

HALAKHIC FOUNDATIONS,  
RELIGIOUS AUTHORITY, AND MILITARY SERVICE  
IN ISRAEL'S WAR OF INDEPENDENCE

# MILHEMET MITZVAH

Volume I



Editors:

AVIAD HACOEN, YITZCHAK AVI RONESS, AND MENACHEM BUTLER

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Milhemet Mitzvah: Volume 1

Halakhic Foundations, Religious Authority, and Military Service in  
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Editors: Aviad Hacoen, Yitzchak Avi Roness, and Menachem Butler

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This volume, along with the entire Milhemet Mitzvah series, is dedicated in honor of

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For over seventy-five years, the question of military service has remained one of the most contested issues in Israeli society, raising fundamental tensions between national defense, Torah study, and religious leadership. ***Milhemet Mitzvah, vol. 1: Halakhic Foundations, Religious Authority, and Military Service in Israel's War of Independence*** examines this debate at its origins, exploring the halakhic, ideological, and historical foundations of military service in the early years of the State of Israel. This volume brings together leading scholars, rabbis, and historians to analyze how religious authority shaped military policy, the role of yeshiva students and Haredi communities in national defense, and the broader implications of defining military service as a halakhic obligation. Featuring newly translated primary sources, it offers a rigorous engagement with a debate that continues to define Israeli society and Jewish identity.

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