

RESEARCH STUDIES PROGRAM

Introduction

PASSIA has undertaken its Research Studies Program ever since its foundation in 1987. To date, this endeavor has resulted in over 200 publications, researched and written by specifically contracted researchers, who, over the years, have been as diverse as the subjects covered. Authors of PASSIA publications have included Palestinian, Arab, Israeli and international academics, scholars and experts.

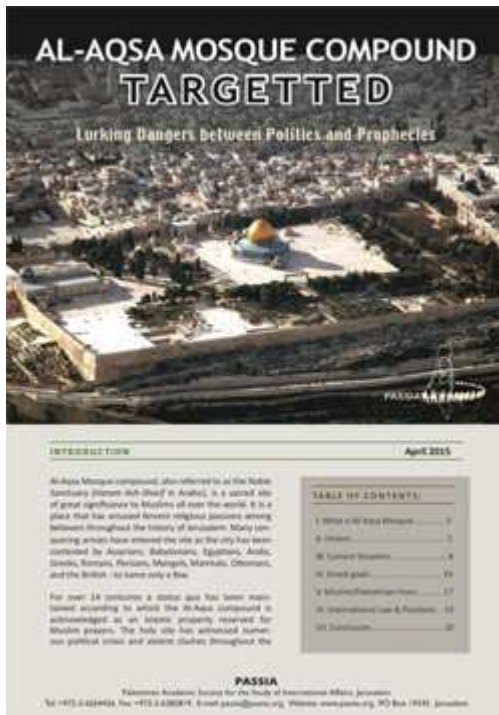
Under the auspices of this program and in its efforts to provide background information, in-depth studies and documentation on issues of concern as well as to promote a better understanding of the Palestinian cause, PASSIA maintains that all research and publishing are done within the context of academic freedom. PASSIA publications aim to be specialized, scientific and objective, yet they often address controversial or neglected issues and allow the expression of a wide range of perspectives.

PASSIA is proud that its publications have become a valuable reference source for academics, diplomats, professionals, libraries and anyone with an interest in Palestinian issues and their relations to regional and international affairs.

As part of the 2015-2016 Research Program, PASSIA published several educational bulletins, a research study, and a translated, revised and updated version of a map book on the Palestine question, as well as two wall calendars.

Al-Aqsa Mosque Compound Targeted

PASSIA Publication, English, 20 pages, April 2015



Al-Aqsa Mosque compound, also referred to as the Noble Sanctuary (Haram Ash-Sharif in Arabic), is a sacred site of great significance to Muslims all over the world. It is a place that has aroused fervent religious passions among believers throughout the history of Jerusalem. Many conquering armies have entered the site, but for over 14 centuries a *status quo* has been maintained according to which the Al-Aqsa compound is acknowledged as an Islamic property reserved for Muslim prayers. The holy site's sanctity and safety have been increasingly undermined since the Israeli occupation in 1967 and it has witnessed numerous political crises and violent clashes, which have escalated over the last decade with the increase in "visits" by Jewish extremists under armed Israeli guard (while Palestinians are denied access). Particularly since 2014, the *status quo* at the Al-Aqsa compound appears to be eroding under attempts by the Israeli establishment and Jewish forces determined to strengthen their hold over the holy compound at the expense of Muslim rights. This bulletin explains what exactly constitutes Al-Aqsa, its significance for Muslims, and what is

currently happening at the compound (and why now), providing also a historical background and an overview of the latest developments. These include a rise in the influence of the Jewish “Temple movements”, their attempts to force a change to the *status quo*; and the Palestinian narrative of the latest events.

Palestinian Women

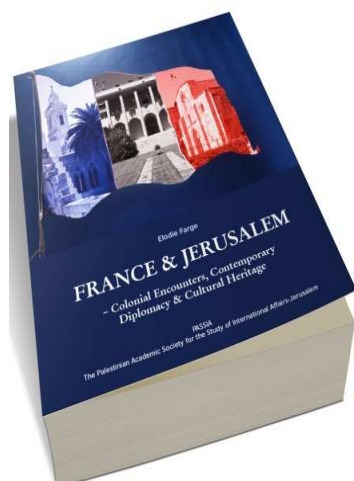
PASSIA Publication, English, 16 pages, August 2015

The status in society of women, who make up almost half of the Palestinian population, has altered considerably during the past decades due to socioeconomic changes, increased female education and participation in social and political movements as well as the national struggle to liberate Palestine. Women in Palestine are a symbol of resilience, resistance and steadfastness, but also of suffering - and this two-fold: first, from the ongoing decades-old Israeli military occupation, where they bear most of the collective burdens that emanate from it: death and injury, forced displacement from homes, denial of basic human rights, arrests and detentions, and discrimination in almost every aspect of daily life, and secondly from within Palestinian society, where they still lack full rights and protection and are subjected to obstacles such as patriarchy, traditional social norms and a gender-based distribution of roles. While Palestinian women have made remarkable achievements, sometimes even spearheading change in their communities, and their participation in society has significantly increased in the past years, their representation and role in decision-making remains low and the need for women’s empowerment high. This bulletin aims at providing a detailed overview over the status, statistics and situation of women in present-day Palestine.



France and Jerusalem - Colonial Encounters, Contemporary Diplomacy & Cultural Heritage

Elodie Farge, English, 200 pages, October 2015



The question of Jerusalem, and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict more generally, are subjects of extreme sensitivity in France, because of the compunction caused by Vichy France’s collaboration in the mass killing of Jews during World War II, because of the trauma left by the Algeria war of independence against the French occupation, and because France is home to the world’s third largest Jewish community after Israel and the United States. For these reasons and others, never in the country’s history has a foreign conflict provoked such passions, such tensions.

At the heart of it, Jerusalem stands as one of the most complex issues to resolve; it has been the object of desire of a multitude of outside players who aspired to assert their power by possessing the city that is home to some of the world's holiest sites. This has left a multitude of material and immaterial traces still perceptible in the city today.

This study seeks to synthesize France's cultural and political involvement in Jerusalem. On the basis of existing scholarship, media reports, political analyses and personal interviews with specialists and informed people on the ground, it aims on the one hand to review the position of the successive French governments on the issue of the status of Jerusalem in the wider framework of the question of Palestine, and on the other hand to examine France's cultural heritage in the city as well as the descriptions and feelings it has inspired in French travelers, pilgrims, and artists throughout the centuries. It is hoped that this work will serve as a broad introduction to the subject, and will contribute to shed light on this specific aspect of the city's past and present.

The Palestinian Political Scene 2015

by Dr. Mahdi Abdul Hadi, PASSIA Publication, Arabic/English, 24 pages, December 2015



This timely bulletin – published both in Arabic and English - is a situation analysis of the current Palestinian political scene and provides an in-depth overview of the current political environment. It examines issues such as Palestine in the region, the Palestinian political system and internal agenda, the particular case of the Old City as well as the Custodianship over the Holy Places, the state of affairs of Palestinian prisoners and refugees, attempts of Israelization, the Gaza Strip amidst wars, siege and political initiatives, the notion of “economic peace,” the Israeli Apartheid system, the internationalization of the Question of Palestine, and the role and prospects of the Palestinian Youth Uprising 2015.

The Legal Status and Treatment of Palestinians in Jerusalem

PASSIA Publication, English, 16 pages, February 2016

After the June 1967 War, during which Israel occupied, *inter alia*, East Jerusalem, the Israeli government illegally annexed East Jerusalem, drew a new municipal boundary and applied its law, jurisdiction and administration there. All these measures aimed at strengthening its control over the city and had far-reaching effects on the legal status and rights of the city's Palestinian population.

This bulletin focuses on the legal aspects pertaining to the Palestinian residents of occupied Jerusalem, demonstrating how the principle of equality before the law - a well-established principle in civil legal systems - is absent in the city (and the occupied Palestinian territories at large), where Israel systematically implements the law in a discriminatory way against its own residents in order to confiscate Palestinian property, restrict Palestinian construction and development, and set hurdles for residency and family unification.



The Palestine Question in Maps 1878-2014

Edited by Dr. Mahdi Abdul Hadi, Arabic, 220 pages, March 2016



This is the translation of the updated and revised 2nd edition of PASSIA's *The Palestine Question in Maps 1878-2014* (first published in 2002) aimed to examine and trace what makes up the "Palestine Question" from the Ottoman period through to the present day. In addressing the unfolding geographic and demographic complexities of over hundred years in review, the book sheds light on the real territorial dimensions of the conflict, its causes, and the numerous schemes posited over time for its resolution. By compiling and reviewing the most important historical and contemporary maps, this book offers researchers, readers and concerned individuals the opportunity to understand the geographic implications and motivations guiding the political and military aspects of the Palestine Question.

A first series of maps follows the path of modern Palestinian history in chronological order, focusing on key demographic themes and political milestones, as well as identifying the various proposals posited for the resolution of the Palestine Question up to the 2014 Kerry mission (Chapters 1-4). Jerusalem itself is of such intrinsic importance to Palestinian history and to the resolution of the Palestine-Israel conflict, that a separate section is devoted, in detail, to its changing circumstances

(Chapter 5). Core issues, such as water and refugees, are also addressed within a separate chapter (Chapter 6).

Education in Jerusalem

Nisreen Alayan, Arabic, 12 pages, September 2016



The official education system in Jerusalem is the largest and most complex system in the country, divided into Arab, Ultra-Orthodox Jewish and Secular/Religious Jewish streams.

This bulletin focuses on Palestinian education in Jerusalem which in itself is divided between the Israeli-run and Palestinian-run schools and plagued with many difficulties, such as lack of classrooms, high dropout rates, lack of funding, discriminatory treatment, Israelization attempts on the part of the municipality with regard to Palestinian textbooks and enforcing the bagrut system.

The bulletin explains the educational system in detail and sheds light on the policies and practices carried out by Israel with regard to the school sector in East Jerusalem. It provides the most recent figures and statistics and draws a very up-to-date picture about the educational status quo and the difficulties faced by Palestinians in the occupied city.