

Univocality within multivocality: The Israeli-Arab-Palestinian conflict in textbooks, 2000-2010

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Previous research on the way in which the Arab-Israeli conflict and the image of the Arab have been presented in Jewish history and civics textbooks established that there have been three phases, each typified by its own distinctive textbooks. The shift from the first to the third generation of textbooks saw a gradual improvement in the way the Other has been described, with the elimination of many biases, distortions and omissions. This article explores whether new history textbooks, published from 2000 to 2010, have entrenched or reversed this trend. With the escalation of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict since the early 2000s, one might have expected that the past linear process of improvement would be reversed. However, textbooks written over the last decade do not substantially differ from those written in the 1990s, during the heyday of the peace process. The overall picture is, therefore, that the current textbooks do not constitute a fourth generation.



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Even the Palestinian-Israeli dispute, which has typically been re-ferred to as a fight between two people, has seen a change in its nature. The popularity of Hamas influenced the Islamization of the conflict with the Palestinians. Hamas cast itself as the legitimate representative of the Pal-estine from the Zionist usurpers. Not to be outdone, the supposedly secular PLO leaders now use religion to attract the Arab population. Not all Muslims hold extreme views; however, enough believe that a Jewish state can be established in the Middle East and long-running conflicts in world history, characterised by intense violence and uncompromising positions. The Middle East has been the scene of frequent clashes and desperate attempts by both sides to forge the peace process. The impassioned politicians, activists and the public alike. The growing tension is reflected in a statement by Ehud Barak from ‘our Jews’... Israeli prime minister Ehud Barak and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat shake hands in 2000. The peace process built in 2002. Textbooks in Israel and the Palestinian territories issued by the Palestinian Authority have been reviewed. Several studies have been done on Palestinian textbooks. The U.S. Consulate General in Jerusalem conducted research and information. In Europe the Georg Eckert Institute performed research. The Hebrew Uni-



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