

HST 203: ONLINE U.S.History Sp19 (Escobar)

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Using & Abusing History

by [Joe Escobar](#) - Saturday, May 11, 2019, 11:23 PM

This thread is for discussions on the Using & Abusing History topic.

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Raising the Flag on Iwo Jima vs. Raising the Flag to Fight Global Warming

by [Connor Antich](#) - Wednesday, May 15, 2019, 1:27 PM

The two images that I want to analyze are the one on the left which is the U.S. soldiers raising the American flag on Iwo Jima and the one on the right which is that same photo on the cover of time magazine with the flag edited as a tree.

I chose this image pair because the photo of the men raising the flag on Iwo Jima is one of my favorite and I think one of the most iconic photos of World War 2. It's one of my favorite photos because it represents the U.S. victories and bitter push from island to island in the pacific against a ruthless enemy (the Japanese) and also it was a major morale booster back home. Even looking at the photo it gives me chills. Also the Battle of Iwo Jima is one of my favorite battles of World War 2 that I like to analyze, research and learn more about. The movie: Letters From Iwo Jima, is one of my favorite and I highly recommend it. I think this image used in modern times as the flag is instead a tree, is kind of disrespectful in my opinion. This photo represents strength, courage, freedom and toughness and many other positive things. But this image also carries the horror of World War 2 with it. Using a historic photo of bravery in a time of utter horrific chaos when our nation and the world was in the most brutal and horrific conflict of human history and using it to say we need to rally to plant trees and fight global warming isn't fair to me. Time magazine is using the image in a positive way and that's fine. I just think that image represents so much and means so much more than we think and it shouldn't be used in modern times to promote things. The conflict of World War 2 and the conflict of how we treat our planet are two completely different things and to me you can't compare them. This image connects and represents the U.S. struggle and achievement in World War 2 and in my opinion shouldn't be morphed or edited to represent anything else. I think this image was chosen for time magazine and edited the way it is because they are trying to get support and unite the american people in fighting global warming. I think it is a smart way definitely to relate to the people and gain support. But I also think it's kind of disrespectful in a way, in my opinion.

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Re: Raising the Flag on Iwo Jima vs. Raising the Flag to Fight Global Warming

by [Devon Olsen](#) - Saturday, May 18, 2019, 11:58 AM

Hi Connor,

I like that you chose this image. This was the other one I was thinking about quite a bit. I think this picture of the soldiers is easily one of the most iconic images of the war, and arguably the entirety of US History. The original image is very near and dear to my heart, because my grandfather served in the war as a sharpshooter, and in fact was on the hill with these 5 soldiers. He is not in the image, however he is on the hill to the left of these guys. I think this image is iconic for the strength of the USA, but also the penultimate moment of the war. The assault on Iwo Jima, and D-day in its entirety changed the course of history forever. I agree with you on the "gives me chills" line that you shared, and I feel the same way. Although I haven't seen the movie you talk about, I do love the history surrounding WWII, and am sure I'd also like it.

As for the image on the right, I don't entirely agree with you on the bit about you thinking that it is disrespectful. Although, I do believe that the original image is hallowed ground and shouldn't be satirized; in my opinion the Time magazine picture is not doing that, nor is it disrespecting the amazing achievement that these men and women had in WWII. In my opinion it is a call to action for the American people to combat global warming and deforestation, however you do share that it is a good cause, but I don't think in any way does it usurp the horrors that the soldiers faced in that war. This being said, I do think that you are correct in saying that it isn't fair, and I would wager that it is not in the best taste to replace the flag with a tree. I think that the image on the right is meant to raise awareness, and show us citizens that it is a war we can win. In my opinion the original image of the soldiers raising the flag atop Iwo Jima is more of an encouraging thing, though-be-it brave as well, I interpret the original image to say "Hey everybody back home, look what we did, and we are going to win this war!" The time magazine image, in my opinion is also saying that we can beat this challenge of global warming by changing our attitudes, and changing our behaviors.

Although what these soldiers did was an amazing feat, I believe that the emotional pull for the image on the right is also relatable. I am not saying that you are wrong in any way, shape or form, I am just sharing my interpretation, as a different one than yours. I would wager a guess that most , if not all, Americans have seen the original image. I also understand the gravity of the struggle on Iwo Jima, and throughout all of WWII was something that cost the lives of greater than 60 million individuals on all sides, and is not comparable to the loss of trees and global warming that we now face. However, without the trees and the forests we have on this planet, we cease to exist as beings. It is definitely something that needs to change, and change fast, but also it is not in the best taste to take such an iconic image from WWII and change it. I think that Time magazine is not being disrespectful in the use of the image, but I do think that it was not in the best taste.

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Re: Raising the Flag on Iwo Jima vs. Raising the Flag to Fight Global Warming

by [Trey Husko](#) - Sunday, May 19, 2019, 9:19 PM

Hi Devon,

I just wanted to say that's pretty crazy how close your grandfather was at the time of undoubtedly one of the most iconic photos in US history. Since the photo means a lot to you I can definitely understand why you might not think it's in the best taste to make a parody of the photo.

Of the photos with their new modern parodies provided I feel that the raising of the flag photo is one of the only ones (or the Sailor and woman kissing) that isn't really propaganda in a sense but rather just a moment of history that captures the emotions of it all and uplifts the people's spirits. That said I mostly agree with your take that the newer parody with the raising of a tree isn't disrespectful per se, more so a matter of taste. The newer photo says more to come together to triumph saving the planet while some of the other modern parodies mock the original ones. I think it was a fairer use of the original image but can understand people still might have some upset emotions toward the modern version.

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Rosie the Riveter
by [Kathy Holmes](#) - Wednesday, May 15, 2019, 5:55 PM



I chose this adaptation of Rosie the Riveter as it is the one I understood easier than the others. Rosie the Riveter was originally used to recruit women during World War II. In this instance, I think this is being portrayed in a negative way. Mansplaining is defined as “the explanation of something by a man, typically to a woman, in a manner regarded as condescending or patronizing” (<https://www.google.com/search?client=firefox-b-1-d&q=Dictionary#dobs=mansplaining>) This depiction of Rosie stating “mansplain survivor” is insinuating that women can deal with it, it being mansplaining, that we as women are strong enough. The original Rosie the Riveter poster stating “We Can Do It!” refers to the jobs that men typically worked during WWII.

A typical example of mansplaining is when a woman states that women make .70 on the dollar in comparison to men, and then a man brings up the idea that it isn’t completely related to gender. In this situation, women usually don’t want to hear that it isn’t because of gender and so they pass this off as mansplaining when in reality the man is correct. Women don’t make .70 for every \$1 men make because they are women, there are many other factors that play into this. So although this cartoon is stating that women can “survive” mansplaining, I think a lot of mansplaining is actually women passing of a man's explanation because they don't want to hear what men have to say.

I don’t believe that this is a good translation of a historical poster.

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Rosie the Survivor
by [Kaiser Slocum](#) - Thursday, May 16, 2019, 9:42 PM

Kathy

You did an excellent job dissecting these posters’ meaning. I was not exactly sure what the second poster meant when I first read it, but now it makes a ton of sense.

In my Economics class, I was learning about the pay difference and that there is a perfectly reasonable explanation as to why men “supposedly” make more, including, but not restricted to, the fact that men typically take higher risk and, consequently, higher paying jobs than women do. ([There is No Male-Female Wage Gap](#) by Carrie Lukas) Although there *could* be some amount of discrimination, I believe that this is just another case of something looking greener on the other side of the fence. Yes, I think the second poster was trying to be funny and yet serious that men are more defensive than women are. Myself being a male, I cannot say if that is true or not, but “mansplaining” has been lumped onto us, while portraying that we are hopelessly defensive creatures. The first poster was to show that U.S. women could handle the jobs previously held by men and do well at them, while the second takes this a step farther and says that women are a victim of “mansplaining” and are yet “tough enough” to survive this - a large stretch in my opinion. Whatever the case, I also believe that the second is taking a perfectly commendable poster that illustrates a woman’s many abilities and talents and translating that to a woman’s “ability” to survive a supposed “terrible characteristic” of males.

Despite its flaws, I still thought the translation was kind of funny...

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Re: Rosie the Riveter
by [Devon Olsen](#) - Sunday, May 19, 2019, 10:03 AM

Hi Kathy,

I thought you did a great job with your analysis of these posters! Admittedly, I didn't quite understand the verbage either (as with Kaiser). Although I agree with your stance on the poster, I do also feel it is important to reference the term "Layman" which is also old-fashioned, and has been interpreted far from its original context. Layman: someone who is not trained to a high or professional standard in a particular subject (<https://www.macmillandictionary.com/us/dictionary/american/layman>). Nowadays I feel as though people simplify things to an almost offensive level, and refer to this as "layman's terms." Though this is not necessarily offensive in its own right, the presumptive idea that an individual whom one is talking with, dos not understand things to the same level as the original orator is. However, in the case of and in the context of Rosie the survivor, the word mansplain is even more offensive in my opinion, as it is often used in a perjorative (expressing contempt/disapproval) manor. This said, the entire mentality of the women jumping into the workforce while the men were off fighting in WWII is an amazing thing, and I think even though women rights to vote didn't come to fruition until the passage of the 19th amendment in 1920 (Murrin text, p. 572), however the workforce was still significantly male, and less female in industry jobs. I believe that this postor in its original form represents the perseverance of women, and taking the weight of the war effort at home. Rosie the Riveter is an iconic image of the WWI era, and is something that doesn't need to be satirized, nor should it be.

I think the "mansplaining survivor" image is disrespectful of what women did during the era, and conjectures what the ideal was in that time. I think that the poster on the right, although it is kind of funny, is historically relevant despite its poor taste. Although I agree with what you said about women being strong enough to deal with mansplaining, I do not like that there was a necessity for it in the first place. As a male, whose wife is the primary breadwinner for the family, I am definitely a female empowerment advocate, and I wish there was more we could do to garnish the wage gap. I also agree with what you said about the \$.70 to the \$1, and how it isn't necessarily because they are women, although there definitely is a little bit of that in the world still, but in actuality it is the women dismissing it as mansplaining. I think there is truth to what you have said, but I also think that there are ways to interpret this poster differently. I agree with you that this isn't a great translation of history, especially because of its satirical nature regarding a very important, and iconic image of what women endured while the country was fighting WWII. Overall great job!

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Re: Rosie the Riveter
by [Daniela Rosales Name](#) - Sunday, May 19, 2019, 5:01 PM

Kathy,

I found your response to be very surprising and interesting, because it made me reevaluate how I had originally viewed it. I had originally thought that this "Mansplain Survivor" poster was a pretty good use of satire and a good example of reusing historical posters to comment on modern issues — your response made me think a bit deeper about that. Overall, I still don't think this is a misuse of a historical poster. Here's why:

Unlike you, I didn't make the comparison with the direct words on the *We Can Do It!* poster, because in that sense I wholeheartedly agree with your interpretation. Instead, I looked at the meaning behind the poster and what it meant to women. The original poster was meant to represent the almost 6 million women who joined the workforce during WWII to supplement the men who went to fight in the war. From this poster, the 1942 song *Rosie the Riveter*, and Norman Rockwell's *Rosie the Riveter* painting all cemented the concept of Rosie the Riveter. Rosie isn't just one woman, she is the collective experience of women at the time. She became a symbol because she unified the experiences of millions of women around the U.S who were, largely, for the first time having these opportunities that were previously only given to men. Penny Coleman, the author on a book about Rosie, was quoted by [this The Washington Post](#) article as saying that this poster is "a collective concept of empowering all women."

Keeping all of this in mind, as I shift into a modern perspective to look at the "Mansplain Survivor" poster, I personally can see the correlation between the two images. Because, for me the point of this image isn't to say "we, as women, can deal with mansplaining." I see the mansplaining poster as a way to show the collective experience of most modern women. Much like how Coleman said the original Rosie captured the collective experience of women at the time. I think the point of adding "Mansplain survivor" to the iconic Rosie image is to show the things strong women deal with. Rosie, is modernly an iconic image of women empowerment that has been a symbol of women's strength and endurance. And isn't mansplaining something we endure?

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a careless word...another cross

by [Devon Olsen](#) - Wednesday, May 15, 2019, 8:28 PM

This forum was particularly interesting to me. Many of the images have a profound impact on me, but the one that sticks with me the most is the one with the crosses. On the left "a careless word...another cross." and the modern day one "join the army...vacancies available."

These images strike me strongly because my grandfather was a sharpshooter in WWII, and seldom talked about the lives he ended. However, he did make some allusions occasionally, and much of it was not regretful but dutiful in his eyes. However, with that said, he did not forget a single one of the many kills he had. I believe that the picture portrayed here shares a lot of the protest to the war, but the cost as well. In addition to these thoughts, this image on the left also portrays the general feel of American insecurity in the WWII times, and the post WWII era. "The post war search for subversion unfolded within an atmosphere of anxiety that some cultural historians call the 'Great Fear.'" The book continues to explain the general fear of atomic weapons from the Soviet Union. It then continues with "heightened impact of spurious claims about the communist agents roaming military bases or gay subversives shaping foreign policy." The authors of the book end this paragraph with a sentence that summarizes up the home front anxieties in one go. "A growing sense of cultural and social insecurity, in turn, intensified efforts to safeguard national security." (Murrin text, p. 744).

Therefore, in my opinion the image on the left talks about one careless word...one more cross. I believe the history of WWII is being manipulated both disrespectfully, but also honestly. I think this because the necessity of the army was in full force at this time, and the truth of the matter is, for each man and women who lost their lives, another joined in their stead. This doesn't simplify, nor does it discredit the sacrifices those individuals made. I believe, though in poor taste, this imagery is not false with regards to the need for the armed forces in US history, especially during this time in history. The second world war lead to 6 times the amount of deaths of World War I (WWI vs. WWII, [diffen.com](#)). This meant that if somebody died in the line of duty, they needed to be replaced. This is reflected harshly in the imagery depicted on the right. The message is a negative one with a dire warning. The amount of death that occurred in this war alone was nothing to scoff at. But this also does seem to serve as a lesson as well. This lesson might be the cost of war, perhaps the cost of careless words. The Nazi regime shunned the Jewish, Romani, Homosexual, disabled individuals, Jehovah's Witnesses, and Afro-Germans (WWI vs. WWII, [diffen.com](#)). This unfounded hate was simply because these cultures were of different derivation than Hitler's "superior race".

I believe this image was chosen to be altered due to the trifecta of Pathos, Ethos, and Logos that is already portrayed in the original image. This image, in my opinion is a great example of yellow journalism at its finest. I am not saying I agree with the mentality of yellow journalism; however, I do understand and gather the amount of weight it holds for Americans, especial in times of uncertainty, insecurity and international strife. In the original image, the artist shows that the simplest thing, such as saying one race is inferior to your own can create another cross. This was true in greater than 6 million deaths from Jewish individuals alone in the second world war, simply because they were of Jewish decent. I believe both of these images are relevant in current affairs as well, however I believe for different reasons than for the reasons in the era of World War II.

World War I vs. World War II, [diffen.com](#). *Google*, [www.diffen.com/difference/World_War_I_vs_World_War_II](#). Accessed 15

May 2019.

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"This man is your friend"

by [Trey Husko](#) - Wednesday, May 15, 2019, 8:47 PM

From the selection of historical posters and images the one that stood out to me the most was the "This man is your FRIEND - He fights for FREEDOM" images of the USSR Soldier and Vladimir Putin. I chose this one from the choices because of how relevant it is to today and the relationship we share with Russia.

I think the historical poster is being manipulated quite honestly and even cleverly considering there was fear of communism prior to WWII (like the Red Scare that was covered in the previous book chapters), so some of the American people had to be convinced it was right for us to be fighting on the same side of the war as the USSR. The newer adaptation of the original photo that now shows Putin as our Russian friend and ally who we should believe is our "friend" and is "fighting for freedom" like the US. I could see this as a way of the newer adaptation's author showing that we should be careful to believe what our leaders tell us. We were told to like the USSR back in WWII because they were fighting for freedom and trying to defeat the facist leaders of the world, quickly for it to escalate into the Cold War and a nuclear arms race after the war. Now, we're being told by President Trump to trust what Putin is doing and that the we should improve our relationship with Putin's government.

The photo was chosen in my view because of the historical background behind it. In WWI, President Wilson had to wait till the Russians dropped out of the war to say it was to protect democracy as a result that the Russian Empire might have actually had motives for expansion (covered in ch23 textbook). The USSR may have been our ally or "friend",but they weren't entirely "fighting for freedom" like we were told. They also committed their own terrible acts like the Gulag and raping of women in territory they occupied during the war (wikipedia Gulag, wikipedia Soviet war crimes). That ties into the newer image because while we may be told to trust Putin and have him as our friend/ally to the US, he's certainly *not* fighting for freedom so the "he fights for freedom" line is in a way mocking the original poster.

Our relationship with Russia has been shaky over the course of history and, while at times we've certainly had to side with them, their interests haven't been for "freedom" so we as citizens of the US need to be more critical, and at the very least questioning, of our country's relationship with Putin.

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Re: "This man is your friend"
by [McKay Luke](#) - Sunday, May 19, 2019, 1:30 PM

Trey,

This is a very good analysis of the two photos and you show great understanding of the United States and USSR relationship over the past century. I thought of doing my own analysis on these photos as well. You remarked that the "American people had to be convinced it was right for us to be fighting on the same side of the war as the USSR", and I couldn't agree more. I'm sure at the time there were many reservations from Americans still shaken up from the first red scare around the time of President Wilson and the Palmer Raids. To most Americans, the distinction between socialism via democracy and communism via dictatorship was unclear, and radicalism was viewed as a "single, coordinated movement bent on establishing a communist government on American soil" (Murrin Textbook, pg. 771).

World War II, not even twenty years after the first red scare, did not leave much time for Americans to change their view of Russia. Even today we see that nearly eighteen years after the 9/11 attacks, people from the middle east are still subject to harassment and ridicule from United States citizens.

This modern parody is powerful in the sense that it, as you said, exemplifies the misconception that despite a common enemy, the United States and USSR interests are not the same. This poster message could have been used in a similar fashion by Japan or Germany during World War II; "This Fascist fights for world domination, he is your ally". As we have learned from history, a common enemy does not mean common interest.

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Soviet fight for Freedom
by [Connor Antich](#) - Sunday, May 19, 2019, 9:58 PM

I agree with your analysis of the two photos Trey. However, I am confused a little bit when you say Russia doesn't and didn't fight for freedom like us. Although the Russians went on the offensive first against Germany in WW1, from there point of view they felt very threatened when they had mobilized there armed forces prepared to defend Serbia, a fellow Slav nation from being invaded by Austria Hungary and in response to there

mobilization, Germany declared war. To me, a country that responds to another's mobilization with a declaration of war seems like a country seeking and wanting war rather than any diplomacy. In this situation I believe Russian freedom was threatened. At the beginning of WW2, Hitler and Stalin originally signed a nonaggression pact and invaded Poland and the USSR invaded the Baltic countries. I believe the USSR did this because I believe Stalin felt a bit paranoid about german aggression in WW1 and wanted to have as much border territory as possible to protect the homeland. Also it is important to note no real offers or efforts were made by Britain or France at the outbreak of WW2 to form an alliance with the Soviets. France and Britain especially did not see the Soviets as true allies. Stalin made the pact with Hitler to try to secure and protect his country and its freedom. Hitler would of course break this pact and invade the USSR and get within 12 miles of Moscow. Once Germany had invaded the USSR, then the western allies saw the Soviets as an ally against Hitler. The west did send supplies, arms and funds to help the Soviets, but it's important to note that the west rarely ever coordinated strategy with the Soviets or battle plans. I believe the Soviets post WW2 policy was to establish a heavily protected border against future German aggression as from there point of view Germany was responsible for getting them into 2 world wars and invading their territory and committing brutal acts against them in both conflicts. The Soviets wanted to secure there border and weren't going to let the U.S. tell them that they couldn't do this. Also I believed they felt tremendously threatened when the U.S. dropped the atomic bombs on Japan to end World War 2 and saw it as a threat and a message. Making the Soviets fear us made them see us as an enemy. The U.S. also created NATO in western Europe but was then super critical of the USSR establishing the Warsaw Pact in the east. I am not denying the War crimes you mentioned the Soviets committed during these conflicts. But I also believe the allies were guilty of many war crimes as well (see my post in Historical Amnesia about the U.S. and Britain). Overall, what I'm trying to say is I believe the Soviets fought for there freedom against German aggression in both World Wars and ever since World War 2 have just tried to secure their borders. Though, I believe there methods have been very brutal. Also I believe it is kind of unfair to say the Russians didn't and don't fight for freedom like the U.S. I believe the U.S. is very guilty of imperialist acts and war crimes as well. However, I believe both countries have fought for there freedom.

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Nancy Pelosi — we can do it.
by [Daniela Rosales Name](#) - Wednesday, May 15, 2019, 9:48 PM

The image I am choosing to discuss is the *We Can Do It!* image with Nancy Pelosi. The spoofed image changed the heading to "It Takes a Woman to Clean Up the House" with Pelosi appearing in the same iconic Rosie the Riveter image with plungers in her hand. I choose this image because I think it is a fantastic example of using iconic images, posters and propaganda of the past and repurposing them today. I personally equate this reuse of images as a form of satire and political commentary. They repurpose images, that in many cases were meant to make commentary on events of the past, comment on events today.

When looking at the original *We Can Do It!* created by J. Howard Miller for Westinghouse Electric in 1943, it was meant to boost the morale of women workers during the war. The poster wasn't attached to, what we now know to be, Rosie the Riveter. It wasn't yet a symbol for the feminist movement. It was simply a woman, dressed in the day to day garments for women at the time. It wasn't until Norman Rockwell's Sunday Evening Post cover (seen below) that the concept of Rosie the Riveter was born. From there the *We Can Do It!* poster and Rosie became the iconic image and figure we know today. On top of that Rockwell's *Rosie the Riveter* was based on another famous image: *Prophet Isaiah* by Michelangelo (also below). So again, it's a version of what we're seeing in the Pelosi image where the concept and idea are taken from an iconic image and repurposed.

The Pelosi version keeps with the theme of the original image of female empowerment, but heavily relies on the interpretation the feminist movement took on it. It uses a paraphrase of quote from Pelosi from 2006, right before the midterm elections, "Maybe it will take a woman to clean up the House." In 2007, Pelosi became the first and only woman to serve as the Speaker of the House. I am unsure if the the Pelosi image was made back in 2006, but I know I personally saw it during the 2018 midterm elections. I don't think this in anyway disrespects the original image, its history and WWII. Given the history of the original poster, I think it goes right along with it.

Source: [Rockwell Center for American Visual Studies](#)



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Re: Nancy Pelosi — we can do it.

by [Devon Olsen](#) - Friday, May 17, 2019, 9:17 AM

Hi Daniela,

I love your interpretation of these posters. I didn't quite remember the midterm elections of '07 but I do vaguely remember the poster making another appearance in the '18 elections. I think you have respectfully and accurately interpreted these posters, and I love that you shared the original by Michelangelo. I never put those

two images together, even though I have seen both countless amounts of times. I think the historical use of the poster was appropriate for the time, as many of the men were off at the war, and the industry needed to keep up with the needs of the armed forces. That said, I believe that the call to arms, in a matter of speaking, for the feminist movement is also historically appropriate, and it does a nice job of breaking the cultural norm for men being the ones in the workplace, and women staying home with the kids.

Personally, I think that old mentality was very offensive to women and I can say from first hand experience that it is false. In my life, at least right now my wife is the one with a stable job, and income as I am back at school for nursing. Once I finish my program, she wants to step back and be home with our daughter more. However, at least for the next three years while I finish my program, she is the breadwinner. The old fashioned ideal that the poster was referencing was fair for the time, but in hindsight, not fair in the least bit. IN some of the videos we have watched in the class, the "Rosie the riveter" movement was thought to be temporary, while the men were at war. Throughout the [Rosie the Riveter](#) video the real life Rosies are interviewed, and it it mentioned that they are expected to give up their jobs, and go back to being housewives when their men return, so that the men can have their jobs. This in my opinion is super disrespectful to women. These women may even be better at their jobs then the men are, or at the very least just as good. The whole culture of the 40's was interesting, and very static. The dynamic part of the workplace didn't in my opinion change until the early 90's when women started to get jobs that had only been given to men previously.

Overall, I really like the way you have interpreted the image, and I love that you found the historical photo of the original image, and connected it back to the cyclical use of historical multimedia and propaganda. The Rosie movement is a really great thing, and I think that you have respectfully and accurately described this photo, and its use today. Great job, and thanks for sharing!

-Devon

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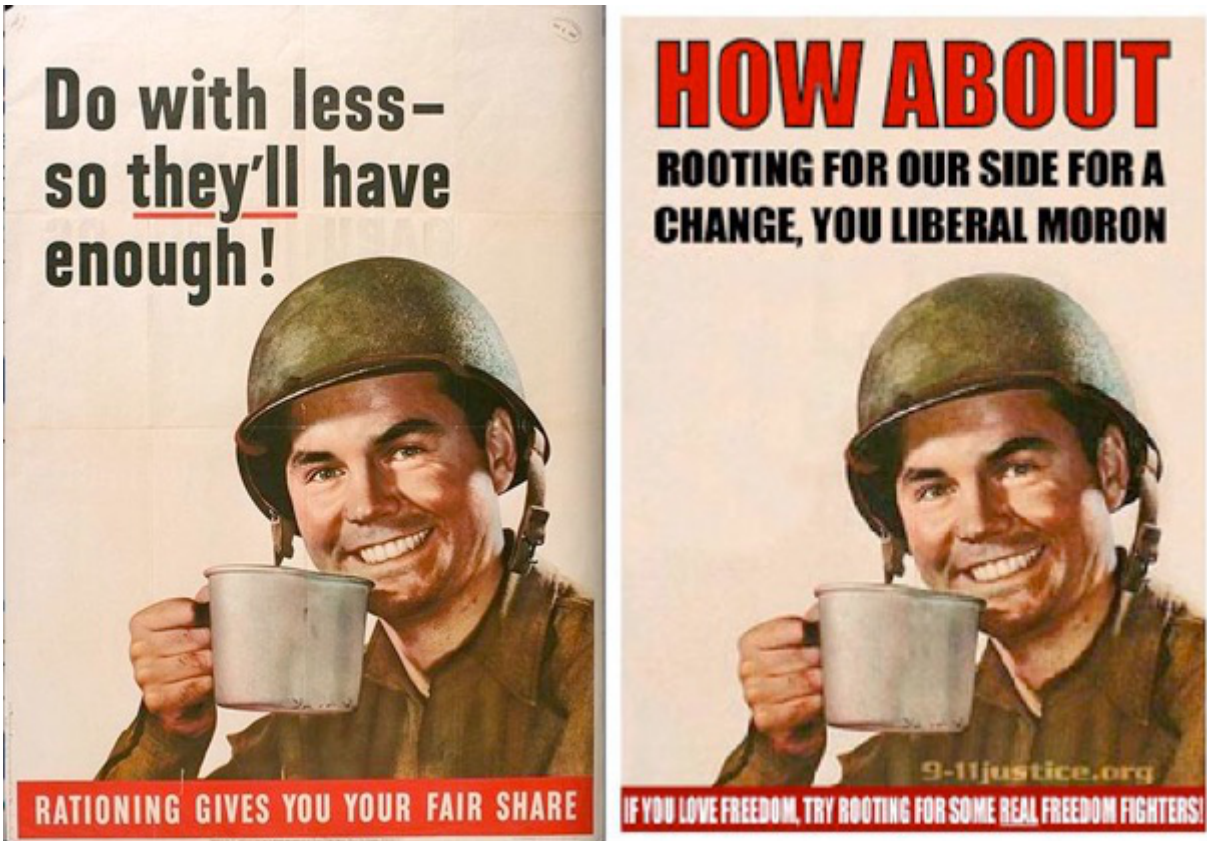
by [Kaiser Slocum](#) - Wednesday, May 15, 2019, 11:24 PM

I was really captivated by these posters as they bring up some interesting ideas about rationing and fighting for freedom. The second and more current poster has almost completely deviated from the original meaning of the poster on the left. However, they both convey a powerful message that should not be ignored.

The first poster was intriguing to me, because it portrays the World War Two soldiers as having little food and needing those at the home front to sacrifice so that they can get adequate food. Most soldiers ate packaged meats, breads, and other standard foods during World War Two, in addition to a little Coca Cola and chewing gum. (Wikipedia: U.S. Military Ration // [Liberty, Equality, Power](#) John Murrin) This kind of poster implies a lot. First, it makes one feel bad for the soldiers who are literally in a life or death situation and can barely get enough decent food. Second, it gives a solution that requires one’s participation and does not seem like a huge sacrifice. Third, it connects the idea of doing with less with the unpopular government program of rationing. Most of the home-front during World War Two was not excited about the rationing, but this kind of poster enacts in the people an emotional response and a way to help the soldiers by not complaining and working with the rationing system.

The second poster, although a little harsh in my opinion, has nothing to do with rationing but still uses the emotional response to get across their point. First, it uses a “shame” tactic. It implies that anyone, especially liberals, who do not support the armed forces are stupid and do not care about freedom. Then it couples this with soldier drinking from an old, tin cup, further emphasizing the point which is “How could you not support our poor soldiers in the war?!” This poster lumps together liberals and declares that none of them care about America’s soldiers, which is a bad idea since a good number of liberals do support the armed forces. For the most part though, though, this poster is trying to get viewers to realize the amount of comfort that the soldiers are giving up to be where they are, including possibly their own life. It then challenges viewers to support these brave individuals. The makers of this poster chose this pictures as opposed to others because they wanted the emotional response; if they chose a picture of a camo-clad, gun-armed marine lounging in an armored jeep drinking a soda and talking with his fellow soldiers the affect would not be the same, and the poster’s purpose, to get people behind the armed forces, would be less likely to get across to viewers.

Both of these posters portray soldiers in a heroic light and challenge citizens to be willing to put aside minor discomforts or opinions in order to help assist those that are fighting for America and, consequently, freedom abroad. In other words, they bring out a problem and present a solution.



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Re: Do With Less?!
by [Kathy Holmes](#) - Saturday, May 18, 2019, 5:02 PM

Kaiser,

Great analysis of the photos.

I agree that both of these photos appeal to our pathos. However, I had a different interpretation of the second photo when I first saw it. I do however like your explanation.

When I first saw the recreated image I saw a soldier who has worked so hard to keep our country free saying that we (as Americans not just liberals) should be thankful for their service. Although this is clearly pointed at liberals I think it applies to all that don't take our militaries service seriously. The bottom of the photo reads "if you love freedom, try rooting for some real freedom fighters" which implies that if you don't support our military you don't believe that we should be a free nation. The caption on the recreated image has a sarcastic, or for lack of a better word sassy tone.

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Morons and Soldiers?!
by [Kaiser Slocum](#) - Sunday, May 19, 2019, 3:51 PM

Thanks Kathy!

Yes, the second poster implies that whoever you are, if you do not support the American soldiers you are declared as a "moron." The poster, most likely made by a conservative, made a generalization that most liberals do not support the troops so the creator implicitly spoke to them. However, like you said, the broader picture insinuated by the poster is that every non-army supporter is "stupid." It is not a very kind message, but it does have a point that arguably all of those who have fought for the country have been contributing to our freedom.

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A message to America: You're either with us, or your against us.
by [Hannah Harp](#) - Saturday, May 18, 2019, 11:40 AM

I chose to analyze the 10th set of photos down, that have the statue of liberty. I specifically chose this set of photos because I feel like I was able to understand the over all message really well, and it had an accurate depiction of the message that was portrayed during the war. In the photo on the left it says, "You, buy a liberty bond, lest I perish" and in the photo on the right it says, "You! Stop asking questions, you're either with US or you're with the TERRORISTS!" I think that historically, the writing on the photo on the right was manipulated appropriately. Even though it seems a little aggressive, the message of you're either with us or against us, is extremely relevant because it was the law. We can see this on multiple accounts in history. For example, the Sedition Act of 1918. This act of congress extended the Espionage Act of 1917, and made it so that the expression of any opinion towards the government or war in a negative light, or interfered with the sale of government bonds was a crime. Another example that comes to mind is the Palmer Raids of 1919. These raids involved mass arrests and the deportation of many foreign anarchists, communists, radical leftists. It was actually illegal to be "disloyal" to the government at this time. Anyone that wasn't encouraging the war and buying government bonds was looked at as a terrorist, so I think that the message behind these photos does a really nice job at conveying these times. No questions asked, you were with the US government, or you were against it.

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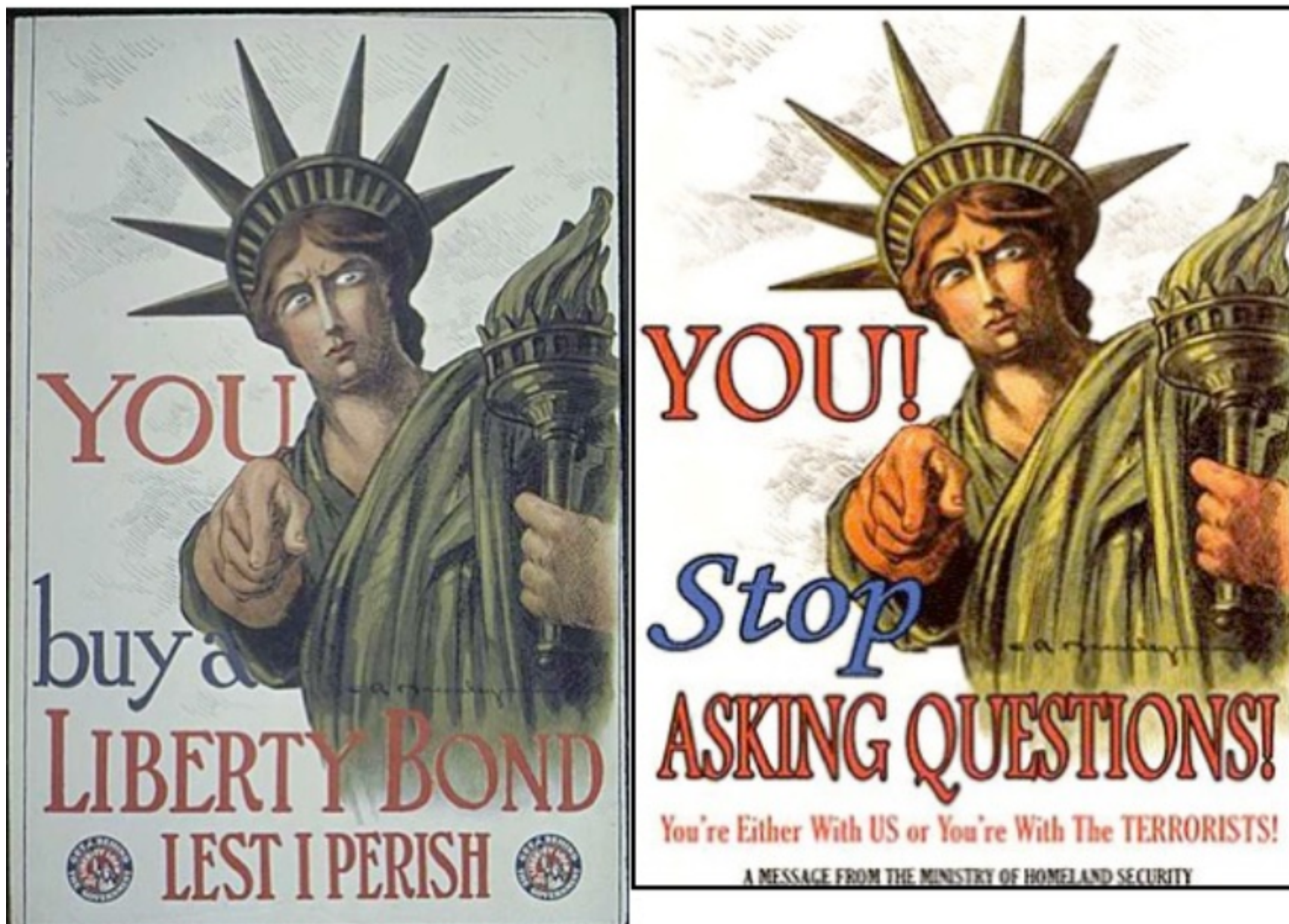
Re: Using & Abusing History

by [Kaiser Slocum](#) - Saturday, May 18, 2019, 1:03 PM

I chose these two posters because I feel like they accurately describe that every job on the home front contributed to America's success in World War Two as well as the large amount of limitations to our freedoms that were temporarily suspended during those years. The first poster was a recruitment poster for stenographers who were desperately needed. As men were recruited overseas, stenographers became in large demand. Although those women and others that filled those jobs were not actually fighting in the World War Two, their contributions in those necessary jobs kept other companies and communication going, which ultimately helped the U.S. to win the war. Although not literally, victory was on their fingers as they gave their best to help their country. In the paraphrased words of the poster, they kept the U.S. flying towards victory.

The second poster is fascinating to me in that it appropriately describes the reduction of liberties enacted during World War Two as a result of the government trying to suppress any subversive, disagreeing, or contradictory voices. I think the reason that the creators of the second poster specifically chose the first is because the stenographer job, as opposed to most of the other jobs open to women and minorities during World War Two, had a large impact on the communication in the U.S. This would then transfer nicely over to the "dire warning" that the creators wanted to convey. The government, through forcing censored news into the newspapers, could largely control what the citizens thought and sway the majority of the public in the direction that they wanted. The newspaper corporations and other media companies did not dare to disobey the government as that would be a quick way to have their company shut down. The liberty of freedom of the press that was partially taken away is an unfortunate fact that the government, most likely the Ministry Of Homeland Security, chose to use. With a simple rendition of a popular World War Two poster, I quickly saw the importance of the freedoms that we have in the U.S. and the equal importance of retaining these liberties.



Sum of ratings: [2 \(1\)](#) [Permalink](#) | [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)**Lady Liberty**by [McKay Luke](#) - Saturday, May 18, 2019, 9:56 PM

I found to the depiction of Lady Liberty exhorting Americans to purchase liberty bonds to be fascinating. Striking the infamous Uncle Sam demand pose, this poster denotes the alleged extraordinary patriotism in helping fund the war. Using the Statue of Liberty with the warning "LEST I PERISH", acts to question one's nationalism and appreciation for their liberties and freedoms. It seems there are many posters of this time period promoting this "obey out of fear" to pressure compliance and support of the government. In the textbook, it states that as a means to "sell the war", Hollywood stars and personalities "sold war bonds, entertained the troops, and worked on documentaries for the Army's Pictorial Division" (Murrin textbook, pg 874). Due to the lack of sales of consumer products, the advertising industry- encouraged by President Roosevelt- sold the benefits of "Freedom" on various products with a promise of a post-war consumer paradise (Murrin textbook, pg. 874-875).

The modern depiction of this poster operates in the same light as the original: bearing a dire warning and questioning patriotism. I do not believe this modern parody is manipulating history in any way, as it ironically exploits the statue of liberty -a nationally accepted symbol of freedom- for government compliance without question. I would not necessarily say that these images are meant to be positive, but to be cut and dry. It is very clear what message is trying to be made.

Sum of ratings: [2 \(1\)](#) [Permalink](#) | [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)**Re: Lady Liberty**by [Daniela Rosales Name](#) - Sunday, May 19, 2019, 7:36 PM

McKay,

I agree with your assessment of both the original image and the modern one. For me personally, the modern image brought up memories of a particular WWII story I read about a few years ago. It was about Frank S. Emi a Japanese American who was interned in a Japanese internment camp during WWII. Frank Emi was a leading

figure in the Heart Mountain Fair Play Committee, this group protested the mandatory drafts of Japanese Americans who were interned during WWII. Emi and the group began as a way to oppose what is known to be the "loyalty questionnaire" that was given to all the men. The last two questions of the questionnaire were:

"Question 27: Are you willing to serve in the armed forces of the United States on combat duty, wherever ordered?

Question 28: Will you swear unqualified allegiances to the United States of America and faithfully defend the United States from any and all attack by foreign or domestic forces, and forswear any form of allegiance or obedience to the Japanese emperor, or other foreign government, power or organization?" ([Wikipedia](#))

Many were confused by the potential complications these questions would have on them because if you said yes to #28 it could be interpreted as if the person had been loyal to the Japanese emperor; if they responded no, then it could be taken as if you didn't want to support the U.S.

Once the draft became mandatory for eligible men in the internment camps, Emi and the committee began to oppose and to not report for their draft physicals. The group opposed the draft because their constitutional rights as citizens of the U.S were being ignored:

"To challenge their forced "evacuation" by the government, they refused to volunteer or participate in the draft, but the Committee required its members to be citizens loyal to the United States willing to serve if their rights were restored." ([Wikipedia](#))

The men who refused to meet their draft were imprisoned under the Selective Service Act and others, like Emi who was not eligible for the draft, were charged and imprisoned under conspiracy charges. Public perception, even among Japanese Americans, was that these men were traitors. In 1945 Emi's sentence was overturned after 18 months in prison. Others weren't released until 1947 when President Truman granted them full pardons.

Now, the actions these men took are seen as early and important examples of civil disobedience. This is why I though of this when I saw the modern poster. Who and what makes a traitor under the eyes of the Government? Are they true traitors? In some cases, absolutely, but in the case of Emi and the other men, no. Yet, they were still seen as traitors. This is why I think it is a very valid and correct way to reuse and change the original poster, because, even if it wasn't made at the time it is still applicable to the time and circumstances.

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