

Peace Education and the History Curriculum

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Abstract: In the K-12 history curriculum there is a large focus on the build-up, engagement, and aftermath of war. Often the curriculum portrays war as something that is inevitable and justified. The curriculum gives little to no room for alternative points of view on the inevitability and morality of warfare. Military struggles usually overshadow peaceful diplomatic resolutions and anti-war movements. I propose a new emphasis on peace studies in the history curriculum. The students of today will be our future leaders. Their core understanding of war, peace, and conflict will continue to shape the future of our nation and world. In this paper, I look at both the need for this peace curriculum and some practical strategies on how educators can implement it in the classroom.

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