desperate Salk became, even telling a confidant that "he wanted to return to the original idea of setting up his institute in Pittsburgh" (p. 109).

O'Connor, however, was prepared to fight on to fund the La Jolla site. Salk's name had to be put into the project's title and a vigorous program of advertisement undertaken. Bourgeois's account follows the history through the crisis of 1970 and on to the point where the project arrived at a stable condition.

The author has revealed a thread of concern running through the history: namely, how to establish research of a humanistic nature—studying, for example, the impact of science on society—alongside work in the experimental sciences. (Szilard's scheme of 1957 had suggested two separate institutes: one for science, the other for its social impact.) At certain times, she judges, this aim was achieved at the institute, but under Frederic de Hoffmann's presidency (1975–1988) humanistic studies were eliminated. At the same time, she notes, there was a change in the social character of the institute, from intimacy and a nonhierarchical character to a more distant and exclusive one.

Bourgeois's strong dislike of President de Hoffmann leads her to make some claims that are not referenced to specific documents or reports. His positive achievements as president, nonetheless, are described. But there is no doubt as to who the admirable actors are and are not. Entitling the de Hoffmann chapter "A Napoleon from Byzantium" certainly tells us what to expect! Compare this with the generous coverage given to Szilard in Chapter 4. His claim to importance in the genesis of the Salk Institute seems somewhat slim, based on his memorandum with the organic chemist William von Eggers Doering and his personal interest in Salk's future plans.

Yet Szilard's role in this account serves to underline the context of post–World War II recovery and the heightened concern for the peaceful applications of science. Hence the envisaged broad agendas of fundamental research in the biomedical sciences, both pure and applied, and concern with issues relating to the applications of science.

This important book should draw the attention of scholars to the valuable archival resources established by the Facilities Services team at the Salk Institute. It is a very welcome addition to institutional history, a guide and a warning to those who plan to create an independent research facility, and an interesting example of the attractions of the West Coast for scientific research in the 1950s.

Robert Olby

אריי בראל [**Ari Barell**]. מלך-מהנדס: דוד בן-גוריון, מדע ובינוי אומה [*Engineer-King: David Ben-Gurion, Science, and Nation Building*]. וט + 338 pp., apps., bibl., index. ישראל והציונות מכון בן-גוריון לחקר [Sede Boqer: Ben-Gurion Research Institute for the Study of Israel and Zionism, 2014]. ₪55, $14.21 (paper).

Engineer-King is the latest fruit of the growing interest among Israeli scholars in delineating the roles of science and technology in the development of the Israeli state and society. The Engineer-King is David Ben-Gurion, who ruled Israeli politics with an iron fist during the formative years of the embryonic nation, between the 1930s and the 1950s. His memory has been intensely cultivated in Israel. Ari Barell, the author of *Engineer-King*, lived in a community named after Ben-Gurion, gained his doctorate in Israeli history from a university named after Ben-Gurion, and worked at the Ben-Gurion Archives, the Ben-Gurion Center, and the Ben-Gurion Institute. Not surprisingly, perhaps, Barell's first book, published with the Ben-Gurion Research Institute for the Study of Israel and Zionism, is about Ben-Gurion. The result is a fine book that slowly breaks away from Ben-Gurion's gravitational pull and takes the reader on a fascinating tour through the central sites of the nation's making—politics, administration, academy, military—and provides a detailed account of the co-production of power and knowledge that shaped the core of what Barell calls the Israeli State Order.

The first two chapters aim to illuminate Ben-Gurion's worldview by mining the rich deposits of empiricism and positivism that can be found in his diaries. We learn of three dimensions in Ben-Gurion's

approach to science. The first, pragmatic and utilitarian, conceived of science and technology as key resources for the nation-building process. The second, ideological and nationalist, treated scientific and technological production as central conduits for national revival and normalization. The third, philosophical and positivistic, saw science as the best method to assess and control reality. So illuminated, Ben-Gurion's worldview is then set to represent the larger Jewish epistemological turn from the inner-looking textuality of the passive Diaspora to the external scientific empiricism suited for a free and active Israeli nation. This is an intriguing suggestion that Barell leaves largely unexplored. A comparative analysis of the worldviews of other leaders of developing nations—for example, India's Jawaharlal Nehru—would have helped to clarify what was peculiar to Ben Gurion and the Zionist state and what belonged to a post–World War II ideology popular among the many new and developing nations.

The book takes off from the third chapter forward. The lens widens, the cast grows, and the plot thickens with the help of detailed case studies that recount the negotiations and interactions between the political leadership and the scientific elite during the formative years of the nation. Chapter 3 deals with the One Million Plan, formulated by Ben-Gurion in 1943–1944 to bring one million Jews from Europe, North Africa, and the Middle East to Mandatory Palestine in order to establish a state in the territory. A joint product of numerous professional, administrative, and scientific committees, the plan, according to Barell, was a key moment in which the political and the technoscientific imaginations synched for the first time to construct the vision of the forthcoming Israeli state. Chapter 4 describes the creation in 1948 of the Israeli Central Bureau of Statistics and demonstrates how the fledgling state used the power of large numbers to discipline its subjects, while the statisticians used the authority of the state to empower their expertise. Chapter 5 describes the rise and fall of the Scientific Council, established by Ben-Gurion in 1948 for the central management of scientific research. Despite Ben-Gurion's active support, the new council failed to secure the cooperation of the political and scientific establishments, which treated it as a surplus if not disruptive competitor, and it remained ineffective until it was disbanded in 1959. Chapter 6 deals with the academy and describes the complex negotiations between the political center and the Hebrew University, the leading academic institution, which considered itself less an agent of the Israeli state and more a representative of the Jewish people worldwide. Chapter 7 deals with the military and describes the intimate relations between Ben-Gurion and a small group of leading scientists that led to the creation in 1948 of the Science Corps and set the tone for the leading role taken by the military in research and development.

Written in Hebrew, *Engineer-King* is an important addition to the history of Israel bookshelf. It packs a valuable amount of information, including new archival materials, and examines science-related themes that have traditionally been snubbed by Israeli historians. If translated into English, it could also serve as a valuable resource for non-Israeli scholars who are interested in the history of science at the periphery and in the remarkable history of Israeli science in particular.

Tal Golan