

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

February 2, 2023

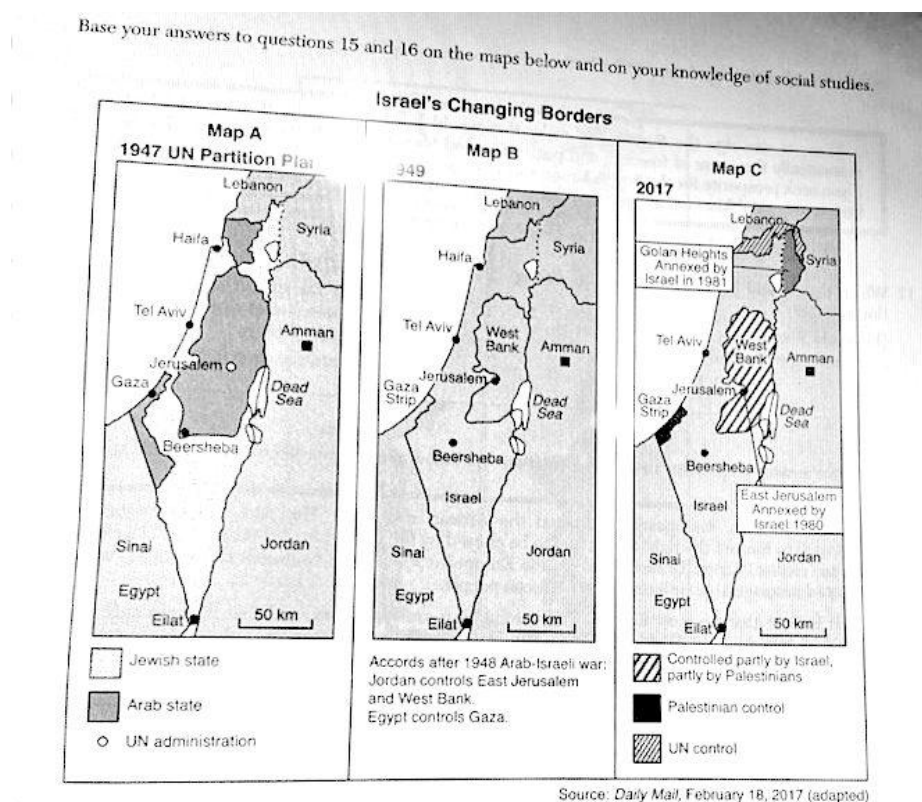
The Honorable Kathy Hochul
Governor of New York State
NYS State Capitol Building
Albany, NY 12224

Commissioner Betty Rosa
New York State Education Department
89 Washington Avenue
Albany, New York 12234

Dear Governor Hochul and Commissioner Rosa:

We are writing to express our grave concern with the abhorrent, anti-Semitic question included in this winter's NYS Regents Exam in Global History and Geography.

The question posed, which is also displayed in an image below, asks who benefited the most from changes shown on maps of Israel and surrounding areas from 1947 to 2017.



5 Which historical event most directly influenced the development of the 1947 plan shown on Map A?

- (1) Russian pogroms
- (2) the fall of the Austro-Hungarian Empire
- (3) Paris Peace Conference
- (4) the Holocaust

16 Which group benefitted the most from the changes shown on these maps?

- (1) Zionists and Jewish immigrants
- (2) the government of Jordan
- (3) Palestinian nationalists
- (4) the citizens of Lebanon

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It is simply beyond comprehension that anyone at the New York State Education Department would approve a question on a statewide exam that blatantly promotes hateful anti-Jewish and anti-Israel rhetoric which only fan the flames of anti-Semitism in our schools.

For centuries, the State of Israel, one of our Nation's greatest allies, and Jews have fought for their right to exist. This question attempts to cast doubt on that very notion and rewrite history by erasing the struggle for independence that the State of Israel faced.

This comes amidst an unprecedented surge of anti-Semitism across the nation. In November of 2022, New York City alone saw a 125% increase in anti-Semitic hate crimes compared to the same period the year before. This question is just the latest instance of the anti-Israel and anti-Semitic ideologies that are infiltrating our schools and communities. Moreover, it indicates a complete lack of oversight in the approvals process at the New York State Education Department.

It also comes on the heels of the passage of Bill A.472, which required the New York State Education Department to examine whether schools across the state were adequately teaching about the horrors of the Holocaust. This question indicates that even the state's own education department isn't following this new law.

We are calling on you to launch an immediate investigation into this attack on New York's Jewish community. There must be a thorough examination into this abject failure and the individuals responsible must be held accountable. This type of anti-Jewish sentiment needs to be singularly and unequivocally condemned.

We respectfully request an investigation into this matter to hold those responsible accountable for this heinous, anti-Semitic question that appeared on a statewide exam.

Sincerely,



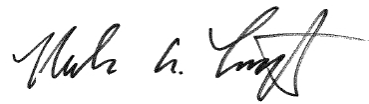
Michael V. Lawler
Member of Congress



Anthony D'Esposito
Member of Congress



Nick LaLota
Member of Congress



Nick Langworthy
Member of Congress



Claudia Tenney
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Marcus J. Molinaro
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