

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

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Using & Abusing History

by Joe Escobar - Saturday, May 10, 2014, 11:04 AM

This forum thread is for the Using & Abusing History discussion.

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: Using & Abusing History

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Don't rock the boat!

by Thomas Stevens - Monday, May 12, 2014, 11:49 PM

"Victory waits on your fingers –" with "You write what you're told!" is what hit me hardest, because I believe it's true. When I was in high school I did an internship at a Philadelphia radio station. Back in 1980's radio was growing at the time, and there was an emphasis on putting out content that was interesting to the public because the broadcasters, at the time, had to prove that they were "acting in the public interest" in order to keep their broadcast license. Investors of the day did not have online and social media and cable TV was in its infancy. Radio had the power to influence and it did. The news director that I routinely interned for candidly called his newsroom "Propaganda Central". It was just a little studio, smaller than a bathroom; but every weekday morning he would come in and put together a brief five minute news broadcast of stories that he would pull off the wire services, just a little teletype machine in a hallway closet.

During WWII, the image of "Victory waits..." was obviously an in-house propaganda

poster that hung in the office to remind the staff of what their mission was. The powers that be felt the need to control the flow of information to form a cohesive government and that following orders was important, just like in the military, to win the war.



That still goes on today and has always gone on. Media outlets frequently speak of following their “philosophy of news”, which really means writing what you’re told. While the “You write what...” is obviously a joke, it rings true. However, some would argue that Fox News is really a political machine. Gabriel Sherman has written an unauthorized biography of [Roger Ailes](#), the President at Fox News, accusing Fox of steering the news around the platform of the Republican Party.#

Some would also argue the “Liberal” media are controlled also, and I won’t attempt to discuss that now, however, [Fox](#) does have the largest cable TV audience.

In my opinion though, I think the importance of broadcast media is overrated. We have more outlets available now through the Internet and the demographic of Fox skews very old and will be dying off soon. Most young people do not rely on broadcast media, they might rely instead on cable TV shows such as the “[Daily Show](#)”, which does skew to the left. My criticism of the younger generation is that they seem a bit apathetic and unwilling to rock the boat and demand change. But, it’s their life, they’ll have to decide how to live it.

[Don't Rock the Boat](#)

[#http://mediamatters.org/video/2014/01/12/ailes-biographer-fox-news-is-a-political-machin/197544](http://mediamatters.org/video/2014/01/12/ailes-biographer-fox-news-is-a-political-machin/197544)

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Re: Don't rock the boat!

by Bart Golden - Tuesday, May 13, 2014, 3:35 AM

I love your image its classic and I agree that both fox and the liberal media are controlled. Basically bolstering my belief that republican / democrat rivalry is a farce. And your spot on about the younger generation but its not their fault. They put drugs in the water.lol

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

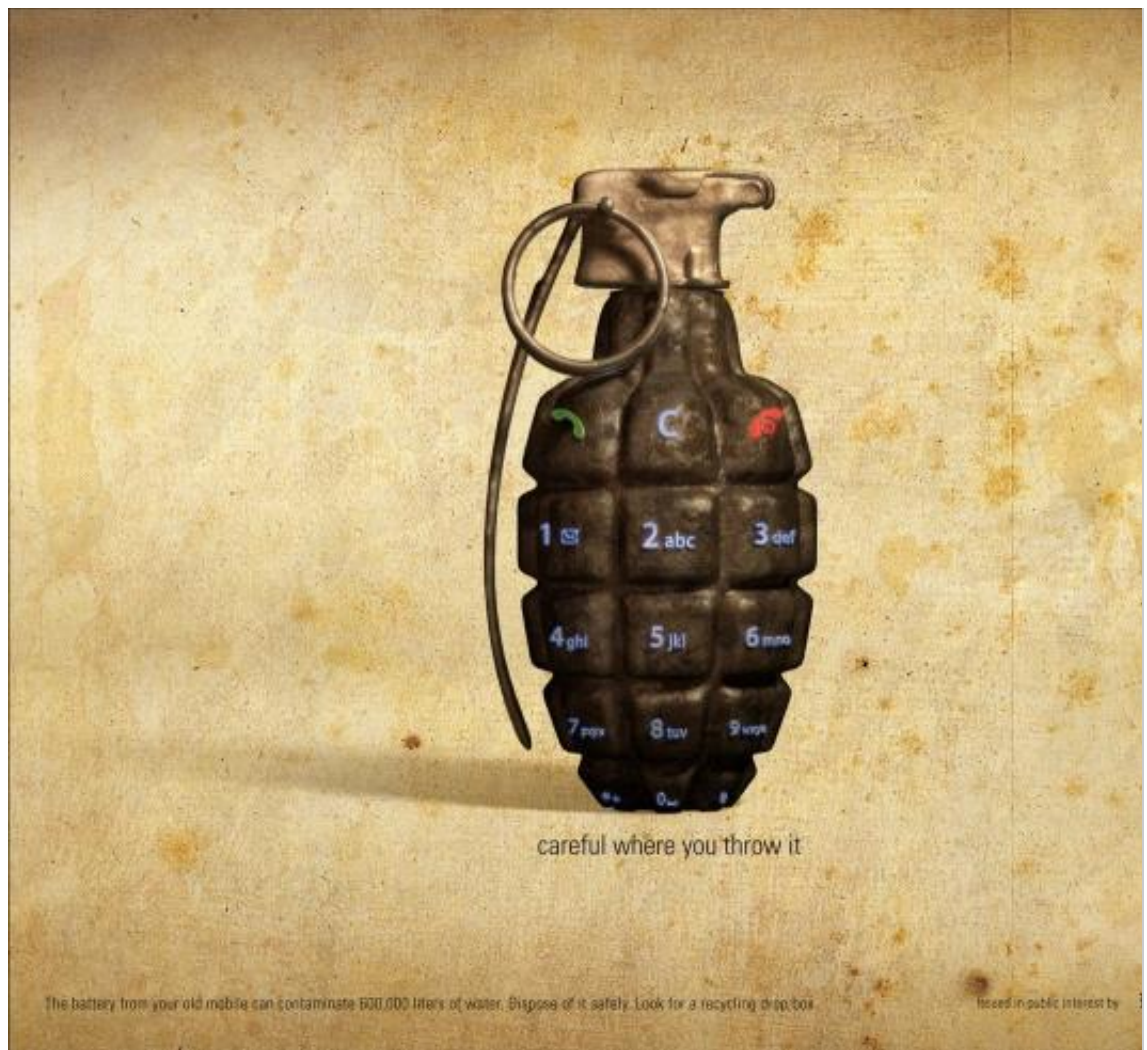
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Recycle all the things

by Kevin Wright - Tuesday, May 13, 2014, 9:08 AM

The picture of the tree raising stuck out to me the most. Growing up in a community where a whole city bans plastic bags global warming is something you can't be blind about. All through my public education career and even now I am faced with the fact that people are changing the environment because of the amount of wasted products we use everyday, which could be reclaimed and reused, are being thrown in to landfills and the ocean. Everywhere on campus there are designated bins and pictures depicting what is waste, recyclable, or compostable. I understand the makers of this image are trying to drum up support to help global warming but for me the idea of waging war on global warming doesn't sound like the way to go. When I think of war I think of death and destruction not life and rejuvenation.



Sum of ratings:3 (1)

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Re: Recycle all the things

by Jennifer Rose - Thursday, May 15, 2014, 6:22 PM

I would say that the US government hasn't been aggressive enough in combatting climate change. I think that the acting of certain things, say, the war on plastic bags or whatever, is meant to distract Americans from our government's role in ecocide, whether by condoning or creating the demolition of our ecosystem.

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Re: Recycle all the things

by Blake Taylor - Friday, May 16, 2014, 10:59 AM

I appreciate and like your post and picture. Although war is bloody and horrific I can relate the seriousness of War and the need to protect our environment. I am sure you are quite aware of man's negative impact on earth, and though the deaths attributed to war far outnumber the deaths related to man's negative effect on the planet I do think

issues pertaining to a healthy earth are as serious as those of a war. If we don't start to make more drastic changes there is a good chance humans impact on the planet will lead to more deaths than all the wars combined.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: Recycle all the things

by James Price - Friday, May 16, 2014, 1:39 PM

I agree with you that its possible that our "impact on the planet" will play a significant role in mortality rates for future generations, but I don't agree that this picture is a good way of raising awareness of that issue. By using a picture of a hand grenade and equating this issue with war, the author is further polarizing the issue and demonizing those that don't agree with him. If you put it in terms of 'your either with us or your killing the planet by throwing hand grenades' the issue takes on a more combative tone and diminishes the chances of raising awareness or even of having an open, productive conversation about the subject.

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Re: Recycle all the things

by Kevin Wright - Saturday, May 17, 2014, 8:50 PM

Yeah I understand the picture I posted was not in agreement with what I said. I agree with you fully that the image of a hand grenade cell phone associated with war is not the best way to go about raising awareness of environmental issues. I just thought I'd add to the countless images of ridiculous photos which overstate the true objective of what it's trying to accomplish.

JOEL PETT
LEXINGTON HERALD-LEADER



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Re: Recycle all the things

by Kevin Wright - Saturday, May 17, 2014, 9:08 PM

So are we going to start a war on war or is this still about the war on global warming? I can see both destroying the environment. I agree, that there needs to be changes in the way we treat the places humans inhabit, but how drastic are we talking about. Are we going to start a war on the environment? And if so what would that consist of? I think the damage has already been done and no matter how hard we try to fix our mistake we most likely won't get the chance and that is a sad thought. Maybe millions of years down the road we might see a better, more healthy environment, but right now we do what we can with what resources we have and we slowly turn things around.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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It's about the cell phones

by Thomas Stevens - Friday, May 16, 2014, 3:51 PM

"Americans replace their cell phones every 22 months", says a piece in the NY Times.#



Plastic bags are certainly part of that waste. Ironically, I am now purchasing plastic bags to line my bathroom garbage can instead of reusing the plastic grocery store bags as I did before the ban. I guess I am too lazy to clean out my can, but I do like to keep it clean.

But, getting back to my original point, we as Americans seem to be obsessed with having the latest gadget and we're not really thinking about the consequences of that continual cycle of upgrading.

My criticism of your image is that's too [obtuse](#) as few people understand it. You can't really solve a problem if people do not understand it.

But, yes the only time you can really affect change is by going to war. Can you think of an example where change happened by not going to war? Yes, you can cite the peace movement of [Dr. Martin Luther King](#), but think of all the lynching, tear gas and fire hoses that had to be endured to bring about some degree of change. The problem of racism still exists today because the people that had that hate in their hearts are still around today. When you are ethnically cleansing, like they did in [Kosovo](#), you're destroying your enemy. Now, I am not saying you should be doing these things, doing so has tremendous costs, but that you should be aware of how things have changed in the past. Perhaps someone can disagree with me on some of my points.

#<http://www.nytimes.com/2013/05/05/opinion/sunday/where-do-old-cellphones-go-to-die.html>

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Re: It's about the cell phones

by Kevin Wright - Saturday, May 17, 2014, 9:12 PM

I'm not sure I understand what you're trying to say. Could you please tell me more about how war is the way to change things?

Sum of ratings: (1)

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How about WWII?

by Thomas Stevens - Saturday, May 17, 2014, 10:27 PM

Do you think we could have appeased Hitler and talked him out of invading Poland. We had to go to war to change his mind.

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Re: Using & Abusing History

by Katie Birrenkott - Wednesday, May 14, 2014, 2:22 PM

The image of "Victory waits on your finger tips" compared to "You write what you're told" is what personally hits me the most. I am a journalism major and have written papers and argued points such as this in many of my previous classes.

Now most are going to believe what this image is representing, but I'm here to say that this is something that happens everywhere and with everything. The media that you watch is a reflection on your own personality and they are providing the public with what the public wants. Many may not agree this is what the public wants, however the media is not going after the general public but are going for a specific type of public. Each television show, website, or news channel has a specific group they are directed towards.

Yes, journalists are there for the people and to inform them of what is happening in the world and that is what they are doing, just with many different sources that outlet a more specific crowd (right or left). It is your job as a citizen to research through multiple different outlets and form your opinion, just like when writing a research paper. In this day and age, it is very easy to figure out what is going on. If you think the media is covering the war up, I promise for as many sites, channels, etc that are talking great about the war there are just as many talking against. Same goes for everything. Just as Escobar has mentioned, and like my English professors have said, if you want to fight for a specific view you can always find the statistics and information to back you up.

Therefore, I believe that this specific image is manipulating history cleverly and incorrectly. Cleverly because it was yet another source of media aiming towards a specific public in order to stir the pot, but incorrectly because corporate news does not control you and you have to take accountability for your own actions and beliefs, including what you decide to flick your television on into your living room in your free time.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

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Lady Liberty

by Miranda Townsend - Wednesday, May 14, 2014, 10:21 PM

The final set of posters featuring lady liberty pointing her accusing finger at us with a scornful look in her eyes really hits a soft spot for me because they both demand our blind faith in our government. They are using patriotism to manipulate people into supporting a cause. Whether it be to buy liberty bonds to fund the war or be submissive and look the other way when our personal privacy rights are being infringed upon by homeland security.

While I do find these tactics to be clever, I do not always see them as moral. There is a very negative underlying message, especially in regards to American's giving up our privacy rights in the name of protecting against "terrorism."

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The Disrespect of Using and Abusing History

by James Price - Friday, May 16, 2014, 12:11 AM

For me, both of the flag raising pictures made the biggest impact. Both of the alternative pictures struck me as being completely disrespectful by comparing the sacrifices made by the soldiers who died, as well as the ones in that picture, with global warming or an anti-war effort. While I support many aspects of both of these causes, I think that abusing history in such a disrespectful way does them more harm than good.

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The Irony Act

by Bart Golden - Saturday, May 17, 2014, 7:20 PM

the last poster with Lady Liberty has the most impact on me. I believe that's exactly how are government acts towards us today we are expected to believe without questioning the "official story " no matter how ridiculous or flat out impossible according to the laws of physics that official story is. We are made to feel it is antipatriotic to question the establishment as if it would be unheard of four them to do anything dishonest or out right evil and then turn it around on us with laws that restrict our freedom and then call it the Patriot Act. It should be the irony act.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Pretty Clever

by Serena Williams - Saturday, May 17, 2014, 9:05 PM

The posters that stuck out to me were the ones that said, "Victory waits on your fingers" and "You write what you're told!". in the second picture it hints at the news and media

writing things to sway the people. I thought it was pretty relevant to today because all the media is doing is revealing stories about "famous" people no one should really care about rather than the important things going on in the world. This is kind of a clever manipulation of the photo to me.

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A Soldier's Life

by Brendan Gibbons - Saturday, May 17, 2014, 9:53 PM

For me personally the posters with the cross and the soldier's helmet had the biggest impact on me. From my understanding and the limited research I did, the original poster with the words "a careless word...another cross" on it was used during WWII and had to do with the possibility of German spies living in the United States and listening in to our conversations. So this poster was created to encourage US citizens to be careful about talking about soldiers positions or movements. In other words the sharing of or speaking of classified information leads to the death of a US soldier. One could take this poster as a sign of protection for US soldiers or one could see it as a tactic used to keep the US public quiet about the war and not gossiping about it. Why these two posters impacted me the most was because of how opposite the modern adaptation is. For me the original poster seems to be trying to protect soldiers or at least is treating the death of a soldier as serious and tragic. On the other hand you have the modern adaptation of the poster that reads, "Join the Army...Vacancies Available". These words written on the modern adaptation are what really made this poster stick out to me. The word "vacancies" immediately makes me think about hotels or motels on the side of the road with their "No Vacancy" signs. Maybe its just me that thinks of motels when the word vacancies comes up but that fact made this poster seem disrespectful. For me it gives the feeling that this poster is treating soldier's lives as less than deserved, as if when a soldier dies no person really dies but rather just another vacancy has opened up. Another way to look at this modern adaptation is that the only thing that comes from war is, death and vacancy. So in that light it seems this poster may be trying to teach a lesson about war and its destruction rather than being a somewhat disrespectful poster towards soldiers. The last thing I will say is that even though the two posters are very different in the language they use, I do believe that both of them are trying to give a warning. The original giving a warning about how the spread of classified information can be deadly, and the modern adaptation giving a warning about war and its destruction/death.

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