



Contraband Patriots

The American Underground That Armed Israel and the Price They Paid

GREGG ROMAN

The second volume of the citizen-volunteer trilogy.

In 1948, ordinary Americans smuggled a state into existence. Then they stood trial for it.

A network of American veterans, machinists, financiers, and pilots — the Sonneborn Institute, Service Airways — moved arms and aircraft to a nation not yet a week old. They broke the Neutrality Act, they knew it, and Israel lived because of it. Then came the indictments. *Contraband Patriots* is the full story of the underground that armed Israel — and of the convictions, ruined careers, and pardons from Kennedy, Clinton, and Bush that finally settled the bill.

KEY POINTS

- The full arc of the American underground that armed Israel — from the Sonneborn meeting of July 1945 to the smuggling trials and the pardons of Kennedy, Clinton, and George W. Bush.
- Roughly 2,400 tons of materiel in some 800 disguised consignments — bought at scrap prices from the U.S. government itself, shipped as “textile machinery.”
- The moral engine of the trilogy — conduct first, criminality later, and the price kept honestly on both sides of the ledger.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Gregg Roman is the author of *The Closing Window* and *The Carthage Doctrine*. An IDF veteran who served in Israel’s Ministry of Defense and advised its deputy foreign minister, he has taught counterterrorism at West Point and appears in the media hundreds of times a year.

“A meeting that succeeds acquires conveners the way a victory acquires fathers.”

STATUS

Coming 2027

SERIES

The citizen-volunteer trilogy · second volume

CATEGORIES

History · Jewish interest · Israel

COMPS

Leonard Slater’s *The Pledge* (the story it completes) · Ben Macintyre’s narrative espionage histories