

Glencoe/McGraw Hill, New York
American History The Early Years to 1877, 2001

This textbook has egregious omissions and/or falsifications in the area of the Crusades. Selected examples of problematic material with documented commentary are presented below.

On pages 64-65, of Chapter 3 **“Explorers Reach the Americas 1000-1535,”** Section 1 **“A Changing Europe,”** in the Subsection **“Crusades to the Holy Land [] Christian and Muslim Conflict,”** the textbook states:

“The religious wars were fought in Palestine, a land in Southwest Asia along the eastern edge of the Mediterranean Sea. Palestine was the Holy Land for both Christians and Muslims. Europe’s Christians considered Palestine and its city of Jerusalem sacred, or holy. Muslims, followers of the religion of Islam, also considered Palestine a sacred city.

The textbook perpetuates basic Islamist Revisionism of the Crusades: the allegation that the Christians fought the Crusades to capture the Holy Land from the Muslims and that Jerusalem was sacred to the Muslims. There is no mention that Jerusalem was sacred to the Jews and that Palestine was also their Holy Land. In addition, the students are never taught that Jerusalem is not mentioned in the Qur’an and that it does not hold the sacred status that it has for the Jews.¹

“In 1071 a group of Turkish Muslims took over Jerusalem and closed it to all Christians. The Catholic Church was outraged. It called for warriors to free the Holy Land from the Turks. Christians all over Europe answered the call. Between 1096 and 1270, Christians from Europe fought a series of wars, called the Crusades.

“During the First Crusade, Christians captured the city of Jerusalem. Although the Christians held the city for about the next 100 years, the Muslims eventually recaptured it.”

Once again, it must be reiterated that the Christians recaptured Jerusalem from the Muslims who previously had conquered it from them centuries earlier.

¹ The History of Jerusalem – The Early Muslim Period – 638-1099, Joshua Prawer and Haggai Ben-Shammai, Eds., New York University Press (New York, 1996), p. 353; Some Religious Aspects of Islam, Hava Lazarus-Yafeh, E.J. Brill (Leiden, Netherlands, 1981), p.58.