

Examples of Questionable ICS Edits in Virginia Textbooks

Themes of ICS Edits	Examples of ICS Edits	Problems with ICS Edits
Referencing Palestine only as Mandatory Palestine or the Palestinians—not as a state or designation of an identifiable territory.	<p><u>Change:</u> Substitute word: Israel and Palestine to Israel and the Palestinians.</p> <p><u>Reasoning:</u> "There is no state of Palestine nor has there ever been one."</p>	"Peleset", "Filasten", and "Palestina" have been used to reference the region since 1150 BCE. Currently, over 70 percent or 136-member states of the U.N. have recognized the State of Palestine.
Emphasizing Arab culpability for crisis initiation leading to military action and emphasizing Arab culpability for failure of peace efforts—and never Israeli culpability, even when it is undisputed historic fact.	<p><u>Change:</u> Add text: The 1967 and 1973 wars were the result of Arab hostilities.</p> <p><u>Reasoning:</u> In these wars, Israel fought for its existence, and in turning back Arab forces, captured more territory.</p>	Operation Focus was a massive Israeli airstrike that began the Six-Day War. It destroyed most of the Egyptian airforce on the ground. The LBJ administration believed Egypt was in a defensive military posture and would not attack Israel. Top Israeli officials such as Yitzhak Rabin and Menachem Begin publicly stated Egypt did not want war, and that it was Israel's war of "choice."
Replacing words such as settlers, occupation, wall, and militant with communities, control of, security fence, and terrorist, respectively.	<p><u>Change:</u> Replace phrase: occupied territories with captured areas in the sentence, <i>Arabs fail to regain occupied territories</i>.</p> <p><u>Reasoning:</u> The term occupied territories is a politicized term inappropriate for a public school text.</p>	U.N. Resolution 242 calls for "withdrawal of Israel armed forces from territories occupied in 1967." U.N. Resolution 2546 reaffirms its resolutions relating to the violations of human rights in the territories occupied by Israel. Most U.S. presidential administrations have also correctly referred to the status of the territories as "occupied."
Equating the plight of Palestinian refugees with Jewish refugees from Arab lands after 1948.	<p><u>Change:</u> Add question: <i>What was it like for Palestinian Arabs and Jews from Arab lands to have to leave their homes?</i></p> <p><u>Reasoning:</u> Along with the creation of Palestinian refugees, an equal number of Jewish refugees were expelled from Arab lands and fled to Israel.</p>	The two refugee situations cannot be usefully compared and doing so advances a recent partisan agenda to delegitimize the increasingly dire situation of Palestinian refugees. Unlike Jews displaced after the founding of Israel, Jews who left Arab countries generally found refuge in Western countries or in Israel. Today, there are still millions of Palestinians who meet UNRWA's definition of refugee—a third of whom still live in dire conditions in the West Bank and Gaza, or in refugee camps in neighboring countries.

Themes of ICS Edits	Examples of ICS Edits	Problems with ICS Edits
Referencing Israeli claims such as "Israel annexed East Jerusalem" as an accepted fact without referencing its lack of official recognition by other nation states.	<p><u>Change:</u> Delete: "Arabs referred to these lands as the 'occupied territories'." Add text: "Later, Israel annexed East Jerusalem and Golan Heights."</p> <p>Delete: "Israel then allowed Jewish settlers to build homes... " Add text: "Israel then allowed the building of homes and communities in some of these areas, which the Palestinians opposed."</p> <p><u>Reasoning:</u> The terms "occupied territories" and "settlers" are loaded terms and politicized words, favoring a particular perspective.</p>	U.N. Resolution 2253 condemned Israel's measures to change the status of Jerusalem as invalid. The U.S. does not officially recognize East Jerusalem, the Golan Heights, Gaza, or the West Bank as part of Israel. Also, using benign terms such as "building of homes and communities" belies the fact that these are for Jews only.
Adding content that supports Israeli claims to occupied territory.	<p><u>Change:</u> Label maps: Indicate that the Golan Heights belongs to Israel rather than to Syria.</p> <p><u>Reasoning:</u> Israel captured the Golan Heights in 1967.</p>	United Nations Resolution 497 declared that the Israeli annexation of the Golan Heights is "null and void and without international legal effect." The U.S. does not officially recognize East Jerusalem, the Golan Heights, Gaza, or the West Bank as part of Israel.
Discouraging unguided internet research.	<p><u>Change:</u> Add text in teacher's edition: Students should use only approved websites that include, among others, the ADL website and the JewishVirtualLibrary.org</p> <p><u>Reasoning:</u> Unguided internet research may lead students to controversial content, material that is inappropriate for the classroom.</p>	While content of questionable nature abounds on the Internet, students are given tools to evaluate and filter Internet content and should never be limited to websites supporting only one side of the Israel-Palestine conflict. Students should be encouraged to research topics using their school library's access to online services such as Proquest, LexisNexis, or Jstor— as well as the open Internet.