

Best Practices Workshop on Teaching the Israel-Palestinian Conflict
Friday 15 May 2009
Harvard University
Room 354
Center for Government and International Studies
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Assumptions of the Organizers: The organizers of the workshop assume that the goal of all participants is to develop some best practices for teaching about the Israel-Palestinian conflict. They also assume that each participant has some experience in teaching about the conflict or has base line knowledge about the topic. If participants do not, that is alright, but the best practices will be formed from the discussion carried out during the workshop, so sharing from experience is important.

AM

- 9:00 – 9:30 Welcome and Introductions, all participants
- 9:30 – 10:15 Approaching the Israel-Palestinian Conflict as Educators: Getting on the same page, organizing ideas, and lens of interpretation, Paul Beran, Director, Outreach Center, Center for Middle Eastern Studies
- 10:15 – 11:00 Teaching from History: View points and resources for the classroom, Kader Adjout, 11-12 grade History teacher, Beaver Country Day School, Chestnut Hill, MA.
- 11:00 – 11:15 Break
- 11:15 – 11:45 Finding Balance: The Humanitarian Case Study, Dr. Sara Roy, Associate of the Center for Middle Eastern Studies
- 11:45 – 12:15 Lunch

PM

- 12:15-1:15 Break Out Group – Using Media in the Classroom: Comparison of Four Videos on the Conflict for use in grades 11-12, Kader Adjout
Format: This will be an entre into the group work for the afternoon. The participants will divide into groups to view the resources presented by Kader. During the discussion of the resources, each group will share with the entire group from their perspective and all comments will be noted for future learning.
- 1:15 – 2:15 Break Out Group –Assessing and Evaluating Resources
Format: The group of participants will be divided into smaller groups, based on the grade taught, experience with the topic and interest in the approach areas. Probably the groups will be composed of 2-3 people. In the groups, participants will read/watch the resource and consider its usefulness to their teaching, illuminate some gems they saw in it for teaching about the Israel-Palestinian conflict and consider other resources to pair with it. Saviz Safizadeh, Kader Adjout, Paul Beran, and Jaclyn Michael will serve as resource guides. This method of group work is based on the popular Havruta style.

2:15 – 3:00 Group Sharing and Evaluation

Format for this hour: During this time the groups will disband and everyone will come together. As a unified group, each small group member will share something about their resource, its usefulness (or not), how it could be used, what problems there might be with it and other resources that would be useful, as well as comments on teaching the topic from his/her experience that the resource brought up. This section's discussion will have notes taken to facilitate collective learning.

Resources for Assessing and Evaluating

Media Criticism (excerpted chapters)

Btselem Shorts: Documenting the Seldom Seen, Volume 1, Btselem: the Israeli Information Center for Human Rights in the Occupied Territories., 2007, Btselem.

Hebron Stories: From Bustling City Center to a Ghost Town, Btselem: the Israeli Information Center for Human Rights in the Occupied Territories., 2007, Btselem.

Land of the Settlers, Haim Yavine, 2006.

Media Construction of the Middle East, Project Look Sharp, 2005, Ithaca College.

- *Unit 2, Israel/Palestine - Histories in Conflict Lesson 1: Same Lane- Different Histories*
- *Unit 2, Israel/Palestine - Histories in Conflict, Lesson 2: May 15, 1948—Independence of Catastrophe*
- *Unit 2, Israel/Palestine - Histories in Conflict, Lesson 6: The Politics of Maps*

My Land Zion, Yulie Cohen Gerstel, 2004, Women Make Movies.

Peace Propaganda and the Promised Land, Media Education Foundation, 2004.

Promises, Justine Shapiro, BZ Goldbert and Carlos Bolado, 2001, New Yorker Video.

Literature (excerpted chapters)

Habibi, Naomi Shihab Nye, 1999, Simon Pulse Reissue Edition.

- “Jerusalem Above My Highest Joy”, pgs. 63-69.

The Lemon Tree, Sandy Tolan, 2006, Bloomsbury.

- “Introduction”, pgs. xvii – xix
- “Encounter”, pgs. 144-163
- “Hope”, pgs. 223-247.

Sharon and My Mother in Law, Suad Amiry, 2004, Pantheon.

- “The Seven-Year Epic of My Identity: 1981-1988”, 28-47.
- “A Dog’s Life”, 107-126.

Tasting the Sky, Ibtisam Barakat, 2007, Farrar, Straus and Giroux.

Historiography (excerpted chapters)

A Concise History of the Arab-Israeli Conflict, Fourth Edition, Ian Bickerton and Carla Klausner, 2005, Prentice Hall.

A History of Modern Palestine: One Land, Two Peoples Second Edition, Ilan Pappé, 2006, Cambridge University Press.

- “Introduction: A New Look at Modern Palestine and Israel”, 1- 13.

Breaking Ranks: Refusing to Serve in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, Ronit Chacham, 2003, The Other Press.

- “Landmarks in the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict”, pgs. 1-13.

Failing Peace: Gaza and the Palestinian-Israeli Conflict, Sara Roy, 2007, Pluto Press.

The Iron Wall: Israel and the Arab World, Avi Shlaim, 2000, WW. Norton and Co.

The Israel-Palestine Reader, Ed. Ilan Pappé, 2007, Routledge

- “Introduction: New Historiographical Orientation in the Research on the Palestine Question”, pgs. 1-7.

Lords of the Land: The War Over Israel's Settlements in the Occupied Territories, 1967-2007, Idith Zertal and Akiva Eldar, 2007, Nation Books.

Middle East Patterns: Places, Peoples and Politics, Fourth Edition, Colbert Held, 2006, Westview Press.

- “Israel, Palestine and Disputed Territories”, pgs. 339-375.

The Modern Middle East, Second Edition, James Gelvin, 2004, Oxford University Press.

- “The Origins of the Israeli-Palestinian Dispute”, 206-221.

One Land, Two Peoples Second Edition, Deborah Gerner, 1994, Westview Press.

- “Introduction”, pgs. xvi - 7.

The Other Israel: Voices of Refusal and Dissent, Edited, Roane Carey and Jonathan Shainin, 2002, The New Press.

- “Foreword”, vii-xiii.

Understanding the Contemporary Middle East, Third Edition, Edited, Jillian Schwedler and Deborah Gerner, 2008, Lynne Reiner Publishers

- “The History and Dynamics of the Conflict”, pgs. 185-207.
- “Arab-Israeli Conflict”, pgs. 153-158.

Wrestling with Zion: Progressive Jewish-American Responses to the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict, ed. Tony Kushner and Alisa Solomon, 2003, Grove Press.