concise background information that not only led to the crisis, but also to the ever increasing escalation of conflict. The maps included in the book also provided insight into the events and the causes behind the major players' actions. Furthermore, Varble provided important military information that enhanced my overall understanding of the ongoing discord.

Witte, Sam. *Gamal-Abdel Nasser*. New York: The Rosen Publishing Group, Inc., 2004.

I used Witte's book as a secondary source for my research because he described how Nasser became involved in the military and the formation of the Free Officers Organization, which became the foundation for the military group that overthrew the royal family. Furthermore, the book provided valuable insight into the Nasser's childhood and the manner in which British presence within Egypt influenced Nasser's Presidency.