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Israel After Begin by Daniel Gavron (Houghton Mifflin: \$13.95) chooses development of an "Israeli personality" over a "return to our Jewish persona." Anticipating a peaceful Palestinian state, Gavron seeks to bequeath to the next generation "a world and not a smoking cemetery." His is a controversial, thoughtful, extremely well-written book about Israel's present complexities and possibilities. **Against the Apocalypse: Responses to Catastrophe in Modern Jewish Culture** by David G. Roskies (Harvard Univ. Press: \$20) illustrates how Jewish writers in Eastern Europe used anti-traditionalist modes in response to cycles of violence. "The extremity of the Holocaust revived the search for archetypes: Reality itself had become archetypal." Roskies focuses on group memory over apocalyptic despair. A probing, seasoned, brilliant work.

—MALCOLM BOYD