ABSTRACT

The Roots of Ideological Conflict in National-Religious Education

David Taub

Summary

National-Religious Education is a network serving as a meeting-ground for different educational approaches. Its outlook is religious, but it shows sensitivity to the progressive spirit of General Education as to the Zionist spirit embodied in the rebirth of the Jewish state. As a meeting-ground it seeks out the Golden Mean and strives to maneuver between mutually contradictory educational schools of thought, while jealously guarding its National-Religious identity.

The book defines substantive topics that have affected the coexistence of and the conflict between the religious and national aspects of Zionist National-Religious Education.

Our discussion notes the existence of constant conflicts between National-Religious Education and other Jewish educational streams. Most of these conflicts were resolved by compromise and coexistence, absorbing educational influences from the other educational streams but making no substantive concessions of principle. At first National-Religious Education had to cope with the influence of General Education and Zionist nationalism, on the one hand, and the conservative nature of ultra-orthodox educational institutions, on the other. Furthermore, National-Religious Education in Israel was forced to oppose attempts to direct immigrant children to irreligious educational institutions; it also had to combat British mandatory attempts to abolish particularistic streams in education.

State Religious Education, the successor of National-Religious Education, has had to defend itself against attempts to deprive it in the fields of status, pupil registration, school buildings, etc. as well as against internal trends towards the establishment of particularistic educational institutions and the transfer of pupils to other religious and ultra-orthodox educational networks.