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Subject: AICE Update: Does Israel "occupy" the West Bank?

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The American-Israeli Cooperative Enterprise

Our 21st Year
E-Newsletter



January 18, 2016

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Myths & Facts: Online Exclusive

Does Israel "Occupy" the West Bank?

In politics words matter and, unfortunately, the misuse of words applying to the Arab-Israeli conflict has shaped perceptions to Israel's disadvantage. As in the case of the term "West Bank," the word "occupation" has been hijacked by those who wish to paint Israel in the harshest possible light. It also gives apologists a way to try to explain away terrorism as "resistance to occupation," as if the women and children killed by suicide bombers in buses, pizzerias, and shopping malls were responsible for the plight of the Palestinians.

Given the negative connotation of an "occupier," it is not surprising that Israel's detractors use the word or some variation as many times as possible when interviewed by the press. The more accurate description of the territories in Judea and Samaria, however, is "disputed" territories.

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Mitchell Bard in The Jerusalem Post

If You Want to Change the Campus Culture, Look to the Faculty

A number of articles have been written about a new organization that is going to work with faculty to address problems on campus related to Israel and the treatment of Jewish students. While the group understandably wants to present itself to funders as something new and exciting, the truth is that a number of us recognized that faculty is the key to changing the campus environment inside and outside the classroom a decade or more ago and have been diligently working with faculty for years to expand the field of

AICE PROJECTS



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Israel Studies, respond to Israel's detractors, and deter and defeat the campaign to boycott, divest, or sanction (BDS) Israel.

As academics, we understand that faculty hold the real power in a university and for too many years we have witnessed that power being abused by professors with anti-Israel political agendas. These faculty sometimes use their classrooms as bully pulpits to advocate personal views and to intimidate students who typically lack the knowledge to rebut the "authority's" position and fear retribution if they speak out.

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Fact of the Week

American Historical Association Rejects Israel Boycott

The anti-Semitic boycott, divestment, and sanctions (BDS) campaign suffered another crushing loss when the American Historical Association rejected a proposal by a fringe group of historians to boycott Israel. This was a triumph of academic integrity over anti-Israel propaganda and sets an important precedent for other professional associations. A similar group of extremists from the field of anthropology plan to push their association to boycott Israel at their upcoming meeting and the mainstream professors in the field will have an opportunity to reinforce the historians' message that academic associations are nonpolitical and stand for the freedoms of speech and academic inquiry that are the bedrock of America's institutions of higher learning.

January: Israel Diversity Month



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Sincerely,



Mitchell Bard
AICE Executive Director



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