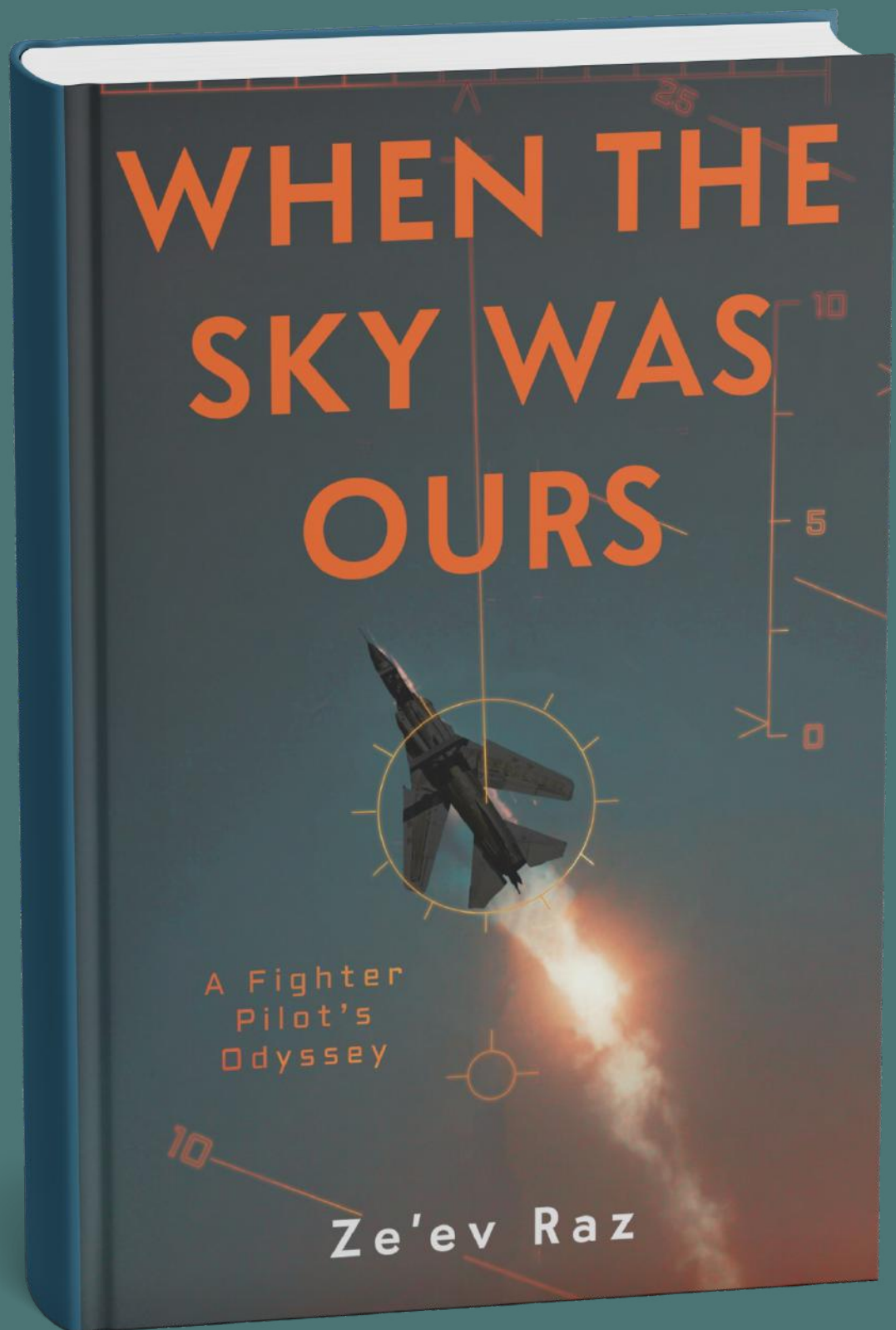




A powerful memoir of courage, identity, and the human cost of heroism.  
The extraordinary journey of a fighter pilot who dared to change history

# *About the Book*

When the Sky Was Ours is a gripping fighter pilot memoir that transcends the boundaries of a typical military narrative. Retired IAF Colonel Ze'ev "Zevik" Raz, commander of the legendary Operation Opera that destroyed Iraq's nuclear reactor, weaves combat experiences, philosophical reflections, and personal recollections into a story that recalls the literary depth of Antoine de Saint-Exupéry.

## *The Story*

From TOPGUN training with the U.S. Navy elite to commanding Israel's most daring missions, Raz recounts his journey from a kibbutz-raised youth to one of Israel's most decorated pilots. His narrative spans decades of Middle Eastern conflict, the evolution of modern aerial warfare, and the profound psychological and moral challenges of combat.

### **Key Themes:**

- High-stakes military operations and aerial combat
- The psychological toll of command and loss
- Israeli military history and national identity
- Memory, trauma, and the passage of time
- The philosophy of flight and heroism

### **Perfect for Readers of:**

- Military memoirs and aviation narratives
- Middle Eastern history and Israeli studies
- Character-driven war literature
- Philosophical memoirs blending action with reflection

# About the Author

**Ze'ev Raz** (b. 1947) is a retired Israeli Air Force Colonel whose distinguished career spanned the most critical decades of Middle Eastern military history. Raised on Kibbutz Geva, he represents the generation that helped shape modern Israel.



## Career Highlights:

- Earned IAF Wings in 1967 (Six-Day War era)
- Lead Phantom pilot, Yom Kippur War (1973)
- Graduate of U.S. Navy TOPGUN program (1977)
- Founded Israel's first F-16 squadron
- Squadron Commander, Operation Opera (1981 Iraq nuclear reactor strike)
- Commander, IAF Flight Academy (1987-1989)
- Recipient of the IDF Chief of Staff Citation

**Post-Military:** Directed a telecommunications college, founded a tech startup, and developed a second career as an author. His writing combines technical expertise with literary sensibility, echoing the philosophical tradition of Antoine de Saint-Exupéry.

## Key Selling Points

- Exclusive insider access to one of history's most daring air operations.
- Combines technical expertise with profound literary depth.
- Rare balance of thrilling operational detail and emotional honesty.
- Explores universal themes of memory, loss, and identity.
- Historical significance with ongoing geopolitical relevance.

# Market Potential

- Rising global interest in Middle Eastern military history and geopolitics.
- Strong appetite for authentic insider accounts of military operations.
- The 40+ year perspective on Operation Opera provides unique historical and political context.
- Literary military memoirs are increasingly gaining critical and commercial traction.

*"A masterpiece of military memoir writing that achieves the rare feat of combining operational detail with profound literary insight. Raz has written the 'Right Stuff' for the Middle East generation."*



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