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**Demonizing the Enemy**

by Joe Escobar - Friday, May 8, 2015, 11:16 AM

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

After studying the required materials, address the various questions. 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

Sum of ratings: -

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**"When you demonize, you dehumanize"**

by Adam Graves - Sunday, May 10, 2015, 2:41 PM

To me the consequences of using cartoons and other propaganda to demonize enemies falls on all the people that are part of the race.

The example that was showed in class of the Japanese business man from Oregon who served for the U.S. military and then later put into an internment camp is a prime example of propaganda having an ill effect. When you can use cartoons to manipulate people that have such racist undertones, dehumanize them to get them to tolerate the internment of a whole race, even ones that wanted to help aid the U.S. in the war is just wrong.

This goes to show how easy the "*mobilization of hatred*" (Michael James) is to effectively dehumanize people to think locking up other Americans just because of their ethnic background.

Sum of ratings: 2 (1)

2

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**Teaching to love the "mighty supreme leader"**

by Adam Graves - Monday, May 11, 2015, 10:31 AM

I found this video that I'll have a link to below to be very similar to a part in the "Why We Fight" series. In this video it highlights the teaching of North Korean children at school and how they're taught to worship their dictator. The main difference was these kids aren't actors on a Hollywood set. I found this interesting because it showed how much control Kim Jong-un has over his people. Given the recent news of North Korea's ever-growing nuclear program and them test firing ballistic missiles is enough to alarm me. After reading about the Korean War, I wonder where we would be today if we would've followed MacArthur's lead and "*mov[ed] beyond containment to an all-out war of "liberation" and reunification."* textbook pg.917

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Selective glorification/Demonization

by [Perry Washington](#) - Monday, May 11, 2015, 7:54 PM

I believe as a society propaganda has become so integrated we can demonize anyone, anytime. It's almost always the first thing that happens when one person, inconveniences another, whether it's based on their gender, sexuality, race etc. There are tons of propaganda consumers are blasted with on a daily basis. It's not so much, who is being demonized, it's who they're selectively choosing to glorify. One example is there is not a great deal of powerful African American women portrayed in "beautiful" "glamorous" positions that lead to little girls who think black Barbie's are ugly. I love graffiti, and I was fascinated by Banksy the first time I saw his work. He did a lot of propaganda posters but with a twist I will include a very controversial one. Jay Winter said "I think the demonization of Islam and the Arab world is identical to what happened 100 years ago." This reminds me of a stand up routine from a new Dave Chapelle special where he says, "America has one racial hot seat and from all us brothers, thank you to the Arabs." This was a joke, but the best jokes contain truth



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Demonizing Muslims

by [Jordan Bertak](#) - Monday, May 11, 2015, 10:33 PM

You know obviously the intended consequence of propaganda/demonizing the enemy is drumming up support for the war or whatever you're doing. Both sides of the conflict are going to demonize each other even if what they're saying isn't true, which more often than not, isn't. So what are the unintended consequences? After the war, when all you have done is demonize a certain demographic, people are going to have prejudices against them because they believe what the propaganda put out said. I'm sure you could find WW2 vets prejudiced against the Japanese and Germans today and I'm sure you could find Vietnam vets prejudiced against Vietnamese today or even regular people who believed the propaganda. You can see this today with Islamophobia. Muslim people or those from middle-eastern countries today are still facing prejudice because of 9/11 and the Iraq and Afghanistan wars, I've seen it happen with my own eyes and you hear about people like the Sikhs being discriminated on simply because ignorant people believe they're Muslims.

I think an example of modern propaganda would be the movie American Sniper about Navy SEAL Chris Kyle. It's a glorification of a war that many believe to be unjust. Many people who went to watch this movie believed it was a true story (



if you're interested in people's thoughts about him and the movie, obviously biased but still interesting to see), however entire plot lines are fabricated, such as him battling with the Iraqi sniper. The movie glorifies a man who calls the Iraqis "savages" and says "I couldn't give a flying f*ck about the Iraqis". Movies like this only perpetuate the ongoing islamophobia problem we have. You know I think this movie does sway public opinion, you can listen to what the people said in the youtube link and they base it off a movie and not what actually has happened in the world.

Some might find my opinion on Chris Kyle and the Iraq war offensive and I'm sorry if it is to you, it's simply my opinion.

Sum of ratings: **3 (1)**

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Re: Demonizing Muslims

by [Stanley Cates](#) - Thursday, May 14, 2015, 8:47 PM

First of all; kudos to you for so brazenly speaking your mind. And thank you for bringing this video to my attention; it's a great example of modern day propaganda. As much as I'd like to sit here and dissect the entire video I don't want to rush the conversation. So I have a few questions regarding your take on the video.

At about 35 seconds in we meet a guy who says that he supports the purpose of the movie. Do you think that this man has any idea that the purpose of the movie was most likely to turn him toward a certain way of thinking?

At 4:12 we're introduced to a guy who says that Hussein had plans and intentions to invade the United States; am I the only one who would love to see these plans? This reminds me of another piece of propaganda that I've seen. Red Dawn; featuring Patrick Swayze and Charlie Sheen. If you haven't seen it I'll warn you that it's fairly cheesy. Today in class Joe said that it's easy for us to dismiss everyone during the red scare as crazy. I recall watching this film with my father many years ago and thinking precisely that; this is crazy; and him explaining to me; in great detail; that the fears and attitudes portrayed were very realistic. This movie was recently remade with the attention shifting toward North Korea. Although North Korea is still a communist state I think the emphasis was more on portraying them as terrorists... Being backed by Russia of course. If you've seen the new film would you agree that it's purpose was to drum up fear and desensitize people to the possibility of another, "preemptive"; ground war in Korea?

There's much more to talk about, but I don't want to drown the thread.

Sum of ratings: **3 (1)**

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Re: Demonizing Muslims

by [Daniel Schulman](#) - Saturday, May 16, 2015, 5:53 PM

The biggest problem with American Sniper is nobody got from the movie what it was supposed to be about. It had nothing to do with "glorifying the war in Iraq", that term was coined thanks to liberal media, attempting to make stabs at conservatives (the election is coming up). It was made to depict the hardships of American military life, and what those have to endure who take part and associated, which Kyle mentions in his novel, and numerous interviews. As a reader of his novel, yes he calls them savages, and that line is used in the movie. But it's being misinterpreted for what it is. Chris is not referring to the Iraqi people themselves, he's specifically referring to the fighters against him, whom were committing gruesome acts in the cities they bombarded. This is a kind of ironic video, considering our topic is "Demonizing The Enemy", and that's exactly what this Marine is doing, except towards the U.S. It's easy to conduct interviews and ask questions to veer in certain direction to ultimately seek a particular answer. Chances are, this guy was deployed in a completely different area, and not every area is the same in how it operates. He doesn't mention the areas that welcomed U.S. troops, not once is it acknowledged. Kyle isn't a hero for killing Iraqi's, he's a hero for watching out over his boys, which is a repetitive theme throughout the novel/movie you fail to mention.

I agree this movie sways public opinion for the worse towards the ignorant, it amplifies the ongoing islamaphobia as a result of the mentioned above, and it's quite unfortunate. Too many underlying issues why this is even a controversial issue (which is shouldn't be in the first place) and it's more blown out of proportion than anything. After watching it, I wasn't pissed at muslims, I didn't want to go buy a rifle and shoot some "savages". A movie is also a form of entertainment, so not everything will be depicted as 100% true, but it is expected upon the viewer to be able to decipher

the difference and take what the director intended. Why anyone would take the sniper scene so historically seriously beats me. While the movie certainly doesn't help the ongoing tension with Muslims, it certainly didn't create it. People see what they want to see, and if that's what they saw in the movie, they wanted it.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

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Re: Demonizing the Enemy

by [Daniel Kappaz](#) - Monday, May 11, 2015, 11:17 PM

It is easier to dehumanize people and make outlandish lies about a countries culture, (Germany WW1 for example) when they live thousands of miles away from our homes. People will often react with hostility and sometimes irrationality when presented with a perceived threat. When you're trying to generate support for a war effort, these fear tactics seem to work quickly, yet can also cultivate long term racial bias and bigotry.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: Demonizing the Enemy

by [Jared Trapp](#) - Saturday, May 16, 2015, 12:20 AM

In a time where everyone is walking around with a computer in their pocket it is getting harder and harder to make outlandish lies about things. As we saw in class, it took a whole two minutes for Mr. Escobar to disprove "facts". I do agree with you that it is easier when the people you are making out to be apes are half way around the world, I just don't think it would fly as far given technology today.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: Demonizing the Enemy

by [Tyler Dennis](#) - Saturday, May 16, 2015, 7:19 PM

I would say that I am guilty of this as well. Usually i judge a country based off what I hear, and that typically isn't a good idea. It is easy to get caught up with what the media reports, and i think that is my biggest problem. I think another aspect of it is a sense of the patriotism we carry as fellow Americans. It's hard to not to be overwhelmed with pride and sometimes we loose rationalism.

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my view

by [Brent Hill](#) - Tuesday, May 12, 2015, 10:28 PM

From the video clips and other propaganda I have seen I think that it is pretty obvious an intended consequence of demonizing the enemy is to make it easier to hate them and create an imprint in your mind about another country or another race. Demonizing the enemy seems to be an effective tool however it is very unethical. Some of the things that people are depicted as are ridiculous and quite horrible. Demonizing the enemy is effective but it leaves some unintended consequences such as people thinking that people from other countries are murderous and ruthless beings. If someone is surrounded by propaganda I think that it is easier to fall under its spell and cause you to be ignorant.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: my view

by [Tyler Dennis](#) - Saturday, May 16, 2015, 7:22 PM

We also demonize countries from things they have done in the far past. It's hard not to hold a grudge against a country from something they may have done so many years ago, especially when we learn about it from current educators. I have opinionated opinions on countries just based on events i've heard about this year.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Women in Propaganda



by [Alyssa Taylor](#) - Wednesday, May 13, 2015, 10:29 PM

During war it was popular to dehumanize the enemy but what about degrading women? I believe that women were heavily degraded in propaganda in World War 1 and 2. Such as in the pictures of women being portrayed as gossipers who didn't know how to keep there mouth shut, had to start pulling there own weight now that the men were all gone, and as weak and helpless people who were in need of saving. Women were able to work but were constantly reminded by propaganda that it was because the man wasn't home.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: Women in Propaganda

by [Jared Trapp](#) - Saturday, May 16, 2015, 12:11 AM

I am not entirely sure why women were thought of as sneaky communist spies. I do have a answer as to why they are often pictured as weak and fragile. It may have something to do with getting an emotional response form the men, young boys, going to war to fight off the savages that are rapping and taking THEIR women. That coupled with the idea that people, and especially women, don't have a very strong voice in stopping things like war time propaganda is, in my opinion, why they are portrayed in such ways.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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My opinion on intended consequences of demonizing.

by [Chloe Steger](#) - Thursday, May 14, 2015, 11:29 AM

The intended consequences of demonizing the enemy is to give opinions to people to hate a certain person or race. Alyssa Taylor also said, women were also degraded and seemed almost like an enemy from what posters showed and said. Adam Graves also had a good point of saying how people get locked up from their ethnic background which is completely not okay, and very true. In my opinion, propagandists just have the urge and desire to influence the public in any way possible. Whether it be negative or not. They just want everyone to think their way and of course us today think a lot of what was said, etc is just plain bs.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

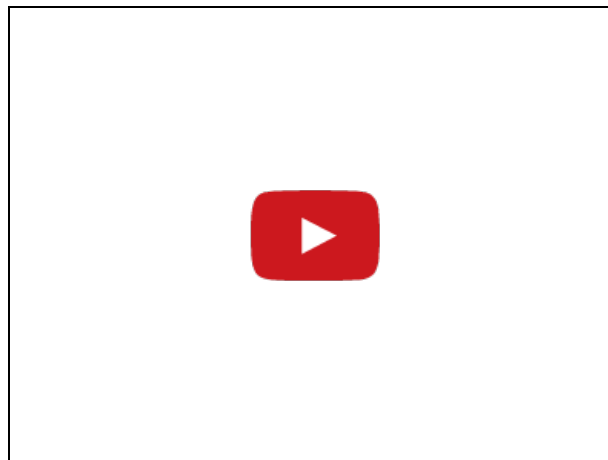
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Give them what they want to hear.

by [Adam Graves](#) - Thursday, May 14, 2015, 12:58 PM

I think that media has been manipulating opinion for a long time. The problem I have is when the government uses it to manipulate society to push an agenda. I feel that is exactly what happened in the Iraq war, and how the Bush administration used false information to justify putting troops on the ground in Iraq. Here is a prime example of what I'm talking about and how easy it was to get a mass of people to believe in something. Click on the link below to watch Jon Stewart interview a journalist he feels is partly responsible for a huge foreign-policy blunder.



Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: Demonizing the Enemy

by [Carter Nunez](#) - Thursday, May 14, 2015, 2:22 PM

Demonizing the enemy Via Political Cartoons seems Sort of absurd to me. The fact that adults look and drawings that are obviously exaggerated or not even realistic at all and believe whatever they are told or see is frightening. Today I feel like this is sort of going on today with certain groups demonizing Obama and other groups but certainly not to the same extent as with political cartoons.

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Re: Demonizing the Enemy

by [Brent Hill](#) - Saturday, May 16, 2015, 4:40 PM

That is an interesting point you made. I would agree with what you said about how Obama is demonized today. I would definitely say that it has shifted and demonizing the enemy is not like what it used to be. How do you think that demonizing the enemy has changed from then to now?

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perks to demonizing the enemy

by [Jared Trapp](#) - Saturday, May 16, 2015, 12:00 AM

The term "demonizing" has a negative connotation. For the majority of us, not working in high positions of government or the media, we have no need to make entire races into demonic scary things. But it is really important to get everyone on the same page when it comes to war, in that respect it is great. It is also great for mass media. If everyone is scared of the same thing it makes it easy to feed unnecessary and in some cases just wrong information. But, for the average Joe, it is also a nice tool to have. Think about sports. People have a favorite sport and a favorite team that plays it. That team most likely has a rival and that rival is made fun of, portrayed as inadequate, and sometimes evil. Demonizing races or people or sports teams does have an upside. It gets rid of that pesky empathy thing. That allows us to go to war and kill people. Allows us to say mean and evil things about people we should respect. And even allows us to cheer and scream outside in the snow and rain and wind for people to play with a ball. Perks to demonizing the enemy.

I have added a picture to show how demonizing the enemy is done in modern times with current "threats"



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Re: perks to demonizing the enemy

by [Stanley Cates](#) - Saturday, May 16, 2015, 2:11 PM

You analysis is interesting; and I think rather correct as far as mechanism. But I'm just having a difficult time wrapping my head around how getting rid of empathy and allowing us to kill people is a positive thing. Isn't that what Hitler did in the camps? Was that an upside?

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: perks to demonizing the enemy

by [Daniel Schulman](#) - Saturday, May 16, 2015, 6:04 PM

From a moral perspective, killing is a bad thing. I'm with you, I don't agree with it of course, but politics is business, and business, emotions, morals aren't involved, and aren't a factor while conducting it. "Business is business". It's also what we did to get our troops wound up for World War II & I, was that an upside? I guess it varies according the situation.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: perks to demonizing the enemy

by [Stanley Cates](#) - Saturday, May 16, 2015, 6:52 PM

Morals aren't a factor while conducting business? We'll see if I ever take a job from you. Unfortunately I've worked with enough businesses to testify that that's usually true. But isn't it kind of telling that we've become so accustomed to amoral being the norm? Kinda just looks like proof that propaganda works.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: perks to demonizing the enemy

by [Daniel Schulman](#) - Saturday, May 16, 2015, 7:58 PM

Well to get a job from you, I'd have to want to work for your company first. Conducting decisions off of morals is essentially making decisions off emotions rather than logic. And I'll also add, there is an exception for every rule. So with that being said, I'll pass on working for you.

It's a stretch to say we as a people have generally become accustomed to being amoral, I'm specifically referring to business affairs, but generally I beg to differ if you look at how much we've progressed in terms of morality. Any time disaster strikes, we are the first to empty our pockets and throw money right out the window, and likely we won't see it back. Aren't we trillions of dollars in debt? That in itself is a far bigger issue we easily look right past on a daily basis.

We've established more individual rights groups than I can count, we give to those who haven't earned, gay marriage is being legalized in different states, we have more freedom of speech than ever before, and not to mention the U.S. has in possession the state of Oregon who, is more aggressive about human rights than anywhere else I've ever been. And that's only just what's coming to the back of my head at the moment. It's pretty safe to say amoral is much further away from being the norm of the citizens of America than previously before.

Sum of ratings: (1)

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Re: perks to demonizing the enemy

by [Stanley Cates](#) - Saturday, May 16, 2015, 8:51 PM

Not sure how you got to the concept of you working for me... Not accustomed to being amoral, accustomed to ammorality. There's a difference.

Sum of ratings: (1) 0

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Re: perks to demonizing the enemy

by [Daniel Schulman](#) - Saturday, May 16, 2015, 10:47 PM

Misread that...

I apologize, I came off a little aggressive there.
I'll go hang my head in shame now..

Sum of ratings: (1) 0

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Re: perks to demonizing the enemy

by [Stanley Cates](#) - Saturday, May 16, 2015, 11:45 PM

If you feel you must.

Sum of ratings: (1) 0

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Re: perks to demonizing the enemy

by [Kylee O'Connor](#) - Saturday, May 16, 2015, 10:25 PM

I really like your comparison of demonizing the enemy in war to demonizing the enemy in sports. It's true, most sports fans have a team that they hate and want to fail, and same goes for during war; there is a side they want to lose. I also appreciated that you mentioned media. I believe that media is a under-acknowledged form of communication that can influence millions in a matter of seconds; however, I disagree on one point. You mentioned that "demonizing races or people or sports teams does have an upside." I think that demonizing races or people doesn't necessarily have an "upside," its just something that is *necessary* throughout war to succeed and portray a united front throughout every aspect of a war; everyone needs to be on board and on the same page with who the enemy is.

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Re: Demonizing the Enemy

by [Daniel Schulman](#) - Saturday, May 16, 2015, 6:42 PM

"When you dehumanize, it allows you to kill your enemy and no longer feel guilty about it," he 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." The consequences of demonizing an enemy can be severe from a psychological aspect. Socially it can produce prejudice among a given group, along with a mass hysteria that generally spreads throughout the nation. And when that hysteria leaves, it doesn't completely, but lingers. Cultures can be frowned upon for their label only.

Take the Baltimore riots for example:

There's accusations among the Baltimore black community about the "irrationality" (I use quotes because it isn't fact, obviously) of destroying their own neighborhoods, and being labeled as "entitled". Many are condescending the Baltimore community, without even having any knowledge on what happens, what has been going on for decades, supposedly oppression against the black community. It's extremely sad to see the protestors portrayed in this manner because it forces the ignorant to overlook why the outrage is occurring in the first place, the years of tensions built up. FOX news has labeled them "entitled", even "scumbags", which sickens me that would be shown on national television considering how many listen to TV as if it were the gospel of immortality. On top of all this, the damage wasn't even caused by natives..

Dehumanizing has had fatal results as well. During the Spanish-American War, after the destruction of the Maine, Spain was portrayed as a gorilla in times of yellow journalism, and swiftly as a result, the American public called for blood, war, although McKinley wanted to steer away. Demonizing in effect also encouraged American imperialism. Might I also add this particular cartoon was not the reason America wanted war, but a series of these cartoons fueled it.



The Spanish Brute (From Judge.)

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Propaganda used to "Demonize the Enemy"

by [Kylee O'Connor](#) - Saturday, May 16, 2015, 10:08 PM

The government has used propaganda throughout every war to demonize the enemy and create a stereotype or negative perception of the enemy to the millions of citizens living throughout its society. It is much easier to fight a war with the support and backing of a society, so the propaganda acts as a method to convince individuals that Germany is bad, Japan is bad, or whomever they are fighting against is *bad*.

Just as the readings suggested, the propaganda that demonizes the enemy also gives the soldiers a reason to kill and makes it easier for them. "For most human beings, it takes an awful lot to allow them to kill another human being," said Anthony Pratkanis, and I totally agree. Having a person or a race/type of person associated with evil things makes it that much easier to kill them without feeling badly or remorseful.

All of propaganda that has "demonized the enemy" has created misleading stereotypes. During wars the government tries to lead American's to believe that a certain group of people, such as Germans during WWII, are all terrible killers like Hitler. The truth of the matter is that one person does not account for the actions of many. Just because someone is from Germany does not mean they are a murderous dictator like Hitler. The propaganda caused many misleading stereotypes, some of which are still around today.

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