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Demonizing the Enemy

by Joe Escobar - Friday, May 17, 2013, 9:27 PM

This forum thread is for Demonizing the Enemy posts and replies.

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

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

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Re: Demonizing the Enemy

by William Jones - Saturday, May 18, 2013, 5:49 PM

I think the intended consequences of demonizing an enemy, in the context of our class, is to rally support for wars in which we are sided against the said enemy. The lingering effects to this strategy, however, is what I think are the unintended consequences. In "Demonizing the Enemy a Hallmark of War Vicious Depictions Long Used to Whip Up Support," they talk about the dehumanizing nature that propaganda has on the psyche of the public. They emphasize the point that this dehumanizing effect is where propaganda derives its influence from. In the article, James Forsher goes on to say, "When you dehumanize, it allows you to kill your enemy and no longer feel guilty about it. That is why during World War II, a lot of caricatures became animals. And you can kill a monkey a lot more easily than you can kill a neighbor." This propaganda serves to unconsciously condition the public to associate the enemy with negative, brutish, horrific qualities. It makes it hard for those who have not been educated to differentiate between fact and fiction. During World War I & II, people would hear the word "German" and immediately negative emotions would arise because of the negative connotations and stigmas that had been instilled by the government. This effect unfortunately lingers to this day.

Misinterpretations of history and a lack of education when combined with the social conditioning effects of propaganda can lead to very negative perceptions. To this day, there is an underlying, immediate association between Germans and Nazism. The Germans are immediately connected to the Holocaust and people's opinions and actions are inadvertently dictated by this connotation. The propaganda of the 10s and 40s has permeated into contemporary society. The distorted picture of Germans as a whole becomes instilled in the viewer's mind. It accomplishes its mission of instilling hate for the enemy, and gaining support for the war effort.

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Uneducated public...

by Ruby Kalamas - Tuesday, May 21, 2013, 7:18 AM

I agree with your post. Although I do have something to add. The demonization is certainly to make it easier to hate the enemy, and to rally a people together to unify. I believe that when a crowd becomes hateful, the significance of education seems to dwindle, because the herd mentality takes over. Have you ever gone to a movie theater and the crowd started clapping? You can't help but feel the urge to clap, even though you may not have appreciated the moment that you are about to clap for.

This grouping works in both a positive aspect and a negative aspect. Your last paragraph discusses the association between Nazism and Germans, although many people that may make that poor association actually know better.

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Evil Enemies in Propaganda

by Michael Maxey - Monday, May 20, 2013, 11:05 AM

To believe or not to believe what the media or government says about its enemies is entirely up to the individual who see's or hears propaganda. It is a good tool to rally support for fighting an enemy to make it easier in defeating them, by putting the enemy in a different context. However, it falsifies the truth and creates stereotypes of another culture that may or may not be true, which can become damaging and cause more problems in the future. In the last one hundred years, all countries created propaganda about those they went to war with to get their own country's support for going to war. The German's used multitudes of propaganda in WWII against the Jewish as a reason to put them into concentration camps, and to murder them. Of course far worse was done in depicting Adolf Hitler and the German War Machine, the Japanese, and Mussolini. Either way, it's hard to tell the truth about an enemy when propaganda depicts them as the devil or something more evil. The same thing could be said about the innocent that have been targeted by an evil leader or

government.

Today's use of propaganda is more focused at the leaders of oppressed nations rather than at the people of those countries. I agree with Michael James, with how propanda was used towards an enemy in the past and how it has changed focus in today's world. Islamic radicals or extremists, Mohammed, and Arabs have been depicted as being evil, due to the actions of a few the entire population has become stereotyped because of the images sent by the actions of those extremists. I myself have seen plenty of propaganda within the media regarding those who commit mass murders, such as Saddam Hussein, Osama Bin Laden, The Military Dictatorship in Burma, and so forth, but when they show the images of mass graves or bodies strewn everywhere because they were killed with poison gas or were executed, it's kind of hard to not be judgmental of those oppressive regimes. As the effectiveness of the propagand images, cartoons, or video images, they tend to work really well when they are used.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

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Re: Evil Enemies in Propaganda

by Ashley Bacon - Monday, May 20, 2013, 12:28 PM

I don't think that during times of war such as WW2 we have time to really think and judge the information that the media/government is giving the people. The top thing that you cannot deny is the USA's enemy! You can't deny that Japan, Germany, Italy were bad at that time! They were putting peoples lives in danger and were unjust. As we look back at the ways they dehumanized the enemy may have been on the ridiculous side but they had to reach all of the people of the US to warn them and try to educate them about what they were dealing with and who they were up against. I believe if I were in that time period in the US I wouldn't think twice about who we were up against I just know they are bad and thats that. Yes I understand that the US went to the extreme with racisim and causing fear about the enemy coming to the US but isn't that the point? I believe they accomplished getting fear and awarness out into the US no matter if you agree or disagree with their methods of fear. The enemy the US were fighting against were in a way animal-like in their evilness and mistreatment of those they were doing wrong against such as Hitler's treatment of the Jews in the concentration camps. All in all the US got their message out and people may have become overly fearful of the enemy, but that in my opinion is better than not afraid enough.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Re: Evil Enemies in Propaganda

by Ryan Dixon - Monday, May 20, 2013, 11:40 PM

Whos lives were in danger? Americans? Besides the attack on pearl harbor

I dont recall any battles being fought on american soil. While I think yes its important to know whats going on in the world American had it a lot better than most europeans did, they were the families who had to worry. Propaganda goes two ways, and has to be thought about from the other side of things. Germany, Japan and Italy all had propaganda against the US too and had their own views on US propoganda against them. Just more to think about.

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Re: Evil Enemies in Propaganda

by Ashley Bacon - Friday, May 24, 2013, 4:19 PM

Actually yes American lives were in danger. Yes I understand that this war was not going on on American soil and yes obviously the people in Europe were in a lot more danger with their civilians being bombarded with war destruction but we had our own American soldiers over there fighting to help defeat the enemy. So American lives were in danger, the lives of the soldiers and having propaganda against the enemy and education the general public I feel was necessary but yes it went to too great of extremes making it seem like American citizens lives were in danger when really the only American lives in danger were those fighting in the war effort else where.

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Demonizing the enemy effective, right or wrong?

by Ashley Bacon - Monday, May 20, 2013, 1:05 PM

"When you dehumanize, it allows you to kill your enemy and no longer feel guilty about it" "That is why during World War II, a lot of caricatures became animals. & You can kill a monkey a lot more easily than you can kill a neighbor." -James Forsher

Right off the bat these two bits of information from first part of the forum really spoke to me. Whether you agree or disagree if it is morally right, it is for sure effective during times of war. The public of the US at the time was quite naive because technology was not where it is today and real live information couldn't get out to the public. The propaganda videos that we have seen are the best that they could have done and was most effective in making the public see who the enemies were and how evil they were. They enimies the were making look barbaric were infact doing barbaric things to innocent people so if you say that the propaganda videos were too racist or were over the top, well I believe that the US did the best job that could be done at the time. The people did have something to fear. I would rather go over the top and make them see that these people that we are fighting are worth the time,

money, and lives to take down the bad guys so that the world may be a safer place.

The intention of demonizing the enemy was to cause a great deal of fear and awareness of what the US was up against. I think the propaganda videos did a good job at causing fear and education all. You may say they went too far but you really can't be too careful during times of war. The point was to gain support and hope that the US and it's allies can take down the evil enemies who are causing injustice and terror all over the world.

The negative side to demonizing the enemy is that the videos were harsh on not just the head leaders of Japan, Germany, and Italy, but they made it seem like all of the people of Japan, Italy, and Germany must be bad too! I think that because of the propaganda discrimination and mean jokes are still around because of the such evil depictions of their people and cultures are still around to this day!

As for current day propaganda against the middle East and oil is a huge thing. I can't remember the specific propaganda ad I saw on tv but I remember making it look like you were supporting the terrorists by consuming a lot of gas at the gas station. They wanted you to stop supporting them by starting to bike and use greener forms of transportaion. I couldn't belive they went that far as making it seem like I'm bad for purchasing gas and driving a car....

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Re: Demonizing the Enemy

by Travis Jones - Monday, May 20, 2013, 8:39 PM

The problem with demonizing the enemy would be a lasting effect it has on our society in regards to the “enemy” post conflict. The social regard to nations or whoever the enemy may be after a public media campaign are that we create a mental image of someone that even long after the conflict for generations we will refer to and stereotype the descendant generations of the “demonized” enemy. Those descendants who have no direct relation to the actions of their predecessors, yet they will be the subject of indirect relation to the atrocities and crimes that our media portrayed them as.

This cartoon I found here plays the Taliban as a dinosaur and how it related them as a primitive inhumane beast. This does directly and moreover represent the Taliban, but the stigma also carries over to Arabs in general who have no relation to the Taliban besides being from the middles east yet some Americans will treat them as if they were the enemy themselves. While I was in Iraq I met many whom oppose what the radical Islamic militants of their region stand for and how we as Americans can often treat them as if they had attacked the US.



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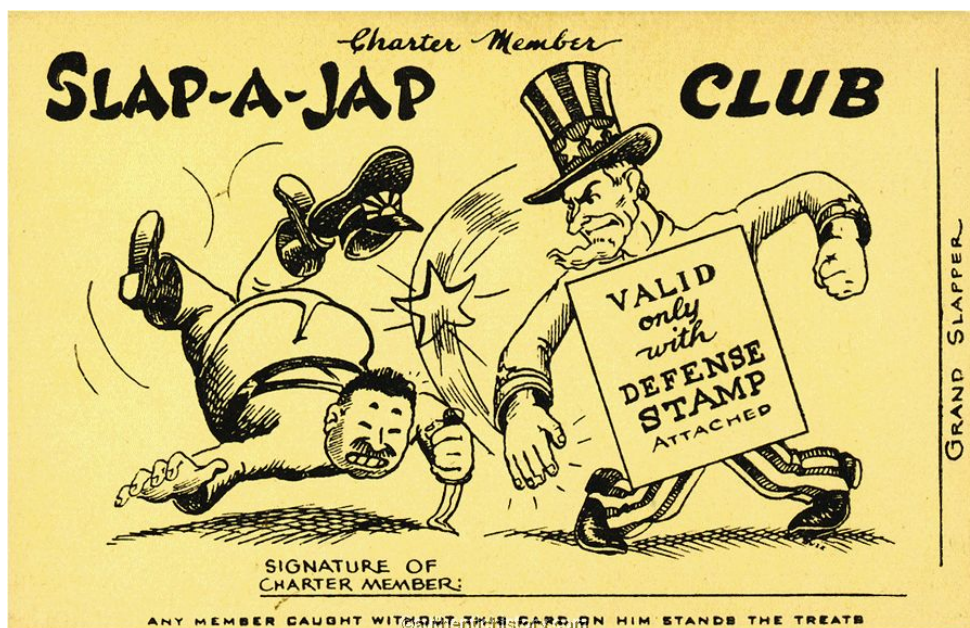
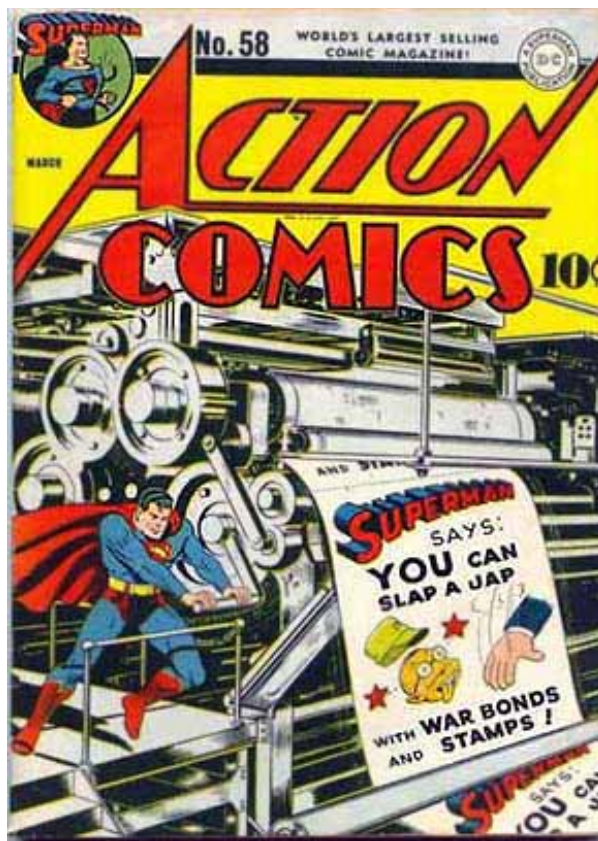


Enemy post-conflict

by Kaylee Garman - Saturday, May 25, 2013, 7:11 PM

I totally agree with you on how the propaganda hurts future generations. During the war people need to buy liberty bonds, sign up for the war, ration their supplies, and all around help rally for the war effort. Posters that say, "hey, be a pal and sign up for the war" won't get a lot of recruits. Instead propaganda was used to scare people into action. When they used threatening pictures of the enemies, people were learning to hate America's enemies. This hatred, after being beaten into the American's brains, was not an easy thing to let go of. The hatred was also handed down through the generations. In the case of the Japanese during WWII, there were tons of propoganda showing how horrible the Japanese were. The propoganda did its job and rallied the American people into action for the war. The problem is that it didn't stop when the war ended. After being taught that the Japanese people were so evil, the Americans couldn't just flip a switch and think the Japanese were good guys. Even when America was helping the Japanese rebuild their country and were told that the Japanese were their allies now, the Americans still felt the Japanese were evil. Now, long after the war is over, some people still have problems with the Japanese.

These are some of the propaganda posters that were used to rally Americans. These comics evoked hatred within the generation. "Slap a Jap"



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Re: Demonizing the Enemy (fading in the future)

PS

by Ryan Dixon - Monday, May 20, 2013, 10:51 PM

Demonizing the Enemy

When I think of propaganda, I think of posters either against the enemy or for your native country trying to get you to feel a certain way about something. I don't think that today we see propaganda in our daily lives as much as we did during World War II. Maybe its still in political cartoons in the newspaper, (I think that most of the younger generation does not read this anymore) or appears on some websites, but i don't see it in store front windows or on the sides of buildings. The purpose of using propaganda against the enemy is to paint them in a negative light and at the same time create patriotism for ones nation. The intention of propaganda use is to get the public to all think the same way about the enemy and strike fear into the public to create a sense of urgency about whats going on at the time. Fear of something inspires a intense emotion towards that thing. Unintended consequences of "demonizing the enemy" may be the lasting impression that the country being demonized has on the propaganda user. Or how the public's view of themselves and their government may change from patriotic to guilty in the aftermath of the events propaganda was used for. People nowadays in the United States have many opinions on any one number of topics and get their information, accurate or not, from a variety of places and it is my belief that propaganda (posters and drawings) are not as much of a factor as they were in years past.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Balanced Demonizing

by Sara Dombrosky - Tuesday, May 21, 2013, 9:39 AM

I believe that propaganda in WWII did exactly what it was intended for. It did demonize the enemy and in doing so, desensitized civilians and soon to be deployed soldiers. Making the enemy appear animalistic, practically inhuman in nature makes it easier to kill and not to sympathize. Monsters are easier to kill as opposed to shooting a fellow human being in the face. There is also something to consider in the depiction of the enemy in War cartoons. For example the racist caricatures that are found in the cartoon "The Fuhror's Face." The designs are hardly terrifying and are intended to invoke laughter, laboring on the point of ridiculousness. Not only was this a way to get civilians to laugh (it was war, everyone needs a good laugh), but it was also made to demean the enemy. Making the characters of Stalin, Hitler, and Tojo like that makes it easier for people to lack respect for them, something to laugh at, but fear at the same time. I suppose it was meant to boost the morale of the people, making the enemy appear silly so that viewers feel they are of a higher intelligence, while the posters that depict the enemy in bloody and horrifying ways adds the proper amount of fear to make sure people are wary and know the face that is being called evil.

However, such depictions of people do not just go away within a few years after the war. They carry on through those who were alive during war time and can evolve into basic association, for example, the insult of calling one of German descent a Nazi. The hatred and fear bred during wartime does not stop when the war does, it lives on in the minds of the people, and can invoke very prejudice thinking. We can also have a misinterpretation of history because the media of the time would blow everything

out of proportion and make up stories for the sake of selling more papers thus planting ill information into the minds of civilians.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

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Re: Balanced Demonizing

by Travis Jones - Saturday, May 25, 2013, 9:28 PM

I agree with you regarding how you said that the WWII propaganda did what it was expected to do regarding the enemies of the US and how we could condition our minds to believe that America's enemies are pure evil and that it's our duty to prevent such evil from spreading. During my time In the army its taught to us to not dehumanize the enemy for doing so allows the soldiers to commit inhumane acts against the enemy, it's quite a drastic change from the mindset of WWII, and how they were thought to view the Nazi's as less than human for how the treated those the conquered in Europe.

I also really agree with your thoughts on how we today still view German descendants with the Nazi stereotype.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Dehumanizing?

by Mercedes Shutt - Tuesday, May 21, 2013, 12:26 PM

I believe they wanted everyone to stand by their country and believe the enemy is horrible and the war and killings were okay. Like the article said it makes it seem more justified. I'm not sure what the unintended meaning would be I think the government knew exactly how people would react to the dehumanizing of enemies. I think it is sad because it still happens and people take it wy too far and how will children learn to treat everyone with respect when they watch or see dehumanizing acts.

How about the "funny" movies we watch where they are making fun of Iraq and people laugh? I've never understood this? and does the media make more fun of the people we are at war with....

yes it defiantly sways the public and in the wrong way!

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Separating Friend From Foe

by William Jones - Thursday, May 23, 2013, 11:14 PM

I think another unintended consequence of demonizing the enemy is that hate and fear transcends beyond those fighting and committing crimes against our country. These aspects that follow such acts as terrorist attacks or wars become attached to the innocent who share physical or cultural similarities with the enemy. This phenomenon is evident in the fear that spread from not only Japanese soldiers, but to all Japanese and Asian Americans during World War II. It is also evident in the treatment of Germans during this time.

This permeation of hate and fear can be seen in current times as well. After the 9/11 attacks, violence towards those with darker skin who looked like those identified as responsible for the attack rose. People of Middle Eastern descent, Muslims, Sikhs and others who shared physical characteristics with the attackers were demonized despite being innocent. The hatred of US citizens was not exclusive to the attackers, but also those who they associated with the terrorist groups. I think these connections are often perpetuated by the media.

Following the Boston Bombing, a lot of people looked at the brothers who committed the horrible crime and said, "They don't look like terrorists." This sentence alone suggests that a terrorist can be identified by the way they look. We all know that the stereotypical terrorist is a Middle Eastern man with a turban and beard. This predisposed notion of what characterizes a terrorist is absurd. Many believe this despite other terrorists' attacks having been committed by whites and other races, such as the Oklahoma City bombing done by Timothy McVeigh. The media unintentionally defines a culture through social conditioning. The public is unconsciously trained to associate a group of people with a certain image and stigma. Restricting people to these socially defined constraints inadvertently dictates the public's actions, thoughts and beliefs. People see a person of Middle Eastern descent on a plane and unwarrantedly become nervous. This is clearly unfair and a terrible consequence of instilling hatred of our enemies into the public.

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Re: Separating Friend From Foe



by Travis Jones - Saturday, May 25, 2013, 9:16 PM

I agree with your comments about a predisposed notion of how we should suspect a terrorist to look. However the reason we have stereotyped these individuals to the degree that has been done, is so that we have a visual image to manifest our disdain towards. The fact we have a face to put on our anger via the stereotypical views we have allows us to release our pent up feelings. Without the images we have created of what is a terrorist via the middle easterner look, we would be pent up and frustrated without the outlet to direct the anger we have after such attacks. That is why with the Boston and OKC bombings we were aghast when we saw that the bombers were white looking. It's a shock to our mental systems and is difficult for us to accept home grown terrorism, let alone self-trained terrorists.

While I agree that the treatment of some individuals is unjust when they are innocent, but without the indirect nervousness towards them we would be debilitated by our fears.

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Re: Demonizing the Enemy P S

by Tracy Tunnell - Saturday, May 25, 2013, 5:31 PM

First of all when dehumanizing the enemy, I think it depends on who gets to us first. What type of cartoon and news are being reported and is this true to the fact that it reports? As we look at past cartoons and comics, a lot of these were blown up to make people believe how evil the enemy really was even though it might not be true at the time. "When you dehumanize, it allows you to kill your enemy and no longer feel guilty about it. That is why during World War II, a lot of caricatures became animals. And you can kill a monkey a lot more easily than you can kill a neighbor." I think with this saying it makes it ok for us as a people to kill another because we don't really see them as human. They are seen as evil creatures that must be destroyed. If we look at the Arabs or "towel heads" that so many people call them, we have grouped them as one and think of all of them to be terrorists. Every time there is a bombing we automatically assume it was an arab because of 9/11. There is a war on terror and it must be those "Arabs" who is causing this mess, when reality that is not always the case.



Here we show us as the humans because we are wearing clothes while holding a bomb and our enemy is too much of an animal to wear clothes while we are at war.

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Re: Demonizing the Enemy

by Francisco Reyes - Saturday, May 25, 2013, 9:48 PM

What really stands out to me is that every governmental power uses the same tactics, they demonize each other while abusing the power allotted to them to keep their governments together. For example, USA is no better than its ideological side of the coin Russia; during the cold war we portrayed them as savages.



I think extremism of any kind has negative and permanent affects on human nature. This discussion for the lesser of two evils is all the same. We portrayed portray our enemies to a dehumanizing manner while our enemies portray in the same manner.

In a post, posted by **William Jones** on this same forum shows great examples of how we view our enemies today. We tend to think that the Muslims and people from the Middle Eastern part of the world as the terrorist. Not taking into consideration that most of the people that have made this terrorist attacks here on the US are in fact from the US.

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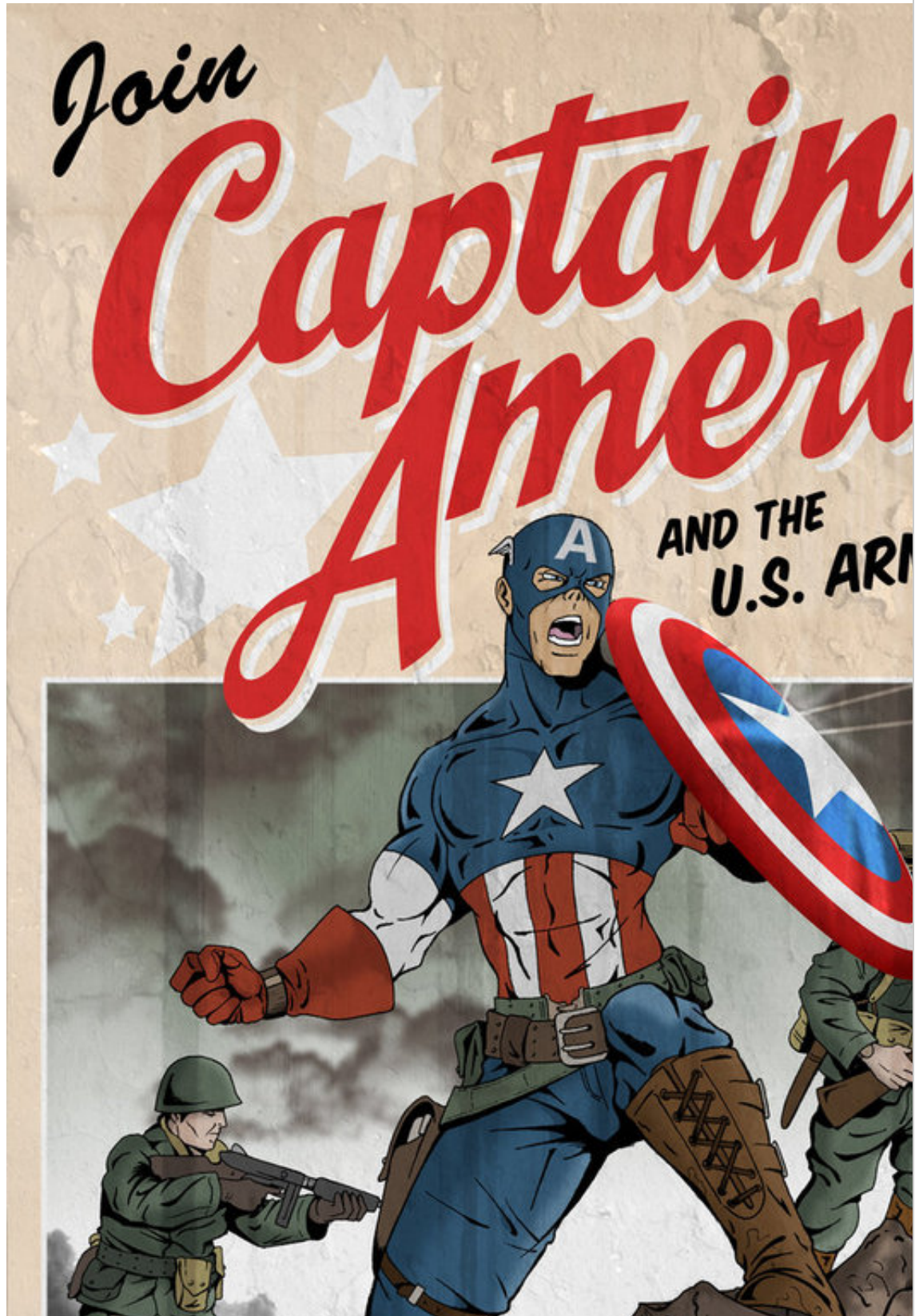
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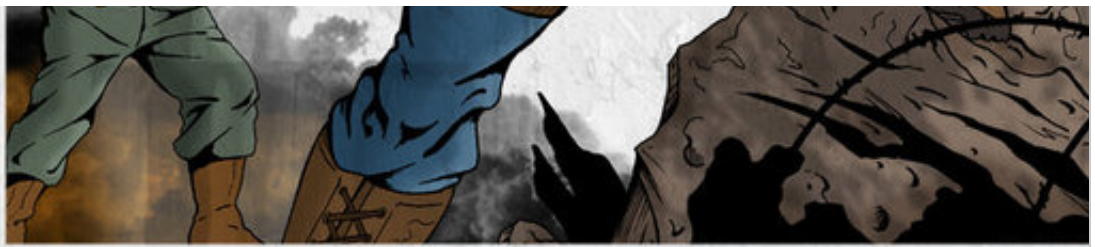


Captain America  

by Francisco Reyes - Saturday, May 25, 2013, 10:02 PM

As a big comic book fan, I always like to talk about captain America and how he was created for the use of propaganda during WWII. **I can go into detail, but you can always use Wikipedia if you want to learn more. I just want to show some posters from WWII with Captain America in them.**





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There are so many other super heroes that were used during this time but none of them are more obvious than Captain America.

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