

Chapter Nine: The Liberation of Palestine

The Palestinian textbooks remain vague about the extent of the Palestinian territory that should be liberated from Israeli occupation. This is also the case with the Declaration of the Establishment of the State of Palestine – quoted in one of the textbooks. The maps, however, are quite clear on the extent of the territory to be liberated.

“The State of Palestine is an Arab state and an integral part of the Arab nation... It... calls upon the sons of that nation to help it complete its practical birth by gathering resources and intensifying efforts for the purpose of ending the Israeli occupation... It urges the world’s peoples and states that love peace and freedom to help it achieve its goals and put an end to the tragedy of its people by providing them with security and by... ending the Israeli occupation of the Palestinian territories.”

(Reading and Texts, Grade 8, Part 1 (2002) pp. 72-73)

Bearing in mind that Palestine, according to the Palestinian textbooks (see above), encompasses the territories of Israel as well, it is hard to determine whether the books refer to the liberation of the West Bank and Gaza only or to other territories. In the following quotations the first deals with a poem that was written in 1947 or 1948, when the West Bank and Gaza were firmly in Arab hands, while the second deals with the refugees in Gaza who yearn to return to their old lands inside Israel as a result of what is defined in the textbook as “liberation”.

“What are the means for the liberation of Palestine as seen by the poet in his poem?”²⁷

(Question, “Palestine”, Reading and Texts, Grade 8, Part 1 (2002) p. 79)

“The poem stresses the [importance of the] continuation of the struggle for the liberation of Palestine without despair even if it takes a long time...”
 (“Three Pictures from Gaza”, **Reading and Texts, Grade 8, Part 1 (2002) p. 59)**

²⁷ The poem "Palestine" talks about Jihad, and see the following chapter.