

Cartoons for the Classroom

Presented by NIEonline.com and the Association of American Editorial Cartoonists (AAEC)



Pitfalls of democratic elections

Between the lines

The landslide victory by the Islamic militant group Hamas in Palestinian elections last week startled the world and dimmed prospects for Mideast peace. The Hamas organization is listed by many Western nations as a terrorist group. In its official reaction, the Israeli government said it will not negotiate with a Palestinian administration if its members include an armed terrorist organization that calls for the destruction of the state of Israel. The charter of Hamas calls for Israel's destruction. President Bush has said he would not deal with Hamas.



Courtesy Stephen Breen / San Diego Union-Tribune



Courtesy Robert Ariail / The State

Talking points

1. Hamas leaders have no experience in government, the point of Robert Ariail's cartoon at left. We've all seen dogs chasing cars -- the question is, what will they do if they catch one. Explain Ariail's cartoon with that in mind.
2. Stephen Breen's Uncle Sam seems aghast at Democracy new hatchling. But Palestinian voters made their choice in free elections. Is Hamas less legitimate than another party?
3. Explore the concept of unpopular election winners. If they're so unpopular, how'd they win?

Additional resources

Association of American Editorial Cartoonists (AAEC)
<http://editorialcartoonists.com/>

More by Stephen Breen

<http://signonsandiego.com/news/features/breen/>

More by Robert Ariail

<http://www.comics.com/editoons/ariail/index.html>

Get out your newspaper

Gather a collection of political cartoons on the election of Hamas from your newspaper. Using the Cartoon Evaluation Worksheet (available online at the NIE Website) analyze each cartoon and explain the issues addressed and determine the point of view of the artist.