

personal experiences with some of the events described in their work, also stands out as a novel technique in historical scholarship. While this may be a common technique in some disciplines, historians of the recent past tend to be much more wary of blurring the line between scholar and subject. Although some of these paragraphs seemed distant from the topic at hand and give the reader the impression that they were included for their own sake, the authors' decision to do so adds an interesting anecdotal element to the narrative. It could also stand as a challenge to historians of the recent past to not shy away from telling their own stories. Scholars have their own life experiences that can inform the topics we study. To let these stories go untold would contradict the very purpose that pieces of scholarship like *The Canadian War on Queers* set out to accomplish: that is, to tell the story from the bottom-up.

Thompson, Jon. 2011. *No Debate: The Israel Lobby and Free Speech at Canadian Universities*. Toronto: Lorimer. ISBN 978-1-55277-656-8. Paperback: 22.95 CAD. Pages: 334.

Reviewed by Alan Sears  
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The central strategy of Israel advocacy organizations on Canadian campuses has been to make Palestine unspeakable and to silence criticism of Israeli policies outside of narrow limits. One important moment in this silencing campaign was the attempt to shut down the conference entitled "Israel/Palestine: Mapping Models of Statehood and Paths to Peace" at York University (co-sponsored by Queen's University) in 2009.

This book is the report of an Inquiry commissioned by the Canadian Association of University Teachers (CAUT) into the attempts to shut down the conference and the responses by York University administrators, the Harper government and the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) which had awarded the conference a grant. The Inquiry was conducted by Jon Thompson, an academic freedom expert who is a professor emeritus in the Department of Mathematics and Statistics at the University of New Brunswick.

This Inquiry was thorough, methodically documenting the events surrounding the conference, particularly in intense lead-up period from April to June 2009. The role of individual York administrators is thoughtfully evaluated. The York administration is generally given credit for consistent application of the principles of academic freedom, in that the conference actually went ahead with official, if at times equivocal, support.

Individual administrators (Associate Vice President David Dewitt and Osgoode Hall Dean Patrick Monahan) were found to have acted inappropriately in specific instances. The Inquiry carefully sifts through their actions, noting in both cases that there were also times where they acted appropriately in ways consistent with academic freedom. There is much to be learned in this analysis about the role of university administrators, and particularly the complex balance between their own academic freedom as faculty members and their official role as protectors of the freedom of others on campus.

The Harper government, meanwhile, was found to have seriously violated principles of academic freedom in ways that are deeply disturbing. They directly interfered in the conduct of SSHRC, an arms-length agency, asking for an extraordinary second peer review of the conference grant. While SSHRC did not accede to this request, it did demand an extraordinary pre-conference accounting from the conference organizers. This direct political interference, and the equivocal response of SSHRC, is a serious threat to academic freedom on Canadian campuses, and a huge challenge to faculty associations, academic institutions and scholarly organizations of all descriptions.

I read this book with interest, and by that I mean both that I found it compelling and that I was not disinterested as I am an active member of Faculty for Palestine who attended the *Mapping Models* conference. I position myself in this discussion in order to address an earlier review of this conference, conducted at the behest of the York University administration by former Supreme Court of Canada justice Frank Iacobucci. The Iacobucci report not only included unwarranted criticisms of the conference organizers, but also reframed academic freedom in extremely narrow terms. Iacobucci distinguished between “professional activists” and “legitimate academics,” suggesting that academic freedom applies only to specific scholarly activities. According to the Iacobucci framing of academic freedom, my expression in writing this review would not necessarily be protected as I am neither disinterested nor writing within my professional field of expertise. Thompson argued that the implementation of the Iacobucci recommendations at York “could represent a serious adverse precedent for academic freedom in Canada.” (295)

The recommendations of Thompson’s CAUT Inquiry are rightly directed largely at getting faculty associations to organize and build alliances to resist the precedent-setting political interference of the Harper government and the dangerous narrowing of the frame of academic freedom supported in the Iacobucci report. This book is an essential tool in those mobilizing efforts and members should be getting our own associations to purchase and distribute this book, encourage discussions on its contents, and support measures to defend academic freedom.

The silencing offensive to make Palestine unspeakable aligns in important ways with the neo-liberal transformation of the post-secondary system, which is being more closely aligned with the needs of corporations in part through political direction by the

state. Academic freedom risks being cast as an inconvenient fetter on the untrammelled commercialization of universities and their reorientation towards providing the human resources and innovative intellectual properties to drive corporate profitability.

This silencing campaign must be opposed because it opens the door to wider attacks on academic freedom at a time when such attacks are to be expected. But it should also be opposed in the name of justice for Palestinians, including their academic freedom which is constrained by conditions of occupation, exile or second-class citizenship within the State of Israel.

The organizers of the *Mapping Models* conference did the important work of bringing together key experts engaged in leading edge debates about possible solutions to the issues in Israel/Palestine. The conference was not balanced in that it was a presupposition of its framing that any real solution to the issues in the region must genuinely address the historic claims of Palestinians.

The solutions currently on the negotiating table do not meet this criterion, and are unlikely to be acceptable to the bulk of Palestinians even in the unlikely event that the Israeli state were to seriously pursue negotiations. This is why over 170 Palestinian civil society organizations issues a call for a global campaign of boycott, divestment and sanctions against Israeli institutions on July 9, 2005, a year after the International Court of Justice issued an advisory opinion on the illegality of Israel's Wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territories. At very least, this call must be debatable on our campuses and in our communities, or we will have utterly failed the test of defending academic freedom and supporting justice for Palestinians.

Pawley, Howard. 2011. *Keep True: A Life In Politics*. Winnipeg: University of Manitoba Press. ISBN 978-0-88755-724-8. Paperback: 27.95 CAD. Pages: 278.

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Howard Pawley, the premier of Manitoba from 1981 to 1988, has written an interesting and important book documenting his life as a politician of the left during an era which saw the rise of the New Right and neoconservatism in Canada. Along with the insights we get into Pawley's character, we learn much about the New Democratic Party (NDP) as Manitoba's dominant political party.