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CHAIM WEIZMANN
SCIENTIST, STATESMAN, AND
ARCHITECT OF SCIENCE POLICY

LEADERSHIP AND SCIENCE IN ISRAEL

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Joshua Jortner

Preface

Dr. Chaim Weizmann, the first president of the State of Israel, was not only a statesman and a towering leader of the Jewish people, but also a notable scientist and an architect of academic policy and institutions for the state-in-the-making. His profound contribution to designing the contents and frameworks of scientific activity in the State of Israel and to their realization was unparalleled and has lasted until today.

In his inaugural address to the Knesset, Weizmann, the first President of the State of Israel, declared: “All my life, I have endeavored to make science and research a foundation for our national enterprise.” These words faithfully reflect his belief that the State of Israel must be grounded, first and foremost, upon its spiritual, cultural, intellectual, and technological strength. This is our heritage: to see in science and scholarship a central dimension of our lives and a source of our strength, one that we must constantly nurture and develop, in the spirit of Weizmann’s vision.

This volume is based on the lectures delivered at a conference held by the Israel Academy of Sciences and Humanities on January 8, 2013, to commemorate the sixtieth anniversary of Weizmann’s passing. The Hebrew volume from which it was translated is the second in the Academy’s series on “Leadership and Science in Israel.” The first volume, published in 1989 and reprinted in 2013, was devoted to David Ben-Gurion.



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