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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.

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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Problematic Propaganda

by Sarah Lafferty - Saturday, May 18, 2013, 1:55 PM

In regards to the *Demonization of the Enemy* through media and newspapers/political cartoons, in an attempt to dehumanize; is a highly controversial debate. On one hand, living in a democratic society with free speech as our first Amendment; it's our right to freedom of press and opinion. However, I would argue there are limits to freedom of speech, such as; hate speech. In regards to media and cartoons depicting derogatory images of political leaders; I think that is the one grey area of somewhat accepted bigotry. But when hate speech is directed toward an entire race or religion, I feel it crosses the line and is unacceptable. Furthermore, this type of bashing has serious implications.

What comes to mind is when a Danish newspaper back in 2005 printed cartoon images of the Prophet Muhammad with his turban being a bomb, etc. Not only were the images vilifying, but in Islam it is taboo to even depict Muhammad at all, so obviously this was a grave insult to Muslims. Furthermore, the images contributed to a greater wave of Western media coverage associating all Muslims with terrorism. When in reality terrorism has not one face, but many, both domestically and internationally, across a wide array of extremists groups from environmental, to

religious to extreme left or right wing and more. But post 9/11 media coverage portrays terrorism as only associated with al-Qaeda, the Taliban and Muslims in general, also known as "Islamophobia".

So the timing of the Danish publication in 2005, only two years into the War on Terrorism; though prefaced as the right to free speech, was more like propaganda that only served to heighten the tensions and led to boycotts by Muslims throughout the world, escalating into violence and deaths in some cases. Although, as the Danish newspaper said, "the publication was an attempt to contribute to the debate regarding criticism of Islam and self-censorship" (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jyllands-Posten_Muhammad_cartoons_controversy). I think it served more toward a propaganda agenda, and brings into question the limits of free speech. Although the freedom of expression/debate is a sign of a healthy society, opposed to a totalitarian autocracy that forbids dissent. I still believe that free press should aim to practice some degree of political correctness and not make rash generalizations demonizing/dehumanizing an entire race or religion; which has serious implications. Though as we know propaganda (media deception/exaggeration) continues to be a major arsenal of governments and other organizations worldwide, both historically and today and I don't see it changing. But knowing the intent of propaganda hopefully we can form our opinions independently by analyzing the bias or implied intent of media publications.

Wow, and I was going to try and keep that short...oops!

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

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Free Speech?



by Jacob Wines - Sunday, May 19, 2013, 1:56 PM

To think that the government isn't involved in news media and controlling its spin is naive. The left and the right side both have their slants on the news and how they want it to be reported, which creates a paradox. We never can truly know what is going on without being there. I believe this precedent was set by the propaganda films and pictures ect. The government found out that they can get away with it. Things change, but they also stay the same. Things just have to be done differently now.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: Free Speech?



by Sarah Lafferty - Sunday, May 19, 2013, 11:00 PM

Yeah I totally agree with you, about governments influence and left and right political slants in the media. What I meant by free speech, was in reference to our First Amendment rights and to the fact that we live in a democratic society; opposed to a totalitarian one where those rights are

obsolete. Though I agree, it's hard to know the truth without actually being there. When you say, "things just have to be done differently now"; how so? In what ways do you think mass media and news could improve?

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

1

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Re: Free Speech?

by Gregory Vandelune - Monday, May 20, 2013, 1:43 AM

Call me naive! I do not believe that the government controls or strongly influences the media. I think that might be approaching paranoia. The government releases what it wants the media to report but that is not very different than corporate America. I will just name a few instances where the media reported things that were not "government sanctioned" and did not bode well for the government. Please bear with me, I am only spitballing this theory:

- 1) Watergate <http://www.washingtonpost.com/watergate>
- 2) See It Now discussing McCarthy
<http://www.cbsnews.com/video/watch/?id=1065699n>
- 3) My Lai <http://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/seymour-hersh-breaks-my-lai-story>
- 4) Iran-Contra Affair
<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/americanexperience/features/general-article/reagan-iran/>
- 5) Teapot Dome Scandal <http://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/secretary-fall-resigns-in-teapot-dome-scandal>

There are most likely thousands of stories that have been published or broadcast that have been contrary to the interest of government of that time.

I would argue that the media does have a bias, not because of government influence or coercion, because the owners of the media outlets have a bias. It's all about the money. If people refused to watch ridiculous broadcasts or buy newspapers that sensationalize the outlet would adjust to meet the demands of market. The Jerry Springer Show would not have lasted 22 seasons if there were not profitable.
(http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Jerry_Springer_Show)

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

2

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Re: Problematic Propaganda



by Gregory Vandelune - Monday, May 20, 2013, 1:05 AM

I am going to have to respectfully disagree with a couple of points. One, that the cartoons were propaganda. "The newspaper published the cartoons when a Danish author complained that he could find no-one to illustrate his book about Muhammad. *Jyllands-Posten* wondered whether there were more cases of self-censorship regarding Islam in Denmark and asked twelve illustrators to draw the prophet for them. Carsten Juste, the paper's editor, said the cartoons were a test of whether the threat of Islamic terrorism had limited the freedom of expression in Denmark." (<http://www.brusselsjournal.com/node/382>) It is a reasonable but unintelligent test. If I were to walk up to a man and his girlfriend and make a crude proposition, I would expect the dapper young gentleman to defend her honor. Likewise, I am fairly certain that Juste remembered the ordeal involving the fatwa issued by the Ayatollah Khomeini for the execution of Salman Rushdie because of his book, *Satanic Verses*.

(http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Salman_Rushdie#The_Satanic_Verses_and_the_fatwa) While freedom of speech and good manners are far from being mutually exclusive, often people use the former to avoid practicing the latter.

My second point of contention is the War on Terror began in October 2001, not 2003 with the invasion of Afghanistan.

On a matter of semantics, I would prefer to see the media have integrity rather than practice a degree of political correctness. The idea of political correctness has gone way to far, in my opinion.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

2

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Re: Problematic Propaganda



by Sarah Lafferty - Monday, May 20, 2013, 5:30 PM

Thank you for your feedback; also for the correction on the start date of the War on Terror. As for the Danish newspaper *Jyllands-Posten* not being able to find an illustrator to draw the Prophet Mohammad; but finally settling on an image of Mohammad with a bomb for a turban was suitable? (As one of twelve of their cartoons). With that extreme of an image, I can see why several artists weren't up for the job. As for Carsten Juste's "testing theory" for the encroachment of Islamic terrorism on the freedom of expression in Denmark; like you say, it was unintelligently devised. The newspapers publication of an image of a bomb on Muhammad's head; suggests either the destruction of Islam (of their Prophet) or as Muslims themselves being destructive and/or harboring terrorism. While this may be the case for some, al Qaeda and the Taliban, etc. it certainly isn't true of all Muslims; therefore, in my opinion, the implied exaggeration serves the wave of Western propaganda that creates a climate of "Islamophobia".

Also, as for governments influence in media and propaganda; I think it is

there but not in complete control and/or censorship for sure. All the examples you give serve to demonstrate how the media does act on its own. However, I do think there are links between the media and the government as well. For example, in Ch. 28 of our book, it describes how the Kennedy administration, "supported military assistance programs, propaganda agencies, and covert-action plans" (962). And though I don't have the facts off hand, I'm sure he was not the only one who did.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Still relevant today

by Laura Wood - Tuesday, May 21, 2013, 7:18 AM

An intended consequence for demonizing an enemy would be just like the article said, making people feel less guilty about killing off the enemy. It makes people not think twice about pulling the trigger or stabbing their neighbor in the back. I think that it is a very smart way to gain the loyalty of a country or even just a group of people. Some of the unintended consequences may be that not only will the people who see the propaganda dehumanize the "army or military" for that race or ethnic group, but also all of the innocent citizens. Which is not fair because they had no say in being put in that group. Based off of the skin color or what country they were born in, they are automatically placed into a group.

From my own personal experience I would say that propanda now days is a lot different than back during WW1 & 2 days. One way of propanda that I believe is most commonly used for my age group is social networking apps like instagram and twitter. I cant tell you how many times people have put things on there that everyone sees and is completely not true, but yet its getting 1000s of retweets and likes, so people are obviously believing it.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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The Real Reason for Demonizing?

by Gregory Vandelune - Monday, May 20, 2013, 12:36 AM

I would contend that the idea of demonizing the enemy is more of a political maneuver to consolidate popular support behind the war more than an effort to allow people in the military to kill. Before the government sends the military into combat, they typically want to garner popular support. It is generally easier for people in America to accept burying their children, siblings, and friends if they believe that he died for a noble cause.

I disagree with the following statement: "When you dehumanize, it allows you to kill your enemy and no longer feel guilty about it," he [Forsher] said. "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." (Demonizing the Enemy a Hallmark of War Vicious Depictions Long Used to Whip Up Support) The psychology of killing is much more complex than such a broad generalization. Forsher saying that if an enemy is demonized there is no guilt is an ignorant and completely inaccurate statement. I find it ironic that a man who earned a bachelor's degree from UC, Santa Cruz in 1975 would feel qualified to speak on killing.
(<http://www.forsher.com/forsher/Welcome.html>) Perhaps if he had served in Vietnam, I could appreciate his view.

I think that one of the unintended consequences of demonizing the enemy is racism. It may not reach endemic proportions but it does have an effect on the people of that generation, especially if they experience personal loss. In my personal experience, I have seen more anti-Islamic racism harbored by the American civilian population than people in the military. I would speculate that this is because racism feeds off ignorance as does demonizing an enemy. First hand knowledge of a culture negates such efforts.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

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Just a Cartoon

by Gregory Vandelune - Monday, May 20, 2013, 12:41 AM

I'm not sure why they are demonizing Carter.

(<http://markhumphrys.com/poor.html>)



Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: Just a Cartoon

by Veronica Wilkens - Monday, May 20, 2013, 9:36 PM

I think demonizing is a bit strong, but they're certainly calling him a flat out idiot. It's hard to blame them. Making a deal with Kim and expecting him to *keep that promise* reminds me a little too much of Prime Minister Chamberlain and his pre-WWII attempts to negotiate with Hitler. I do think to really make the point sink in better this cartoon should have left out the "communist part", since the first historical reference (with Chamberlain) was a facist leader, but still both dictators.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Re: Just a Cartoon

by Gregory Vandelune - Monday, May 20, 2013, 11:00 PM

That was an attempt at showing sarcasm. I believe that the cartoon illustrates Carter's naiveté but it is clearly demonizing Kim Il-sung. (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jimmy_Carter#Post-presidency) The caricature is remarkably similar to the Japanese representations seen previously.



Consequences of Demonizing

by Brenda Contreras - Monday, May 20, 2013, 2:12 PM

What is intended by propaganda is to get the people to get involved in the affairs of the nation that affects everyone. "For most human beings, it takes an awful lot to allow them to kill another human being," said a psychology professor named Anthony Pratkanis. He states that the only way to justify killing is to make the enemy look as bad as possible. I agree with Pratkanis when he says that "some say, the principle" to Propaganda has been the same throughout history. Demonizing leads to dehumanizing, according to James Forsher.

False stories about events that probably didn't occur set a pattern for propaganda during the war. The Spanish-American War delivered films that glorified war scenes. It made the people go "wow." Hollywood still produces movies like that today. For example, *Hurt Locker*, *Saving Private Ryan*, *Argo*, and plenty of others. These movies will "have you at the edge of your seat." "The everyday use and abuse of persuasion" is the biggest, in my opinion, weapon we hold

Forsher states that **"if things turn nasty [with Iraq], God knows what's going to happen to them... It worries me for the country and for Americans who have Middle Eastern Ancestry."** I agree with this statement, and it's not just people with Middle Eastern Ancestry, but every other culture as well. It's hard to find a balance between what one culture sees as right and wrong. Will there ever be world peace? I think that this can only be established if every single culture on this planet learned why we do the things we do, and vice versa. I don't believe that we can ever fully understand the point of view of someone else, but at least we won't be ignorant.

The World War II posters that were emitting racist stereotypes of the Japanese, maybe, helped influence the reason for people to hate other cultural societies within this nation of immigrants. After 9/11, people that were or looked Muslim were beat and attacked on the streets. The Hollywood movie *Rendition* is about a terrorist bombing that kills an American in a foreign county. An innocent man is apprehended and tortured for information. There is also a documentary about the Tipton Three, a trio of British Muslims who were held in Guantanamo Bay for 2 years. They were tortured for information they didn't have. The *Blacktop Illusion*, according to Jay Winter, a Yale history professor, will "make it easier for Americans to understand the kind of treatment of Iraqis after Saddam is gone." But that doesn't stop racism, hatred, or even fear of

different culture groups that live in the United States.

Sources

<http://abcnews.go.com/International/story?id=79071>

<http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0804522/>

<http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0468094/>

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

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Images of Propaganda

by Brenda Contreras - Monday, May 20, 2013, 2:40 PM

The most memorable piece of propaganda for me was the 30 minute Kony video on youtube. If you never saw it here is the link:

<http://youtu.be/Y4MnpzG5Sqc>

I remember seeing posters all around the school, people were holding fundraisers and getting involved.

I remember having a War on Terror class in high school and my teacher would always emphasize on how the U.S. wanted to overthrow leaders in order to have the successor be someone the U.S. Approved of. The Clinton image is an example of this.

And then there is the Family Guy image that seems to speak what some people might think about immigration.



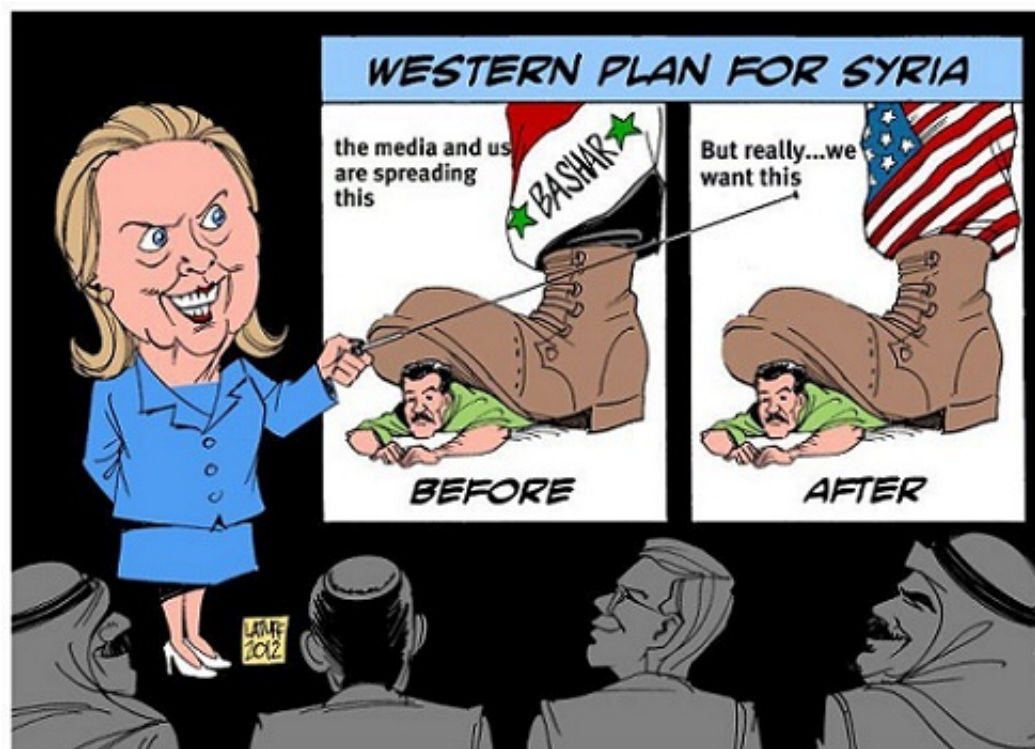
We're going to build a new settlement. We'll have a happy new life, and we'll have equal rights for all... except blacks, Asians, Hispanics, Jews, gays, women, Muslims... um, everybody who's not a white man.

And I mean white white... so no Italians, no Polish, just people from Ireland, England and Scotland. But only certain parts of Scotland and Ireland. Just full-blooded whites. No, you know what? Not even whites. Nobody gets any rights.

Ahhhh... America.

KONY 2012

STOP AT NOTHING



Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Re: Images of Propaganda P S

by Veronica Wilkens - Monday, May 20, 2013, 9:27 PM

Kony was huge! I remember watching it and thinking "this is brilliant! But I don't understand why everyone is so up in arms about it..." I'm not saying the issue isn't important. But this video was the first time America had really been presented with it, and it was like people (especially in my generation) were falling over each other to "help out". That's good circulation/advertisement, I guess.

Sum of ratings: (1)

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Re: Images of Propaganda

by Brenda Contreras - Saturday, May 25, 2013, 9:03 PM

I remember thinking the same thing. There has always been corruption like that. I used to have a teacher that would attempt to get everyone involved with raising cause about the Genocide in Darfur, but no one got into it the way they did with Kony.

Sum of ratings: (1)

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Re: Images of Propaganda

by Jesse Nichols - Friday, May 24, 2013, 5:55 PM

The Kony 2012 video is a piece of propaganda that stood out to me as well, but not necessarily for the same reasons. While I do agree that what Kony did was horrible and he should be punished for his actions, I don't agree with people sharing a video on facebook so that they can pat themselves on the back and act like they're some great person when in reality what they are doing isn't making a difference at all. The "Invisible Children" organization made about \$32 million dollars in revenue in 2012 and they're expenses were only about \$16 million. Their financial reports also show that their funds are unrestricted, so they can be spent on anything rather than just on the program which generated the funds. So where is this money going? My guess would be the founders wallet. It's no longer 2012 and as of yet nothing has come from these donations. It seems to me like a lot of good hearted people got scammed out of their money. Its wonderful that people are willing to do anything they can to help make a difference, sometimes they just need to go about it in a better way.

Source "<http://www.news.com.au/world-news/remember-kony-2012-well-its-2013-what-happened/story-fndir2ev-1226550575923>"

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Re: Images of Propaganda

by Brenda Contreras - Saturday, May 25, 2013, 8:58 PM

I remember seeing almost everyones posts on Facebook were, or had something to do about Kony and how people should get involved. Its a shame if the money went into the founders wallet.

This article talks about what has happened with the Kony phenomena, and there is also a video that says that they have made another video, but it hasn't had as much of an impact on people this year as it did in 2012.

<http://www.pbs.org/newshour/rundown/2013/04/one-year-later-what-happened-to-stopkony.html>

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

1

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demonizing the enemy..Dehumanizing woman

by Karlee Andrew - Monday, May 20, 2013, 8:53 PM

The intended purpose to demonizing an enemy is to evoke negative emotion by associating the "enemy" as evil, immoral, subhuman, or barbaric. In order to do this one uses propaganda, such as war posters that display images of the enemy as inhumane. Many of the images often portray the enemy sexually assaulting a woman, or the enemy as a blood thirsty beast whom we should be scared of. In the materials an author said, "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." I agree with this completely. They made Americans no longer see the enemy as humans, they were beasts and animals to us, so we showed no remorse for there lives. America also used these posters to gain support for the war and form a strong group of cohesion so that everyone outside the group was evil. Also they needed Americans to be scared and angry towards these enemies so they would pay money into the war and join in the fight. The unintended purpous wasthe Americans set a trend of fake and phony propaganda that now it made it difficult to believe the stories about the Holocaust. There definititley still are propaganda going on that sway the public into having certain opinions about certain groups of people. Still today we deal with the dehumanizing of woman. Women are not only portrayed in decorative senses in advertising, but too often they are portrayed as less-than-human objects—humiliated and subjects of violence just as we were in the war propaganda with the german carrying a woman over his back and the japanese.



Sum of ratings:3 (1)

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Re: demonizing the enemy..Dehumanizing woman

by Gregory Vandelune - Monday, May 20, 2013, 10:53 PM

I hate to beat a dead horse, so to speak, but this statement really bothers me. I am attaching a couple of quotes from a psychological study of killing within organized militaries. I recommend it to anyone interested in the psychology behind it.

"William Manchester, author and U.S. Marine veteran of World War II, felt remorse and shame after his close-range personal killing of a Japanese soldier. 'I can remember,' he wrote, 'whispering foolishly, 'I'm sorry' and then just throwing up . . . I threw up all over myself. It was a betrayal of what I'd been

taught since a child.'

This was the first time I had killed anybody and when things quieted down I went and looked at a German I knew I had shot. I remember thinking that he looked old enough to have a family and I felt very sorry.

— British World War I veteran after his first kill

It didn't hit me all that much then, but when I think of it now — I slaughtered those people. I murdered them.

— German World War II veteran

(Grossman, Dave On Killing p. 88)

Demonizing, dehumanizing, or whatever someone wishes to call it does not absolve guilt for taking another person's life.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Re: demonizing the enemy..Dehumanizing woman



by Chazz Milner - Thursday, May 23, 2013, 11:07 PM

What a great source to site for this topic! It really shows how the propaganda can hype people up to believing they are serving a good cause and that the killing that will take place is not wrong because the people fighting back are subhuman, however they are not. When they are lying dead at your feet, and you look at their face, it is the same face as yours. To not feel regret, remorse, and sorry for killing would be subhuman. I'm not stating that I don't agree with the wars that take place, but more that the entire process is somewhat dehumanizing for a lot of people.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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dehumanization



by Tyler Kennedy - Monday, May 20, 2013, 11:10 PM

The intended consequence is dehumanization. After a group of people is dehumanized it then becomes easier, or a duty rather for the soldiers to come in and kill them. The article made mention of how the Germans were depicted as gorillas during the first world war, and how it was much easier to kill a gorilla than it was a human.

The lasting effect that you get is a group of people that are dehumanized during a time of war, but how do you get those images out of the soldier's heads after the peace treaty is being signed?

These sorts of images pop up all the time in today's media. More recently after the events of 9/11 you get tv shows like sleeper cell, which plays in the fears of many people that every Muslim is a terrorist and they all plan to bring down America from the inside out. Turing to another group of people, recently with such movies as the remake of "red dawn" and "olypmus has fallen" America is taken over by very brutal North Koreans, and an all American hero comes and saves the day. These movies in my opinion were put out there to dehumanize the North Koreans, thus making it easier to sway public opinion to supporting a war if such an event would occur.

Do they sway public opinion? Oh yes they do. Looking back as far was the civil war, many people were persuaded to join up because of propaganda posters, it was also seen in wwII, however today it doesn't have nearly the same effect.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Baptism by Fire

by Michael Shaw - Monday, May 20, 2013, 11:53 PM

It's true that making someone or something look horrible will sway the viewer in the direction of "this thing is terrible and must be purged from the earth!" I'll admit that I have no compassion for any middle eastern country besides Israel and probably wouldn't lose a wink of sleep if I found out one day that drones had turned it into a smoking crater, and I imagine that that's a result of propaganda and news spins that have given me a mind set that those who oppose us are drooling savages that the world would be better off without.

I'm sure that I'm not the only one out there who thinks this way either, and when it's coupled with comics that show just how weak they other countries on top of dehumanizing them, then it grants a false sense of courage, "I can crush my foes with ease! Nothing can stop me!"

LITTLE MAN SYNDROME



Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: Demonizing the Enemy

by Robert Badewitz - Tuesday, May 21, 2013, 9:13 AM

As I see it, there can be many unintended consequences from the use of demonizing the enemy. The fact that it dehumanizes them is one, this can change the perception that we have on a certain type of person. Even if what is being said is not true. This can make for a lot of unnecessary hate and stereotypes. This hate and stereotypes can cause a backlash from the other side. This could be seen today in the way Muslims are portrayed. There seems to be a growing trend to think that all Muslims are bad, or evil. Not just the radical ones, though that is an idea based entirely on perception. Demonizing the radicals of the Muslim faith maybe just make the situation worse and cause more issues for us in the long run by just adding fuel to the fire.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Demonizing the Enemy?

by Jason Lyons - Tuesday, May 21, 2013, 9:22 AM

A lot of propaganda in my eyes isn't necessarily demonizing the enemy but rather

trying to stike fear into the american people. For example the whole propaganda from WWII with Hitler riding in the fron seat with you if your driving alone. And like we talked about in class, today we have the same cartoon this time with Osama riding shotgun. Most is this propoganda is poking fun at the enemy but mostly trying to get the American people to bye into what their selling. Its the only way that they can scare them or make them think just enough for them to possibly act and make a change in their life style to benifit other people, like the troop, the country, and the enviroment.





Sum of ratings:2 (1)

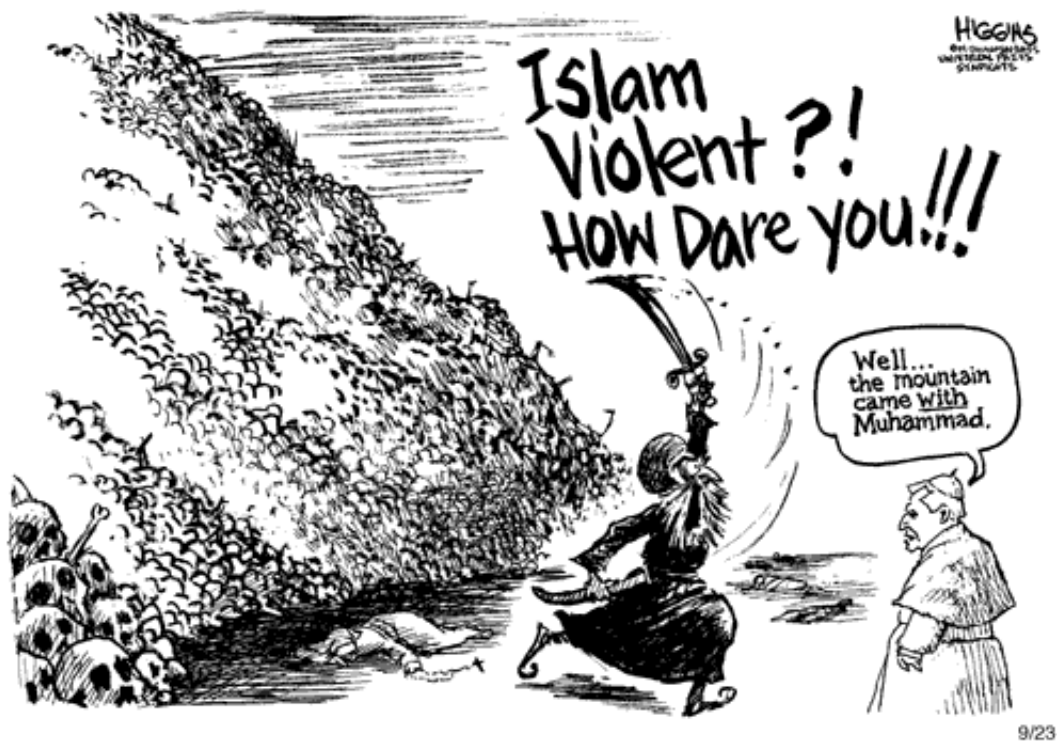
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Re: Demonizing the Enemy

by Gregory Vandelune - Tuesday, May 21, 2013, 9:28 AM

(retrieved from <http://www.cairchicago.org/images/temp/higgins.gif>)



Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: Demonizing the Enemy

by Sarah Lafferty - Wednesday, May 22, 2013, 2:02 PM

Personally I think this cartoonist could have put nearly any dictator (Hitler, Mussolini, etc.) in front of that mountain of skulls; but Muhammad? I think this is just another example of propaganda aimed at demonizing Muslims as a whole. Considering that potential terrorists could live anywhere, I found a cartoon that demonstrates that perspective.



Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: Demonizing the Enemy

by Jesse Nichols - Tuesday, May 21, 2013, 12:44 PM

The intended consequences from demonizing the enemy are quite obviously dehumanization. Once the enemy is no longer perceived as a human being, they become easier to kill and the feeling of guilt is less likely to occur. I believe this can lead to an unintended consequence which is when the hatred of the enemy turns into the hatred of the entire race of people that which the enemy identifies with. Political propaganda can still be seen to this day, but I don't believe it has the same effect on the people as it has in the past.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Dehumanizing in order to Indoctrinate

by Chazz Milner - Thursday, May 23, 2013, 10:53 PM

Dehumanization is a tool frequently used in many different areas of life, and is often associated with power. I read an essay called *The "Banking" Concept of Education* by Paulo Freire that talked about the Paternalistic Social Action Apparatus (ie: "The Man") dehumanizing people in order to "indoctrinate(ing) them(the masses of people) to adapt to the world of oppression." War propaganda and even most of the reasons we have entered into war stemmed from dehumanization of some people's by others. Other country's leaders were oppressing their own people in ways we did not agree with so we feel it necessary to protect the oppressed and in the process we dehumanize the oppressors. The effect in the earlier wars, I believe, was worse due to the blanket covering we generalized All the people, of say Germany, as vicious animals when it was, more so, the people in charge who were behaving in atrocious ways. Whereas, in the Blacktop Illusion, Pratkanis explains that today's propaganda on the war on terror depicts the people of Iraq as decent people being oppressed by a villain. This type of propaganda seems, to me, to be more correct, more direct and overall less immoral on our part and to the people who are not involved in the horrible things that do go on.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

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Re: Demonizing the Enemy

by Robert Sappington - Friday, May 24, 2013, 12:55 PM

I'm going to directly refer to New York during WWII. New York had a lot of Italians and Germans in WWII. So how is average joe suppose to fight against people who are like his neighbor, the Italian or German? They seem nice, right? Demonize the German and Italian people.

It was not targeted towards demonizing American Germans or Italians, but actually Germans and Italians in their home country. Let's also not forget that Uncle Sam had to portray a good vs evil. If we were the good, they had to be an evil. This way the average Joe would buy bonds, enlist, or support the war effort in any way, thus to defeat this evil. Now to beat a dead horse "The only way to do it is to justify the killing, to make the enemy look as evil as possible." by Anthony Pratkanis.

The side effect is that demonizing the enemy carried over into demonizing the people living in the US, who were US citizens, and not German or Italian Citizens, but of their descent. Like that video we saw in class, the old German lady was a victim as a child, from a hate crime against Germans. This is a bad side effect, or the unintended consequence.

Still to this day, I think there are some who associate with Germans as Nazis, or even in Europe as a bully. Not all Germans were Nazis or bad guys, even if they were painted that way.

Here is a cartoon showing the Europe Version.



From: <http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2012/jan/26/german-stereotypes-dont-mention-towels>

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Demonizing.. or is it De-humanizing?

by Veronica Wilkens - Friday, May 24, 2013, 5:36 PM

It seems pretty clear that making the subject of these political cartoons and propaganda ads less human is the intended goal. But enemies are not the only subjects here. Politicians drawn as donkeys and elephants, people drawn in extreme caricatures so they look less *normal*. Most mainstream cartoonists do this. I think the result is less about demonizing and more about making them less relatable. If

someone looks nothing like you, acts nothing like and talks nothing like you how can you relate to them? You have no points to connect with and your stuck.

This may be an unintended goal, but once reached works quite nicely. After all, why would you want Hitler to be relatable? If you Joe the butcher can't relate then he has no reason to support him.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Demonizing Iran

by Robert Badewitz - Saturday, May 25, 2013, 8:49 PM



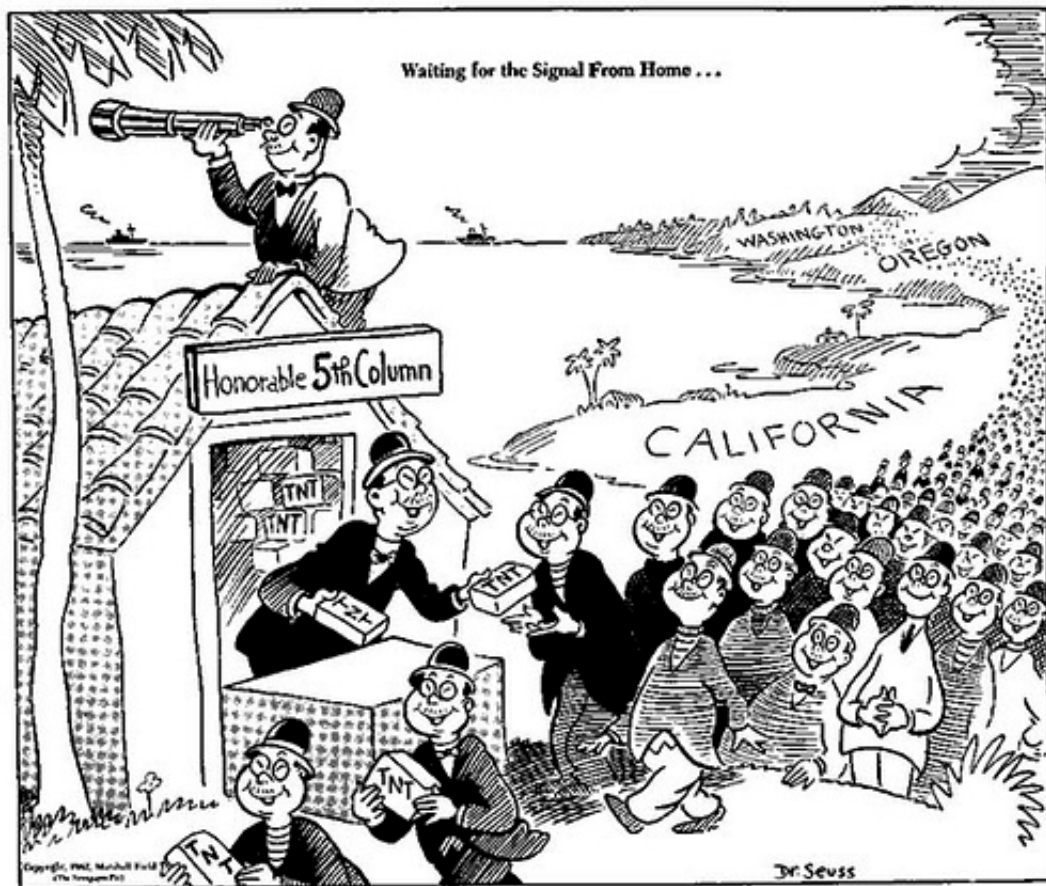
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the enemy

by Robert Badewitz - Saturday, May 25, 2013, 9:22 PM



The demonetization of groups of people makes it easier to influence public opinion. Who would really want to go to war with other humans? If our "enemies" are terrorists or crazy men, then even normally level-headed people want to get up and fight these evil menaces. Don't fall for Propaganda, Think for yourself.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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