

HST 203: History of the United States Sp14 (Escobar Meta 41237 41238)

Home ► My courses ► Spring 2014 ► HST 203 Sp14 (Escobar Meta 41237 41238) ► May 12 - May 18 ►

Forum 3 ► Demonizing the Enemy



Forum 3

Display replies in nested form

Move this discussion to ...

< Previous (Historical Amnesia)

(Using & Abusing Histor...) Next >



Demonizing the Enemy

by Joe Escobar - Saturday, May 10, 2014, 11:01 AM

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

After studying the required materials, address the questions in your 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.

IMPORTANT - SUBJECT LINES

BE SURE to use an informative subject line for your post. Do NOT simply leave it

RE: Demonizing the Enemy

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Propaganda

by Joseph Foley - Saturday, May 10, 2014, 1:52 PM

Demonizing The Enemy

What are the intended and more importantly, the unintended consequences of demonizing an enemy? Have you seen (can you share) related cartoons/images that appear in the media today? Are any of these items (historically and currently) effective in swaying public opinion?

This is a fascinating topic, especially in American History. I first thought of all the time I spent learning about Nazi propaganda in Public Schools. We focused on the

subject much more in-depth in both middle school, and high school. Not once did we discuss the war propaganda that our own country utilized during WWII. We did not focus on the internment camps in the United States, or our 24 hour propaganda machine, but rather how evil the Japanese and Germans were. We spent days analyzing the Nazi Propaganda machine, but no comparisons were made to ours. Our own propaganda is so strong, that we don't even take time to understand it until the college level. With most U.S. citizens not making it to college, they miss the lesson entirely.

World War I gave our government their first opportunity to officially fund a propaganda war. We have witnessed the government fine-tune the machine over the decades, utilizing scare tactics, and of course the press. The "Red Scare" made it okay to fear and even hate entire groups of people. We have witnessed the fact that freedom of speech has limits when it comes to war time. During war, our government will deport, incarcerate, and silence any naysayers. This happened in WWI, WWII, and even our current war on terror. By demonizing the enemy, our government drums up support for the war venture. The support comes in the form of patriotism, funding, and volunteers. We have utilized athletes and celebrities to promote these wars, and we still do.

In recent years we declared a war on terror with a country that was unconnected to our supposed terrorist enemies. The Patriot Act smashed many of our constitutional rights in the name of terrorism. Guantanamo Bay houses potentially innocent suspects who are actually tortured. American's have been conditioned to unfairly profile middle easterners in airports. Most American's don't understand the complex political and religious history in the middle east, they just clump the wide range of ethnic groups into one group. The propaganda and stereotyping has succeeded in demonizing entire ethnic groups.

American media outlets tend to drastically sway one direction or another politically, but they all crack down on supposed terrorism equally. I lived in downtown San Diego just after 9/11. It is a military rich area, and there were pro-war, and anti-war protests daily. Every single night, the news stations would inform us of what level the terrorist threat was at. Anytime the terrorist threat changed, we were given notifications, taped on our doors in the large high-rise apartment community I lived in. We were told to watch out for suspicious activity, that we were never safe, and who to look out for. These practices made many of my middle eastern friends in the building extremely weary. They felt like they were being unfairly stereotyped by residents, and they were.

We have demonized the enemy for war purposes, and even racial, economic, or religious purposes. For decades we argued that African American's, Chinese, Irish,

and Native Americans were less capable than whites intellectually. We tried to display this thought with our limited science, articles, books, and even cartoons. We continue to deal with many of these issues, including subconscious racism, due to our deep rooted theme of nativism and racism. Last term Professor Escobar showed us an American commercial, which displayed the economic power of China in a threatening way. We have struggled with stereotyping the Chinese since we excluded them from entering our country in the late 1800's.

It would not be a sound argument to compare the Nazi Propaganda to our own, or Japanese internment camps to concentration camps, but it is important to learn the truth. The U.S., like many civilizations, has shown great promise, and also the negative capabilities of humans. When we are filled with fear, we tend to react to things irrationally, we watch rights and reality disappear.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

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Demonizing George Bush



by Alexandra Hazen - Saturday, May 10, 2014, 10:49 PM

There is a history of people demonizing popular political figures. It dates as far back as Benedict Arnold who was a General in the United States army during the Revolutionary War. However, I will focus more on the time period I have experienced because it is easier to relate. We can see that people are now starting to find faults in President Obama but it is even more evident during George Bush's presidency.

A clear sign of the failure of the American education system is the general public's inability to grasp the most basic truths surrounding our military efforts in Iraq. It would help if the mainstream media would have focused left on making Bush look like a fool and more on the facts of the war. We are being urged to accept that Bush is a complete failure, and that his war in Iraq has been nothing less than a crime against nature. This is all based, on the fact that no actual weapons of mass destruction have actually been located in Iraq. We knew that Saddam had the weapons. We also knew that he had used those weapons, as did the families of the thousands of people who ended their lives locked into grotesque poses of death in the streets of Iraq coated in Saddam's chemical residues. Further, Saddam had taken steps to bring an end to the weapons inspections in 1998. Those inspections were discontinued until four years later, and then resumed to suffer the constant harassment of Saddam and his henchmen. For a little icing on the weapons cake, we have Saddam's refusal to abide by any of the 17 resolutions passed by the U.N. Security Council from 1991 onward. So, America invades. Documents are found, equipment is found, scientists who worked on the weapons are found, but the weapons themselves are not.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

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Media



by Joseph Foley - Sunday, May 11, 2014, 6:25 PM



I was not necessarily thinking of Saddam (generalizing all said "terror groups", and of course Afghanistan and Iraq), but you bring up excellent points. The liberal (Bush is a fool), or conservative (terrorists want to attack again so we must) U.S. media, both give out a skewed perspective. They lack the proper facts, and wars tend to muddle things up further. Anyone fully accepting data from one extreme media outlet, or the other, would be well outside of reality. (BBC, NPR typically decent)

America has had interests (financial and military), in the middle east, and Iraq, well before Saddam. In fact, there is some interesting history on how Saddam's family seized power, including support from the U.S.. When I think of our history with Iraq, I don't necessarily just think of the most recent wars. I grew up with the first Gulf War when I was a child, and the second, when my friends were being sent there after 9.11. I have witnessed the message evolve over time, but our dealings with Iraq started well before my lifetime.

Professor Escobar has mentioned time and time again, to follow the money (can answer many historical questions). When I'm able to remove emotions, study facts, and understand the financial investments, the picture usually clears up. There are still resources to be had, but I believe we will need to take a more diplomatic approach for success.

I don't support President Bush, or President Obama's military proposals and philosophies. I have yet to find a politician that I completely agree with. I still feel like I'm searching for the lesser of evils. Thanks for the response, and I appreciate your perspective on the american media. I think a large majority of U.S. media did an equally poor job on recent war coverage.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

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You learned Nazi Propaganda? (Just kidding)

by Kenneth Green - Wednesday, May 14, 2014, 12:38 AM

Joseph, loved your post. I lived in Carlsbad on 911 and Directed a Morning Show on KUSI (Rod Luck was our clown reporter) in San Diego, & TD'd the Charger games at Qualcomm. (Recall having to show ID to some kid I used to nod & say, "sup?" as I cruised into the stadium on Sundays.) You're right, it was crazy in San Diego after 911. But we were the #1 local show in the market and noone on our staff ever bashed Muslims. (They would have been fired.) If anything, at least at the local San Diego level, we were very careful as a local Newsroom, to seperate Islam from mass murder. (But we also aired Jerry Springer just a few hours later on our station,) and you're damn skippy there was mass hysteria in San Diego after 911. Especially regarding Muslims, or even "suspicious activity."

But dude, every man woman dog and cat in America knew we were going to war, with

someone.

To Bush's credit, he did state early that we were not at war with Islam. (Maybe his dad whispered in his ear.) Then he pulls the "Axis of Evil" out of his arss. A terrorist group (formed and armed by the CIA) stationed in dirt of Afghanistan responsible for 911. I'm not a Navy Seal but, pretty sure just a few good men could have ended the War On Terror by 2003.

And you wanna blame Media Outlets? Blame the New York Times. The reporting they did leading up to the war in Iraq is not just bad Journalism, it reaches level of mental retardation. (For Journalists.)

So you are correct, homey. Back to topic. Our Government never stops demonizing the enemy.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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San Diego  

by Joseph Foley - Thursday, May 15, 2014, 12:09 AM

Kenneth, I had some good friends in Carlsbad. I lived downtown where the 163 dumps out, 9th and Ash. Great town and friendly locals.

You are absolutely correct, and especially with the local media. There seemed to be a more specific target with national media outlets, but the local San Diego tv/ radio kept it real. They were at times required to announce a change in the terror warning level, or report on a national story, but they never seemed to be racist in any sense. Fair reporting to a diverse population.

Despite San Diego's extremely diverse political climate, everyone seemed to be respectful to one another.

I remember watching Fahrenheit 9/11 at The Horton Plaza when it was released, insane. Standing room only, people seated in aisles, the audience shouting, or applauding the entire movie. One of the most surreal experiences of my life. There were anti-war protesters in the movie, and pro-war greeters outside the theaters (similar protest scene downtown after W did his war victory landing on the aircraft carrier). Everyone was passionate, but nothing even close to violence.

Thanks for the response and best of luck this term.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

1

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Re: Propaganda



by Andrew Betz - Saturday, May 17, 2014, 3:28 PM

First of all great closing sentences, they were pretty captivating. I feel like you gave a nice over view of our country as well as others using propaganda to influence their population. You also made several accurate and well thought out points. For instance how our freedom of speech is limited during war times; and if you speak out or oppose what the governments doing you will be deported or incarcerated. It's kind of odd to see how the government will go to such great lengths to keep the general public in favor of whatever they are trying to do.

You provided distinct examples of intended and unintended consequences of demonizing the enemy. The example you provided of an intended consequence I found was how with the Red Scare we demonized the Russians and how it was made okay to fear/hate them. This demonization instilled a dislike/fear of them throughout the entire 20th century. The unintended consequence is the example of when you lived in San Diego, and how the Middle Eastern friends you had that lived in the building were being discriminated against. I feel like it is unintended because innocent Americans are being looked at as evil or dangerous just because of their skin color, culture, or looks.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

2

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Swaying Public Opinion



by Britney Painter - Sunday, May 11, 2014, 11:59 AM

I feel that the intended consequences of demonizing an enemy is almost to see how much we actually pay attention to what's happening in the world today and to see if we just go along with whatever we're told. Almost like they're trying to say "hey, this is happening right now, and you should check it out."Which then usually points out that the majority of people,will believe anything without trying to check the facts. I say intended because society is realizing that people these days are getting lazier with their concerns in the world today. So in my eyes, the unintended consequences are when people make a joke about a subject,that at the time is a serious matter, and society throw a fit or take it seriously. Again, I think that a lot of things that are showing up in the media, now and back in the day, sway the public opinion so easily. Especially when they target kids in high school/college, people that wouldn't have any idea on the subject,etc. They give you bits and pieces of the information, wheather its good or bad information, or show what they believe in and what they like/dislike about the subject.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

2

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Deaf to All but the Bad





by Daniel Hovet - Tuesday, May 13, 2014, 9:52 AM

These are some interesting points. I do question whether politicians or those in "the marble halls on high" primary reason for calling out "the enemy" or detailing their atrocities is simply to test the water of public opinion. When we see demonization of the enemy, I would say that it often comes off worse than it really may be, as they are not about to list the enemy's "greatest hits"- the reason they are considered an enemy is because of perceived wrongs committed against us or those we say we are protecting at the time. Those reasons are given the spotlight, and portrayed unrealistically, sometimes. That makes it easier to get people angry and on your side, to try and get them to think "hey, I may have problems with our side, but those guys..."

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Demonizing the enemy in the military

by Michael Brown - Sunday, May 11, 2014, 9:40 PM

The use of demonizing the enemy obviously aids the war effort. In the recent wars of the middle east, there were several terms that my squad used in the military. Haji, towelhead, and raghead are all terms that were used by me and my comrades in the Army. This may seem racial instead of demonizing, but it was with hatred that we said it. Demonizing these people makes them less than human. In basic training or boot camp we would have targets of muslim looking people with turbans on there heads. This aides the effort to kill the enemy. During train up to go overseas, we watched videos of "terrorists" training to throw rkg 3s. An rkg3 is an armor penetrating grenade. Then we watched videos of them throwing them at convoys of the U.S. Army and blowing soldiers up with them. I began to actually want to kill them for what they had done to other soldiers. This form of propaganda is clearly effective, but highly useful to train soldiers. I no longer have any of those feelings. The unintended consequence would be when a soldier returns from a tour of a duty and sees someone from the middle east and refers to them in a hateful manner, when in fact they are not terrorists. I think that demonizing the enemy most definitely makes it easier to kill someone, even though I did not have to pull the trigger in my tour. It helped in WW1 as well as WW2. The picture in my post is one of several t-shirts or patches that some military members buy to reinforce behavior and make them feel good about what they did. I think this is a form of propaganda.



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Re: Demonizing the enemy in the military

by Kenneth Green - Friday, May 16, 2014, 8:53 PM

Thank you for your service. Your post is a primary source of History. It's impossible to add or subtract from anything you have to say, because you were there. Perhaps, among the things we got right in much of the muddle over the last decade is that we as civilians have grown wiser from our (well it was my father's generation) (your grandfathers) experience of how we totally dissed Vietnam Vets after that war. You guys are sent do your job, and do it with professionalism and courage. (Dude, none of us can imagine it.) We owe you gratitude, even as we debate how we deploy our troops politically. Again, thank you for your service, and your insightful post.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: Demonizing the enemy in the military

by Michael Brown - Friday, May 16, 2014, 8:59 PM

I am not quite sure if you are being sarcastic or not. However, I am leaning more towards the idea that you are. Regardless, I do not feel I deserve gratitude for what I did. I was not in combat even though my mos was 11c and I was 11b qualified. I was in the National Guard and not active duty. Some veterans did a duty worthy of respect or honor. I do not feel my experience or deployment deserves that.

Sum of ratings: (1)

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Re: Demonizing the enemy in the military

by Alex Quadrini - Saturday, May 17, 2014, 5:28 PM

My Aunt is actually a Colonel in the Marine Core and has done several tours throughout the middle east and in recent years due to my own curiosity and through conversation she expressed to me several times the distinct and upfront hatred and conscious mentality the soldiers have towards the enemy, due to direct influence from basic training and other practices held within the military structure. The ways in which the enemy is portrayed and trained upon within soldiers she said built a firm infrastructure of anger and moral obligation to fight and essentially "pull the trigger" for the US and their fellow soldiers. War is War and what happens there can only be judged or experienced by those head first into it but there is a definitely a way in which some are mentally captivated by their ranks to progressively act in a certain preferred manner for the desired outcome of such a war

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Re: Demonizing the enemy in the military

by Michael Brown - Saturday, May 17, 2014, 6:55 PM

Thanks for sharing. I liked the positive reinforcement.

Sum of ratings: (1)

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Experience sculpts us.

by Jesse Flannery - Saturday, May 17, 2014, 7:10 PM

Alex:

Your post reminds me of the lady in the video talking about how we couldn't convince anyone from that era that the bomb was a bad idea. Ending the war, and getting our soldiers back home was all that mattered. They witnessed the horror of their sons dying. All they wanted was an end to the war. The bomb brought that. I don't think I could even argue with her knowing why she believed it was a good idea. I believe that living through something can, and will change you. I definitely agree that you can't judge something as well if you haven't been a part of it!

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Still not quite sure who the enemy is

by Jesse Flannery - Sunday, May 11, 2014, 9:42 PM

Just as Pratkanis said. It would take a lot to get someone to kill another human being. We are willing to protect ourselves against bodily harm, so it makes sense that demonizing the enemy would make going to war, or even killing them an easier choice. We use propaganda to draw support for war, and to create animosity toward the people we are

going to war with. The problem that arises from this, seems constant. We also carry that animosity over toward people in our own country. We are a country of many races. No matter what country we have conflict with there is always going to be a group here at home. So while we try to make it ok to attack, or intervene in another countries affairs. We tend to create a dissent toward immigrants of the hostile country. Jay Winter said. "The Arab is now a stock figure, a caricature, a symbol of fanaticism, of infinite cruelty and no regard for human rights." After September 11th hate crimes against Arab americans rose. They talk about the blacktop illusion, where they show people of Iraq as decent people, and demonize the leader as an oppressor. Even with these types of propaganda in place you still see that racial consistency occur. As people I feel like we need a scapegoat. We try to use a leader like Osama or Saddam, but there will always be people who want to blame someone here.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

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Re: Still not quite sure who the enemy is

by Kenneth Green - Friday, May 16, 2014, 9:44 PM

You're right, the quote that we have to (paraphrased) "dehumanize the enemy to make them easier to kill" is a constant theme in this forum. It's appropriate how you bring it home.

I tend to gravitate to the "Axis of Evil" designation after 911 as a perfect example of our Leader's demonizing the enemy. The Rulers in Iran, Iraq and North Korea were certainly not cute wittle kittens in 2002. But it definitely foreshadowed where the neo-cons were going in terms of military intervention. If there were energy resources in Africa at the time, (which now we know exists especially in new energy technology) Bush could have easily designated a checker-board of Evil. How many cruel and inhumane despots rule in Africa? (To his credit Bush did support Africa as much as any modern President) but the point? Those despots in Africa weren't included in the "Axis of Evil" for some reason. Oh yeah, prevailing geo-politics.

It's too easy to get off the subject of History, so as you mention, the people who suffer from statements like "Axis of Evil" are those immigrants from "evil" Countries who live within our borders. Be it Japanese interment or the modern hate crimes you speak of, our Leaders need to choose words, wisely.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Manipulation - Manipulation - Manipulation

by Linh Tran - Monday, May 12, 2014, 12:41 PM

Demonizing the enemies has been a priority in propagandas targeting support from community for government's actions as well as hatred towards the claimed-to-be enemies. The matter is that none or very few of these stories are true, yet they are so powerful that most of the time they widely achieve what they aim for. The reason here might be the fact of attacking the enemies by exaggeration and making up of moral and social wrongs, violence that threatens safety and peace of the homeland, which directly target right at the patriotism, moral acceptance of the community. Therefore, they gain such sympathy and support for the government yet hatred and abhorrence toward the enemy. Most of the time, we see propagandas attack the enemy on branches of American nativism: racial, anti-Catholic, and anti-radical. Again, they are so effective that immediately won most people without giving them a crack to think whether or not the stories and message are accurate. That is the case of some point in a lifetime for most of us. Usually not until going to college and being informed and taught of propagandas, we started to realize and aware ourselves of manipulation from our own government. Yet this manipulation does not stop in the history that we study. If paying attention, different forms of propagandas are still in the game today, especially of the anti-terrorism and anti-Muslim trend after the attack of 9-11. Using not as much effort in poster as in the old days, propagandas now associate greatly with Hollywood movies. In the recent years, there is a significant amount of movies with Muslims being "the bad guys." The consequence: hatred towards innocent people who just practice their nothing-wrong religion. It is kind of ridiculous to see many Muslim-looking people to be stopped and very carefully checked in many security gates of many airports in the U.S. due to our bad stereotypes.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Re: Manipulation - Manipulation - Manipulation



by Linh Tran - Monday, May 12, 2014, 12:45 PM

If speaking from a foreigner's point of view, it would be not as much of my concern if this stereotype only stays in the U.S. However, it creates a global of anti-Muslim. The reason is that the stated Hollywood products are so popular in other countries. Growing up in Vietnam, I watched lots of Hollywood movies. Unintentionally, I as well as many people in Vietnam drew a conclusion for ourselves: Muslim are bad; Muslims are bunch of terrors who posses bombs and nuclear powers that want to destroy the world. Moving to the U.S. pursuing my education, I made friends with a lot of Middle Eastern international students here. I remember my parents' reaction seeing my picture with some Middle Easterners – they were shocked and even told me not to be too close to them. That was the moment when I realized how effectively and massively propagandas shape our mindsets from... things that are not even true. Wow!!!

Here are some recent political cartoons that I found targeting anti-Muslim problems:



Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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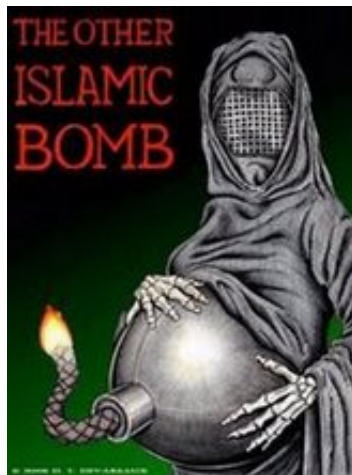
Re: Manipulation - Manipulation - Manipulation

by Linh Tran - Saturday, May 17, 2014, 9:04 PM

Here are some other cartoons related to the topic



I found this comparison between the U.S. Statue of Liberty and the "Lady Liberty" of the Islam countries ridiculous. The attention here focuses on the Islam lady with the bomb in her hands resembling liberty by destroying, terroring (What?) We might have taken this way too far on our ideas of stereotyping Muslim and Islam here.



These cartoons seem to attack toward the Islamic women, maybe due to their way of dressing that somehow mysterious to people? My best guess for the interpretation of the cartoon above is the statement of new baby would be born into terrorism and eventually become a terror him/herself - bombing as a tradition generations after generations. As a woman myself, this cartoon to me is just wrong, especially on it uptake of babies and pregnant woman.



An Islam woman associates with a member KKK? What now? This last cartoon really got me thinking of how demonizing can be made by many approaches, including grouping the "demons" for an easier access of hatred.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: Manipulation - Manipulation - Manipulation

by Andrew Betz - Tuesday, May 13, 2014, 12:41 AM

You brought up a good point about how propaganda is still relevant and being used today. You were talking about how anti-Muslim propaganda is portrayed through Hollywood movies, and how propaganda posters aren't used as much in today's society. Also what you said about your parents warning you about getting to close to "them" after seeing you in a picture with some friends caught my attention. It got me thinking about how subliminal propaganda portrayed in movies creates this negative stereotype/ demonizing effect on a certain group. All in all that was a good insight on the effects of demonizing an enemy can have. You provided proof that the demonizing done by American Hollywood films creates a negative view of Muslims for other people in other countries around the world. If those views are being created around the world then their definitely present here.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Love Your Enemy

by Kenneth Green - Monday, May 12, 2014, 10:13 PM

We need only look to God Himself as the first propagandist to demonize the enemy. In the Old Testament, God tells Joshua to kill "every man woman child and animal" of the nations the Israelites were commanded to conquer. So in this tradition, the first intended consequence of demonizing the enemy, as stated in the article, is to portray them as less than human. As Forsher stated, we don't feel as guilty killing people who aren't human. And the repugnant side of using ancient tribal war practices as religion, is that fundamentalists in every religion don't see people of other religions as human. Humans worship the correct God. So the discussion has to start with the "big guy" and why we demonize others in the first place. (Or at least an understanding of ancient cultures.)

As far as the unintended consequences, I think of a clip I saw of Reagan visiting the Soviet Union just before its fall. A reporter asks him, "Do you still think the Soviet Union is an Evil Empire?" His reply, standing on Soviet soil, "Uh, well, no." Give the "Gipper" props for evolving. But unfortunately I believe he unleashed an US verses THEM mentality into his Party that sees little hopes of evolving intellectually in 2014. Many in the GOP even see people in their own Country as the "enemy" and have little qualms demonizing them. (Both Parties do it, both Parties do it. The GOP is just a little better at it.) But the unintended consequence is that we either forget the mantra, "Love Your Enemy," or become unable to evolve enough to do so.

The old-school mass propaganda of WWI or WWII would have little effect these days because of Social Media. Kids are connected to other kids from around the world and of every religion and culture. (This can work in reverse if kids only associate on-line with others who fall victim to demonizing propaganda, and turn inward.) Lane hosted an International Music Festival last week. I saw kids of every nation and religion having great fun together in unity and harmony. It's hard to demonize your friends.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

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Re: Love Your Enemy

by Michael Brown - Tuesday, May 13, 2014, 5:42 PM

I do not see how God could possibly be a propagandist. Where does he refer to human life as not human life? I think he loves everyone the same in reference to the bible. When he commands animals to be killed, he literally means animals. Look forward to hearing back from you.

Sum of ratings: (1)

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Dehumanize your enemy

by Jesse Flannery - Saturday, May 17, 2014, 3:49 PM

As a non religious person, I definitely agree that the line "every man woman child and animal" could be interpreted as propaganda. I'm sure that it means to literally kill all the living things, but it definitely would be grouping the humans and animals together. I definitely think that this could and is interpreted in the wrong way regularly. You don't have to look too hard to find news about religious violence. People are constantly taking the words they read in religious texts to the extreme. So maybe God doesn't hate any people, but the words written by people may contain enough propaganda to

get people to act extremely.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: Dehumanize your enemy

by Michael Brown - Saturday, May 17, 2014, 7:59 PM

You make a few valid points, however the initial post states that "God is the first propagandist". I can not agree with that in any way. I can see and do know that the bible has been interpreted in many ways and also misused. The initial post I think qualifies as misuse. I can see how the single scripture could be misinterpreted as propaganda in the way you explained it. Again, I do not think it is though. I am a believer of the Bible and Jesus Christ as God.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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I'm Right/Wrong!

by Jesse Flannery - Saturday, May 17, 2014, 10:26 PM

That's fair, I don't believe I could ever interpret the bible in the same way as you, or even Kenneth. We all see things in our own way. Based on beliefs, prior experiences, and upbringing. As I stated before my interpretation, Kenneth's, or yours vary vastly. When I stated things in the bible could be interpreted in the wrong way I guess that's from my standpoint. From yours Kenneth, and I are wrong. So we are both wrong, and right. I'm cool with that. We are lucky, that we are allowed the choice.

Sum of ratings: (1)

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Re: I'm Right/Wrong!

by Michael Brown - Saturday, May 17, 2014, 11:24 PM

I couldn't agree with you more in the sense that we are allowed the choice. That's what makes us all unique. I also believe there are some things we can learn from one another. God bless

Sum of ratings: (1)

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The enemy and public opinion

by Emily Kiernan - Monday, May 12, 2014, 10:06 PM

I believe that by demonizing the enemy you are in turn dehumanizing as well as delegitimizing them. Once you see your enemy as being subhuman it becomes much easier to develop hatred towards them as well as to justify their killing without guilt. However, the unintended consequence becomes seeing people who aren't the enemy in

the same way. This was seen when during WWII when the government issued posters that distinguished between that distinguished between our Japanese enemies and Chinese adversaries. Another unintended consequence of demonizing the enemy is that it ultimately perpetuates racism as well as nationalistic ideas and attitudes towards other groups. In today's media we frequently see examples of these images. Throughout the early 2000's these images were especially prevalent in regards to the war on terror in the Middle East.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Hit the nail on the head



by Connor McCabe - Tuesday, May 13, 2014, 12:31 AM

Before I read the material I had a pretty clear idea of what I was going to say. After reading I have only reassured what was on my mind. We as a society do not find it easy to kill each other (in general). Whether it is now or 2000 years ago an outright blind murder is out of the question, but given a motive things change. If the person did something to you/ a family member you are given a very personal reason to hate a person. If they attack your religion/ people you feel a connection to those that are hurting and take personal offense to it. If you read of the horrible acts someone has done you will likely think less of them and picture them as less than human. Whether we project the image or it is projected for us we will always need a reason to hate someone and will need a really good reason to hate someone to the point of killing them.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: Cultural Wedge



by Shane Lundberg - Tuesday, May 13, 2014, 9:41 AM

Dehumanizing the enemy through war propaganda has always been the government's way of enchanting and mystifying the American population during war time, especially those that have to do the dirty work. Although this media "pill" might take the sting away from knowing the truth about war it has many adverse side effects. Firstly, it creates problems at home because it drives a wedge between culturally different communities. Although a simple political cartoon might make it easier to justify going all the way across the world to seek out and kill people, it stirs up a lot of negative religious tension. Furthermore, the views and beliefs that we develop today about the "enemy" carry over to the next generation leaving a stain on American culture. The problem with this is that it gains us no progress in tolerating different worldly views and begins to chip away at the one aspect that makes our country unique; our differences. This melting pot of cultures is what makes America, well, American, and when we demonize the enemy it not only hurts us but generations to come.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Demonizing



by Andrew Betz - Tuesday, May 13, 2014, 11:52 AM

Demonizing an enemy is very common if you look at American history. There are intended as well as unintended consequences that come along with it. For example during the first Gulf war the forum material states the Saddam was called the "The Butcher of Baghdad"; I feel like this creates an intended consequence of causing the American public to feel hatred towards Saddam. This in turn would create support for going to war and removing the dictator from power.

“The images in the news media show the people of Iraq as decent people, and that the evil resides at the top, in Saddam Hussein.” This creates what is called a black top illusion. This illusion allows Americans to “understand kind treatment of Iraqis after Saddam is gone.” So the Demonizing is done to make the citizens of the country not at fault, and the reason they are considered “evil” is because of their leader. However creating this dislike of ones enemy by demonizing them leaves a lasting impression on the American people. That lasting impression could be considered an unintended consequence because instead of just hating the demonized leader, now the population feels dislike towards the citizens of that country. Which could cause negative relations in the future; you can look at Russia as an example of that.

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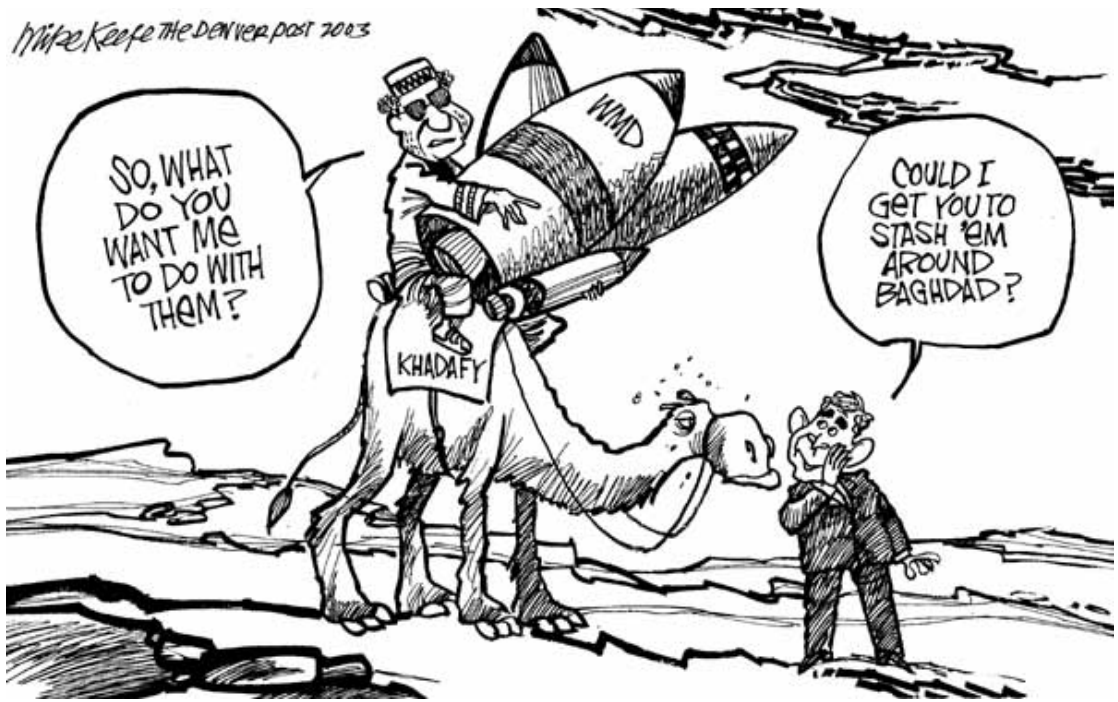


Public Manipulation



by Alejandro Alvarado - Tuesday, May 13, 2014, 12:23 PM

In a nations effort to preserve and protect their ideas/interests, one needs to make their population believe as they want them to. Governments from all over the world have used propaganda as a method to sway their publics opinion in time of war to their benefit. The intention is to be able to create and frame issues that call for military intervention. By demonizing the enemy and portraying them as animals, the public can be moved toward the war effort with less guilt in killing these inhumanly figures. Also unintentionally one can be discredited with exaggerated propaganda that eventually comes out as an attempt to deceive, such as in this cartoon.



Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Re: Demonizing the Enemy

by Alex Quadrini - Tuesday, May 13, 2014, 12:58 PM

Demonizing the enemy is a practice The US has carried almost as a tradition through its expansion as a world power and involvement in sequential wartime and political events. Back in the days of the Spanish-American war and even WWI propaganda was much easier to produce in a realistic and believable tone due to the lack of presiding knowledge our US citizens had regarding the subject matter. People were unaware of the true nature of our foreign enemies along with their culture and humanistic value as a people. It was much easier to produce these images with such drastic condescending tones and vivid barbaric imagery. Casting images of the enemy as animals and brutes was one of our favorite methods used. The concept of implanting a dark, inhuman and violent conceptual view of the wartime enemy to rally US support for its government actions and involvement was in reality a genius idea, who's to say the US would have had half it's citizens support if they knew truly how they enemy behaved and acted upon this times of war. Not to say there weren't actions performed by enemies that could be viewed as acts against humanity, but most often the imagery was far from the reality or a skewed view. This form of propaganda evolved and progressed over time and had to evolve with the regression of technology. As technology advanced so did the wartime media and what the people at home could hear and read regarding the current status of the war/event. Today the media is so advanced that we see videos, pictures and all other forms of instant media that our government cent just post these animated adaptations of our enemies and have as much credibility, thats where the news comes in and very carefully through selected images and videos are shared with the public in sequence to host fear and anger in the eyes of our citizens to see some would day only the negative images of our enemy and not show the carnage and devastation we cause abroad, out of sight and out mind you might say.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

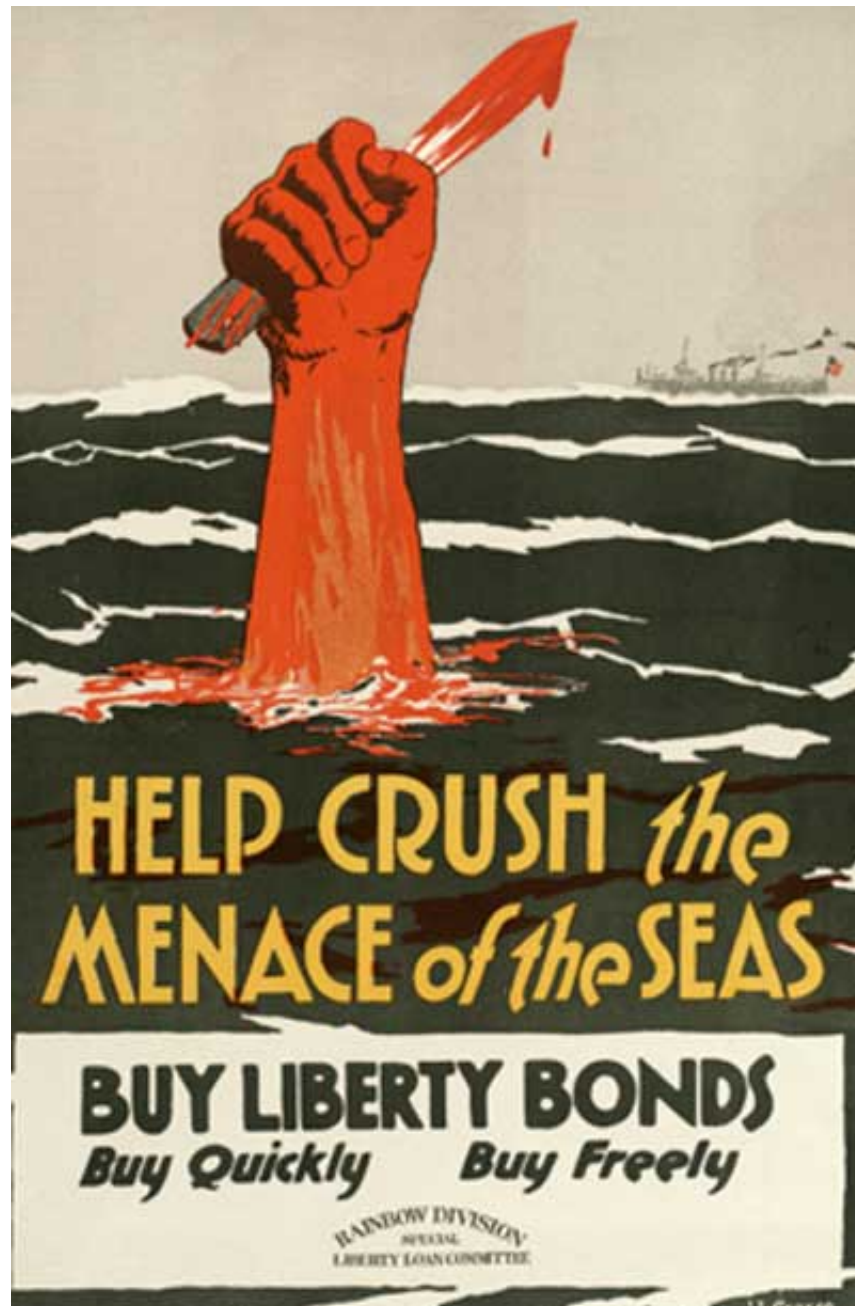
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Re: Demonizing the Enemy

by Alex Quadrini - Tuesday, May 13, 2014, 1:05 PM

These are two pieces of propaganda from WWI clearly depicting the Nazi regime as a bloody political dictatorship that is a evil menace to the way of a US democracy, a clear and common standpoint to the way the US portrayed Germany during wartime.





Sum of ratings:1 (1)

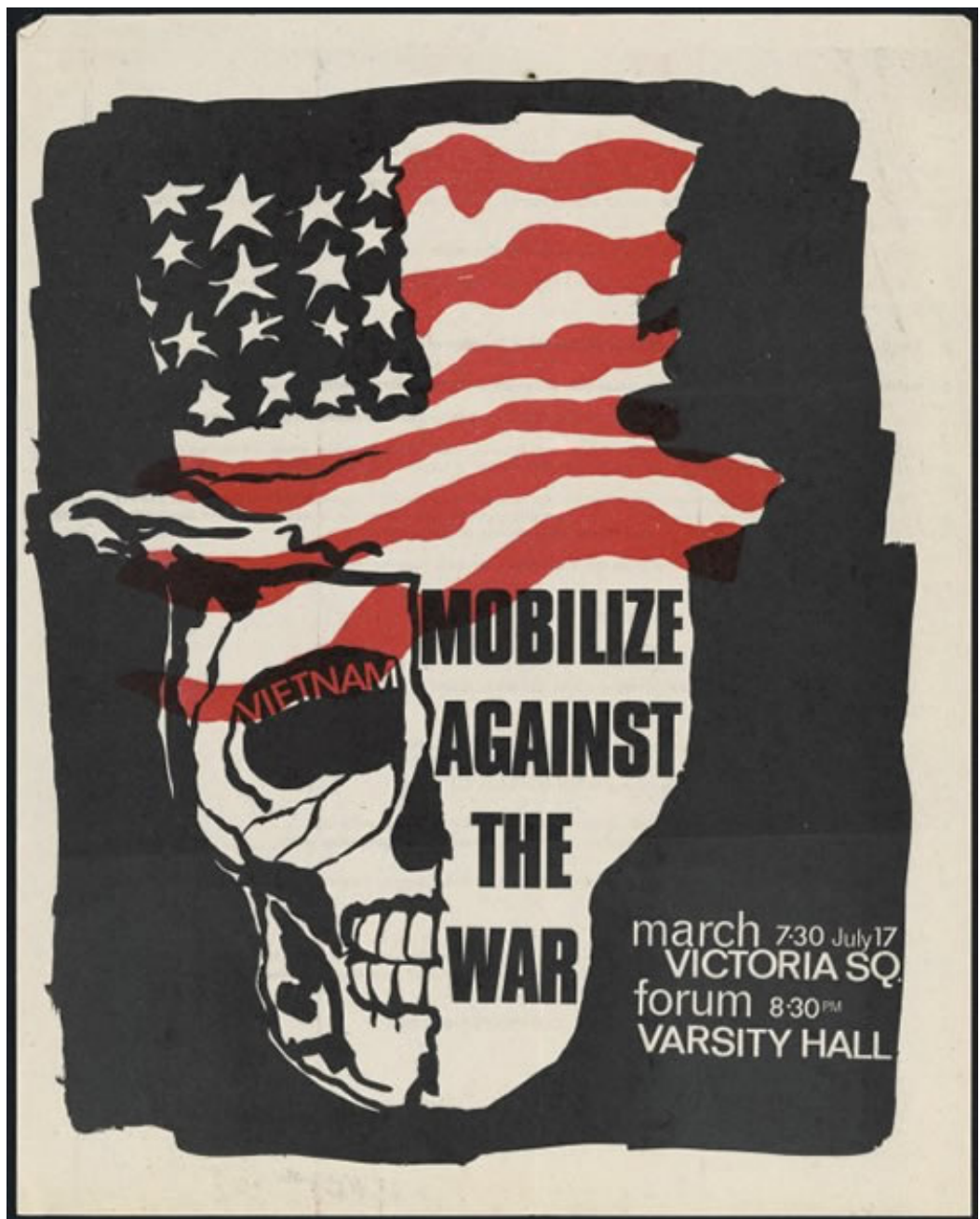
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Re: Demonizing the Enemy

by Alex Quadrini - Tuesday, May 13, 2014, 1:09 PM

Now some 50 years later in a time of war where the US usually would censor images and only portray to the public the viewpoint of a savage enemy, the public are using there own form of propaganda against government action. A twist in the perspective of propaganda that seemed to be most useful and progressive in the time of the Vietnam war. A war that had much opposition and strong feelings against the governments actions from US citizens.





Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Doing as we are told.

by Alexis Adair - Tuesday, May 13, 2014, 9:29 PM

As Jesse said, demonizing the enemy made going to war easier. It was a small step towards a justification for killing so many people. They were "evil" nothing more than angry gorilla men stealing our women. They were people we had to stop. Which was definitely an obvious intended consequence. We were suppose to see the evilest parts of our enemy, thats what fueled us to save our families. The unintended consequences though, is something that I think still affects us to today. Even to today we see people as bad or good people. It has become easier to see people that way, therefore easier to be convince us that we need to go to war with these people because they did such and such. As Britney said we have become lazy and uninterested with what is going on theres no need for the

crazed monkey pictures. just tell us their bad and they must be.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Persuasion and Dehumanization

by Robert Johnson - Friday, May 16, 2014, 3:10 PM

Right off the top of the material on this topic, I think a few good points are put fourth.

From both views, Forsher's point about how dehumanizing the enemy, will allow killing them without guilt, and then Pratkanis's in similarity, about making the enemy look evil as possible, as a way to justify killing them, its clear to see the advantage of persuasion.

I think it should be of paramount importance, to a government of a country, to have the support of its people in a war. The intended reasons are to excuse and, even more so, to encourage the defeat, death, and destruction of the enemy. This is a reality of war, horrible as it is.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Propaganda Dehumanization of Who?

by Robert Johnson - Friday, May 16, 2014, 4:36 PM

It caught my attention when I read about the fake atrocities printed in newspapers.

The example here being how readers got whipped up for the Spanish-American War, after reading fake stories and sketches.

While these tales of fake atrocities may have dehumanized, on some levels it seems to me that those readers, them and all their's who actually got all whipped up, to go and kill in war, may have been as dehumanized as they saw their enemy.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Demonizing/ Amnesia

by Joseph Foley - Saturday, May 17, 2014, 4:18 PM

Not yet being a historian myself, I often lean on historians I respect when analyzing particular issues. I have personal opinions, which are supported by life experience, upbringing, independent research, and environment, but they are not yet supported by a formal education in history. Over the last year, I have grown to appreciate Eric Foner's opinions, a historian from Columbia University. I understand that he too has biases, and that it is essential to gather information from multiple sources, but I tend to agree with some of his

concepts.

I found a quote of Foner's in a NY Times post, mentioning, "It is an unfortunate recurring pattern in American history," Professor Foner said. "We have a tendency in times of war to adopt a Manichaeian vision of the world. It's a state of mind that makes us demonize the enemy and leads to a failure to see dissent as anything but treason. (found @<http://www.nytimes.com/2002/02/24/weekinreview/truth-right-and-the-american-way-a-nation-defines-itself-by-its-evil-enemies.html?src=pm&pagewanted=2>)."

I would tend to agree with this assessment based on what we have studied.

It is also fair to gauge things on a spectrum, as Professor Escobar has shown us, to help us comprehend certain historical and political aspects. In comparison to certain nations, or regimes (extreme examples: Nazi's, Russia) U.S. propaganda is relatively moderate. On the flip side, this theme amongst warring nations seems to be unhealthy, or negative, regardless of how deep it runs. In my attempt to understand U.S. history, it is important to have a global spectrum to compare things to, but I also have to have a deep understanding of both the positive, and negative trends throughout American history. History does not repeat itself, but I can see common ties in how we have demonized our enemies to our public during war times over the last 100 years. I can also see that our own historical amnesia might not be as extreme as the most extreme nations, but it does exist. It exists in our press, films, politics, and of course our education system.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

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Re: Demonizing the Enemy



by Dakarai Hightower - Saturday, May 17, 2014, 9:03 PM

Demonizing the enemy is quite prevalent in the united states. Last term, I saw a video in an ethnic studies class which took place after 9/11. This video followed a Sikh woman and her cousin. They traveled to new York to new York, on their journey they were mistook as being terrorists for wearing turbins upon their head. I believe this fits in with the theme of demonizing the enemy because although the Sikh people were not the enemy(I did see a picture above which said kill them all and let god sort them out) they were seen as un-American because of what they wore. And American did in a sense demonize them as the enemy and were prepared to let god sort them all out.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Scapegoats

by Daniel Hovet - Saturday, May 17, 2014, 11:44 PM

Demonizing the enemy is made much easier when some of the work is already done, such as when in world war two, existing racism amplified and catalyzed American wrath towards the Japanese, making propaganda and cartoons of them portrayed as buck-toothed near animals much more acceptable. Racism and demonization of the enemy share some common ground- having somebody to blame, someone whom you don't have to care about or grant consideration, because they are inferior, they are the enemy. It's been a crutch for



people's peace of mind throughout history.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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