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Media Announcement

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Institute for Curriculum Services Statement on *The Trouble With Textbooks: Distorting History and Religion:*

ICS commends Gary Tobin and Dennis Ybarra on this probing book, which examines the inaccuracies and biases commonly found in American social studies textbooks.

The authors have identified many of the problems that the Institute for Curriculum Services (ICS) was created to address. ICS was launched in 2005 to work on the textbooks being adopted in California. Since that time, ICS has worked with Jewish communities across the country, in Kentucky, North Carolina, Virginia, Florida, and Indiana, to improve the accuracy of instructional material content on Jews, Judaism, and Israel.

Regarding ICS, Tobin and Ybarra conclude:

“ICS differs from other Jewish organizations...because it is devoted to the single purpose of involvement in school curriculum matters and has a strategic national approach to addressing the problems with textbooks...By skillfully, developing relationships...ICS has demonstrated its ability to work successfully with the major publishers...ICS has, in its short existence, made progress in addressing the problems detailed in this book.”

Since its inception, ICS has worked with all of the major textbook publishers to make over 1,000 edits to textbooks to improve the accuracy of content pertaining to Jews, Judaism, and Israel. As a result, all students, Jewish and non-Jewish, read more accurate and balanced social studies textbooks.

The Institute for Curriculum Services is available to comment on this story.
Visit ICS's new website: www.icsresources.org

Examples of Problems from *The Trouble With Textbooks* that ICS has Corrected Through its Work with the Major Textbook Publishers

Note: ICS has reviewed over 160 textbooks by such publishers as Glencoe, Prentice Hall, McDougal Littell, Holt, Rinehart and Winston, Thomson/Cengage, Gibbs Smith, Oxford University Press, Harcourt, Macmillan, TCI, and Wright. A small sample of (28) textbooks was analyzed in this book. The examples that follow, illustrate both specific examples raised in the book, as well as changes relating to issues raised.

Original Problem Text	Corrected Texts due to ICS's Involvement
<p>If Abraham moved to the land of Canaan (Palestine), he would be blessed, and all nations would be blessed through him. Because of this covenant, Abraham's Israelite descendents believed that they were God's 'chosen people' and would remain so as long as they followed God's laws."</p> <p>Glencoe, <i>The World and Its People</i>, 2005, p. 474 (Cited on p. 55, Tobin and Ybarra)</p>	<p>If Abraham moved to the land of Canaan (Israel), he would be blessed, and all the nations would be blessed through him. Because of this covenant, Abraham's Israelite descendents believed that they <u>would be blessed</u> if they followed God's laws."</p> <p>Glencoe, <i>The World and Its People</i>, 2007, 474</p>
<p>Books for the Teacher, "Carey, Roane. The New Intifada: Resisting Israel's Apartheid. New York: Verso, 2001."</p> <p>McDougal Littell, <i>Modern World History: Patterns of Interaction</i>, 2005, p. 667 (Cited on p. 110, Tobin and Ybarra)</p>	<p>Books for the Teacher, Carey, Roane. The New Intifada: Resisting Israel's Apartheid. New York: Verso, 2001."</p> <p>McDougal Littell, <i>Modern World History: Patterns of Interaction</i>, 2009, p.1101.</p>
<p>"A picture shows a lone boy with a slingshot facing an Israeli tank: exactly David against Goliath."</p> <p>p. 146 of Tobin and Ybarra regarding the picture p. 667 of McDougal Littell's <i>Modern World History: Patterns of Interaction</i>, 2005.</p>	<p>ICS review comment: "Replace the picture of the boy throwing a rock at a tank, clearly a staged propaganda photo"</p> <p>Publisher response: McDougal will revise the text to reflect the ICS recommendations and will review alternate images for possible replacement, or will delete the image entirely to make room for new text.</p> <p>Result: 2009 edition, p. 667, boy with rock picture is gone</p>
<p>Textbooks imply Jewish responsibility for the crucifixion of Jesus Issue raised, p. 73, Tobin and Ybarra</p> <p><u>Note:</u> The authors refer to the decision made by the California Department of Education to oppose any edits which support the charge of decide against the Jews. ICS was instrumental in securing this decision.</p>	<p>Example 1 from Houghton Mifflin, <i>World History: Ancient Civilizations</i>, p. 466: "Explains the conflict between Jesus and Jewish and Roman authorities."</p> <p>Example 2: From Prentice Hall, <i>World History: The Modern World</i>, p. 34: "Others, particularly the chief Jewish priests, regarded Jesus as a dangerous troublemaker...After his arrest, Jesus was crucified."</p> <p>"Others, particularly the chief Jewish priests, regarded Jesus as a dangerous troublemaker ... After his arrest, Jesus was crucified by the Romans."</p>

