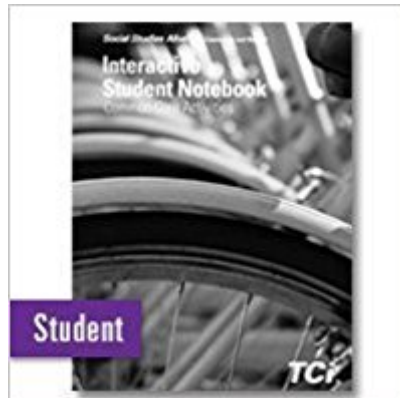


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Social Studies Alive Our Community And Beyond



Book Information

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Customer Reviews

In the last two years, the American Textbook Council (ATC), in Islam and the Textbooks, and several reports by The Textbook League, have documented bias and evasions in world history textbooks on the subjects of militant Islam and Islamic terrorism. Critics agree that grammar, middle and high school textbooks misrepresent Islam past and present. They contain fallacies and untruths about jihad, sharia, slavery, status of Muslim women, terrorism, and tolerance. Textbooks make no distinction between sharia and Western law, and pretend that women are making great strides in the Islamic world, when all evidence indicates otherwise. Social studies textbooks ignore the global ambitions of militant Islam. They fail to explain that Muslim terrorists seek to destroy the United States and Israel. They omit geopolitical goals that include theocracy and world domination by religion. This book is no exception. Like many others, its crafting was guided by Islamic organizations that manipulated the system to get the publisher to advance their Islamist agenda. As the ATC notes, for years, publishers have ignored -- "stonewalled" -- those who have pressed them about motives, funding, legal status, and strong-arm tactics on the part of their Muslim "consultants." Because of these issues, a controversy is swirling around this relatively new seventh grade book in the California schools. As yet, it remains unclear whether California schools and textbooks will correct Islam-related errors and tell the truth about terrorism or succumb to the potent Islamist lobby. This history text was piloted in Scottsdale, Arizona. But there, the school district pulled the book from classrooms in April 2005 after parental complaints about its Islam-related content, according to the East Valley Tribune. The privately held, Palo Alto-based Teachers' Curriculum Institute is hard at work in the lucrative California textbook market, promoting the fact that, as a local company, it is good for California's economy. But according to ATC, "The student edition is an

ill-written product printed on the cheap" with amateurish accompanying materials. The book's front matter credits Ayad Al-Qazzaz as its chief author-advisor on Islam. A professor of sociology at California State University, Sacramento, Al Qazzaz is a Muslim apologist and, writes ATC, "a frequent speaker in Northern California school districts promoting Islam and Arab causes." He also co-authored the Arab World Notebook, issued by the Arab World and Islamic Resources (AWAIR), "an opaque, proselytizing 'non-profit organization' that conducts teacher workshops and sells supplementary materials to schools," according to ATC. In other words, in this book, TCI is peddling "dictation from Islamist sources." Copyrights prevent me from extracting large sections of the book here, but the ATC reproduces portions of its lessons on "Jihad" and "Shari'ah: Islamic Law." Before buying or recommending this book for your schools, please visit the ATC website to read its report and see extracts from the student edition, copyright 2005, pages 101 through 103. Writes ATC, "They should put speculation to rest about what California's seventh-grade students may learn about Islam. At the very least, the passages are incomplete. More precisely, they are dishonest. Neither passage explains the essentially religious nature of the subject. It ignores any challenge to international security and western-style law. The treatment is lyrical and loaded, echoing and copying the language of domestic Islamist tracts." Jihad, the textbook teaches, "means 'to strive'." As for the warlike meaning of Jihad, this textbook offers a blatant whitewash. Similarly, the book describes "Shari'ah: Islamic Law" as "the path to be followed," and pretends that Sharia is no longer followed in most of the Muslim world, but that it simply outlines "Muslims' duties towards other people. These duties can be broadly grouped into criminal, commercial, family, and inheritance law." The text says nothing about the Sharia's intolerance towards women and non-Muslims. In short, this book contains Islamist propaganda. This is not surprising, since Stanford professor Joel Beinin filled TCI's Middle East committee with such ideologues as Betsy Barlow (a U.S. coordinator for the Sabeel Ecumenical Liberation Theology Center), Glenn Perry (of Indiana State) and Kamran Aghaie and Abraham Marcus (both of the University of Texas). A final caution: TCI evidently enjoys a close relationship with the Islamic Networks Group (ING), a Muslim propaganda agency based in San Jose, California. The IGN website formerly connected to several Islamist websites including a propaganda outlet in Madinah, Saudi Arabia. Its website is devoted to corrupting American history--and endorses TCI textbooks. The ING promotes no other schoolbook publisher. TCI writes textbook entries and social studies curricula to meet standards in 20 states, including California, Florida, Illinois, Michigan, Ohio, and Pennsylvania.--Alyssa A. Lappen

No star, since that's not an option i had to select 1. Proganda. So slanted and completely incorrect.

This book attempts to deal reasonably and rationally with among other things the subject of Islam. As such, it (and its authors) are under heavy attack by among others groups who want to promote hate and fear of Islam through the american education system. The objections to the content usually come down to:1) It doesn't attack Islam's shortcomings. That is true. But how many textbooks for children ever offer a negative critique of a particular religion.2) It doesn't portray the crusades as a heroic defensive war.3) arab-americans (even MUSLIMS!) were allowed to contribute to it. Those who want to teach their children to hate others based on religion can do it at home. They don't need school textbooks to help them do it.

One star is far too generous for this propaganda. It is just another book posing as historical reference text. It is pure propaganda designed to misinform the readers on Islam, its history and its intent. Read it at your peril and you will remain ignorant of the most important issue of this century.

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