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Using and Abusing History

by Joe Escobar - Friday, May 17, 2013, 9:30 PM

This forum thread is for Using and Abusing History posts and replies.

After studying the required materials, address the individual questions in SEPARATE posts.

To make your POSTS, click the reply link in this, MY post.

To reply to another student's post, be sure to click the reply link within in THEIR post.

BE SURE to use an informative subject line for your post.

Sum of ratings: -

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Re: Using and Abusing History

by Agina Hale - Monday, May 20, 2013, 9:39 AM

I have to say that i've given this a lot of thought in the past, and i've come to the conclusion that it upsets me if it's something that goes against what I believe. If the image is by a campaign or idea that is diametrically opposing my belief, it feels almost an insult to me. I suppose that is the problem that other people might encounter.

For example among the images that are used in this forum.

#1- Freedom of speech, something that I believe in wholeheartedly. No matter who or what.

#3 & 4- Years ago, this might have been different for me, but now that I know the story behind this picture it doesn't seem as sacred.

#6 This is the only one I found upset me. I have a lot of family members who currently serve, and I find this to be hurtful.

#8 This is just hilarious...and I want it as a tshirt. I heard a rumor that the image for

rosies arm was actually a man when it was drawn up. However, the symbolism is still the same.

Everyone is going to see the symbolism of these images in a different way. The point for the original image as well as the second is to illicit a response. Even though I find one of them to make me feel emotionally upset, it's still a right they have.

I found a couple that I thought were interesting. The war bonds image is a real one.



Sum of ratings:3 (1)

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Re: Using and Abusing History

by Lina Flores-Perez - Wednesday, May 22, 2013, 12:48 AM

Hello Agina, I definitely understand on all these propagandas having the freedom in what they portray, whether offensive or not. It's unfortunate many don't think or see how their ad can really hurt some people who come across it. Specially those completely obvious in being very insulting. #6 is also one i spoke about in my forum and the one that had the most impact on me as well. If someone like me who doesn't know anyone close that serves in the Army is offended, I can't imagine how those who do have reacted to this. I also enjoyed the pictures you shared in your forum. The first one really stood out because it's a simple, clear, right to the point kind of message. The two words, "power and persuasion", are two i agree in what propaganda can be best described as. This would be a good one to teachers first lesson in propaganda to show their students.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: Using and Abusing History

by Tianren Wei - Saturday, May 25, 2013, 10:25 PM

I was really impressed by the third graph. In my opinion, children should be kept away from wars and any other things that my connect to wars. In the third graph, two kids were wearing gas mask and holding apple and book at the same time. To me, this is a meaning that children were forced to get involved in war and the reason for this is that war bonds. I would like to say that no matter what happened to this world, please let the children stay in their peaceful world. And what we can do is stop buying war bonds and give their childhood.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: Using and Abusing History

by Gavin Bennett - Monday, May 20, 2013, 10:33 PM

The first image in the set that caught my attention was the first image. I thought it was fairly clever repurpose of victory depending on fingers. It's interesting to note that underneath the image on the left it says "Uncle Sam needs stenographers!". It's interesting to note this because the image to the right, even though it isn't explicitly said, implies that liberty needs the internet because of the relatively free expression of speech and press that occurs on it. The second image that caught my attention was image six because I thought it was a little crass and disrespectful to those servicemen and women who have died from war and to their families who have had to deal with that loss. The last image that caught my attention was image eight

because I thought it was a pretty clever reference in a little pop art.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Blogging

by Victor Reyes - Tuesday, May 21, 2013, 7:53 AM

The propaganda poster that caught my attention was with the women on a typewriter from back in the day, compared to "blogging" in today's world. I thought it was clever because the illustrator incorporated the different struggles during different times. I feel the poster has a positive message in which people should be connecting more on the online resources we have and discuss rights issues and possibly fix them.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Join the Army, Vacancies available

by Kristin Sledge - Tuesday, May 21, 2013, 9:21 AM

The pictures that caught the most attention from me were the pictures of the cross with the soldiers helmet and belt lying upon it. In the real picture it states "a careless word...another cross." However, the fake one boasts "Join the Army, Vacancies Available". It made a major impact on me personally because I have mixed emotions about the military, but have the utmost respect for those who serve in it. This only makes my opinion of the military decline (which isn't saying much since my opinion is so low to begin with) and my compassion for those who serve greater. I guess this comes from knowing so many people who have served and take pride in serving. They feel that they have done a duty for the country, but to me, the second poster completely poops(yes, I said poops) on their right to pride. If I was them I would see it as a guilt trip that I made it home but some of the troops in my squad did not. In regards to the first poster, I don't feel like it is meant to make the public feel guilty, in fact I think it is meant to create a passionate love for the soldiers, a need to protect them and to demonize those who give intel to the "other side". This holds those who dedicated time and even possibly their lives on a pedestal and uses them(it does indeed still use them, but I'm more okay with this kind of use) so that those selling information to the other side can be brought to justice without an uproar from civilians. This first poster I believe would have the same effect that the ASPCA commercials have on me when watching late night TV. If they show me videos of puppies looking at the camera in slow motion, and one with his leg in a cast I'm way more likely to donate money, because I feel that those animals deserve better. The American people would want better for the boys overseas than to be shot down thanks to intel that was leaked.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

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Re: Join the Army, Vacancies available

by Lina Flores-Perez - Wednesday, May 22, 2013, 1:23 AM

Hello Kristin, I enjoyed reading your response because I like seeing different perspectives on pictures that impacted me the most as well. We had the same response with the original "a careless world" poster. I don't see it as a guilt trip, rather more of an eye opener in supporting our troops. Using the word 'careless' is key in letting people know carefully those who serve need as many people by their side as possible. Then there is the second poster, which is very demeaning to the pride of those soldiers that are home safe and sound. Imagine having put yourself through life changing events to protect the country you live in, and coming home to a sign that says "Join the Army... Vacancies Available". Not only would that take an impact to what they have been doing but those who they have worked with and didn't make it. I don't understand the point in making someone feel destructive towards death.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Miss U.S.A & Vacancies Available

by Lina Flores-Perez - Tuesday, May 21, 2013, 10:04 AM

There were definitely two that stood out the most and made me do triple takes to really understand its meaning. Taking a look at the first one with "Miss U.S.A", I was almost appalled at the one from this day. I see the "Victory waits on YOUR fingers" being as more as an advertisement to needing stenographers. They obviously were directing this to the female population. By using a cute blonde with a bow and the title "Miss U.S.A" they portrayed it as a charming and alluring advertisement. The only part that I would question with this one is why not advertise it to both men and woman. When looking at the one from today, I see pure mockery of the real ad. A joke that I don't find at all funny and almost offensive. It's obvious what the real one stands for, so by using the term "Keep on blogging!", they know it's completely taunting. I feel as if they are trying to use the word 'blogging' as this easy, lazy, non productive task. Then the "liberty" part, making a joke of having free speech. I don't quite understand who would make this kind of parody, but if they were really trying to push some buttons they succeeded.

A second picture from today that had me shaking my head would be the lonely cross with the soldier hat hanging from it. I actually think the real picture is a positive message regarding those who didn't pay attention to the war. It may be a bit dramatized, but it does give a simple lesson that it's important to help out with the war that is going on in your country. The picture from today is completely disrespectful on many levels. The "Vacancies Available" threw me off because they are making a joke from soldiers dying. The word 'vacancies' we use with hotels or spots that people come in and out nonchalantly. An easy and without much care in the spot that is being open. When regarding that towards a cross with a soldier hat on it is very offensive. I honestly am not even close to anyone in the army but this one stun me the most.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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rewriting history or reusing what we already know?

by Tracy Tunnell - Tuesday, May 21, 2013, 11:34 AM

The first one that really struck me was the first one with the woman and her muscles. To me it meant that women are only good enough when America needs her. Back then she was pulled out of the home to report things pertaining to the war. Nowadays, it more like gossip. Its really not just about what is going on in the world or in the united states. We see women as gossipers and look at what we gossip about. Take for example, glamour magazine. How to make your man pant after you or what to lose 10 pounds in a week? It is degrading to women as a whole thinking all they are good for is to report frivolous things, then and now. It is just the things that are reported and they are lucky if they get the credit for being smart enough to report things on a more important nature. Using your fingers give you strong muscles. The other one that really stuck out was the cross. A careless word and vacancies available? This really offends me. Here we have soldiers fighting for our country at what costs and its played down like no big deal when one dies? I think people opposing the war back then and today had valid reasons to do so, especially when lives don't really matter to the U.S. government. I have mixed feelings about war, I support my troops but at the same time, i worry for their safety overseas and when they get back home. Our country expects them to fight, but not be rewarded or their families be recognized when something happens to their loved ones? I could say we are fighting a pointless war, but they would open up a whole new can of worms. The war back then, I'm not so sure about I didn't live then but at the same time, I wouldn't want Hitler or Stalin taking over the united states.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

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Re: Using and Abusing History

by Gavin Bennett - Wednesday, May 22, 2013, 5:41 PM

I found this image on a Facebook group and thought it might pertain to this forum. I think there is a little iron in this photo in that Rosie the Riveter came about at a time when social security, unemployment, and other welfare programs were created. At the same time, I think the creator is using this irony to say that the programs that were created then hurt Rosie and every other hard working American then and obviously now. With these points in minde, I think it's an interesting use of the Rosie the Riveter picture.



Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: Using and Abusing History

by Ashley Bacon - Friday, May 24, 2013, 4:08 PM

I've got to say how great this really is. It is filled with irony because as you said back during the original Rosie the Riveter the programs such as welfare and help for the unemployed and disabled was actually to help those who were really in need and now we find that a lot of people abuse the system and get on food stamps and take government handouts when they really don't need them any more. It is a crutch people use and can be quite lazy and discouraged to try and make something of themselves as an independent person rather than depending on the government. People are taxed a ton to support these government programs and I feel the real genuine purpose of this help is truly being abused these days. Successful and hardworking people are in a way supporting those who are abusing the system and because of that it has given these programs a bad wrap even though the original intention was great. to really help those in need.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Re: Using and Abusing History

by Lina Flores-Perez - Saturday, May 25, 2013, 7:10 PM

I completely agree with Ashley on the comment of this propaganda. The number of people using and abusing the government programs is constantly growing. Those who don't value the meaning of these programs I believe don't understand the value of money. And in honesty is probably having a hard time living in the real world. I know people who unfortunately are in need of the kind of help our government is trying to give, but because of others actions it is hard

receive it. This picture is pretty much a mockery of our government, being that Rosie actually represents feminism and women's economic power, as well as the phrase put on the ad with the "tax slave" button.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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WWII Propaganda Parody. It never gets old....

by Ruby Kalamas - Thursday, May 23, 2013, 2:08 PM

Wow!

I love the use of sarcasm in a lot of these images. I am a huge fan and shameless user of sarcasm. For me, it lets me communicate on multiple levels. So, most of these images cracked me up, because I thought they were hilarious. I could understand how a few of them could be considered hurtful or callous. Sarcasm usually is. With propaganda, sarcasm is often used to get a rise out of someone. Because even negative attention gets attention.

Here's my take on the images; my opinion and my stab at what other reactions might be.

#1- Wow. Blogging. What a joke! My sister is an avid blogger, and whenever I look over at her browsing other blogs, it seems to be chock full of images, most of which are either chock full of nudity, poor humor, or both. So seeing this 'Keep on Blogging!' ad was pretty amusing. Also, whether it was intentional or not, they redesigned an ad that was created at a time when free speech wasn't exactly free, to promote the right to free speech for bloggers. (I went to the link at the bottom of the ad. It's a campaign to support the rights of bloggers.)

This is pretty amusing to me, because of the irony in that repurposing of the image. Although I could see that someone might take offense if they thought that comparing the rights of an internet blogger to patriotic duty was wrong and insulting. That's not me, but I would understand.

#2- This one confused me at first, because I didn't know much at all about Bill Maher's stance when it came to terrorism/911/Bin Laden stuff. Apparently he is NOT a big fan, and according to Wikipedia, he supports racial profiling at airports. So, now that I know that, I am still confused by the ad. I suppose it's sarcastic as well, because it doesn't make much sense, conserving funds never seemed to be associated with the war on terror (at least that I've seen), so although I don't take any offense to the ad, I also don't care for it, and I don't really find it entertaining.

I guess someone might be offended, but it is poorly done, so it probably wouldn't piss anyone off except Bill Maher.

#3- This one actually did kind of piss me off. 1st of all, it wasn't sarcastic, so the reproduction was meant to be a serious appeal to the reader. They could have done a better job with the art if that's what they were going for. I actually do think we need to have a serious reality check on the subject of global warming, and it's silly to make it a patriotic thing, because there are a lot of people that don't care for the military that the cover of this magazine just lost. It's *Global* warming, not U.S. army warming.

I suppose someone could find it a great way to engage the reader of Time magazine, or maybe it might piss off someone who supports the military but doesn't believe in global warming. Meh.

#4- I love this band. And I'm sure this image pissed off a whole range of people, probably a lot of people in this classroom. For example, here is a line out of the song off of this album (same title)

*I'd rather fight to spread some tolerance & unity
than buy into their nationalistic brainwashing*

*Killing mothers, fathers, sisters, brothers, common human beings
not savages but people, like you, like me!*

Yeah... that might piss some people off.

Certainly on the far left side of the spectrum, eh?

#5- It almost looks like the ad on the left could be a response to #4, huh? The ad on the right could be a retort to the retort. This one didn't strike me too much, I mean.... Pick a new picture to rework....

#6- Well, my first reaction... was to not want to say anything about this comparison. Because... it is pretty risky. I mean, there's offering criticism and then there's that....

You're not going to get anyone involved in the military to even think about listening to your thoughts once you drop that on them. Ouch. Pretty harsh. I thought propaganda was supposed to gain support for something, not just insult and enrage the opposition and make everyone else really uncomfortable. A little too extremist.

#6- Bwahaha. This cracked me up. I mean, it's funny. I feel like I'm watching MASH or something when I read it out loud to myself. I'm pretty liberal, but I'm not really insulted by this. I just find it amusing.

#7- YES! Star Wars! Hahaha. This one is so rad! I love it. I also like that it isn't promoting any politics really, unless you want to get into what Star Wars is really representing. All great sci fi has real world context.

#8- Haha. Again, gotta love the sarcasm! I thought this was great. The revision is pretty amusing.

At least I hope its sarcasm.....

I've loaded a few internet related WWII/Red Scare Propaganda parodies. I Hope you enjoy...





Sum of ratings:3 (1)

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Re: WWII Propaganda Parody. It never gets old....  

by Gavin Bennett - Friday, May 24, 2013, 6:24 PM

Haha these are pretty funny. But the third image, although comical, does have a serious message and is a clever use. I mean, how many people have tweeted, gone facebook, or some other social networking site and completely ruined

themselves or an organization they are part of? A recent example is former senator Anthony Weiner who tweeted explicit photos of himself to an adult woman. It pretty much forced his resignation.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: Using and Abusing History

by William Jones - Thursday, May 23, 2013, 10:19 PM

I think a lot of these contemporary images are used cleverly while others, such as the Princess Leia one, are just humorous. I do think the one calling liberals “morons” is disrespectful, but for the most part I think the pictures are effective in their mission. They are trying to bring attention and hopefully garner support for an issue they see involving our country. I think it is smart of them to take such iconic pictures from our country’s past and draw a parallel between then and now. I think this method is effective in reflecting the severity of these issues, such as global warming.

I think the last with Lady Liberty saying, “You! Stop asking questions!” is especially relevant. It brings up issues of freedom of speech and how our rights can be violated and restricted during times of war or other crucial moments in our history.

Recently, Cameron D'Ambrosio, an 18 year old student from Boston, was arrested on terrorist charges for rap lyrics he posted on Facebook. His post read, “[Expletive] a boston bomib wait till u see the [expletive] I do, I'ma be famous rapping, and beat every murder charge that comes across me!” He is being charged with allegedly threatening to carry out a bombing and could face 20 years in jail if found guilty.

I find this to be ridiculous and believe that the kid is harmless. I believe he didn’t think twice about writing those lyrics and never intended to carry out any of the actions he spoke of. I feel that this whole incident says less bout the kid and much more about the government and the times we live in. It’s understandable that people would be more sensitive and weary following something like the Boston bombing, but I think this is just absurd. It draws similarities to both World Wars when what people could say was extremely restricted. People weren’t allowed to openly oppose the war and clearly even to this day there are limits. Kids can’t produce lyrics that they most likely wrote with no intentions other than “elevating” their image.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

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Star Wars!

by Kaylee Garman - Thursday, May 23, 2013, 10:33 PM

The sign that stuck out to me the most was Princess Leia's version of Rosie the Riveter. Leia was portrayed as a strong female character who could get the job done, leading a force, just like Rosie the Riveter. I thought the word play with the Empire and joining the rebel alliance, was very clever. The Star Wars series is very popular, making the sign very memorable.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Vacancies Available and the Car Sharing Club

by Ashley Bacon - Friday, May 24, 2013, 3:49 PM

There were two propaganda that personally bothered me if not angered me deeply. TO start on the lighter topic the whole if you ride alone you ride with the enemy... that is such a joke I'm sorry but there is so many better ways to say lets try to conserve our resources so that we may be better of our country during war time! I thought that it was quite interesting how even back during WW2 they were trying to be "green" and conserve gas so that the war effort may have the supplies and fuel to fight the enemy. They could have made a much better ad for such a good message without going to the extreme of saying that you are basicly sideing and supporting Hitler and the enemy. I laughted when I saw the Bin Laden one because yes I get the whole middle east thing with our dependency on their good oil resources. The thing is yes sometimes it is possible to carpoole with people but either way you have to use fuel and you have to refill your car so no matter what you will be "supporting" the enemy or whatever you want to call it because we are so dependent on oil. We have to face that fact that we are going to keep consuming oil for a long time until something better comes along such as the electric car helps the cause, but still needs to have gas for the most part.

The propaganda that really made me mad was first the whole harshness of the message that is you gossip or say anything sensitive about the war you could be "killing" your own soildiers. Yes I understand they are just trying to say keep confidential information confidential...but they didn't have to make it so outrageous. The other one was join the army vacancies available. That to me is making fun of and not supporting the good solidiers that are risking and even losing their lives to keep us SAFE!!! They nowadays are chosing to participate in the military and we need to support their efforts no matter what! Even if you don't support the war we are fighting, at least support the effort made by your own people and not mock it.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

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Putting soldiers down?

by Kaylee Garman - Friday, May 24, 2013, 5:36 PM

I've noticed that several of the people on here believe that the "vacancies available" propoganda is used to make fun of and put down soldiers. I thought

that it was anti-war statement. The message I got from it was war is just a waste of human life. I can understand how it can be seen as making a joke of the soldiers because the poster isn't very sympathetic toward the soldiers.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: Vacancies Available and the Car Sharing Club

by Lina Flores-Perez - Saturday, May 25, 2013, 7:47 PM

I completely agree with the overdramatized propagandas in peoples actions. Truthfully one would be more successful and get more support in making ads that are positive and focused on how it would be good. Those who made the Hitler propaganda were most likely people that wanted to manipulate people in what is right and wrong. Then there was the bin laden one, where it is basically as wrong as the Hitler ad. Yes, these are men that we don't owe any respect to, but when using them to reason the people of our country, It's a complete turn of and I'm sure people will want to keep doing as they please.

I am was happy to read Kaylee's point of view as well being that it hadn't crossed my mind. I was so concentrated on the soldier's hat and so infuriated with propaganda using a "soldier's life" as a joke, I didn't think of any other kind of opinion. It would make more sense on this being an anti-war statement than an anti-soldier statement being that soldiers are doing this for everyone's good. Whereas wars sometimes are started from unexplainable reasons.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Americans aren't what they used to be

by Jonathan Edwards - Saturday, May 25, 2013, 12:09 AM

The two images of the soldiers next to the protesters, and then the WWII soldiers next to the War for Independence soldiers grabbed me the most. With the first image, where it's knocking on today's America vs. 61 years ago, I was thinking, "yeah, that's fair I suppose." But the image next to it is really the one that got me all introspective. Fighting against the British power that was repressing us vs. now where we uphold the similar sort of repression by the powers that be. And it's us this time.

We aren't as bad as other empires have been in the past, true, and that may have come from a desire to be different from the empire that we had just rejected. Still though, it seems when a country has power, it will do what any other country with power does, and spread its influence; even to countries that don't want their influence, (which is most countries). Just makes me think that ideals don't stand up in the light of reality very well.

To quote Harvey Dent, "You either die the hero, or you live long enough to see

yourself become the villain."

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Posters

by Mercedes Shutt - Saturday, May 25, 2013, 7:01 PM

The one that made the biggest impact on me was the "a careless word ...another cross" and the fake one. The fake one makes me very sad. I dont know if i am reading this correctly but how I see it is that there are vacancies because soldiers are dying. The first one I think is more emotional toward soldiers. The fake one was just offensive.

History is being manipulated disrespectfully in most of them. The star wars one I did not find disrespectful. For me I do not try to look into the posters in that way. I think that the media just wants people to look at them and the way they are doing it is by using something that is known.

The message is different in each poster. In the Careless word poster I think it is negative and also is a warning that maybe you shouldnt join the army because of the vacancies due to death... I could be wrong.

Also the Anti Flag was offending to me because the famous picture is supporting the flag and the fake one is using the opposite message. Does not make sense to me.

-Mercedes Shutt

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

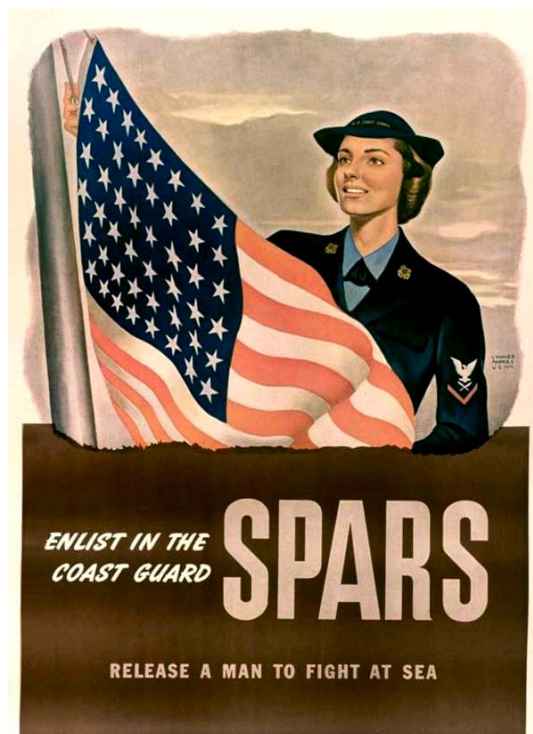
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Re: Using and Abusing History

by Francisco Reyes - Saturday, May 25, 2013, 10:46 PM

To be perfectly honest, I didn't care for any of these posters. They did not have any impact on me whatsoever. I could care less for the use of these posters from their original purpose to how they are used now. I feel that these posters had a specific purpose during their time and were effective. That being said I think you should add some other posters in this forum, like:



The "Keep Calm and Carry On" poster was used during WWII to keep British citizens calm during air raids, but now that same poster can be used for whatever you wanted to be. The **Enlist** posters have almost nothing in common except that they are trying to make people enlist. (One is for the Coast Guard, the other for the empire.) These four posters are a perfect example, in my opinion, on how culture and time impact how we use posters to express ourselves. From trying to give people motivation to carry on, to the use as a reference to a popular movie... posters are just posters that express the current situation.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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