

## A BIOGRAPHICAL STATEMENT

Marlene R. Hancock

I am a professor of Political Science at Douglas College in New Westminster, British Columbia, Canada. I have been teaching Political Science and Middle Eastern Studies at the College for the past 17 years.

The interest that I have in the Middle East is reflected in my academic work and teaching. As a direct result of traveling to Lebanon, Syria and Jordan in my youth, I have never lost my interest in the region. While in the Middle East, I lived among the Arabs and Palestinians. It is during this time that I learned about the Palestinian/Israeli conflict. This interest in the Middle East was reflected in my Masters degree which focused on "The Role of the Elite Political Development: The Case of Saudi Arabia." The thesis traces the development of Saudi Arabia from 1744 to current times. My Masters thesis has been cited in books published by MacMillan and St. Martin's Press. The thesis is also on file with the Ministry of Information in Saudi Arabia. Their interest in the thesis is due to the fact that I was one of the few women who have written about their society and government.

I continue to travel in the region. As organizer and faculty advisor of the Douglas College International Model United Nations (DOUGIMUN) conference, I have taken groups of students to Egypt to attend the Model United Nations conference there hosted by the American University of Cairo. Since 1997 I have made five trips. This experience continues to give me the opportunity to meet other scholars, ambassadors, United Nations' representatives, and members of Palestinian Authority. Also, as a result of these trips, I have been able to do consulting work for the Egyptian Bureau of Education and Culture in Canada. This relationship has made each of my trips to Egypt a rich experience. When in Egypt, my base is the American University in Cairo where I am able to research and stay current on the region.

In April/May of 2005 I was the guest of the Jordanian government and spent some time meeting government officials and visiting a Palestinian refugee camp. This trip only confirms that there is a need to bring an understanding to this region and its complex problems.

To add to my experience, as a scholar, I have had the privilege to study one term at the School of Oriental and African Studies, in London, England. This school is famous for its expertise in Middle Eastern Studies. I was also a visiting professor at the Adelaide College of the Arts and Education in South Australia for one term. While there I lectured on Middle East politics.

I have been invited and contributed to the Canadian Government's Department of Foreign Affairs on the role of Canada at the United Nations in New York. I have participated in many international conferences on Political Science in places such as Washington, DC and Berlin. I was twice invited and attended two meetings on GATT and WTO at Wilton Park in Sussex, England. These meetings were open to academics

and permanent members of the United Nations. This experience combined with my education has added value to my career as a professor and writer.

At Douglas College I am currently teaching a course on Middle Eastern politics. The course concentrates on two areas: Islam and the study of Middle East leadership styles. As a Comparative Studies course, it covers the following countries: Jordan, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Iran and Iraq. I also include Palestine since the plight of the Palestinians plays a major role in Middle East politics.

I have co-edited a book on Canadian Government and Politics with colleagues in Political Science at Douglas College. During the seventeen years of teaching I have reviewed many textbooks and have been included in the acknowledgements. Some of the publishers include: Prentice Hall, ITP Nelson, Oxford University Press, and McGraw Hill.