

Dream and Action

The twentieth century was a bridge which the Jewish people crossed from the persecution and discrimination in Europe via the inhuman suffering of the bestial Nazi period to the freedom of independent Israel.

Alex Rafaeli was one of those who dedicated themselves to building this bridge. *Dream and Action* is the personal story of a man who lived and actively experienced the upheavals of this period. He was born in Latvia, and as a child lived through the violent Bolshevik Revolution of 1917, and through the civil war of 1921. Educated in Riga in Russian and German cultures, he took his Ph.D. in Political Science at Heidelberg University in Germany. There he experienced at first hand the rise of Nazism and its initial wave which led to the destruction of European Jewry.

Arriving in Palestine in 1933, he worked as an economist until he joined the Irgun and dedicated his time to setting up military resistance groups and organizing 'illegal immigration' into Palestine.

Most of his assignments took him to Europe, where he was active until the outbreak of World War II. He was then sent to America as a member of the Irgun Delegation, which sought the support of the Allied forces for the establishment of a Jewish army, which would participate in the war against Germany, and mobilize assistance for the rescue of threatened Jewish communities.

After Britain established the Jewish Brigade in 1943, Rafaeli volunteered for the American army and was assigned as a special agent to the Counter-Intelligence Corps (CIC), seeking out and interrogating hidden Nazi leaders. After the Allied victory, he continued his Irgun work for Jewish immigration to Palestine. In 1950 he settled in Israel, became an industrialist, married and established his family in Jerusalem.