

***Book Review: Shelly L. Fried, "They are not coming back": the crystallization of Israeli foreign policy toward possible solutions of the Palestinian refugee problem, 1947-1956: from the UN partition resolution to the Suez campaign***

**The Right of Return as a Strawman**

**Eyal Benvenisti**

This review of Shelly L. Fried, "They Are Not Coming Back" addresses the book's account of the success of Israel's diplomatic efforts to block United Nations recognition of the right of return of Palestinian refugees at the end of the 1948 war. The review complements this historical account with a legal analysis of the relevant UN General Assembly Resolution 194 adopted on December 11, 1948 and subsequent resolutions. Focusing on the legal interpretation of Resolution 194, it argues that the principle "they are not coming back" has indeed become the international community's guiding principle for the resolution of the conflict in the years following the 1948 war.