

Developing a State of Minds

Connecticut State University System

BR#02-69



RESOLUTION
concerning
AWARD OF THE TITLE
CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR
to
NORTON MEZVINSKY

December 13, 2002

WHEREAS, The faculty at Central Connecticut State University has recommended Professor Norton Mezvinsky for the title of Connecticut State University Professor, and

WHEREAS, The President of Central Connecticut State University, Richard L. Judd, has recommended awarding this title to Professor Norton Mezvinsky, and Connecticut State University Chancellor, William J. Cibes, Jr., has concurred, and

WHEREAS, Professor Mezvinsky has served Central Connecticut State University since 1966 as a member of the History Department and greatly assisted in the growth and development of the Department's curriculum and programs; and

WHEREAS, Professor Mezvinsky has contributed to numerous books on the Middle East, and he has published articles in professional journals on the same topic; and

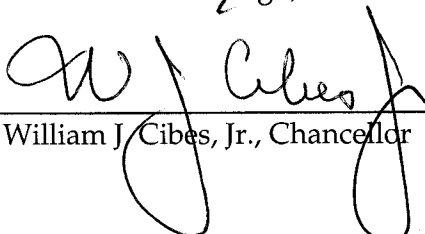
WHEREAS, Professor Mezvinsky, a prolific writer and scholar, has lectured throughout the United States and abroad, and he is recognized by his colleagues for his professional excellence; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the title Connecticut State University Professor is herewith awarded by the Board of Trustees to Norton Mezvinsky of Central Connecticut State University effective December 13, 2002, pursuant to the BOT/AAUP Collective Bargaining Agreement; and be it further

RESOLVED, That Professor Mezvinsky be entitled to all the rights and privileges and responsibilities pertaining to this honor.

A Certified True Copy:


Lawrence D. McHugh, Chairman


William J. Cibes, Jr., Chancellor

ITEM

Award of the Title Connecticut State University Professor to Norton Mezvinsky

BACKGROUND

In 1987, at the request of the Board of Trustees for Connecticut State University, the title Connecticut State University Professor was created to recognize outstanding merit among the teaching faculty in the System. Each university is limited to three such designated scholars at any time. To attain the designation, a faculty member must be nominated through a committee procedure which is advisory to the University President, receive the recommendations of the University President and CSU Chancellor, and receive approval of the Board of Trustees. CSU Professors receive a salary 10 percent higher than they would otherwise receive for their rank and years of service.

ANALYSIS

Dr. Mezvinsky, is a prolific writer and scholar, and a lecturer both in the United States and abroad, and is recognized by his colleagues for his professional excellence, and has greatly assisted the History Department in the growth and development of programs and curriculum. The designation of CSU Professor for Dr. Mezvinsky has been recommended by President Judd and Chancellor Cibes.

CHANCELLOR'S RECOMMENDATION

The resolution awarding the title of CSU Professor to Central Connecticut State University Professor Mezvinsky should be approved.



CENTRAL
CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY

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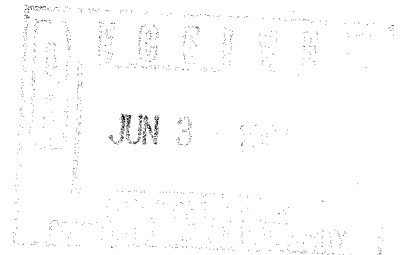
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MEMORANDUM



TO: Dr. William J. Cibes, Jr.
Chancellor
Connecticut State University System

FROM: Richard L. Judd
President



DATE: May 28, 2002

SUBJECT: Recommendation for CSU Professorship: Dr. Norton Mezvinsky

I am pleased to recommend that Dr. Norton Mezvinsky, Professor of History at Central Connecticut State University, be named CSU Professor. This recommendation comes from the CSU Professorship Committee with my full support. I propose the appointment be effective with the start of the 2002-03 academic year.

Professor Mezvinsky is consumed with excellence in teaching, research and scholarship, but not to the degree that he forgets about the responsibilities of contributing to the larger good of his fellow human beings. In recondite matters, as in simple ones, opportunities for ignoring what is going around us are obvious to even the most casual observer. There is no idea more congenial to the first few years of the twenty-first century than the one that suggests we are living in an epoch unique in world history. The changes the world has seen within the past year in Eastern Europe, and the tumultuous events of September 11, 2001 will abide few comparisons. These events speak eloquently to the global nature of change that affects each one of us in untold ways. A distinctive aspect of Professor Mezvinsky's work is that he is a globalist. His work as a consultant in the Arab/Israeli peace negotiations over many years has had a profound effect. The insight of those many years of labor provide his students with "living" history. Most recently, he was in Islamabad working with religious leaders in the same interest in helping peace. *Excellence* and *quality* are not catchphrases for Professor Mezvinsky nor with any endeavor he has been involved with, particularly his teaching, rather, these are qualities that drive his aspirations in the work he does as a professor.

A basic characteristic of excellence in teaching is inextricably linked to a clear expression of the goals and objectives set forth by the professor. These involve, among other things, defining the conceptual framework of how each faculty member determines his or her teaching activity, defining how the faculty member processes the functions of discovery, preservation, dissemination of knowledge and information of the discipline involved, and a process by which the faculty member helps students prepare themselves to interact effectively in a culturally diverse world. Professor Mezvinsky epitomizes those characteristics. His instructional designs identify and articulate how students will be introduced to general and specialized knowledge of his discipline; of increasing their interest in intellectual matters; enriching their cultural lives; developing powers of discrimination and judgment; fostering their commitment to ethical, intellectual, social values, and the encouragement of the pursuit of lifelong learning. One mark of quality of Professor Mezvinsky's teaching includes well-defined goals and objectives that have clarity and validity for the course involved and are stated in terms of results sought and the means by which they are to be attained. He knows expertly how such goals should be attained by his students in reasonable degree, and understands how students utilize these goals as a guide for thought and action.

Professor Mezvinsky's long and bright career as a teacher distinguishes him from the ordinary efforts of some from those who strive to provide their students with extraordinary teaching. Professor Mezvinsky is one of those rare, extraordinary, and erudite professors who make the profession of teaching the calling that it truly is.

RLJ/ww
Enc.
c: F. Best
 P. Bartelt
 D. Munroe

Curriculum Vitae

Norton Mezvinsky
Professor of History
Central Connecticut State University

Education:

B.A.	University of Iowa	1954
M.A.	University of Wisconsin	1956
Ph.D.	University of Wisconsin	1959
Post-Doctoral Research Fellow	Harvard University, Center for the Study of History of Liberty	1959-1960

Teaching Experience:

Instructor	University of Michigan	1960-1962
Assistant Professor	University of Michigan	1962-1964
Assistant Professor	City College of New York	1964-1966
Associate Professor	Central Connecticut State University	1967-1971
Professor	Central Connecticut State University	1971-present

Courses Taught at Central Connecticut State University:

- History of the Modern Middle East
- The Arab-Israeli conflict
- The United States and the Middle East Since 1947
- The United States 1890 to 1933
- Immigration to the United States
- Multiculturalism and Affirmative Action in the United States Since 1964
- Women and Reform in American Society 1870 to 1920
- United States Policy in the Middle East Since 1947 (graduate seminar)
- Populism (graduate seminar)
- Progressivism (graduate seminar)
- Seminar for Senior History Majors
- History of American Life II (second half of the United States survey course)

Professional Organizations (membership):

- American Historical Association
- Organization of American Historians
- Middle East Studies Association
- Middle East Institute
- American Jewish Historical Association
- American Professors for Peace in the Middle East Association of Third World Studies

Recent Research, Academic and Professional Honors:

- In 1998 received awards from Ain Shams University and the Middle East Research Center in Cairo, Egypt, recognizing expertise in publishing and lecturing in the United States and abroad on Middle East Issues.
- In 1998 received award for distinguished teaching from Mitan, an Israeli Hebrew language quarterly.
- In 1996 invited by the Jordanian Royal Institute for Inter-Faith Studies to be one of several international scholars involved in a 10-year research project under the guidance of the Middle East Consortium of Research Institutions. The general topic of this project is "Images of the 'other' in the Middle East: Mutual Perceptions of Jews and Muslims."
- In 1985 one of the three Jewish academicians invited to participate in the Jewish-Christian dialogue, sponsored by the National Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA) at Ghost Ranch, New Mexico, July 22-29. A study paper, discussed and rewritten at this week-long meeting, was subsequently distributed by the National Assembly of the Presbyterian Church to Presbyterian Congregations throughout the United States.
- In 1988 appointed to the International Committee for Palestinian Human Rights of the International Progress Organization, (Vienna, Austria).
- In 1982 appointed a Fellow at the Center for Middle Eastern Studies, Harvard University.

Editorial Work:

- In 1998 appointed to the editorial board of Mitan, an Israeli Hebrew-language publication.
- In 1998 appointed to the editorial board of the Journal of Cyprus Studies, published at Eastern Mediterranean University, North Cyprus.
- In 1972 and 1973, Chief Editor of KNOW, a bi-monthly publication, that presented literal translations into English of serious and scholarly articles from Israeli Hebrew language books, journals, periodicals and newspapers.
- From 1973 and 1976, Chief Editor of SWASIA, a weekly publication of the National Council of Churches (USA). Presented literal translations into English of serious and scholarly articles from Israeli Hebrew language and Arab World Arabic language books, journals, periodicals and newspapers. The translated articles focused upon various aspects of the Arab-Israeli conflict.
- From 1973 until 1978 contributing editor of the quarterly journal, Israel and Palestine. Published in both French and English editions in Paris, France. The Mezvinsky-written articles focused upon United States policy in the Middle East and upon Palestinian problems.

Publications:

What follows represents only a selected representation of my various publications. Included are only those that I consider most important over the last four decades. They are divided into two categories: 1) The Middle East: Judaism and Zionism; 2) United States History: Middle East Policy, Judaism, Zionism, and American History.

Books:

- Jewish Fundamentalism in Israel (London: Pluto, 1999). Co-authored with Israel Shahak. Since its publication in English and Hebrew, this work has been translated into numerous additional languages and gone through several printings.
- The Meir Kahane Phenomenon (London: Mansell), forthcoming.
- Women in Traditional Judaism, (Pluto Press: London), forthcoming. Three of six chapters are currently completed.
- Editor, Proceedings of the International Conference on Competing Nationalisms, scheduled for publication in 2002 by Eastern Mediterranean University Press, North Cyprus. This book will contain papers delivered at this international conference, sponsored by Eastern Mediterranean University, Central Connecticut State University and the Universitat Der Bundeswehr in Hamburg, Germany. The conference was held in November, 2000, at Eastern Mediterranean University.
- Editor, Documents from Israel 1967-1973 (London: Ithaca, 1975).
- Editor, Anti-Zionism: Analytical Reflections (Brattleboro: Amana, 1988).
- Editor, Report on Human Rights Violations During the Palestinian Uprising 1988-1989 (Tel-Aviv: Israeli League for Human and Civil Rights, 1989).

Pamphlets:

- Is there a Biblical Basis for the Modern State of Israel? (New York Theological Seminary, 1968).
- The Relationship of American Jews to the State of Israel (New York: American Council for Judaism, 1968).
- The Zionist Character of the State of Israel (London: Lawrence, 1971).
- United States Policy in the Middle East Since the Oslo Agreement (Cairo, Egypt: League of Arab States, 1999).

Scholarly Articles:

- "Jewish Fundamentalism in Israel: Past and Present," Weltrends November Edition (Spring, 2001): 39-49.

- "Some Historical Aspects of the Greek-Turkish National Conflict," in Proceedings of the International Conference on Competing Nationalisms (Gazimagusa, North Cyprus: Eastern Mediterranean University Press), forthcoming.
- "Humanitarian Dissent in Zionism: Martin Buber and Judah Magnes," in Elmer Berger, ed., Judaism or Zionism, (London: Zed, 1986), 98-120.
- "The Meir Kahane Phenomenon," Arab Affairs, 1 (No. 1) (Summer, 1986): 48-57.
- "Reform Judaism and Zionism: Early History and Change," in Elmer Berger and Roselle Tekiner, eds., Anti-Zionism: Analytical Reflections, (Brattleboro: Amana, 1988), 313-339.
- "The Zionist Character of the State of Israel," in Gary Smith, ed., Zionism, The Dream of the Reality (London and New York: David and Charles, 1974), 244-256.
- "Traditional Judaism and Problems of Peaceful Existence" in Juan Ignacio Sáenz-Díez, ed., Re-encuentros, Palestina, Israel 1992: actas del congreso (Madrid: University of Madrid, 1992), 139-147.
- "The Jewish Faith," in Salem Azzam, ed., Jerusalem (London: Islamic Council of Europe, 1980): 21-38.
- "Les Dimension du Nationalisme Palestinien," in Palestine (Brussels: Ducolot, 1976), 42-62.
- "The Palestinian People and the Right of Self-Determination," in Hans Koechler, ed., The Legal Aspects of the Palestine Problem, (Vienna: Braumuller, 1981), 34-49.
- "The State of Israel and Liberal Democracy," in Marcia James, ed., Proceedings, (Association of Third World Studies Inc., 1995), 124-133.
- "Judaism: Religion or Civilization," Issues, 12 (Winter, 1958-1959): 22-37.
- "The Jewish Thought of Ludwig Lewison," Chicago Jewish Forum, 15 (Winter, 1957-1958): 21-27.
- "Mordecai M. Kaplan and Reconstructionism" Chicago Jewish Forum, 26 (Summer, 1958): 9-16.
- "The Zeitlin Controversy," Chicago Jewish Forum 15 (Winter, 1956): 18-24.
- "The American Council for Judaism," Chicago Jewish Forum, 14 (Spring, 1956): 3-10.

- “The Character of the State of Israel,” The Arab Review, 16 (no. 2) (January, 1972): 7-21.
- “Judaism and the Jewish People,” Issues, 21 (Summer, 1967): 42-61.

2. United States History -- Scholarly articles (representative examples):

- “An Idea of Female Superiority,” Journal of the Central Mississippi Valley American Studies Association 2 (Spring, 1961): 17-26.
- “Frances Willard,” in John D. Buenker and Edward R. Kantowicz, eds., Historical Dictionary of the Progressive Era, 1890-1920, (Westport: Greenwood, 1988), 516-17.
- “Women’s Christian Temperance Union,” John D. Buenker and Edward R. Kantowicz, eds., Historical Dictionary of the Progressive Era, 1890-1920, (Westport: Greenwood, 1988), 521.
- “Frances Willard,” in Frank Magill, ed., Great Lives From History: American Series, vol. 5, (Pasadena: Salem, 1987), 2494-2498.
- Three biographical essays on Mary H. Hunt, Martha McClellan Brown and Anna Adam Gordon in Notable American Women, 1607-1950 (Cambridge: Radcliffe-Harvard, 1972).
- “Scientific Temperance Instruction in the Schools,” History of Education Quarterly 1 (March, 1961): 39-52.

Other writings:

Reviews of books, dealing with various aspects of the Arab-Israeli Conflict, Judaism, Zionism, Israeli society and topics in United States History, have been published in scholarly journals, including the American Historical Review and the Journal of American History. Numerous other serious, but more popular articles and op-ed pieces have appeared in periodicals and newspapers around both the United States and abroad. For recent examples, see,

- “In Memory of Israel Shahak,” Against the Current 16 (no. 4) (September – October 2001): 42-44.
- “In Memoriam: Israel Shahak,” Washington Report on Middle East Affairs, 20 (no. 6) (August – September, 2001): 11-13.

Conference Participation and Lecturing:

I have lectured extensively to university, college and high school audiences, as well as governmental, service, religious and other organizations. Additionally, I have delivered over a period of some four decades scholarly papers at conferences and seminars in the United States,

Europe, Asia and the Middle East. Numerous of these lectures and papers were subsequently published in books and journals. From 1996 until October, 2001, for example, I have lectured at twenty-two universities and colleges, including Kansas State University, the University of Michigan, Michigan State University, Ohio State University, New York University, Ain Shams University (Cairo, Egypt), the American University (Cairo, Egypt), the Universitat Der Bundeswehr (Hamburg, Germany), and Eastern Mediterranean University (Famagusta, North Cyprus). From 1998 until October, 2001 I have delivered scholarly papers at five conferences, including the Seventh International Colloquium on Jerusalem's future, held in Casablanca, Morocco (February, 1999). This event was sponsored by the United Nations, the European Commission, The Organization of the Islamic Conference, the League of Arab States and the World Islamic League. I have also recently delivered a scholarly paper at the International Conference on Competing Nationalisms, held November 30 to December 2, 2000, at Eastern Mediterranean University in North Cyprus and sponsored by Eastern Mediterranean University, Central Connecticut State University and the Universitat Der Bundeswehr (Hamburg, Germany). On October 30, 2001, I will lecture at the Center for Asian Studies, Cairo University, Cairo, Egypt. In attendance on October 30 will be academics from major universities in Egypt and other countries in the Middle East.

Additional Activity:

- October, 2001, Consultant on American Foreign Policy to Religious Leaders in Islamabad, Pakistan.
- United States Representative of Israeli League for Human and Civil Rights, 1975-1995.
- From the mid 1970's through the 1980's served as a consulting go-between with various agencies of the United States government and the Palestinian political leadership.
- From the 1970's to date involved in religious and political activities connected with Arab-Israeli and other Middle East conflicts. Worked extensively in these regards with non-governmental organizations in the United States, at the United Nations and elsewhere.

Bulletin Description of Courses Taught by

Norton Mezvinsky
Professor of History
Central Connecticut State University

(Fall 2000-Spring 2001)

Fall 2000:

- **History 427 – The United States, 1890-1933:** During this critical period of history, the United States became a leading industrial nation, rose to a world power, experienced major reform movements, underwent social and racial upheaval, was affected by a great wave of immigration, fought World War I, and suffered through the most serious depression in the nation's history. This course focuses upon these dramatic happenings with a special emphasis on their political, economic, and social consequences. The substantive assigned readings and lectures present differing views on various issues and should provoke class discussion.
- **History 472 – The Modern Middle East:** For the purposes of this course, the territorial perspective generally includes the areas of North Africa as well as the fertile crescent and gulf; some nation states receive more attention than others. The chronology is treated historically from the end of the Ottoman Empire after World War I, to the present, with the primary focus upon the post World War II period. The following are the major topics of consideration: Population and cultural diversity; the importance of religion; the significance of oil; economic disparity; developing and competing nationalisms; Western influences and the consequences of conflict. Substantive, diverse reading assignments and the lectures highlight many controversial aspects of the above topics and lay a basis for class discussion.

Spring 2001:

- **History 473 – The History of Judaism:** This course focuses on major themes in the historical development of Judaism from the ancient time period to the present. Within the context of a one-semester course, analysis is by definition limited. Nevertheless, each chosen theme is placed historically and described with some specificity. These themes include: Judaism's concept of God; the relationship of God to the Jewish people and the rest of humanity; the differences between the biblical talmudic, mystical and modern theological formulations and the development of Jewish philosophy. The assigned readings and lectures present widely ranging interpretations and thus provide a good basis for class discussion.
- **History 474 – The History of the Arab/Israeli Conflict:** This course stresses the parochial and worldwide significance of this conflict. The major political,

economic, and social issues involved are largely presented within the context of competing nationalisms. Some attention is directed to the background of the conflict before 1948. The primary time focus is upon the period from Israel's coming into existence in 1948, to the present. The diverse assigned readings and the lectures provide substance for spirited class discussion. The instructor draws upon his long-standing, personal involvement in various aspects of this conflict in order to add color and depth to the class discussion.

- **History 560 – Seminar in American History: Multi-Culturalism and Affirmative Action:** Multi-culturalism and affirmative action continue to be, as they have since the early 1960s, widely discussed and hotly debated topics in American society. They are closely related to, and yet, distinct from one another. This course focuses upon the definition, development, and societal impact of each topic. The assigned readings present widely divergent analyses. Advocates, who disagree with one another, are invited to address the seminar in order to add substance and to promote discussion of the pertinent issues.