



Lesson Plan (45 minutes)

Did the KGB Invent the Palestinians?

Step 1: Lesson goals

Goals:

Affective – Students will appreciate how propaganda can have lasting global effects

Behavioral – Students will be able to distinguish between fact and narrative when describing Yasser Arafat's biography and accomplishments

Cognitive – Students will be able to describe the KGB's role in shaping the Palestinian narrative in general, and in supporting Yasser Arafat in particular

Essential Questions/Big Ideas:

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| 1. How does the media influence our understanding of global relationships? | 1. The way we consume and interpret media influences our understanding of global relationships. |
| 2. What makes propaganda a dangerous tool? | 2. Propaganda distorts reality by manipulating people's emotions toward a specific cause. |
| 3. What makes someone a partner for peace? | 3. Under certain circumstances, enemies may become partners for peace. |

Step 2: Learning Plan

Hook/Trigger: (5 minutes)

Share the [picture](#) below of Yasser Arafat and Yitzchak Rabin shaking hands after signing the Oslo Peace Accords on the White House lawn in front of U.S. President Bill Clinton in 1993. Identify the three people in the photo and explain that Rabin and Arafat are signing an important peace treaty. Ask students to consider why this picture was taken at the White House. What conclusions can they draw about the relationships between these nations from this picture?



Learning Activity: (30 minutes)

- 1. Unpacked video:** Play the following [Unpacked video](#) (7 minutes)
- 2. Discussion: Propaganda (8 minutes)** Propaganda is [defined](#) as “ideas, facts, or allegations spread deliberately to further one’s cause or to damage an opposing cause.” The USSR used propaganda as a tool for advancing its own aims, while simultaneously harming Zionism and Israel in the eyes of the world. You can read more about Stalin’s anti-Zionist propaganda [here](#).
 - a.** What makes propaganda a dangerous tool?
 - b.** In what ways is propaganda different today than it was in the 1950s? What effect has social media had on the dissemination of propaganda?
 - c.** What are some ways to identify and combat propaganda?
- 3. Partner for peace?** The KGB initiated and supported a propaganda campaign that framed Palestinian nationalism as a struggle for social justice for an oppressed people. This campaign brought Yasser Arafat legitimacy throughout the world, transforming his image from terrorist to freedom fighter and rendering him a legitimate representative of Palestinian nationalism in the quest for peace in the Middle East.

Imagine that your class has taken a jump back in time, and will be vetting candidates to participate in the 1990s peace process. In small groups, learn more about Yasser Arafat using the resources below. Then, each group will draft a resume (a one page information sheet that one might use to apply for a job) for Arafat that includes the information below (you may wish to copy and use this resume [template](#)).

After preparing the resume, regroup as a class for a discussion/debate. Present your students with this quote from Moshe Dayan: "If you want to make peace, don't talk to your friends. Talk to your enemies." How might this apply to negotiating with Yasser Arafat? Do your students think that someone can be a partner for peace if they were once a terrorist?

Suggested resources: [CNN Fact Index](#), [Jewish Virtual Library](#), [Nobel Prize Fact Sheet](#)

Reflection: (5 minutes)

Filtering content: In our media-centered world, we are constantly inundated with stories and information that tug at our emotions and values and compel us to take sides. We know that propaganda has many forms, and can be very subtle and hard to detect. What are some ways to filter through our media content to ensure that we support causes that are both legitimate and important to us?

Step 3: Assessment

Checking for Understanding: (5 minutes)

Ask students to revisit the caption that they wrote in the trigger activity? Would they keep the same caption or revise it? Why or why not?