

JEW, ISRAEL AND PEACE IN PALESTINIAN SCHOOL TEXTBOOKS

*A Survey of the Textbooks
Published by the Palestinian National Authority
in the years 2000-2001*

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The Center for Monitoring the Impact of Peace, (CMIP) is a non-governmental, not-for-profit organization established in 1998 under the Not-For-Profit Corporation Law of the State of New York. Its purpose is to encourage the development and fostering of peaceful relations between peoples and nations, by establishing a climate of tolerance and mutual respect founded on the rejection of violence as a means to resolving conflicts.

Is it possible to establish and maintain a climate of peace when the people of the countries and communities directly concerned are being taught from early childhood to beware of other peoples and communities, receive a negative and hateful image of their neighbors, and are led to identify almost exclusively with heroes embodying the cult of force and the resort to violence?

This is one of the crucial questions that the center is considering, especially through the study of curricula, schoolbooks for students and handbooks for the teachers, a revealing indicator of the views and values societies want to instill in their youth.

CMIP will disseminate these findings and consider initiatives to promote the renunciation of violence and the changing of stereotypes. Thus we hope to build a sound basis for a genuine and lasting peace between Israel and its Arab neighbors in the Middle East, with a view to expanding this mission to other regions in the world.

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