

Research Program

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 2014 Research Program, PASSIA published an informative illustrated guide about Palestinian – Muslim and Christian - holy places in Jerusalem, proceedings of a conference on Political Islam, and a revised and updated version of a map book on the Palestine question, as well as two educational bulletins.



Research Studies

■ **Palestinian Refugees - Endless Injustice** PASSIA Publication, English, 16 pages, May 2014

On the 15 May 2014, Palestinians marked 66 years since the Nakba, a term that literally means catastrophe and refers to the establishment of the state of Israel on over half of historical Palestine, the expulsion and dispossession of hundreds of thousands of native Palestinians, and the destruction of much of their property. While Palestinians continue to be displaced by Israeli policies and practices on an almost daily basis, the fate of Palestinian refugees, one of the world's largest and most enduring refugee populations, remains a complex issue the resolution of which is critical to ending the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. This bulletin presents facts and statistics about Palestinian refugees: who they are, how they became refugees, their numbers and where they live, their rights under international law, Palestinian-Israeli negotiations on the issue to date, the positions held by both sides, and what solutions, if any, are thinkable to resolve this seemingly intractable issue.



■ **PLO vs. PA** PASSIA Publication, English, 12 pages, September 2014

There has been much debate about the extent to which the Palestinian leadership is a legitimate and broad representative of the Palestinian people. The terms Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) and Palestinian Authority (PA) are often used interchangeably and confusion exists about the similarities in their structures and functions. While the two bodies are – at least in theory - significantly different, this confusion is justified since they are very much interrelated in practice. This bulletin aims to shed light on the origins and evolution of both organizations and provide a better understanding of the relationship between the PLO and PA, as well as the possibilities and prospects for institutional reform, under discussion recently and partially agreed upon as part of the reconciliation process for Palestinian national unity.



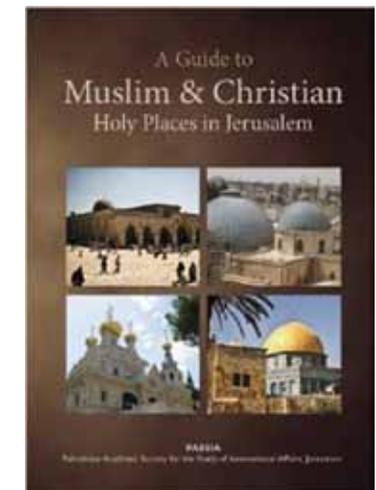
■ **Custodianship of the Holy Al-Aqsa Mosque** by Dr. Mahdi Abdul Hadi, PASSIA Publication, Arabic, 32 pages, December 2014

This bulletin chronicles the various historical narratives regarding the many attempts and efforts to protect, preserve and administer the holy sanctuary of Al-Aqsa Mosque since the 7th Century until today. In doing so, it sheds light on the religious connections, political events and legends affiliated with the Haram Ash-Sharif compound, as it is also referred to, and describes the political and religious authorities that have played and still play a role in shaping, guiding, and governing the city and its people in general and the affairs of Al-Aqsa Mosque in particular. While tackling the site's century-old history, the bulletin's focus is on present-day realities and challenges.



■ **A Guide to Muslim & Christian Holy Places in Jerusalem** PASSIA Publication, English, 200 pages, February 2014

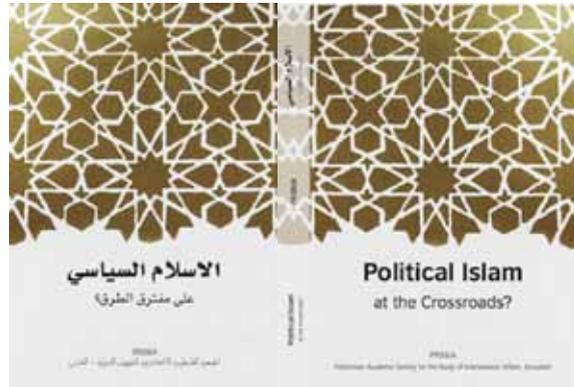
Jerusalem is one of the oldest and most important cities in the world. It is regarded as sacred by the believers of the three monotheistic faiths (Jewish, Christian and Muslim), and can stake a claim to possessing the highest concentration of religious sites compared to any other place on earth. Today, the sanctity of Jerusalem stands as a major issue in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, in an ever-increasing manipulation of religion for political goals. In the face of Israel's endless attempts to "Judaize" Jerusalem ever since its occupation of the city in June 1967 and to remove all roots of its Arab-Palestinian culture, history, and legacy, it is imperative to highlight and sustain the city's Muslim-Christian identity and presence. This book is thus intended to offer an introduction to the historical origin, aesthetic aspects, and contemporary use of most of the Holy City's Christian and Muslim sites of patrimonial and religious importance.



■ **Political Islam at the Crossroads?**

PASSIA Publication, English & Arabic, 280 pages, July 2014

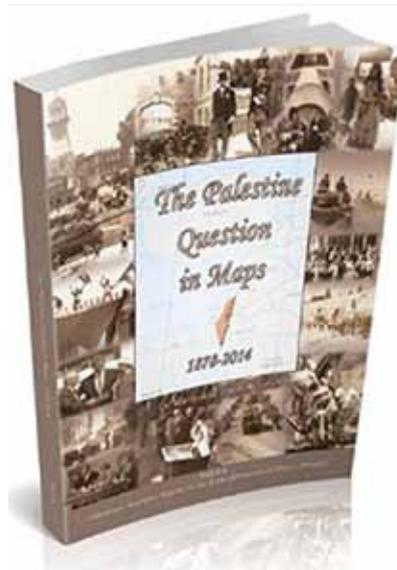
The central theme of this book is political Islam, its various trends in Islamic thought, and the question if these trends are at a crossroads. Islam is considered as an inclusive doctrine covering all aspects of life with its human and moral values. As Islamic thoughts are based on religious belief, it has been easy for certain Islamic movements and entities to mobilize people, utilizing this belief as the main factor in shaping vision, formulating positions, and conducting relations in society. This “politicization” of religion has led to the term “Political Islam”. To discuss the historical developments of the different Islamic movements and in light of the various manifestations of political Islam that emerged during the so-called Arab Spring - which started in 2011 in Tunisia, became “contagious,” and soon spread to other Arab countries – PASSIA organized a conference in November 2013, entitled “Political Islam at the Crossroads?”, which sought to shed light on some aspects of this phenomenon. This book combines the papers presented at the conference with some additional texts and articles on the subject matter.



■ **The Palestine Question in Maps 1878 - 2014**

PASSIA Publication, English, 220 pages, 2nd updated and revised edition, August 2014

This book is the updated and revised version of an earlier edition (published 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).

