

# HST 203: History of the United States Sp17 (Escobar Meta 41054 41053)

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Demonizing the Enemy

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## Forum 3

### Demonizing the Enemy

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#### Demonizing the Enemy

by Joe Escobar - Saturday, May 13, 2017, 7:28 AM

This thread is for discussions on the Demonizing the Enemy topic.

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, something that describes which question(s) you are addressing . Do NOT simply leave it RE: Demonizing the Enemy

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#### Irony of WWII Propaganda Against Japan

by Andrew Trott - Saturday, May 13, 2017, 3:54 PM

In WWII Roosevelt and his administration had the privilege of having popular media such as radio and movies to help demonize those that we were fighting. Movies such as Frank Capra's Why We Fight series were shown as education when they were intact closer to sensational. It is movies like this that make it hard to argue that fake news is a new sensation. Fake News is simply the new term given to an age old idea - propaganda. One of the intentions of propaganda is to unify public opinion. This is why in WWI Wilson created the Committee on Public Information. The CPI was designed to sway public opinion towards favoring the war in hopes they would supporting it. Roosevelt's tactics may not have been as drastic, but thats

because they didn't have to be. Roosevelt was able to enter the war because Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor. This attack gave the U.S. a reason to retaliate against an aggressor. The aggressor in this case a foreign enemy Americans know little about. In the Frank Capra's propaganda series he depicts the Japanese as not being individuals but as being part of "a mass," a mob of humans. By not being individuals there is no reason to distinguish between civilian or soldier because they are one in the same, part of the enemy.

The irony of American propaganda is that it essentially moved American opinion in the direction of mob mentality as well. Instead of being individuals, propaganda's intention is to great one, mass, public opinion. Citizens at the time, broadly speaking, enjoyed the idea of being portrayed as the saviors and heroes protecting the world from some great evil. This mindset of protection allow for great evils to be tolerated because the actions to achieve the ends of democracy was worth the means.

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#### **Re: In relation to the mob mentality**

by Katie Fuller - Tuesday, May 16, 2017, 10:28 PM

The mob mentality you mention, in *Why We Fight*, is similar to the use of portraying the enemy as an animal in the sense that, as James Fosher puts it "When you dehumanize it allows you to kill your enemy and no longer feel guilty..You can kill a monkey a lot more easily than you can kill a neighbor" (*Demonizing the Enemy*). Essentially, these two claims have one unified purpose: to show the enemy as inhuman and a force that needs to be stopped.

This was also done through the extreme brutality used in propaganda that made them seem even more savage, such as in a poster where Germany is shown as a large gorilla carrying a bloody club and a naked woman. Newspaper was also used to stretch the truth as Yale history teacher Joy Winter says "There were.. Belgians and French killed as Germans invaded.. within days, this wasn't enough. it had to be amplified by children having their hands chopped off." In other words, the newspapers stretched the truth to make events seem more horrific to the public to bring in more support for the war effort, similarly to yellow journalism prior to the Spanish-American War.

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#### **Re: In relation to the mob mentality**

by Andrew Trott - Friday, May 19, 2017, 9:50 PM

The mob mentality is something that can perpetuate the dehumanization of other people and cultures. One of the first actions once Jews were in concentration camps was to dehumanize them. This act of dehumanization was less designed and implemented to effect the prisoners but rather to allow the guards to be able to perpetrate some of the most heinous acts ever committed against another human being. It is the idea of dehumanization that is always one of the first ways in which propaganda starts to demonize the enemy because it is effective.

On the contrary with nonviolent movements, such as the sit-ins carried about by SNCC in the 20th century, one of the main tactics that implement is humanizing themselves to the enemy. For instance when they are being beaten they train themselves to hold eye contact with the aggressor in order to be seen as more human. It is much easier to abuse an animal than a human.

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### **religion vs. political demonization**

by Michael De Nitto - Sunday, May 14, 2017, 3:01 PM

The animated American propaganda during WW2 was a method FDR used to show the anti-american values the axis powers were showing. Family friendly cartoons such as Popeye in Scrap the Japs, to Walt Disney's "The Face of the Fuhrer" gave the american people a growing hatred to german and japanese americans. Some believe such caricatures, and the racist attitudes they fostered, allowed America to tolerate the internment of Japanese-Americans during the war. This display of demonizing the enemy is still apparent today although much more subtle. America's war on muslim extremism becomes an issue to demonize. So to make it easier let's just label the entire Muslim religion as a threat to american society. Muslim Americans make up 1% of the total population today, similar to the population make up of German and Japanese Americans during WW2. Each president giving us an enemy to hate , and in this case history repeats itself.



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### **Re: religion vs. political demonization**

by Dakota Brotherton - Saturday, May 20, 2017, 9:36 PM

Your mention of governmental use of family friendly cartoons to foster a hatred of the enemy in a way that could appeal to all ages reminded me of one of the first animated films in Japanese history that I learned about in a course on Japanese art. The film was titled Momotaro No Umiwashi and told the story of a group of skilled and honorable pilots that all

fought together for a common goal against the demons residing in an island across the sea. The film was released after the bombing of Pearl Harbor and was meant to inspire the public for the war efforts and justify the sacrifices made by the "noble" fighters who lost their lives for their cause. The fact that Americans were represented in the film as a sub species of drunkards and savages reminded me of your statement concerning the fostering of racist attitudes and the acceptance of the mistreatment of other races at the time ( seen in the Bataan death march in Japan and the Japanese Internment in America). While propaganda films and family friendly cartoons aren't used as often to help the agenda of the government, the tactics of demonizing the enemy are still substantially present in todays society especially in political cartoons included in various publications.



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### **Re: the intention of propaganda, and it's results**

by Katie Fuller - Sunday, May 14, 2017, 9:02 PM

The intention of these propaganda posters, and news writes is to bring forward anger and rally people together to help out with the war effort during war, or before the war and after the 9/11 attack on the twin towers. However, the expansion upon the truth of the subject about the enemy made it hard for Americans to know what to believe and be suspicious towards the "facts" given by the press or government. History Professor of Yale, Jay Winter stated about the World War propaganda that "This mobilization of hatred was so effective and powerful that during the Second World War it made it difficult to believe the stories about the Holocaust" as, with the history about yellow journalism spread to more "phony or embellished American wartime propaganda that would last at least through the Gulf War" (Demonizing the Enemy article, *Fake Atrocities and Propaganda Films*).

Apart from this, it is believed that the propaganda on Islamics and Saddam Hussein led to hostility toward Iraq and Iran, and the alliance with Israel as well as a significant backlash against Arab-Americans and around the world (Demonizing Enemy, Buck-Toothed Japanese, Fanatical Arabs). Winter described this as "The Arab is now a stock figure, a caricature, a symbol of fanaticism, of infinite cruelty and no regard for human rights." as

that was how they were regarded, especially after the Twin Towers were attacked, and the film historian James Fosher said "If things turn nasty [with Iraq], God knows what's going to happen to them..It worries me. It worries me for the country and for Americans who have Middle Eastern ancestry." (article). His point was that, if things went wrong there, then Americans would more than likely strike out against Arab-Americans living here, as they are associated with that country, similarly to how the Japanese were sent to internment camps after Pearl Harbor due to the fear of potential spies.

I would say these efforts to sway the public's opinion about war or the enemy was relatively effective now and probably still relatively effective, but perhaps less so as there is so much history of expanding upon the truth of things, that people are more likely to check the facts of things before they come to an opinion, and with the internet readily available, this is much easier than it was before.

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### **Re: Propaganda during WWII**

by Katie Fuller - Monday, May 15, 2017, 7:56 PM

During WWII, FDR had film producers make commercial film on military themes such as Destination Tokyo and the television series called Why We Fight portraying "tightly regimented lifestyles in the dictatorships of Germany, Italy and Japan." (Liberty, Equality, Power: America During the 2nd World War). There was also the participation of Walt Disney, as we saw a cartoon with Donald Duck living in Germany, then waking up to be glad to live in America, which was most likely before our involvement in the war as it did not strike up much despair or appeal toward emotion. There were also posters, such as one with a Japanese man carrying a naked white woman with the words "This Is the Enemy" (Demonizing the Enemy article) that showed the Japanese as a terror that harmed our women, which in part, is not entirely inaccurate. And this portrayal of a nation, or part of one, as the enemy still continues on. As Forsher puts it "our sensibilities are a little different, but not that different..I don't think we're showing an Arabic population carrying knives.. But then again, who is the villain in the new James bond film? North Koreans". His point he makes is that even though we don't show people carrying bloody knives anymore, we still portray those we are suspicious of or dislike as being the villain in films, as is mentioned here.

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### **Re: FDR and the OWI**

by Dakota Brotherton - Monday, May 15, 2017, 8:05 PM

Throughout the years of human history, there has been a pattern of propaganda distribution that coincides with major global events meant to incite a certain reaction from viewers for whatever reason. Because of the desire to formulate an opinion shared by the general public, artists and conspirators alike have linked up in order to create magnificent works to rile up the emotions of their audience. One of the first politicians to make this form of public manipulation a main priority was Woodrow Wilson during the outbreak of the first world war by establishing the Committee on Public Information which was responsible for creating enthusiasm towards the war effort. After seeing how effective this spread of propaganda was during a time when the country needed a change in perspective, countless others have undoubtedly implemented the strategies used by the CPI for example, Franklin Roosevelt.

In order to demonize the enemies of democracy and world peace during the outbreak of the second World War, Franklin Roosevelt and other influential governmental leaders made the decision to establish a committee similar to the CPI called the Office of War Information. With basically the same objective as the CPI, the OWI was responsible for developing an enthusiasm for the war effort through any medium necessary whether it be through newspaper, films, posters or radio broadcasts. The OWI also employed a lot of the same tactics as the CPI in terms of distributing images and posters that demonized the enemy or depicted them as some sort of inhumane, savage beast. While proving to be overall effective in gaining support for the war through the use of propaganda and even establishing offices world-wide, the OWI consistently faced criticisms from both sides of the political spectrum. While Republicans felt that the OWI mainly focuses on political appeals for causes favored by FRD's New Dealers, the New Dealers felt as if the ad campaign was catering to advertisers who wanted to push the joys of consumerism on people (pg 875).

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### **Problems with Propaganda**

by Matthew Molinari - Monday, May 15, 2017, 8:06 PM

The idea of propaganda, sensationalizing something to further an agenda, is an old idea, and utilized effectively during this time period, as seen in the video "Why we fight" showcasing the idea that Germans were a mob that craved regimentation, being led by a violent dictator, with the Japanese being a mindless drove of cattle being led by their military elite, all as a way to justify the war against them. The citizens of the US ate this propaganda up, as it was posed as a war of good vs evil. The unintended consequences of this propaganda was the demonization of Japanese Americans, not just the Japanese over seas fighting against the US. The fear that the war fever brewed against the Japanese American citizens ultimately lead to the Japanese internment camps seen on the west coast. It's the hostility that is generated against one group that alienates de facto members of that group within the country, or countries, from the more "native" population. We can see this happening today with the anti-Islamic wave throughout the American public, which seems fairly effective given the split in our country's opinion regarding that subject.

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### **Re: Demonizing the Enemy**

by Katie Fuller - Monday, May 15, 2017, 8:12 PM

Cartoons related to the media today.

In relation to the media, there are now more references toward the government and presidency in such things in comics and images I have found online. For example, in a Pearls before Swine comic I read, it made fun of Trump running for president in regards to him talking about building a wall between Mexico and America, and was also referenced in this Doonesbury comic. There are also some about preventing the spread of disease, as seen around the school of LCC in a few buildings regarding the flu, and this drawing about germs. Most of the government or media one's I have found focus mostly on the presidency of who is running or who is in charge, more so than upon other nations from my findings.

# PEARLS BEFORE SWINE

BY STEPHAN PASTIS



COUGHS AND SNEEZES SPREAD DISEASES

1887/19



**He's a  
PUBLIC ENEMY**

**TRAP YOUR GERMS  
IN A HANDKERCHIEF**

C.S. 03

Prepared for the MINISTRY OF HEALTH by the Central Office of Information

C.P. Ltd.



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### **Re: Demonizing the Enemy**

by Bailey Koffler - Monday, May 15, 2017, 11:52 PM

Dehumanization has very mutated effects on the brain and how we view other people. It's a twist in the way others are perceived, thus we no longer see them as people. In times of war, dehumanization was embedded in the brains of soldiers in order to make it easier for them to kill the enemy. "When you dehumanize, it allows you to kill your enemy and no longer feel guilty about it" (Demonizing the enemy a hallmark of war). In WWII, the enemy was dehumanized through drawings of animalistic caricatures. This would give the perception that the enemy is more of an animal than a human, this making it easier for them to kill because they didn't feel the same way when they killed animals versus people.

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### **Good ol' Political Cartoons!**

by Caleb Pruitt - Thursday, May 18, 2017, 11:52 AM

I think it goes without saying that the outsider or undesirable is always portrayed in a negative light, especially in such drastic circumstances as a world war. Throughout the history of the country the resident enemy has been scorned. What happened during WWII was a continuation of the themes practiced by this country. In History 202 we covered the major immigration surges of the Irish and Chinese. Each was criticized in his own way: Irish portrayed as drunken apes hardly human, Chinese as squinty, long-haired Chinamen with their silly hats and yellow complexion. During WWII, and WWI for that matter, we see much of the same snide representations, this time of Germans and Japanese. The "Der Fuehrer's Face" cartoon is especially memorable and I feel like the exaggerated stereotypes of the hostile persons give the audience a good laugh at the enemy. As for WWI, in class we came across numerous uses of the pickelhaube, ale, and other stereotypical "German" ways of identification.

I do think that the political cartoons and posters were especially effective. They had a number of different results. Either they scorned the enemy (Der Fuehrer's Face, political cartoons), warned or informed the public (posters about spies, "Loose lips sink ships"), increased

patriotism and national pride (Buy War bonds!), etc. Each in their own way supported the war effort and engaged the public in a unique way. Because of this, I believe they made a notable difference in the endeavor of war.

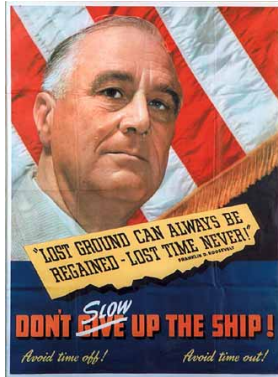
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## Re: Demonizing the Enemy

by Eden Stellavato - Thursday, May 18, 2017, 3:54 PM



One of the most powerful ways of demonizing the enemy was do the opposite of what James Forscher said about dehumanization by "humanizing" himself. Shown in the image above, proving that you must in addition to demonizing the enemy humanize yourself to make a bigger impact. It was much more than that though, the papers, the propaganda videos, basically everything that the government could do to install fear of the fascist regime's. The Posters probably made the biggest impact because it was easier to depict things and leaders more nasty than they might have been. Such as Michael S. James article in "Somebody to Hate" where it describes a political cartoon of Saddam Hussein comparing him to Hitler and a voracious spider. Obviously, the consequences of demonizing someone is expect retaliation most likely if you want it or not. On the contrary if confrontation is unavoidable than you have YOUR people's support by either creating fear or anger through propaganda. There's plenty of connection between 1945 and 2017 when it comes to similarities in cartoons and media. During Obama's term I took a history class at South Eugene and my teacher Kessler, started almost every class with a new political cartoon of Obama and involvement in the middle east.

Many of them believe it or not, demonized Arabs.



This one is something that stood out to me because of the context. Notice the bloody knife \*wink\* \*wink\*. Reality in this is ISIS's motives and Obama trying to find a way to solve it. Fiction is that this event would never happen, and why use a knife? it's the 21'st century like damn there's a semi automatic machine gun waiting to be bought around the corner. In ways of public opinion i'm not sure how this sways one of them is here and one is gone. Ignoring that this is more of a neutral cartoonist based on his depiction of Obama and the ISIS soldier.

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**Re: Demonizing the Enemy**

by Andrew Trott - Saturday, May 20, 2017, 12:46 PM

Your point that "you must, in addition to demonizing the enemy, humanize yourself to make a bigger impact" is a brilliant observation. It is often times so subtle the ways in which we humanize (or rather heroize ourselves) in order to make the dehumanization go even further. This seems inline with American exceptionalism and nativism; If you're not with us you're worse than us because we are the best and this exceptionalism justifies all that we do. This makes me think of how we handle immigration propaganda. Propaganda that says these "aliens" are coming to take jobs from hard working Americans, jobs that these Americans are willing to do because, by God, they are a hard working people. So there is the dehumanization in calling those immigrating "aliens" and the heroization of calling Americans (think W.A.S.P.) hard working.







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### WWII Propaganda

by Julia Tomlinson - Thursday, May 18, 2017, 9:16 PM

The greatest impacts of the American government so strongly putting out propaganda against the enemy was that the American people no longer viewed the enemy as human. "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," said James Forsher, a film historian and documentary filmmaker. By dehumanizing the enemy it made it a lot easier for your average American soldier to stomach the killing that was required to win the war. Some of the unintended

consequences from the extreme propaganda was that the general public did not believe stories about the Holocaust. That fact was something that I found very interesting, because it was something that I never considered.

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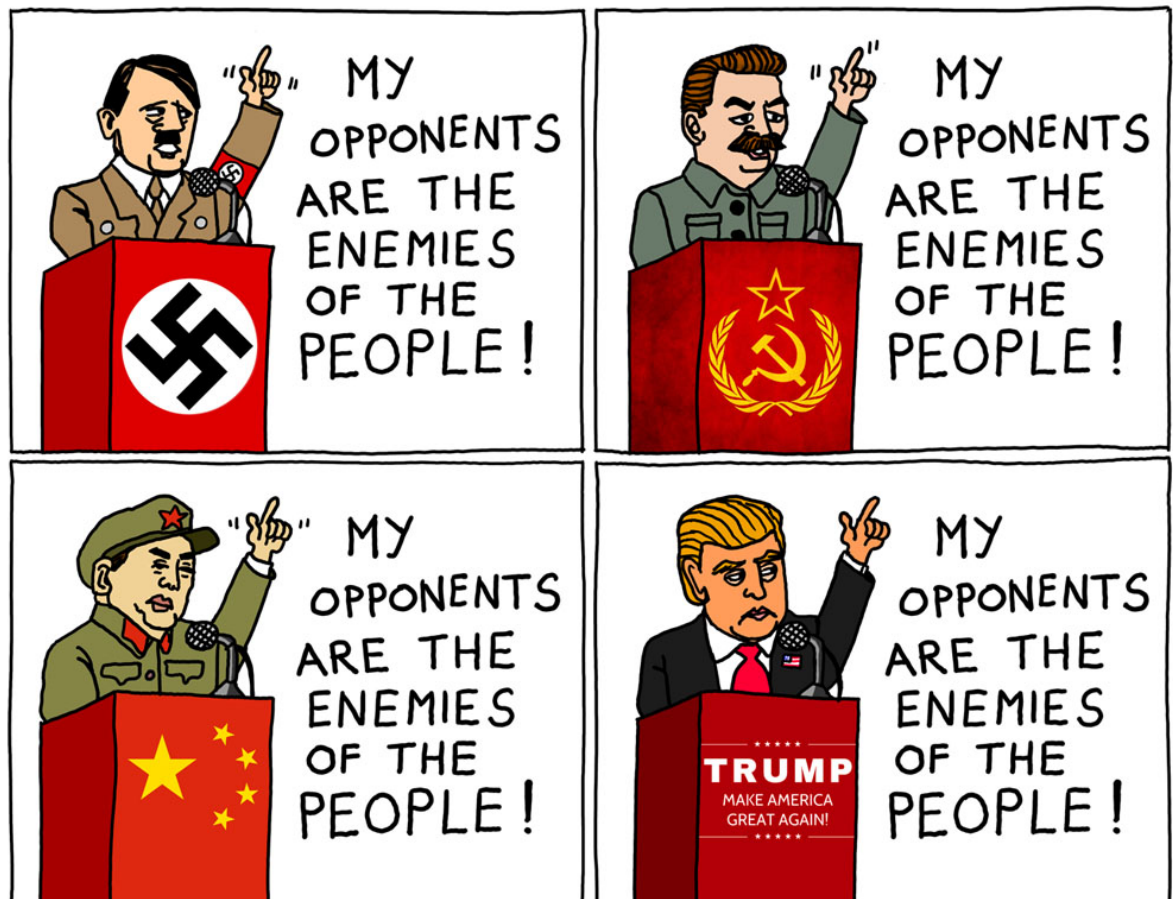


### Demonizing when is too far?

by Jessica Fialho - Saturday, May 20, 2017, 2:46 PM

As we have seen demonizing can be rather important and can help people cope when at war. Demonizing the enemy is something that helps quite a number of people through many events, but we need to be careful with how far we go. Today, something I see often is Trump being demonized. (I would like to take a moment to state, I am neither standing with Trump nor standing against him in this post.) It is seen through a variety of cartoons, and it is obvious that there are people who feel the need to demonize trump as an enemy. This brings up one of the obvious facts when it comes to demonizing; where one person's enemy stands, another person's ally stands. The whole point in demonizing is to make the enemy appear different and to help distance oneself away from the enemy.

The image I shared was from google, off of cartoons by Pascal Kirchmair. Now Pascae Kirchmair, obviously wished to demonize Trump here by comparing him to Hitler. Why I chose to share this was to get an outside perspective of how to other people or other countries we may be the enemy. I believe it is important to remember that being demonized goes both ways.



© Pascal Kirchmair

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### Effective Demonization

by William Mc Mahon - Saturday, May 20, 2017, 3:02 PM

I believe the propaganda against the Germans during WWII was most effective. However, the effect of the propaganda has to be considered along with the atrocities committed by the Germans during WWII. Even today we differentiate between Germany and Nazi Germany, and I don't think this is the result of propaganda. The Nazis are universally understood as the bad guys in all kinds of media across the board. Indiana Jones fought the Nazi's. Captain America was created as a propaganda tool. He exists in the Marvel comics even to this day. The most striking of these portrayals, in my opinion, is in video games. Specifically the Call of Duty series (See Image). The game contains a mode in which you fight not only Nazis but Nazi Zombies. Why this game mode? Because still, to this day, no one feels bad about killing Nazis. And the combination of Zombies with the Nazis demonizes the Nazis even further. This is a result of propaganda, but also must be viewed in the light of the actual atrocities committed.



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### Demonize and Victimize

by Bailey Koffler - Saturday, May 20, 2017, 11:11 PM

Propaganda is a tool that has been used in the media very frequently in order to gain the support of the people. Propaganda was used to increase support for the war because it usually influences people psychologically. Throughout World War II Franklin D. Roosevelt used many versions of propaganda to put down the enemy and gain support from the people. There were drawings of animalistic caricatures, his series Why We Fight, and even use of cartoons designed by Walt Disney and Dr. Seuss (Escobar In Class) to identify the enemy and create morale among the people. There were posters, film, radio broadcasts and more. In this types of demonization the enemy is seen as savage and out of line and we are portrayed as either heroic or as victims. Propaganda is a very effective way to gain support from the public and

get all the people on the same page. Although the majority of propaganda isn't true, due to the bias, there are portions that are based on truths just like how some stereotypes are based off of truths.

Just like WWII, I think propaganda is still very much apart of our daily lives and even more so during the election season. A lot of what I see during the election season is not "here's why you should vote for me", it's more of "here's why you shouldn't vote for the other person". For example, in this previous election when asked why they picked the presidential candidate they did they would give reasons as to why they couldn't pick the other candidate.



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