In Southeast Europe, recent traumatic experiences like the wars in Yugoslavia but also controversial events belonging to previous historical periods (like WWII or the Civil War in Greece) have triggered “memory wars,” engaged in current and ongoing political conflicts. Most cases of public controversies about the past refer to history textbooks and history teaching which continues to play a crucial role in forming and disseminating ‘official’ national memory. Can history teaching contribute to the reproduction of the conflict? Or might it be used as a tool for healing traumas, for overcoming painful memories and for reconciliation between former enemies? How could history teaching function as part of a major project of peace education? Ultimately how efficient such a project would be in a region ‘suspicious’ of nationalism? These questions are going to be discussed by using the example of the Joint History Project (JHP) which led to the publication of alternative educational material for the teaching of Balkan history in thirteen countries.

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