

Chapter VIII: Liberation of Palestine; Liquidation of Israel

51. Overview

Syrian textbooks strive to present the liberation [tahrir] of Palestine as a main goal of Syria as well as an all-Arab and all-Muslim duty.

The liberation and the struggle in itself are also regarded as a means to reasserting Arab and Muslim dignity, since the loss of Palestine to the Jews is perceived as humiliation and disgrace. Thus, the Palestinians, who die fighting Israel, die on the field of honor.

The full liberation of Palestine means the liquidation [tasfiyah] of the State of Israel and the Syrian textbooks do not conceal that. On the contrary, such liquidation is mentioned as a goal and appears in the Ba'ath Party resolutions (see below). Moreover, the liquidation of the State of Israel is even further extended to become an act of purification, that is, purifying Palestine of the Zionist "filth", as Syrian students learn. In one case, the liquidation of Israel assumes the metaphor of killing a dangerous snake.

According to Syrian textbooks, liberation will be achieved by force alone and the liquidation of Israel is but a matter of time. Both the October War of 1973 and the Palestinian Intifadah are seen as a prelude to the great war of liberation and liquidation.

52. Liberation of Palestine is an Official Syrian Goal

"The Goals of the Party's State on the All-Arab Level

2. Liberation of Palestine and the usurped lands" (Civics, Grade 6, p. 128)

"Your Syrian Arab country, under the leadership of the Arab-Socialist Ba'ath Party, has supported the Palestinian Resistance... and it has regarded the liberation of Palestine as a fundamental goal among its goals." (Civics, Grade 6, p. 130)

"The Arab-Socialist Ba'ath Party has considered the Palestinian problem the Arabs' primary problem and the liberation of Palestine a primary necessity like the liberation of the Golan... It has called for the adoption of the armed struggle as a basis for the liberation, ...for non-relinquishment of any inch of the Arab land, and for the commitment to supporting the struggle of the Palestinian Arab people for its return to its homeland and its self-determination on its land." (National-Socialist Education, Grade 12, p. 66)

"Revolutionary Syria regards the aggression against the al-Aqsa Mosque as an act of aggression against Damascus and the Umayyad Mosque therein. Therefore, it has followed - under the leadership of President Hafez Assad - the road of struggle until liberation." (Islamic Education, Grade 8, p. 43)

"We [Syrians] are fighting these aggressive Zionists and we shall not let injustice pass, until Palestine returns to its owners and the right returns to its people." ("This is Our Land", Reader, Grade 5, pt. 2, p. 45)



Reader, Grade 4, pt.1, p. 28

53. Liberation of Palestine is an All-Arab and All-Muslim Duty:

"The duty of the Arab and Muslim nation today is to mobilize its strengths, unify its will and prepare well for the liberation of the al-Aqsa Mosque and other occupied Arab parts. Not a [single] Arab or Muslim country is exempted by its distance from the front line with the enemies. The danger threatens us [all] as a nation." (Islamic Education, Grade 8, p. 61)

"The duty of the Muslims today, as many parts of their land have been usurped, their homeland's soil desecrated and their holy places - especially the al-Aqsa Mosque - violated, is to sacrifice anything they have in order to liberate al-Aqsa and the rest [of the seized places] from oppressive Zionism and its allies." (Islamic Education, Grade 8, pp. 42-43)

"The Arabs have the same goals, which obliges the Arabs to act together in order to realize them. The most important [goal] among them [is]: Liberation of all the usurped Arab lands from all foreign influence, first

and foremost - Palestine." (Geography of the Arab Homeland, Grade 6, pp. 31-32)

Even the students are being prepared to be part of the liberation effort, either as children or when they grow up.

"Every Arab has his role in the liberation battle. What is your role then, that you want to play in that battle?" (Homework, "Palestine is Arab", Selected Stories, Grade 6, p. 76)

"Are children of the same age as Aminah [a nine-year-old girl in the story "A Demonstration in Gaza"] supposed to take part in the great liberation battle?" (Homework, Selected Stories, Grade 6, p. 16)

"Ahmad felt proud of this great hero [Saladin] and he wished for himself to grow up and become a soldier defending the homeland and liberating Jerusalem again from the hands of the Zionist enemy." (Conversation, Reader, Expression and Recital, Grade 2, pt. 2, p. 20)



Reader, Grade 4, pt. 2,p.87

The liberation issue is also used in language exercises and in poetry.

"The Arabs will liberate Palestine" (Reader, Grade 4, pt. 1, p. 83)

"We shall sacrifice our blood for the liberation of the usurped land."
(Reader, Grade 4, pt. 2, p. 144)

"I wish I gathered all the revolt in the universe
So that I would see you as a savior of the enslaved homeland" (Reader,
Grade 5, pt. 1, p. 66)

54. The Liberation of Palestine is a Means to Restoring Injured Arab Dignity

"We, Muslims, should... sacrifice our souls and property... until we recover our holy places and return to our nation its glory and dignity."
(Islamic Education, Grade 4, p. 106)

"It is the duty of all Muslims to act together in order to recover [both] land and dignity by all means." (Islamic Education, Grade 9, p. 166)

"The Palestinian Arab generation that was born and grew up in tents and knew Palestine through the mothers' tears and the fathers' determination to recover the land, has sworn to liberate its land and restore the dignity of its [Palestinian] people and [Arab] nation." (Civics, Grade 6, p. 129)

"The duty of the sons of our Arab nation today is to liberate our holy places, revenge for our [injured] dignity and recover the usurped parts of our land." (Islamic Education, Grade 5, p. 134)

"The events have proven that the armed struggle is the best way to recover land and dignity." (Reader and Literary Texts, Grade 9, p. 102)

"We have been conducting the struggle for this long time... defending our land... in which we see our honor and dignity." (President Hafez Assad, National-Socialist Education, Grade 9, p. 81)

"Let us continue our struggle and then we shall liberate our Arab land and assert our dignity." (Grammar, Grade 9, p. 55)

"We should continue the stubborn struggle in order to protect Arab dignity." (Grammar, Grade 10, p. 64)

"Our Palestinian brethren sacrificed their blood until the whole world heard their voice and became acquainted with their cause. They are still dying on the field of honor." (Reader, Grade 6, pt. 2, p. 95)

"We [should] declare a Jihad as the only way to liberate the land and regain [our] dignity." (Islamic Education, Grade 8, p. 88)

"Let us believe in Jihad as a way to liberation, glory and dignity." (Islamic Education, Grade 9, p. 169)

"Rip apart, O Damascus, the map of shame." (Grammar, Dictation and Script, Grade 8, p. 42)

55. Liberation of Palestine Goes Hand-in-Hand with the Liquidation of Israel

"Syria endeavors, under the revolutionary Arab-Socialist Ba'ath Party and the leadership of the Fighting Comrade, Hafez Assad, to assemble [all] Arab strengths in order to liquidate the colonialist-imperialist Zionist existence on the Arab land and liberate the entire occupied Arab soil." (National-Socialist Education, Grade 8, p. 48)

"Salah al-Din [Saladin] managed to overcome the Franks [the Crusaders] after having unified the Arab front. What is the role of [Arab] unity today in liquidating the Zionists' state?" (Homework, Reader and Literary Texts, Grade 9, p. 79)

"Arab unity is no longer a mere realization of a historical past. Rather, it is an immediate necessity in the battle for Arab existence against imperialism, in order to establish an Arab state with quantitative and qualitative gravity that will be able to liquidate Imperialism's positions and monopolies, as well as the Zionist existence on Arab land." (Party resolutions, National-Socialist Education, Grade 11, p. 20)

"And though the snake [Israel] still clings to the land in spite of the blows inflicted upon it, the battle goes on and I am still waiting, like any other Arab soldier, for the right moment to apply the slogan "fighting until victory". And if it is not realized in our lifetime, then you and your generation will realize that... fulfilling the duties of the battle and finishing the snake off completely and irrevocably." ("A Letter to My Son", Selected Stories, Grade 6, p. 142)

"They [the Zionists] ventured upon their crimes imagining that their state will survive." (Grammar, Dictation and Script, Grade 8, p. 72)

Tomorrow we shall return and the ages will listen to the footfalls at the return
...With the bloody flags above the blaze of blades and bayonets" (Modern Arab Literature, Grade 12, pp. 105-106)

"- When is our appointment with victory [due]?
- Tomorrow." (Grammar, Dictation and Script, Grade 7, p. 159)

56. Purifying Palestine of the Zionists

"Let us not let an opportunity pass by idly, but rather fill it with a deed that will benefit our Arab nation and lead us towards... the liberation of

the Arab land and its purification of the filth of Zionism, first and foremost - the city of Jerusalem and Palestine." (Islamic Education, Grade 6, p. 109)

"No doubt, near is the day when we will see the Arab homeland purified of the filth of Zionism and Zionists." (Reader and Literary Texts, Grade 8, p. 131)

"How will we purify our Arab land in Palestine and liberate it from the aggressive Zionists?" (Reader, Grade 5, pt. 1, p. 9)

"The purification of Palestine of the Jews in the defense of the al-Aqsa Mosque is a Jihad for the cause of God." (Islamic Education, Grade 6, p. 57)

"There is neither excuse nor forgiveness for the one who refrains from Jihad for the cause of God, for the purification of Palestine of the Jews." (Islamic Education, Grade 6 p. 57)

57. Legitimizing Violence and Bloodshed

"The stone split the head of the Zionist soldier" (Grammar, Eloquence and Prosody, Grade 11, p. 153)

"-I do not like the sight of blood.

-Only a killer or a murderer would like that sight... But what would be your position if one day a person from the [other] end of the world came to you... and... planned intentionally to destroy your house above your head and to do away with you, just to get rid of you and take over your home?" (Reader, Grade 11, p. 41)

"The setback of the fifth of June 1967 left in the souls of the Arab citizens a painful impression mixed with a real desire for revenge... and for washing the disgrace with blood." (Civics, Grade 5, p. 100)

"An amazing luster and a thunder-like roar turned the house of Bassem's father [together] with those [who were] inside it into a mass of fire. Bassem refused to have the foreigners dwell in his house. [Question:] Do you agree with what Bassem did? Do you have a desire for doing what Bassem did? Why?" ("The Small Lemon Tree", Short Stories, Grade 5, pp. 17-18)

58. Force is the Only Way

"Revolutionary Syria... has raised the slogan [which says:] what was taken by force shall not be returned, except by force." (Islamic Education, Grade 8, p. 43)

"What was taken by force shall be returned by force." (Grammar, Dictation and Script, Grade 7, pp. 106, 113)

"The Arabs will recover their rights by struggle." (Grammar, Dictation and Script, Grade 7, p. 113)

59. The 1973 War was a Preliminary Step towards Liberation and Liquidation

"This is a great victory! But the greatest victory [will be] when the Zionist enemy is driven out of Palestine and the entire Arab soil is recovered. Then we shall have our greatest joy." (Principles of Grammar, Dictation and Script, Grade 5, p. 21)

"The Arabs and the Muslims should prepare for the redemption of the holy places from the claws of Zionism... The Ramadan [the Muslim month corresponding to October in 1973] War of Liberation which was led by the Leader President Hafez Assad is but a fundamental step on the road to liberation." (Islamic Education, Grade 5, p. 135)

60. The Intifada is the Beginning of Liberation, Annihilation and Purification

"The Intifada of the people in Palestine is but the beginning of a liberation movement for the annihilation of that evil Zionist colonialism." (Geography of the Arab Homeland, Grade 9, p. 93)

"Our people wanted the Intifada to go on as an enlightening torch... and they shall not withhold their pure blood until the land of peace is purified of the filth of the usurper." (Grammar, Grade 10, p. 55)