

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

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Demonizing the Enemy

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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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Re: Demonizing the Enemy

by Eric Walston - Saturday, May 13, 2017, 8:44 PM

I did not grow up in the A-typical American Nuclear family, I was raised by my grandparents. Both being born in the early 1920's/ As such I had many opportunities to become familiar with their past. As members of the "Greatest Generation" their world seemed so different than the one I had grown up in. I idolized my grandfather and his brother Jack and spent as much time with him as I could, I wanted to know everything about him, as such I learned a lot about his involvement in World War Two. My grandfather was a "Front Line" courier in the Us Army, while my Uncle Jack was a Naval Corpsman. Grandad served in the European theater and Uncle Jack in the Pacific. I remember one conversation I had with them both one summer, where I

asked them if it was hard to fight in the war, and the response struck me as odd (and in hindsight very insightful). Grandad said Uncle Jack was luck cause he got to shoot "Japs" so no matter what he knew who to kill, but since he was in Europe he never knew if he was killing a cousin of his (his family is German). Uncle Jack kind of scoffed at the comment and said "Well at least you fought you were fighting men, we had to fight animals." When I pressed Uncle Jack as to what he meant, he stated that the Germans were a lot kinder to their enemies than the Japanese were. Years later after Uncle Jack had died I found out that he was at the battles of Tarawa and Iwo Jima. So considering now what we know about those battles, and the way the Japanese treated America POWs, I can see why Uncle Jack may have had this perception of them. And even Grandad's view of the Germans made sense, that even though they were the enemy and politicized as being brutish savages via our ministry of propaganda, Grandad was of the same stock, if he saw them as less than human, that meant he was less than human as well. I am sure that he wasn't the only person serving who felt the same way.

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2

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Intended and unintended consequences of demonizing the enemy

by Amber Leonard - Monday, May 15, 2017, 10:41 AM

The intended consequences of demonizing the enemy is that more people saw the enemy as horrible human beings. More people got behind and supported the war because of this. In world war 1 a lot of propaganda came out. The article attached to this assignment gave an example. "A U.S. Army recruitment poster depicted a crazed gorilla wearing a German spiked war helmet, holding a bloody club in one hand and a half ravished woman in the other, and stepping on to the shores of America. It said "Destroy this mad brute.". In this example the Germans are animals who are brutal to women and kill Americans. The gorilla is stepping on to the shores of America showing that they could come here to the U.S, so you should join the forces and destroy the "mad brute" before they get the chance to come to the U.S. Posters like this made volunteers join the armed forces and go fight. However it also created tension for the German U.S citizens. Because the poster showed Germans being the enemy, ALL Germans became that evil gorilla. It doesn't matter where you are born if you're German people automatically associate you with the enemy. Kind of like people who are Muslim today get associated with terrorism. Many people see them wearing headaddresses and they automatically think of 911 and terrorism even if the person is 100% American. Another example is the man we watched a video on in class. He was a world war 1 vet who went to school when he got out of the war, and then got a job as a translator. When he heard about pearl harbor he immediately quit his job to go re enlist for the 2nd world war. However because he was Japanese he was rejected. He was a decorated war veteran but because Japan was the enemy he could not join. Japan was the enemy so all Japanese descendants must be the enemy as well.

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Re: Demonizing the Enemy

by Branden Long - Monday, May 15, 2017, 2:41 PM

During WWII, what steps FDR and his government take to demonize the enemy. How did the citizens react to these efforts? Which had the greatest impact? FDR and the Government "showed shadowy Nazism looming over America and its citizens, and racist stereotypes of the

Japanese with thick glasses, buck teeth, and sometimes animal-like features.” This portrayed them like animals to allow people to feel less regret when people have to kill or torture them. This is hard because people are people until they are demonized and until they are inhuman. A lot of citizens in the United States wanted the government to relocate asians due to the fact that America was attacked by Japan and that created a lot of tension for people of asian people that were in America. This affected people because a lot of people from asian background were put into internment camps.

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Re: Demonizing the Enemy

by Branden Long - Monday, May 15, 2017, 2:41 PM

What are the intended and more importantly, the unintended consequences of demonizing an enemy? "The only way to do it is to justify the killing, to make the enemy look as evil as possible." (Pratkanis). When we allow people to do this it allows people to feel less regret when they do kill someone who has been demonized. When people are demonized toward others it causes more aggression to the people that have been demonized.

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Demonizing propaganda today

by Abigail Gierut - Monday, May 15, 2017, 8:16 PM

Propaganda is often used to negatively distort the public opinion of someone (usually someone in power) and can be seen being used in media in recent times. Many of you might already be aware of how much this technique is used for or against President Donald Trump. While there has been all sorts of distorted propaganda against Trump, there was one magazine cover from Mexico that caught my eye. In October last year a Mexican magazine, Letras Libras, had this picture of Trump as their front cover. This picture makes an obvious comparison of President Trump to Adolf Hitler by giving Trump a "Hitler mustache" made up of the words Fascist American. I would definitely count this as an example of demonizing since most people view Hitler in a very negative way as a fascist mass murderer.

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Re: Demonizing propaganda today

by Eric Walston - Saturday, May 20, 2017, 2:18 PM

Unfortunately Hitler has become our go to for evil, and it is used way to often. To compare Hitler to Trump is ridiculous, I am not a Trump supporter by any means, but this, this is just ridiculous. I feel most people who use the Hitler Image on a current political figure have no true understanding of who Hitler was or what Fascism is. However this is also a great example of what lengths people will go to to push their idea or agenda. They , like the posters of WW2, are trying to sway the reader over to their side, make the Trump supports rethink their decision. I personally feel it is in bad taste, but I do live in a country where bad taste is constitutionally protected. I am surprised that no one has really jumped on the Putin as Hitler idea, I mean we do have a man who is consolidating power for the state, he is definitely wrapped up in the cult of personality, his speeches tell the citizenry to work hard for the betterment of society. I would feel that is a much better comparison to Hitler than Trump. Maybe if Hitler has a twitter account.

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2



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Re: Demonizing propaganda today

by Branden Long - Saturday, May 20, 2017, 8:07 PM

Hitler often discussed the effective use of propaganda and argued that effective propaganda appeals to the feelings of the public rather than to their reasoning ability, and relies on stereotypes. This is ironic considering that the magazine shown in the photo is using this method by targeting Trump using a Hitler comparison. Media, such as this magazine cover, appeals to the feelings of the public that does not support Trump to gain their attention and support for the magazine. I myself am not a Trump supporter, but I do believe this was an inaccurate comparison and think it was made in poor taste to demonize Trump.

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Also degrading the enemies culturein

by Jason Pickens - Monday, May 15, 2017, 8:55 PM

In Response to the question about demonizing the enemy, we will also degrade culture at the same time to make it easier for us to hate them. I was able to dig up and remember ways how the enemy was demonized as well as demoralizing their culture during the Afghan and Iraq wars. I don't often like to talk about my own personal exploits, but having been around the world and serving in the Marine Corps for 15 years, I had a hard time not being a veteran of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. As we were entering the world of Facebook, we as troops were able to see what the public was starting to spread via social media. I can clearly see many pictures that are available to us all who have computer access can sometimes paint an inaccurate and sometimes hateful depiction of our enemies. In particular the Taliban who we were fighting in Afghanistan was sometimes associated with the local Afghan public. Often times mean and hateful degrading propaganda that could have been crafted by any idiot with

access to photoshop or meme making capabilities could come up with crafty and clever ways to degrade not only the enemy but the society they came from. After being in contact with the Taliban in Afghanistan, they are a very intelligent group of resourceful people who do not do what Americans believe them to do in the Meme. (Author unknown) Sorry if this is inappropriate, but it paints a picture of demonizing the enemy in the modern era.



-Jason P.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

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Who is Telling the Truth?

by Brogan Smith - Monday, May 15, 2017, 10:42 PM

I think a major reason our own government isn't being trusted by the masses is because of the number of scandals around the White House. It's hard to trust politicians who are making choices based off their belief that they are helping the American people. Such as the demonizing of the enemy. I don't doubt that these tactics may help during wartime but are they ethical?

The specific quote that made me think this was, "Few say they doubt Saddam is evil, but how much about the allegations about him are true? It's often not easy to tell until years after the fact" (James). The government believes in secrecy and I agree to a certain extent but there are ethical guidelines where one should draw the line. The problem being that everyone has a different tolerance level or line in the sand. Also, people can be pushed to different lines, like we saw in class with the cartoon of Vladimir Putin stomping across Barack Obama's lines.

The main unintended consequence I imagine happening with the demonization of an enemy is post-war racism. The depictions are often blowing stereotypes out of proportion but if the population of America is being bombarded with this information it will change people. And just because someone sees something like this propaganda everyday, it will become their first-hand knowledge. It's a very unsubtle version of advertising.

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Evolution of Propaganda

by Tyler Ingram - Monday, May 15, 2017, 11:03 PM

After reading the "Demonizing the Enemy" article, what I found most interesting wasn't the fact that propaganda has been, and continues to be used to direct the minds of United States citizens. After all, fighting a war is significantly easier with an entire nation believing in the cause, and viewing the enemy as inhuman monsters that must be stopped. What I believe was the most interesting was the evolution of propaganda.

We see in the article how largely propaganda changed throughout the eras. I see the articles becoming more realistic and easier to believe as time progresses. Here are just a few examples to follow the evolution:

" The Spanish-American War also delivered, perhaps for the first time, films gloriously recreating war events, Forsher said, and, "The government looked at it and went, 'Wow.'" " - (8th Paragraph of Demonizing Article)

" Much of World War I's demonization propaganda seems blunt to modern eyes. A U.S. Army recruitment poster depicted a crazed gorilla wearing a German spiked war helmet, holding a bloody club in one hand and a half-ravished woman in the other, and stepping onto the shores of America. It said, "Destroy this Mad Brute." " - (Paragraph 3 of Page 2 of Demonizing Article)

" "The kind of stories that are being portrayed today about Iraq are a little different than the ones that were done, say, in World War I," Pratkanis said. "World War I was about the people of Germany, whereas the ones today are what is known as the blacktop illusion. 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." " - (8th Paragraph of Pg 4, Demonizing Article)

In the beginning, it appears that any sort of propaganda was effective, as it was new and few people had consciously drawn parallels between "current" propaganda and historical examples from beforehand. Propaganda became more and more realistic in an increasingly less ignorant world. In a more globally connected modern world, the government was smart enough not to call all people of Iraq as inherently evil -- many people would have their doubts, and many others would defend their heritage and unveil the government's propaganda to a larger audience.

Luckily for the United States, North Korea is completely walled off from the rest of the world, so there should be little chance of ancestral-North Koreans defending their heritage and uncovering lies about their country. As far as we're concerned, Kim Jong Un is a crazy misfit ruler of pure evil, with an entire country of mind-controlled militants on standby. It will be interesting to see our current era in hindsight. Maybe in propaganda's current evolution, websites like Youtube and Facebook are complying and secretly altering our nation's collective opinions about foreign (or even domestic) policy.

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Re: Evolution of Propaganda

by Jason Pickens - Wednesday, May 17, 2017, 6:01 PM

Tyler,

I agree with you about the fact that we are being lead to believe that all of our enemies are evil. However I would like to refer to the North Korea Portion of your post. This is a very scary regime, and the society is either scared of the government, or truly believes Kim Jong Un's BS. The North Koreans are and would truly be a worthy adversary if they were all as brainwashed as we think they are. I was always curious as to why the North Koreans have

not revolted against the government. They are starving, and the Korean peninsula is a huge producer of rice and other grains and crops, yet they are starving. I think there are more players that are behind the scenes in this regime that prevent a huge backlash from the people. As far as our media goes, I would venture to say that reporters from National Geographic put out a great documentary that was very fascinating. I loved it and learned a lot about them. I hope I made sense to you.

-Jason P.

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Re: Evolution of Propaganda

by Abigail Gierut - Thursday, May 18, 2017, 3:54 PM

Tyler,

I think you make a huge point that Jason is almost proving with repeating claims that we are being told through propaganda. Propaganda over the years has evolved and become more tactful. The level of propaganda on foreign opinions has changed as our access to knowledge has changed. Propaganda in WWI, as outrageous and over-the-top as it might seem to us today because of our knowledge of what actually went on in the war, the American people at the time didn't have any other sources to compare it with. So if there were posters everywhere saying that Germans were monstrous beasts of pure evil and leaders that they respected and trusted agreed with these accusations, of course they will willingly accept these claims against Germans. Now, as we have more access to different opinions today and our very own 'fact checker' (the world wide web), propaganda must learn to be more clever with their accusations. They're going to make sure they have people backing their claims and not enough evidence against it to prove otherwise and in many cases will base their claim off of some truth.

In the example you give of North Korea being completely walled off from the rest of the world, there's nobody saying otherwise when our government makes claims against them. So with today's use of propaganda this would be the perfect opportunity to distort the truth if there ever was one. Now I am not saying that all we believe about North Korea is false because like you said "Propaganda became more and more realistic in an increasingly less ignorant world" and has to be based with some sort of truth to be accepted in our society. With this example you certainly brought light to the question we should be asking ourselves with claims in propaganda--How much of it is truth?

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2

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Re: Evolution of Propaganda

by Eric Walston - Saturday, May 20, 2017, 1:21 PM

I completely understand where every party here is coming from, however we are leaving out the most important reason propaganda exists. People as a whole are uninformed and base their opinions on emotion rather than fact. A person is intelligent and individual, however as a collective, people are brash, uninformed, a conglomerate. In order to justify any action that may put the people in harms way you must unify them. The only way to do that is propaganda. Sure you could use logic and reason, but as we all know those tactics lose out time and time again to irrational emotion. As example, if after 9/11 we were told that a small force of less than six thousand Al Qaeda were held

up in three countries, and that they and they alone were responsible for the attack, we as a country, in all honesty, would have lost interest fairly quickly. However, once we tied them to other known terrorist organizations, to show the menace of the Islamic horror, then suddenly we as a people shifted our stance and supported actions that made us feel safe. Truth is, Islamic Terrorism has been around for a very long time, but we had no justification to take it on head first. So, we do what we always do, we wave the bloody shirt. We call out for support, and people being the irrational, emotionally controlled beings we are, we answered. As the war on terror progressed we lost interest, because it was not a quick and easy war. We then woke up to the horrors of it all, and due to our access to immediate media content, propaganda has less and less affect on us.

That was not the case in World War Two. Information came via the radio or news reels, and even then it was only the news you were allowed to hear via the government. The war dragged on, and people became weary of it quickly, especially when reports of how many American boys were dying over seas. But that is where the propaganda came in. Sure little Johnny is dead, but at least he kept those dirty Huns at bay. By feeding on the irrational emotion of humanity, the propaganda won the war. With out it, it is very likely we would have never entered the war, Germany would have conquered Europe, the Jews would have possibly been eradicated from the face of the Earth, life would not be the same as it is now. So no matter what we think, demonizing the enemy can be a crucial thing to win the day.

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Dehumanizing Trump

by Marisa Wyman - Wednesday, May 17, 2017, 9:26 PM

In WWII Germans were depicted with exaggerated noses and a mustache similar to Hitlers, or just him himself. Sometimes they were drawn as rats which is the perfect example of literally dehumanizing the enemy. Asians would be seen with overly yellow skin, squinty eyes, and buck teeth. Posters of them threatening the lives of soldiers, children, and women were spread everywhere. Along with radio talks, and short clips of the evils they engaged in. I think people accepted the evilness of them, but still cautious about entering another war after WWI. Propaganda can heavily alter the perception of another especially if you're not familiar with it to begin with. The intent is to convince or persuade one to hate a particular group. It must give the viewer the feeling that they're above the enemy in regards of humanity and morality, allowing one to feel righteous in their hatred. Much like the article states, "You can kill a monkey a lot more easily than you can kill a neighbor." (5th paragraph of article) In turn, propaganda puts of a very broad spectrum of people into one category. For example, Germans aren't always children murdering Nazi's and Asians aren't always buck toothed with a bloody knife in hand. But propaganda says otherwise. The cost was Asian internment camps and anti-German hostility and often the deportation of people who were already naturalized citizens. Bringing this to modern day, the era of memes has brought propaganda to a whole new level. My social media is bombarded with Trump meme's daily. Photoshop does it's part putting his face on different animals in different places doing all sorts of things. And to be honest I think it can sway public opinion whether we like to admit it or not. Maybe not the picture itself but the widespread of it could possibly "peer pressure" people into feeling like it's the "cool" thing to hate. Regardless, propaganda is still prevalent, just in a different form.



**Wählt das
arschloch Führer**



We should deport Trump to Syria

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Effect of Propaganda

by Amelia Salzman - Friday, May 19, 2017, 11:54 PM

I think demonizing the enemy during WWII had a lot of direct and indirect effects on citizens. It seems like it helped create a united front for Americans. Soldiers on the battle field felt just and right by their actions. As film historian James Forsher said in the article, "When you dehumanize, it allows you to kill your enemy and no longer feel guilty about it" I think he is right about this effect. People on the home front came together for the war as well. As we've talked about in class it is tricky to play the "what if" game in history but I would be curious to

see how the US role would have been different if Americans didn't have such strong detestation toward the enemy of the time. Going into the war public opinion was very low. I can see why the government used propaganda to turn opinion. The article talked about posters reading "Our Homes Are in Danger Now!" I think propaganda like this made it feel more important for US citizen at home to be involved in war efforts. When I was reading the article, it was reminded of the American Nativism. It seems often propaganda showed the enemy as dangerous radicals. (Obviously the Nazis were) We have been talking about nativism among Americans it is interesting to see it used toward other countries in the contexts of war. As for today, I have a hard time justifying propaganda it has a lot of negative effect on public opinions. In a lot of cases it justifies prejudice and can encourage people to act out on false perceptions and fears. I don't think the same level of fear is needed to day as it was during WWII.

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Re: Effect of Propaganda

by Eric Walston - Saturday, May 20, 2017, 2:10 PM

I can tell you from my personal experience that when James Forsher says, "When you dehumanize, it allows you to kill your enemy and no longer feel guilty about it" he is wrong. On the battle field you can not truly dehumanize an individual, you can see them, they do not look that different from the people back home. The only thing that truly helps you kill the enemy is that they are trying to kill you. It is a lot easier to pull a trigger when you have bullets whizzing all around you, it becomes fight or flight. It is only because of the training you receive that you don't run, no matter how badly you want to.

However I can totally get behind the idea of propaganda getting the civilian populace behind the war effort. It even does help those currently serving. In reality only about 30% of active duty military personnel will see actual combat, the vast majority of our military serve in some fashion a logistics purpose. Or as they are often referred to as Pogue or POG (Person other than Grunt) For them, propaganda can be a mitigating factor. But once you are in the thick of it, you aren't thinking about posters or films that inspire you, you are only thinking about going back home, thinking about your buddy huddled behind sandbags covered in mud right there with you. When you are in war, your world gets real small real fast.

However having said all of that, (and this is going to be very anti PC) in war it is a very good thing to dehumanize your enemy. You need a clear cut reason to take that life, you need to know that when you get back home you aren't the bad guy. Otherwise you will lose heart, and that is dangerous in the field. Thankfully that is something 99% of the country will never have to deal with, Civilians have the luxury of griping and complaining about the things our military choose to do. (absolutely no disrespect is meant to our civilian populace)

Sum of ratings:2 (1) 2

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Re: Effect of Propaganda

by Branden Long - Saturday, May 20, 2017, 8:53 PM

I agree with Eric in the respect that it is not as simple as dehumanizing the enemy in time of war to have the ability to kill without guilt, but I do believe that support from the home country does contribute to some soldiers motivation to apply their training on the battle

field. From what I have heard from some veterans is that killing is not the goal, but rather the necessity for survival in many cases. With the knowledge that there are people in your home country awaiting your arrival home and others depending on you for their survival pressure to survive is exceptionally high.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

1



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Re: Effect of Propaganda

by Amelia Salzman - Saturday, May 20, 2017, 11:00 PM

Eric, You make a really good point about what James Forsher said in the article. He brings an interesting point on the article, but I agree with your view of "Fight or flight" Based on what you've said, It seems like the problem with Forsher's statement is the aspect of guilt. When you said, "in war it is a very good thing to dehumanize your enemy you need a clear cut reason to take that life, you need to know that when you get back home you are;t the bad guy" It seems similar to what Forsher was saying. The primary difference I see is that Forsher says that demonizing relieves guilt. I think your view of not returning home as a "bad guy" is probably what Forsher meant by relieving guilt, but he doesn't present a very clear point. You obviously have more experience in this then I do and I respect your opinion based on that point. I think you have a genuine point when you said, "but once you are in the thick of it, you aren't thinking about posters or films that inspire you, you are only thinking about going back home" After reading more about the use of propaganda in this class, my understanding is that it is not designed to be carried with you in the front of your mind with individual actions. It is seen on such a wide spread scale that you Fall into the belief of what is being said. When Propaganda is used correctly it create opinions and predigests that become common and excepted. You don't have to think twice where you stand on an issue. I agree with you that the desire for survive can't be underestimated in situations of war.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Cultural identity in propaganda

by Eric Walston - Saturday, May 20, 2017, 1:00 PM





I chose these two posters to examine the demonization of the enemy from a different view point. Instead of subjecting the viewer to a scene in which the enemy is a monster or a caricature of themselves, instead these focus on historical and cultural reasons as why one should hate the enemy. In the first poster we have a member of the Waffen SS shaking hands with a member of the Norwegian Legion. The tag line is simple " We are with the Waffen and the Norwegian Legion against the common enemy...Against Bolshevism". They are standing in front of a famous Norse longship from Roskilde Denmark, found in 1932 (Which is now at this time under German authority). It sets the viewer to think that the German and Scandinavian peoples are one, unified by blood and history. Keep in mind it was only nine years early that archaeologist began to place the theory that Russia, while Slavic in nature, had only emerged as a unified nation under viking control because of the Swedish Rus viking Rurik. (Russia is named for the Rus Vikings). This in essence gives them the historical high ground, to claim that of course they should defeat the Russians, after all they would not even exist if it were not for the Teutonic peoples bringing enlightenment and governance to a people who before them were nothing more than tribal steppe nomads.

In The second poster we see the antithesis to the first poster. Here we see the Russians long struggle with the Teutonic peoples. Beginning in 1242 the Russian people led by Alexander Nevsky must fight off and defeat an invading Teutonic Army. Again in 1760 Peter the III defeated a German Danish army in the Seven years war, then again they must fight the Germans in World War One. So from their perspective this shows the noble Russian soldier as the defender against a force that had been trying to conquer them for nearly a millennia.

I find this all very interesting, we Americans were not able to do this, we were far too young of a country and too mix of nationalities to find the historical context like the Germans and Russians did. I am sure we could have made posters similar to these if we had been fighting the British, or possibly even the Spanish, but even then they would fail in comparison to the type of propaganda that can trace its roots back 1000 years.

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PTSD and propaganda

by Eric Walston - Saturday, May 20, 2017, 1:53 PM

My wife and i just had an interesting conversation regarding this forum. She brought up the fact that after world war two we have had less and less demonization of the enemy in propaganda. In World War two our enemies were clear, we knew who the bad guys were who the good guys were, its was Freedom and liberty against totalitarianism. As such, those who came back from the great wars knew what they did was a good thing, the right thing, this doesn't mean they did not have PTSD, I know for fact that it affected my Grandfather and great uncles, but because what they did was the "noble" thing they seemed to have adjusted better in the long run. Currently when we go to war there is no clearly defined enemy. We are now fighting "Radical" Islamic terrorism, that consists of people of every color and multiple nationalities. Ask any veteran of Iraq or Afghanistan if they could easily pick out the enemy and you will not get a concise answer. No one wears a uniform, they look like the average person on the street, so when you come back home and thrown back into the civilian populace it is hard separate yourself from the war. It also does not help that unlike World War two you have no way to avoid the media reports of what is going on each day. We are constantly hit with news of terrorism, not in some far away land but right at home. Even as I type this CNN is reporting that a Turkish man was arrested on an American Airlines flight for trying to break down the cockpit door of the flight he was on.

Before my grandfather died, I and my Brother, who had just come home from Iraq, got to be with him on his death bed. A few hours before he passed my grandfather told us both that he was proud that we had served our country, to which my brother got a little dark and asked my grandfather " So do you ever forget all of the bad stuff, does it ever get better". My grandfather turned his head and I could see water well up in his eyes, and he said " I remember the face of every man I had to kill, but as time goes by you forget the smell of death, but you always remember why you had to, and that makes it easier to sleep at night" After he passed my brother and I were tasked with going through Grandads things. We came across a photo of Grandad in England shortly before he went into campaign. IT was a simple photo of him standing next to a building that had a poster on it showing children huddling under an umbrella that was shielding them from Nazi Rockets. He had a huge smile on his face in the photo. On the back of the photo in pen was written the date June 3rd 1944 under the date written in pencil were the words "never again"

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Effects of demonization

by Matthew Brownlee - Saturday, May 20, 2017, 9:50 PM

Demonizing the enemy has proven to be quite effective in its goals. In WWII, cartoons and posters depicted the Japanese as buck-toothed with thick glasses and animal-like features. Such racist caricatures, according to the article, allowed Americans to stomach the internment of Japanese-Americans and stir up sentiment against the Japanese in the war. The majority of people don't feel comfortable with the thought of killing other human beings in war, so grotesque, cartoon-ish caricatures make enemies seem less human, which makes it easier to condone the war and violence. Long-term, these depictions can have a very negative impact on how we treat a group of people such as in the case of Islamic extremism today. Even if propaganda focuses in on just a select few corrupt leaders instead of demonizing an entire group (of whom the vast majority are innocent and don't condone extremism), many still see the Arab as a symbol of fanaticism and violence, according to Jay Winter in the forum article. This stereotype will likely stick around for a long time, and continue to discriminate and harm innocent people based on the acts of extremists.

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Re: Effects of demonization

by Eric Walston - Saturday, May 20, 2017, 10:19 PM

I would agree with Jay Winter, since the notion of the Muslims as we see them today are basically the same way we have seen them since the 11th century. Even in more relative recent history, when the Marines were sent to the Barbary coast to deal with Muslim pirates, much of the same iconology we use today was used then. In many ways I feel our modern PC culture has taken away our ability to villainize an enemy. I know that sounds absurd and even heartless, but when the time comes that we must unify against an enemy what will this mean for us.

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1



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