



Passing the Torch: Episode 3 “The Palestine Propaganda Complex”

Google Meet link for the meeting:

<https://meet.google.com/svb-yrci-idj>

Date: Friday, 7/31/2026 2:00 p.m. PST / 5:00 p.m. EST

Hello everyone,

I am really excited for our third meeting of the Sapir Youth Forum. The goal of this group is to bring together students who are interested in exploring Jewish ideas, identity, history, and contemporary issues through thoughtful conversation.

For our third meeting, we will be reading the article:

“The Palestine Propaganda Complex.”

<https://sapirjournal.org/friends-and-foes/2024/the-palestine-propaganda-complex/>

In addition, I strongly recommend printing this reference sheet on different propaganda techniques; it will be highly relevant to the discussion!

[Open the propaganda techniques reference sheet](#)

Pro Tips:

1. Subscribe to our YouTube channel to avoid missing an episode!

<https://youtube.com/@passingthetorchsapir>

2. Explore our website to learn more about Passing the Torch:
<https://passingthetorch.net/>
3. Read/watch one optional reading or video for additional context.
4. Reach out to me if you need additional information about the topic or the Sapir Youth Forum: (626) 344-1283

Central Discussion Questions

You do not need to prepare anything formal, but reading the article beforehand will make the discussion much richer.

1. The article argues that propaganda succeeds by redefining language rather than simply spreading false information. What are some examples where you have seen words or phrases take on new meanings in discussions about Israel or other political issues?
2. The author suggests that many people genuinely believe the narratives they repeat. How can we distinguish between someone who is intentionally spreading propaganda and someone who is acting in good faith but has been influenced by it?
3. Social media often rewards emotionally compelling stories more than nuanced ones. How do you think this has shaped the way young people understand the Israeli-Palestinian conflict?
4. If you could redesign the way this conflict is taught in schools or discussed online, what would you change to encourage greater historical understanding and less polarization?
5. The article focuses on the power of language. Do you think changing the language people use can actually change public opinion, or do deeper values and experiences matter more?

Audience Question

Think about a time when you encountered a claim online that you later discovered was incomplete, misleading, or false. What made it persuasive at first, and what helped you reevaluate it?

Traditional Jewish Readings

Exodus 23:1, 7 - False reports and falsehood

Proverbs 18:17 - The danger of first impressions

Isaiah 5:20 - Moral language turned upside down

Pirkei Avot 1:9 - Examine witnesses and speak carefully

Pirkei Avot 5:7 - Habits of a wise person

Eruvin 13b - Learning the opposing view

Shevuot 31a - Creating a false impression

Zechariah 8:16 and Pirkei Avot 1:18 - Truth, justice, and peace

Optional Further Resources:

If you are interested in exploring the topic further, here are a few additional resources that connect well with the article.

Videos:

Blind Spot - An Eye-Opening Film About Campus Antisemitism

<https://youtu.be/PXtRX14gaac>

Zionism: Imagine hating a word people cannot even define.

<https://youtu.be/1teGYJPo1EM>

Satirical website critiquing Palestinian propaganda:

<https://www.gazawood.com/>

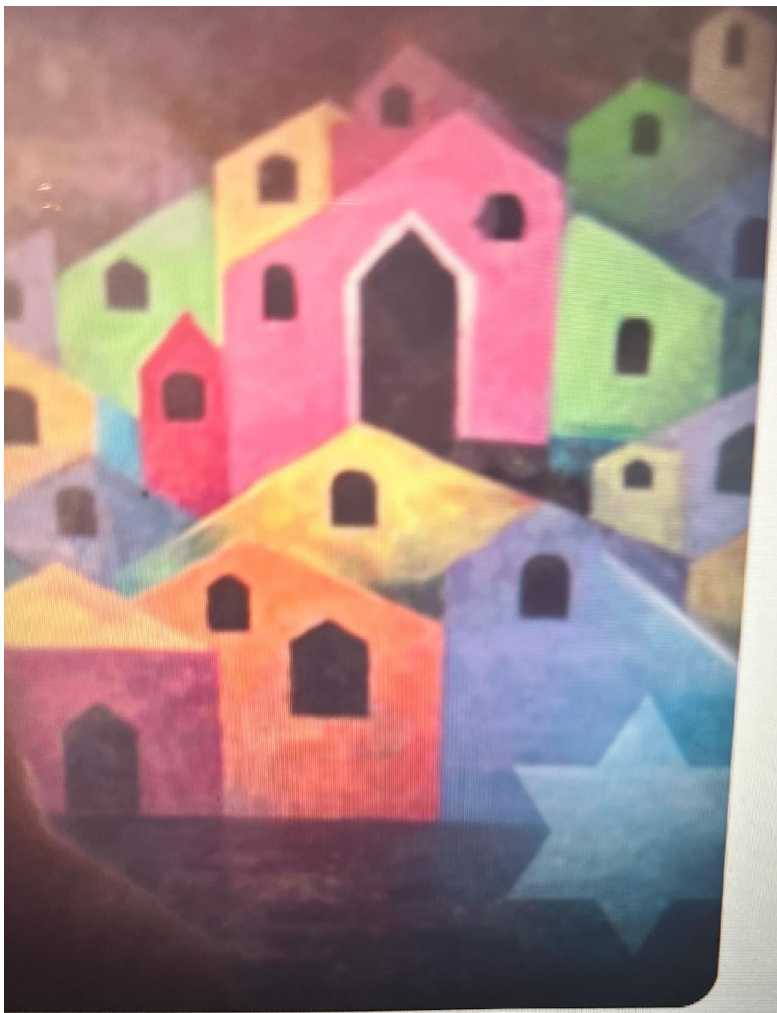
I am really looking forward to hearing everyone's perspectives and continuing what I hope will be a thoughtful and engaging series of conversations!

Looking forward to our discussion!

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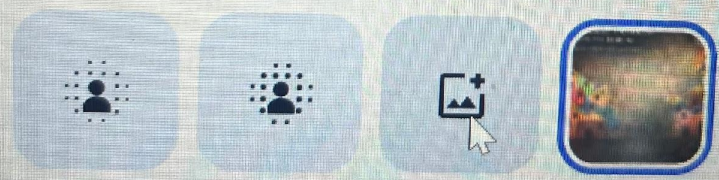
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Appearance

New



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Sincerely,

Rebecca Guberman