

From: KGalal

Sent: Thursday, November 12, 2020 11:38 AM

To: Ethnic Studies <EthnicStudies@cde.ca.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Comments on the Ethnic Studies Model Curriculum

I urge the California Department of Education (CDE) to restore Arab American narratives and lesson plans to the CA Model Ethnic Studies Curriculum, and not to adopt lesson plans which irresponsibly and unjustifiably equate criticism of Israel with anti-Semitism. Such changes to curriculum are an attempt to advance a dangerous revisionist history that masks a legacy of gross human rights violations that must be brought to light so that it is less likely to be repeated. Just as the CDE would not give credence to Holocaust denial, it is not appropriate for the CDE to suppress historical accounts of the ethnic cleansing and dispossession of Palestinians that have been documented by respected Israeli and American historians, academics, and numerous international human rights organizations.

Sincerely,

Ken Galal

References:

- 1) Israeli historian Ilan Pappé, in "The Ethnic Cleansing of Palestine", 2006: "When the Zionist movement started its ethnic cleansing operations in Palestine, in early December 1947, the country had a 'mixed' population of Palestinians and Jews. The indigenous Palestinians made up the two-third majority, down from 90 percent at the start of the Mandate. One third were Jewish newcomers, i.e., Zionist settlers and refugees from the war torn Europe, most of whom had arrived in Palestine since the 1920's."
- 2) Israeli historian Benny Morris in "The Birth of the Palestinian Refugee Problem," 1989: "... it is clear that what occurred in 1948 in Palestine was a variety of ethnic cleansing of Arab areas by Jews."
- 3) American historian Rashid Khalidi, in "The Hundred Year War on Palestine,": "80% of the Palestinian population was ethnically cleansed from their homes and land in what became Israel."