

McDougal Littell, Evanston, IL American History, 2008

This textbook has egregious errors, omissions, misrepresentations and falsifications in the areas of (A) the Arab-Israeli Conflict, (B) the Jihadist Terrorist Attack on September 11, 2001. Selected examples of problematic material with documented commentary are presented below.

(A) Arab-Israeli Conflict

On page 837 of Chapter 26 “**The Rise of Dictators and World War II**,” Section 5 “**The Legacy of World War II**,” in the subsection “**Internationalism Terrorism**,” the textbook states:

“Although many countries worked together toward lasting peace, tensions still lingered after the war. [WWII] In response to the Holocaust, the United Nations created the new nation of Israel in 1948 as a homeland for the Jews in Palestine. Many Arabs in Palestine violently opposed Israel. Fighting broke out as neighboring Arab nations attacked the new nation. The Israeli-Palestinian conflict continues to this day and remains an obstacle to peace in the Middle East.”

The paragraph serves as a perfect example both of Islamist Holocaust revisionism – that there would be no state of Israel without the Holocaust and historical omission. There is no information on the UN Partition Plan which partitioned Palestine into two states: one Arab and one Jewish; it makes no mention of the Arab rejection of the formation of two separate states. It also does not include the pertinent information that the armies that attacked Israel on May 15, 1948 were from Lebanon, Egypt, Syria, Saudi Arabia, and Jordan; that Iraq also declared war; and that Libya and Yemen sent volunteers—eight Arab countries in all fought against Israel.¹

Further the conflict that “**continues to this day and remains an obstacle to peace in the Middle East**” is not an “**Israeli-Palestinian conflict**.” The Palestinian Arabs would have had their own state in 1948 if the Arab nations had not rejected the UN Partition Plan and attacked Israel. The conflict is the Arab-Israeli Conflict that has the destruction of Israel as its ultimate goal, as codified in the charter of the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) which defines its goal as “the annihilation of the Zionist entity in all of its economic, political, military, and cultural manifestations.”²

¹http://www.palestinefacts.org/pf_independence_war_start.php
<http://dover.idf.il/IDF/English/about/History/40s/1948/150506.htm>

² Barry Rubin, Revolution Until Victory?: The Politics and History of the PLO (Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 1994), p. 22.

(B) The Jihadist Terrorist Attack on September 11, 2001.

On page 956 of Chapter 30 **“America in a Changing World 1969-2006,”** Section 3 **“America Enters a New Millennium,”** in the subsection **“Responding to Terrorism,”** the textbook states:

“On the morning of September 11, 2001, 19 terrorists hijacked four airplanes heading from East Coast airports to California. The hijackers crashed two of the jets into the twin towers of the World Trade Center in New York City. Another crashed into the Pentagon near Washington, D.C. The fourth jet crashed in an empty field after passengers courageously fought the hijackers. Everyone on all four planes died.”

There is no identification of the terrorists as Muslims or Islamic Jihadists. Further, there is no explanation of why the Jihadists targeted the World Trade Center and the Pentagon. Nor does it identify the target of the fourth jet as the White House. It should be noted as well that the glossary does not provide students with a definition of the words terrorism and terrorist.