

## Introduction

*This is the fourth in a series of reports by the Center for Monitoring the Impact of Peace (CMIP) on the new Palestinian school textbooks<sup>1</sup>. It reviews the books for grades 4 and 9, which were published by the Palestinian Authority's Ministry of Education in the years 2003 and 2004. Thirty books and an atlas (see the List of Sources at the end of the report) have been carefully scrutinized, and all the material therein that is related to the issues mentioned in the title of this report has been extracted, translated and arranged according to specific subjects, with short prefaces where necessary. In line with CMIP practice, this report consists of quotations from the textbooks with minimum analysis. Explanatory remarks appear either within brackets inside the quotations or in footnotes. CMIP's own assessment of the books is given in the Conclusion chapter at the end of the report.*

*As with the earlier reports, the material has been assessed in the light of two sets of criteria developed by UNESCO and by CMIP itself, as follows:*

### CMIP criteria

- 1. The image of other peoples, religions and communities: Are they recognized? Are they accepted as equal? Or are they presented in a stereotyped and prejudiced way?*
- 2. Peace and the peace process: Does education, as reflected in the textbooks, foster peace? Does it support the peace process? Is there any room for improvement in this respect?*

### UNESCO - relevant criteria

- 1. Are the data given accurate and complete?*
- 2. Are illustrations, maps and graphs up-to-date and accurate?*
- 3. Are the achievements of others recognized?*
- 4. Are equal standards applied?*
- 5. Are political disputes presented objectively and honestly?*
- 6. Is wording likely to create prejudice, misapprehension and conflict avoided?*
- 7. Are ideals of freedom, dignity and fraternity being advocated?*
- 8. Is the need for international cooperation, for the formation of common human ideals and the advancement of the cause of peace, as well as for the enforcement of the law, emphasized?*

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<sup>1</sup> *Jews, Israel and Peace in Palestinian School Textbooks 2000-2001 and 2001-2002*, November 2001, *Jews Israel and Peace in the Palestinian Authority Textbooks and High School Final Examinations – A Complementary Report*, October 2002, and *Jews, Israel and Peace in the Palestinian Authority Textbooks – The New Textbooks for Grades 3 and 8*, May 2003. These reports are hereinafter referred to respectively as PA1, PA2 and PA3.

*CMIP has, since 2001, dealt with four yearly issues of school textbooks by the Palestinian Authority. Such a prolonged operation affords an opportunity to trace such changes as there have been in the Palestinian educational approach over the years, as far as the various issues taught in school are concerned. The present report, therefore, presents a greater opportunity than the earlier ones to make comparisons between the latest issue of textbooks and those previously published.*

*Another “innovation”, introduced in the present report, is the addition of a chapter about the attitude to the modern West. Until the latest issue of textbooks of 2003/4, this matter was hardly addressed in the Palestinian school textbooks and therefore not included in CMIP’s former reports. Now, there is enough material to justify the addition of the new chapter. The attitude to the West, though not necessarily part of the Arab-Israeli conflict, constitutes an important segment of the overall attitude towards the “other” and therefore requires examination.*