

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

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Using & Abusing History

by Joe Escobar - Saturday, May 13, 2017, 7:27 AM

This thread is for discussions on the Using & Abusing History topic.

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Reactionary America

by Andrew Trott - Saturday, May 13, 2017, 2:45 PM

The pair of images that really stood out to me was the “YOU! BUY WAR BONDS - LEST I PERISH” and “YOU! STOP ASKING QUESTIONS - you’re either with us or you're a terrorist.” The first image is from WWI, I believe, but it is relevant to WWII because both wars required great civilian involvement in order to be adequately funded. By having the Statue of Liberty point directly at the viewer of the poster it is implying that the individual can help uphold liberty through buying a war bond; and by not buying a war bond that individual (who does not) will be directly contributing the perishing of liberty. Since both WWI and WWII were American masquerades for democracy the image is also insinuating that not buying war bonds is

causing liberty to perish not just at home but for the world at large. The second image has smaller text saying "brought to you by the Ministry of Homeland Security," which is an obvious parody for the Department of Homeland Security. The DHS was formed in 2002 after the attack on the Twin Towers. After these attacks in 2001 nationalism had, arguably, become the most popular it been since the time of Pearl Harbor. The country and government as a whole pushed to the right to a reactionary mindset it holds during war times. This mind set goes even further than the ideal of "if you're not with us you're against us." The reactionary mindset of both times held that "if you even question our actions you're against us," even if you were still a patriot. To be a patriot in times of reaction is to go with the country regardless of beliefs. Though this is not Fascist because there is no one single person in control, it is not far off. Many of the actions America has partaken in the last two decades is extremely reactionary. As stated in class America goes towards the reactionary side of the liberal-conservative scale during times of war. With the War on Terrorism America is not able to be in the reactionary side of the scale for one of the longest times in American history.

America is at a time where there is a war on intellectualism as well. Intellectuals and experts are seen as an enemy of the state in many ways. They are seen as radicals that are dangerous to the paradigm of the current American structure. To ask questions and have an educated dialogue is seen as something that threatens the ideals of the individual. If the ideals of the individual are threatened then the ideals of the populist is threatened as that individual is displayed as part of the populist. Currently there is a push to show it is better to not ask questions but instead to go with the bureaucracy because the bureaucracy is seen as being set up in our best interest, the interest of the populist. So to question it is to question what in our best interest. It was not Hitler who loaded the Jews up into trains and took them to the concentration camps it was the bureaucrats. Anti-intellectualism is often mistakenly conflated with the right vs the left, intellectuals and experts vs the populist. However if we see the spectrum as the circle shown in class we see that silencing experts or intellectuals can fall on the right or left. For America though this new wave of silencing questioning does fall on the right side.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

3

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Masquerades for Democracy

by William Mc Mahon - Monday, May 15, 2017, 2:18 PM

Can you explain why you think WWI and WWII are "masquerades for democracy." I can kind of see what you're saying in regards to WWI, but in WWII the U.S. was fighting against a fascist totalitarian government that was committing mass murder. We had various reasons for doing this, (some better than others) but I think one could argue that at least part of what we were fighting for was democracy.

The only hypocrisy I see with this is regarding Russia. Russia was a communist nation and an ally, however, I think Hitler's Germany was a much bigger threat to democracy than Stalin's Russia. I think that justifies having a communist nation as an ally.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

2

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Ally or Enemy

by Eden Stellavato - Thursday, May 18, 2017, 2:53 PM

Bruh you on his ass. If it wasn't a masquerade for democracy we wouldn't have allied with Russia. "Dancing" with a communist country is a fair statement labeling our involvement with the USSR. Further more we would have beat the Nazi's with a bayonette duct taped to a German Soldiers severed extremities. Also Russia became our enemy following the war. The only good thing they did in the war was waste the Hitlers time and get murked. If we had really been fighting for democracy we would have nuked Russia after Germany surrendered with the threatening of a second attack. You can't fight for democracy if your ally is trying to take over the world. Got problems? see me in class Willy.

Sum of ratings:0 (1)

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Re: Ally or Enemy

by Andrew Trott - Saturday, May 20, 2017, 12:25 PM

I must say I strongly disagree that "we would have beat the Nazi's with a bayonet duct taped to a German Soldiers severed extremities..... The only good thing they did in the war was waste the Hitlers time and get murked." If I am reading you correctly here you are insinuating that the Allies would have been able to defeat the Axis powers with or without the Russians. This seems very incorrect for a number of reasons. If Hitler would have not turned on the Russians and decided to invade, effectually creating two fronts, he would have been twice as powerful and had twice the resources.

The Russians battle at Stalingrad should probably go down as one of the greatest battles in human history. It was extremely bloody and last 5 months... 5 months of keeping the Nazi's distracted and thinning their resources. Had all of Hitler's resources been concentrated to the western front then he would have been arguably unstoppable; especially since the United States was, itself, fighting two fronts.

I have a feeling your response was fairly satirical, and I appreciate it greatly in that sense. However I think it is important to still stay true to the facts. There is also a tone of nativism in your response that can be dangerous; If not nativism at the very least American exceptionalism. I would, however, greatly enjoy discussing the theoreticals of what could have happened in the war. So if you'd like I would love to continue the conversation but I am not sure as to the seriousness of your original post.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Re: Masquerades for Democracy

by Andrew Trott - Friday, May 19, 2017, 9:37 PM

I specifically chose that wording to be provocative. I would agree that in WWII democracy was certainly one of the reasons for the United States entering the war. I am glad you caught that little piece as it was the shakiest part of my post. I debated where or not to put that in there. In the ended I decided to use that wording simply because I had been challenged little in past forums and was curious what response I would. However I was not trolling, allow me to attempt to make my point. While I would agree that Hitler was a more immediate threat to democracy than Stalin's Russia. The reason I

feel the word masquerading is acceptable, and something I stand by is, primarily, because of our actions after the war. Though we were fighting for democracy yes, I do not see that as our main reason for entering the war. The main reason I see the United States entering the war, and the reason for many of its actions after the war, are to defend America's self interest; a term that was changed to self defense during the cold war. "The Defense Department replaced the War Department, and the new phrase national security supplanted the older, more limited language of gauging the best national interest." (Murrin, 896). When we entered the war we did not know about the extent to which the atrocities of the holocaust and the Nazi concentration camp. We did not know about the mass murders being committed. As well certainly both the Allied and Axis powers committed wide spread mass murder during the war. The masquerade for democracy is really a plight for capitalism. Many American corporations (such as Ford and GE) were supplying and profiting off of Nazi Germany before US entered the war then they started profiting off of United States military endeavors once we did enter. The United States free market is not well aided by communist countries; hence why after the war we were willing to fund totalitarian, dictatorial, regimes. We would fund these regimes regardless of if the people of a country were voting democratically to institute communist principles. We did not care how the governments were gaining ground; if the government was left leaning we attributed it with communism and worse with Moscow. "As popularly articulated, containment linked all leftist insurgencies, wherever they occurred, to a totalitarian movement controlled from Moscow that directly threatened American security." (Murrin, 886). What the NSC-68 suggested is closer to fascist ideals than democratic as I understand it. The document suggested "covert action, economic pressure, propaganda campaigns, and a massive military buildup. Because Americans might oppose larger military spending and budget deficits, the report cautioned, U.S. actions should be labeled as "defensive" and spending increases presented as a stimulus to the economy rather than as a drain on national resources." (Murrin, 892).

WWII was more a plight to keep trade open with the United States so that the American economy would be able to prosper, a prosperity that was not open to every. In fact it was intentionally closed off to many factions of people.

I am happy that the worse regime in history was defeated but I do not wish to paint America as the benevolent torch bearer of democracy that was completely altruistic in our reasons for fighting.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Statue of liberty

by Edén Stellavato - Tuesday, May 16, 2017, 4:04 PM

I only read like the first 4 or 5 sentences of your post but i completely agree. Using the statue of liberty against the american people, especially during WII undeniably would make anyone question they're patriotism. Meaning that "her" being literally the face of freedom it would almost be un-american to not buy a war bonds, especially in those times when it actually really was "un-american" not too. I'm obviously a left spectrum in this instance but anyone would bend the spectrum if a fascist pointed a gun at your face... we'd probably even tell our friends to buy war bonds

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: Using & Abusing History

by Caleb Pruitt - Sunday, May 14, 2017, 9:56 PM

The picture that popped out first to me was the one with the cross saying "a careless word...another cross." As we talked in class on Thursday, these posters warned the public and servicemen against spouting superfluous comments concerning battle plans or anything about the military. (Class notes, 5/11) Because anyone around could be a spy, the danger that flippant discussions caused is uncanny. Additionally, the artist's strategy in penning a cross with items a soldier once owned is immediately effective. Because the cross is irrefutably and blatantly illustrating the death of a soldier, it increases the pressure upon the general public to refrain from careless chatter. Do your part and you could save lives!

Equally interesting, I think, is the modern poster that is seemingly identical. It employs the same art; however, I think its message is from a completely different vein. Its reference to vacancies in the army due to death could refer to a number of things. My first instinct was that it was a reference to WWI, in that battle strategies remained rather archaic and poorly planned, especially against the modern evolution of war weapons. The casualties incurred from blindly running across a plain straight into a machine gun nest were horrendous, so this poster could be a mockery of old-school fighting. (Textbook, 747-8) Similarly, it could be referencing more modern war which is incredibly less dependent on infantrymen, but no less lethal. Anymore there are pinpoint missiles and drones and any number of weapons that don't risk any human lives offensively. Nonetheless, their efficacy is incalculable. This poster may be highlighting the modern war especially considering the decreasing focus of a large infantry (thus vacancies) and effectiveness of large scale weapons (thus the deaths and subsequent vacancies). Either way, I find this poster to be poking fun and slightly sarcastic contrasting the austere, foreboding physiognomy of the original.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

3



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Re: Using & Abusing History

by Eden Stellavato - Monday, May 15, 2017, 10:51 AM

The pair of images that made the biggest impact on me was the first pair of Miss U.S.A on the typewriter. First of all I chose this because my momma has the modern adaptation on her fridge. This is pro war propaganda at its finest, the basic meaning of "keep them fingers flying" is that what they write is published and people will believe it. Even if we weren't in danger if something was published that instilled fear it could lead to citizens investing in war bonds etc. The modern adaptation is satirically fabricating the obvious patriotism in the WWII version. If it wasn't for the media the people might not be as supportive of the war...simply. The manipulation is probably more of an honest warning than anything. Not directly saying don't believe the government/media is thought provoking enough to leave it open to personal interpretation so... someone on the right side of the spectrum could find it offensive and a form of "anarchy". The original was chosen for re-interpretation because it still applies to our media even today. I'm not sure when the modern version was made but that says even more that however long ago it was made that even the re-interpretation is STILL relevant. Looking at the way a program like CNN gives the American people news these pair of images isn't so crazy.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

2



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Careless Word vs. Join the Army

by William Mc Mahon - Monday, May 15, 2017, 12:05 PM

The images that affected me the most personally were the “Careless Word” and the “Join the Army.” I felt the modern adaption was done in poor taste.

The original image reflected a real liability of the United States during WWII. This wasn’t propaganda in the sense that it wasn’t trying to change how people thought, it was addressing a very real threat. Nor was this image infringing upon free speech or trying to censor people. It was trying to affect what people said, but there is no connection between this image and anything having to do with the more obvious suppression of speech such as what happened in *Schenck v. United States*. (Lecture)

The modern image, on the other hand, is blatantly trying to change how you think. It has taken the original image and politicized it to the extreme, flipping the intent inside itself to create the opposite message. This is clever, and wouldn’t bother me much, except that it attempts to create this intent by using the deaths of human beings.

I understand trying to create a powerful image to get your point across, but I do feel it’s disrespectful to do so at the expense of people who died. Granted, the original image did this as well, however, the fact that it had less of a political intent gives it more legitimacy.

It’s easy to intellectualize death in war, especially having no personal connection to anyone who fought or died. It’s hard to understand the gravity contained in a sentence like, “The U-235 bomb killed 68,000 people outright.” (Total War, textbook p.871) I believe using death as a tool to get your point across is cheap and tacky, and should only be done so carefully and respectfully.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

3



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Love for all?

by Jessica Fialho - Monday, May 15, 2017, 3:15 PM

The “pair” of images that makes the biggest impact on me is the last one. On the left, there is a female nurse and male sailor kissing. On the right, there looks to be a photoshopped picture making two male sailors kissing. I have been debating for awhile on why this made such a big impact on me and how to put it into words, but honestly I have been at a loss on how to do it. However, let me start with what my research about the left picture brought up. After reading various articles and google searching about the “kissing sailor” photo, I discovered that quite a few of the articles state that the kissing couple actually were not a couple. This took me by surprise and actually made me wonder what other meaning could be behind just the photo on the left.

First glance with the photo on the left, I had believed it to be a romantic image caught on film. Then comparing it to the one on the right, I had hoped it was trying to stand up for the same sex equal rights. The photo on the left has various articles scattered across google that reveal I am not the only one who believed it to be a romantic kiss between a sailor and nurse. However, a novel written by Lawrence Verria, and George Galdorisi, come out to help sort through the questions of rather or not the sailor and nurse were a couple and to answer other unanswered things. Honestly this makes me reconsider the photo on the left a bit differently.

I am on the cusp of rather or not the message is supposed to be a positive one now. I had originally thought it was revealing that same sex couples can be romantic and symbolize a unity as well. (I also would like to take a second to point out that in the back BOND is listed on a building. Just found that even more amazing how placed that was with the bond of a kiss.) However, now knowing that the photo on the left has been disputed that the opposite gender couple wasn't really a couple, it makes me wonder if this was supposed to be a different message. I am curious to see what other people have to say about this pair of images.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Re: WWII Times Square Kissing Photos

by John Thompson - Monday, May 15, 2017, 5:29 PM

The original image, the one on the left, shows a sailor who has just gotten back from WWII subsequent to it ending and greeting a nurse with a kiss. Kissing was a newly accepted popular thing to be done in public and many soldiers from the war were running through the streets of Times Square in joy kissing everyone they could. Alfred Eisenstaedt followed them with his camera in an attempt to get a photo, eventually snapping one that appeared in *Time Magazine* a week later (1).

The image to the right, the recreated one, shows two men kissing while posing nearly the exact same way as the couple had in 1945. The photo is also in black and white to further create the allusion that the picture was taken in the 1940s. The purpose of this recreation was to spread awareness of gay equality in society and the legality of same sex marriage.

This issue had the biggest impact on me because I feel out of all of them, it displays the most relevant issue discussed in today's era. I believe the recreated photo was only meant to spread awareness and do not find it to be offensive or insulting to American history. I believe this image was chosen for alteration because it is incredibly famous and a symbol of U.S. culture, therefore, most people will understand the picture's reference and know its not simply just 2 men kissing in a doctored photo.

Source:

1: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/V-J_Day_in_Times_Square

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

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Patriotism or Mindless Drones?

by Nicholas Bates - Monday, May 15, 2017, 9:45 PM

There is a point to be made from both the posters. The old one represented patriotism for a government that was attempting to make sure that it could concentrate on the war overseas as opposed to trouble in the U.S. The new one represents in a sarcastic way that the people don't want to have their voices silenced. In the military it states that you are required to follow any lawful order given by a superior officer. This has been abused in the past and probably is currently at well but if you look at the wording you will realize it is actually a good order. **Lawful order** is really the key phrase there. If someone above u in rank tells you that you need to do something than it is better for that thing to be done than waste time arguing what is right and

whats not. However, this does not apply if someone is given an unlawful order. So in the case of what happened in the Vietnam War, for example, the My Lai Massacre where hundreds of unarmed civilians were killed they should have as a unit told the superiors that they wouldn't do it. Granted that in total war such as that, many soldier's views have been skewed to where they believe that the enemy isn't human.

Sum of ratings:2 (1) 2

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Same Love

by Michaela Ensele - Monday, May 15, 2017, 10:19 PM

The main posters that stood out to me were the very last ones. In the first one it is showing a military man happily kissing a woman in Time Square I would assume. The modern one on the right is showing the same image but instead of a man kissing a woman he is now kissing another man. I think that this poster is portraying more of a positive light by changing the woman to a man because the people in the background are still smiling like nothing is wrong. I agree that there is nothing wrong with who the man is kissing, it seems to me as if everyone can still celebrate no matter who you love or kiss. This manipulation of the poster was done because it shows how much has changed from then and now. Back when World War II was going on the times weren't so easy to just be able to have a celebratory kiss with whomever you wanted to in public. I believe with these posters next to one another it shows progress and I love that. This isn't a perfect world and not all people are accepting but I like to think that things such as this manipulation of a old poster into a modern one as a step in the right direction.

Sum of ratings:2 (1) 2

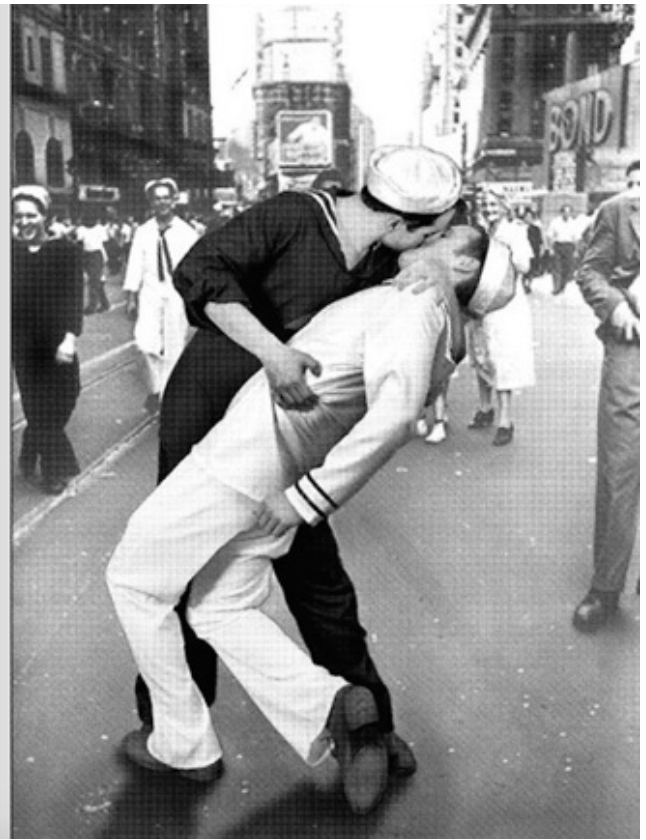
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WWII Kissing Photo

by Julia Tomlinson - Monday, May 15, 2017, 11:21 PM

The image attached is the one that had the biggest impact on me personally of all in the thread. I feel as though it was really simply done, but still had a very strong impact. The photo on the right was taken in New York City on V-J Day on August 14. It has titled the "WWII Kissing Photo." Greta Zimmer Friedman, the nurse in the photo, stated that the kiss, "was just somebody celebrating. It wasn't a romantic event." I feel as though history is being manipulated cleverly. "Don't ask, don't tell" lasted in the military until September 20, 2011. My initial reaction to this photo was that it was commentary on homosexuality and it finally being accepted in the military. That is why I feel as though this photo has a positive message. I think the photo on the right was used as a comparison because the original is so recognizable.



Sum of ratings:2 (1) 2

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Re: WWII Kissing Photo

by Brandon Gericke - Tuesday, May 16, 2017, 12:42 PM

I do agree with you. However having been in the Navy for 5 years, I saw this picture and immediately remembered that within the military community, each branch of service has a joke that's told about them. The joke about the navy is that the men are all gay. I at first was annoyed but once I looked at the broader aspects of the picture, I understood what it meant. 😊

Sum of ratings:1 (1) 1

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Liberal morons and the real freedom fighters

by Brandon Gericke - Tuesday, May 16, 2017, 11:57 AM

The picture of the soldier drinking out of a tin cup was the image I found that resounded with me the most. The first image or the real image kind of suck with me because its telling people to limit their consumption of goods so the military could have enough and that this in turn was fair for you. I wonder who gets to decide what is your fair share though? The spoof image is the same picture telling "liberal morons" that if they love the war they should support the troops. This resounds with me because I was a Navy Corpsman for five years and also consider myself a liberal. I most definitely supported my brothers and sisters in arms, however I did not blindly support the war itself. Being a liberal does not mean that you dont support the troops. I would say that the second image is disrespectful to the first image because the first

image was meant to convey a good message, while the second is just an attempt to push a political agenda and demean the other side. I think that this picture was chosen because it shows a picture of the soldier who liberals supposedly don't support.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: Raising a Tree

by Edward Billings - Tuesday, May 16, 2017, 10:07 PM

I have chosen the two images of the flag raising at Iwo-Jima to respond to because I think I have a good understanding of the historical record and the intention that the original photo was produced for. I have always felt that this image portrays the struggle that our soldiers were and do presently live and fight for. The raising of the flag is a symbol that signifies that we (U.S.A.) are here. This particular flag raising was part of an assault during the island hopping portion of WWII. On Iwo-Jima many Marines lost their lives to knock out a forward radio warning station, so this flag raising had a motivational aspect to it that pumped a second wind into the troops allowing for the objective to be breached. Also this act tells our allies that they have our support and let's anyone who opposes know that there is a line and process to negotiation. Be it militarily, or diplomatically is up to you. The history behind this flag raising is in depth, well recorded and there could, and should in all rights be a whole class on this island and the Mt. Suribachi. I am not sure about what the image on the cover of Time is/was implying. As I analyze it through my bias the implication is that the government should declare war on Global Warming. This seems to go to a polar end of many spectrums in my mind, or that only the Government can save the world from Global Warming, but if I take a step away from my bias I start to look at the participants in the flag raising and maybe what it's implying is that there were many different people from all walks of life that raised that flag and that what it's going to take to win the war on Global Warming, or that it's going to take a concerted effort to end global warming. Basically I am not sure where whoever put this together was coming from, and one could take it all over so many spectrums that I feel this made me think about similarities and differences between the two images. I don't think it was intended to be disrespectful, but I can see how people that have been through war, or are under a counter opinion to the article (which I have not read, but now I want to and maybe that is the intention) could be offended by the comparison. It's hard to tell without reading the article whether it is negative, or not. I think that this image was chosen because of the feelings it evokes.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Re: When you ride Alone you Ride with Hitler Comparison

by John Thompson - Friday, May 19, 2017, 5:16 AM

The 2 posters advocating not to drive alone had a big impact on me because they related what people saw as "the bad guys" in today's time to the WWII era. Before, people universally were against Hitler, when the second poster was released, people were universally against Bin Laden. This type of propaganda has a bandwagon style method because it encourages all US citizens to share a common enemy in order to further unite.

The image on the left was illustrated by Weimer Pursell in 1943. The purpose of the drawing was to encourage carpooling in order to use less gas and save more for the war. The poster was part of the movement of domestic efforts to encourage rationing and conservation of resources (1).

The image on the right is the cover of a political comedy book by Bill Maher published in 2002 (2). The illustration relates to the original because it also emphasizes on conservation of resources, just of oil instead of gas. The author believes that the U.S. is too dependent on oil which is a factor for terrorism being as big as a problem as it is.

I do not believe the recreated propaganda was offensive. I believe that the particular poster was chosen to be recreated because it also advocated conserving your resources.

Souces:

1: <http://brainworks-ai.blogspot.com/2009/01/ride-with-hitler.html>

2: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/When_You_Ride_Alone_You_Ride_with_bin_Laden

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Can We Do It? Yes We Can!

by Caleb Pruitt - Friday, May 19, 2017, 9:43 PM

Thank you Bob the Builder for your endless encouragements that have edified innumerable lives. Seriously though, the Rosie the Riveter and Princess Leia contrast is interesting. Without question the original poster illustrates the empowerment of women as they take on "man's" work. It is an inspiration and almost a battle cry for women to prove their worth and provide how they can in their husbands' absences. Here was their chance to show they were more than dainty commodities, but rather equals in many ways.

In a major contrast, Princess Leia is posed in the exact same shape saying the same thing. I don't believe there is any intention to disrespect the historical connotations represented within the picture, I think it is utilizing the infamous picture in a new, relatable, humorous manner. When it comes down to it, Princess Leia is communicating much of the same message: Unity, encouragement, and patriotism. It is safe to say she's acting as the Rebellion leader she is and talking mostly to men, since Mon Mothma and Leia are the only female rebels I remember seeing. This fact definitely takes away from the power and meaning of the original poster. Though who knows, maybe some of the prospective female rebels originate from WWII-era America and this form of advertisement was particularly effective, but that was a long, long time ago in a galaxy far, far away...

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Cthulhu as kissing sailor



by Jessica Fialho - Friday, May 19, 2017, 9:56 PM

I was actually spending some time looking on Facebook and noticed this picture in one of my Dungeons and Dragons group. I found it interesting that this was the first time I had come across this photoshopped picture of Cthulhu in the kissing sailor photo because I had not seen it until this week. When comparing this one to the original kissing sailor photo, it definitely makes me see more of the negative features not highlighted in the original. Especially with Cthulhu in the sailors place. When I look at this all I see is that Cthulhu is eating this helpless nurse. It is easy to see no romance where the original was indeed misleading. I wonder if who photoshopped this was actually aware of the history behind the kissing sailor photo with the unwanted advance. Something leads me to believe though that whoever made this just did so to get a laugh out of some table top gamers, however there is no way to be sure on what message they were trying to present.



Sum of ratings:1 (1)

1

[Permalink](#) | [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)**Re: Cthulhu as kissing sailor**

by John Thompson - Saturday, May 20, 2017, 8:51 PM

Although the sailor didn't know the nurse prior to kissing her, I definitely believe the interaction was completely mutual. The idea of copulating and kissing for pleasure instead of procreation was a newly accepted idea and the soldiers from the war were running down the streets in large quantities kissing girls out of joy to display this new behavior. I don't think there was any "unwanted advances" as you said and feel the monster photoshopped over the original image had no deeper meaning.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

1

[Permalink](#) | [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)**V-J Day**

by Bailey Koffler - Saturday, May 20, 2017, 11:45 PM

The original photo was taken on V-J day when World War II ended. This was the day that Japan had surrendered unconditionally to the Allies thus ending World War II. The United States Navy sailor grabbed a stranger and began kissing her very passionately in Time Square. Rumors have said that the woman was nurse, but the article below claims the woman was a dental assistant. The modified image exemplifies a homosexual sailors kissing in the same situation that the V-J day photo was taken. I believe this photo is depicting how the legalization of same sex marriage is just as moving and important as the ending of the war. The legalization of same sex marriage was a monumental moment for many and signaled the start of a more accepting and free world, just like the ending of the war. I think the history is being manipulated appropriately and positively. This photo was probably chosen for manipulation because it is one of the most widely known photos. Although people may look at the photo and think the photo is of lovers, many people, even those who have not taken history, know that the photo is of strangers. While looking at the photo you can feel the passion and the intensity of the moment. It's a beautiful photo and the modified version is just as passionate and moving.

<http://nypost.com/2012/06/17/the-true-story-behind-the-iconic-v-j-day-sailor-and-nurse-smooch/>

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

2

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