

## Chapter IX: Holy War [Jihad] and Militarism

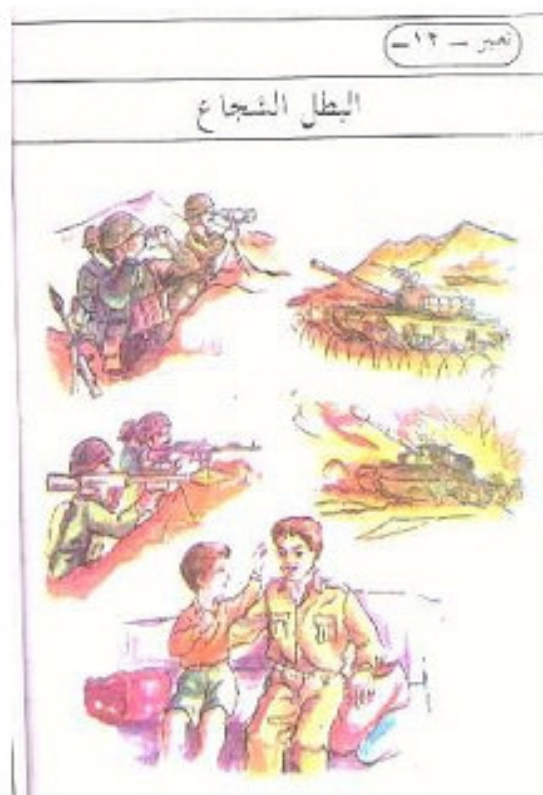
### 61. Overview

Jihad is a Muslim term equivalent to "Holy War". Though it has several interpretations, it is in this capacity that Jihad is being used as far as the struggle against Israel is concerned. As an Islamic precept, it is directed at Muslims mainly, but not exclusively. There is no dispute in the Syrian textbooks that the struggle against Israel is a Jihad, whether the Muslim holy places are involved in it or not. The mere fact that Muslim land is lost and Muslim honor is hurt suffices to declare a defensive Jihad which is incumbent upon every able-bodied Muslim. The following quotes reflect that quite clearly.

The theme of militarism may be regarded as a secular contribution to the idea of Jihad by the Ba'ath regime. It is dealt with at the beginning of the section.

### 62. Militarism in Syrian Textbooks

Militarism is a value in the Syrian textbooks. The first Grade student is presented with a series of pictures showing Syrian soldiers destroying enemy tanks under the title "The Brave Hero" (Reader, Grade 1, Pt. 1, p. 146).



Following are some more references, taken mainly from language exercises

"Do not forget the soldiers who defend the homeland's soil, for they build its glory. [Question:] How do the soldiers build the homeland's glory?" (Conversation, Reader, Expression and Recital, Grade 2, Pt. 2, pp. 69-70)

"Running away from battle is a great sin which entails severe punishment in this world and in the next one." (Islamic Education, Grade 5, p. 59)

"The Arabs have never boasted of gathered gold but of a vanquished enemy." (Grammar and Dictation, Grade 6, p. 67)

"The people and the nation seek glory under the shade of the swords." (Grammar, Grade 10, p. 47)

"Life is noble under the shade of the swords." (Grammar, Grade 9, p. 169)

"The soldiers continued their offensive with their souls full of determination." (Grammar, Dictation and Script, Grade 8, p. 121)

"We bombarded the enemy with twenty shells." (Grammar, Dictation and Script, Grade 8, p. 126)

"The enemy's planes fell down in the October War." (Grammar, Eloquence and Prosody, Grade 11, p. 60)

### 63. The War against Israel is a Holy War (Jihad)

"Al-Aqsa Mosque and the land of Palestine that surrounds it are a holy country that the Muslims should wage a Jihad for, in order to recover [it] from the hands of the Jews." (Islamic Education, Grade 4, p. 84)

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

"Jihad has been, and will remain, the only way to defend the homeland and to recover what the enemies have usurped thereof." (Reader and Literary Texts, Grade 8, p. 4)

"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)

"This is the law of Jihad regarding us today, as our country has been exposed to aggression and parts of our land have been occupied by the oppressive Zionists who threaten our existence." (Islamic Education, Grade 9, p. 166)

#### 64. Everyone Should Participate in the Jihad

"Jihad today is an individual duty of every Muslim." (Islamic Education, Grade 8, p. 88)

"Refraining from the Jihad... is high treason for which the perpetrator deserves punishment in this world and the hereafter." (Islamic Education, Grade 5, p. 108)

"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)

"Women should share with the men in the Jihad in accordance with their strengths, possibilities and the nation's needs." (Islamic Education, Grade 10, p. 16)

"The Muslims in all countries of the world are preparing for the Jihad against the Jews and for their expulsion from Palestine. We are preparing for the Jihad against the Jews and for their expulsion from beloved Palestine." (Islamic Education, Grade 6, p. 58)

Geography of Greater Syria [Sham], Grade 5, p. 39:

