



## Fact Sheet – Title VI of the Higher Education Opportunity Act

***“The real Title VI story is this. Many in area studies are persuaded that the United States possesses excessive power, or abuses its power. Knowledge in the service of such power is knowledge complicit in its excesses and failures. The inclination of these academics has been to separate Title VI from its original intent program from a contract into an entitlement...”***

- [Martin Kramer](#), Testimony before the committee to review Title VI, October 5, 2006.

### **Background**

- The Higher Education Act (HEA) was signed into law on November 8, 1965, with the intent of strengthening the educational resources of American universities and colleges and providing financial assistance for students in postsecondary and higher education.
- Title VI of HEA – “International Education Programs” - authorizes the Secretary of Education to fund foreign language and area studies (FLAS) at colleges and universities and National Resource Centers (NRCs), or regional studies centers. These centers intend to produce graduates with language expertise and knowledge to contribute to [defending](#) U.S. national security interests. There are currently [NRCs](#) at 100 institutions of higher education across the country.
- \$22,743,107 was awarded to 100 institutions in Oct. 2014 by the Department of Education to fund NRCs. Of that amount, \$3.375 million was [awarded](#) to Middle East NRCs at 15 universities. More than \$13.4 million will be [awarded](#) to these Middle East NRCs for the entire 2014-2018 cycle.
- Under Title VI, NRCs are required to extend their activities by creating programs of “public outreach” as well as K-12 teacher training programs. The training materials and curricula in Middle East studies centers are partially supported and [influenced](#) by Saudi money and Saudi-funded organizations.
- On June 19, 2003, the Subcommittee on Select Education, Committee on Education and the Workforce of the U.S. House of Representatives [conducted a hearing](#) to examine [charges of bias](#) in the international and foreign language programs funded under Title VI. Testimony provided by Stanley Kurtz, then a research fellow at the Hoover Institution of Stanford University, [offered evidence](#) that many Title VI funded programs, mainly in Middle Eastern studies, are often extremely critical of U.S. Foreign Policy. Kurtz explained that the main theory dominating Middle Eastern Studies at university campuses is “post-colonial theory,” founded by the late Columbia University professor Edward Said. The theory focuses on the premise that there is a Eurocentric prejudice against the Arab and Muslim people. Kurtz recommended the creation of

a supervisory board to oversee Title VI, as well as additional oversight protections, such as holding public hearings on Title VI activities.

- In 2007, the National Research Council for the National Academies prepared a report on Title VI at the request of Congress. The report [recommends](#) increased oversight, reporting, and measurement to ensure accountability of the use of Title VI funds.
- The Higher Education Opportunity Act (HEAO) was signed into law in August, 2008, revising and reauthorizing the HEA. Among other provisions, the new law 1) Requires Title VI grantees to conduct post-graduation placement surveys to determine “postgraduate employment, education, or training;” 2) Requires federally subsidized academic programs to “reflect diverse perspectives and a wide range of views and generate debate on world regions and international affairs;” and 3) Requires the Secretary of Education to consult with a wide range of government agencies to find out what are the languages of national need.
- HEAO is up for reauthorization in 2015. Despite the 2007 report and the 2008 HEAO reauthorization, the abuse and misuse of Title VI funds has continued.

### ***Examples of Abuses of Title VI Funding***

- One-sided viewpoints presented by speakers, textbooks, and courses relating to the U.S. and Israel [continue](#) at universities and programs funded by Title VI despite the amendment of 2008 that calls for “diverse perspectives and a wide range of views.” Example: [Juan Cole](#), the Director of the University of Michigan’s Title VI-funded Middle East NRC, has a record of making radical anti-American and anti-Israel statements, and [defending](#) the Islamic Republic of Iran.
- Title VI funding continues the narrative of Edward Said’s post-colonial theories. Example: Columbia University’s Title VI-funded Middle East Institute boasts [Rashid Khalidi](#) as its “Edward Said Professor of Arab Studies.” Khalidi [engages in double speak](#), utilizes PLO propaganda, and has served as an apologist for terrorist organizations.
- Many Title VI-funded professors are [apologists for radical Islam](#) and promote anti-U.S. and anti-Israel policy agendas. For example, [Juan Cole](#), [John Esposito](#), a Title VI-funded professor at Georgetown, and Rashid Khalidi teamed up with the Iranian lobby NIAC to [support](#) the Iran deal.
- Title VI funding enables faculty to host “outreach programs” that are anti-Israel, and use anti-Semitic discourse. A [study](#) produced by the AMCHA initiative on public events sponsored by UCLA’s Center for Near East Studies (CNES) over a three-year period, from 2010 – 2013, concludes that CNES events disproportionately focused on Israel and the Israeli-Arab conflict, with 93% of events on Israel being anti-Israel, and 75% displaying anti-Semitic discourse.
- Six directors of Title VI funded Middle Eastern NRCs signed a letter in August 2014 calling for a [boycott](#) of Israeli academic institutions. Yet Title VI funded programs are required to provide “[assurances](#)” that they will “[maintain linkages](#) with overseas institutions of higher education and other organizations that may contribute to the teaching and research of the Center.”
- Of the 19 Title VI-funded directors of Middle East NRCs, 8 directors (42%) have [expressed](#) public support for the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) movement, according to an AMCHA

Initiative report. The director at UC Berkeley's Center called to shut down the Israel Study Abroad program at the University of California.

- Saudi donors have [influence](#) over many Title VI funded Middle East NRCs and their outreach programs. "Outreach coordinators or teacher-trainers at a number of university Middle East Studies centers have themselves been trained by the very same Saudi-funded foundations that design K-12 course materials," Kurtz reports.
- Some Title VI-funded NRCs team up with other NGOs to host anti-Israel teacher training workshops. Example: In October, 2015, Georgetown's Center for Contemporary Arab Studies [hosted a teach-in for K-14](#) teachers and the public on Gaza featuring speakers who have [defended Hamas](#) and [support](#) the BDS movement. The event was co-sponsored by the World Affairs Council and the Jerusalem Fund.

For more information please contact:

EMET

p.202.601.7422 e.info@emetonline.org

[www.emetonline.org](http://www.emetonline.org)