

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

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Using & Abusing History

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Using & Abusing History

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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.

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: Using & Abusing History

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Soldiers Grave cartoon.

by Joshua Grigsby - Monday, May 15, 2017, 6:07 PM

The edited cartoon that had the greatest impact on me would have to have been the soldiers grave that originally said, "a careless word...another cross" and was replaced with the inscription, "Join the army...Vacancies available". Honestly, the main reason being that I'm not quite sure which way the artist was trying to go by re-doing it. Maybe a date for reference would help?

The original image being talked about in class, its clear that the propaganda was an attempt to keep any logistical aspects of the military out of enemy ears. In my opinion, the individual who re-inscribed the poster with, "Join the army, vacancies available" is being extremely disrespectful. Regardless of how anyone "feels" about the first version of propaganda, I find it unnecessary to make any sort of slight towards a symbol for a fallen serviceman. I'm fairly certain the re-creator is in agreement with the anti-war movement towards our presence in the middle-east. Again, however, without a date for reference its hard for me to be absolute. But honestly, I kind of feel that whoever re-wrote the poster crossed a line, regardless of their political intentions. If I'm correct, then the use of this poster is petty and doesn't really draw any clever parallels with the original.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

1



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Iwo Jima victory or Climate change victory

by Marisa Wyman - Monday, May 15, 2017, 10:50 PM

The historical picture of soldier's raising the victorious US flag upon Mount Suribachi is shown on the left and an altered version of soldier's raising a tree is shown on time magazine with a headline of "How to Win the War on Climate Change". Personally, this alteration is not as much offensive to me as it is just overdramatic. With that said, I do believe that veterans or patriots could deem this as disrespectful, in which I would not argue. I would not categorize the two events together. The Battle of Iwo Jima one of the bloodiest and major victories in WWII. The battle we're facing with climate change, while I consider immensely important, has no relevance to humans brutally shooting each other down. Climate change is something we can prevent by learning to be more efficient and doing our part, but we fail to succumb to due to laziness, ignoring the problem, or just not caring. I don't know if a picture of 6 soldier's planting a tree instead of the flag will change that. So while the message may be positive its lack of creativity is sad.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

2



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Re: Iwo Jima victory or Climate change victory

by Joshua Grigsby - Friday, May 19, 2017, 5:47 PM

Marisa, I totally agree with you. When I was deciding which photo to choose that one made me kind of tilt my head. After thinking about the potential message this revised poster is trying to convey, I've landed on the idea that maybe the author is trying to say its America's job to push the climate awareness agenda? Other than that I couldn't find any parallels between the two topics. And as a former Marine, it for sure stung a bit seeing that picture being manipulated so it looks like they were planting a tree. I just don't ever think the climate change agenda will ever be on the same level of seriousness as the loss of human lives on a such a large scale. Overall a bad move using the flag.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

1



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Buy War Bonds?

by Jordan Selker - Monday, May 15, 2017, 11:05 PM

The pair of images featuring the statue of liberty impact me the most personally, because I believe it is a powerful message delivered through satire, that has some significant historical accuracy. In politics today, it seems that various forms of criticism are deemed unpatriotic or anti-american. I see something along the lines of "If you don't like this country don't let the door hit you on the way out." come up in the sphere of political discussion. This has always come across as ludicrous to me, as I see those who are critiquing and trying to change America for the better as patriotic as they come, these discussions on how to change our society are ones had by our founding fathers and everyone since. But when we examine history, and the violation of civil rights imposed upon those speaking out against the government (especially in times of war), this American Nativism is very tame. The image to the left represents some mild wartime propaganda in hopes to raise some money, hoping to instill some motivating fear in americans at home. On the right, a satirical exaggeration (I hope) of some anti-radical nativism coming from the right. I think they could've used a better image to remake, as one is simply calling for support and the other taking a more controlling stance, one that was common in the time of war. I do find it a relevant remake, as some people seem to have this mentality of either total support or none at all, however it's not the most fitting historical reference from the time period, maybe something related to the red scare or any of the anti-communist anti-pacifist issues of the past.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

3



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Images to influence public opinion

by Amelia Salzman - Monday, May 15, 2017, 11:05 PM

It is fascinating to see how these images have been changed and altered over the years. With most of them it's clear to see that they were changed without knowledge or respect for the history held in the originals. One that stood out to me was the image reading "Join the Army Vacancies Available". When we discussed the original image in class it was designed to encourage people to not talk about military activities in public. The redesigned image was an anti-military image. Using the death of soldiers as an illustration against war and the military. When we looked at the original in class I thought it was heavy handed. I understand why they produced it but I personally don't agree with the use of fallen soldiers. The Redesigned Image I thought was disrespectful. In my opinion when having the discussion of military even if your view is against it there is a level of respect that should be kept. I don't see that in this image. Considering that the message have little to do with each other, I feel that it is an example of how we have thought-out history used the tragedy of fallen soldiers to influence public opinion. Based on these two images I would say though maybe effective for convincing some people I don't think it is appropriate.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

2



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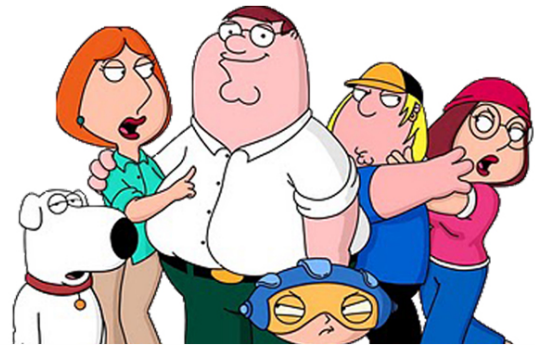
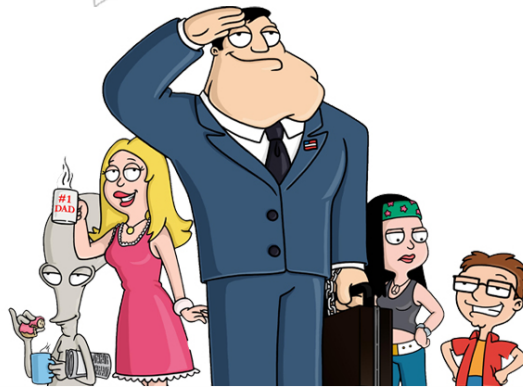


Using & Abusing History-biggest impact

by Katlyn Smelcer - Wednesday, May 17, 2017, 4:08 PM

The pair of pictures that had the biggest impact on me was probably the first image of the woman typing and it states, "Victory waits on your fingers-Keep 'Em Flying Miss U.S.A." This is a propaganda flyer from WWII trying to get women involved in the war effort by being stenographers for the government. This poster is extremely sexist because it sends a message that women can only handle small simple jobs. I also don't like how the woman is smiling and

saluting like it's her duty to help the war effort even if she can only type. I think the picture on the right depicts it perfectly, "You write what you're told!" I feel like that's really what the government is saying. Another aspect I noticed was on the original flyer the word "your" is underlined. I think they did that to try and emphasize that only women should be stenographers. I don't see too much of this extreme sexism in our society today but it is definitely still present. Take American Dad and Family Guy for example, they both have the husband that goes out and makes all the money for the family and does all the "hard" work while the wife stays at home and sticks to the house duties. While I still love both of these shows, it's clear that the traditional dynamic of man and woman is still there and noticeable today.



Sum of ratings:3 (1)

3

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damn history back at it again with the heteronormativity.

by Lacey Tolman - Wednesday, May 17, 2017, 9:04 PM

The image pair that stands out the most to me is recreation of the vd picture with two men. Considering how much LGBT+ historical figures are excluded from mainstream history if you told me that a similar un-photoshopped image existed that would seem entirely plausible to me. Contrary to some people's beliefs gay people have existed as long as straight people have; however when it comes to using and abusing history to sell a narrative one of the tricks is glossing over facts and hoping nobody looks too hard. For example have you ever heard the name Bayard Rustin mentioned in a history class? No? What if told you he was the head of planning the march on washington with MLK jr. in the 60's? You think if he worked with MLK we would be familiar with this name. What if I told you that he was gay? The fact that we don't

hear about him starts to make sense. This man who was a key advisor to MLK(source here)has been omitted from the narrative. How many other things have historians (based off of their own moral compass or lack thereof) deemed too unpalatable for the general masses? I understand that the main discussion is on the manipulation of photos and their use, but how much has history been manipulated to be used in the way that people want us to see it?

Bayard Rustin ----->



Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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A careless word and an unpatriotic one

by Tyler Ingram - Wednesday, May 17, 2017, 11:48 PM

The image pair that makes the greatest impact on me is the parody of "a careless word ...another cross" that says "Join the Army Vacancies Available".

Clearly, the historical "careless word" example is referring to the paranoia of German spies during WWII. These posters would be seen more often by women still living in the states, as opposed to the actual soldiers that carried the information. As we learned in class, the greater fear seemed to be that women would accidentally spread the word, rather than soldiers themselves.

At first glance, I thought the modern parody "Join the Army Vacancies Available" was clever and funny because it seems to be based on truth. When a soldier dies, it's easy to think that the US military only cares about replacing the soldier to maintain their numbers. And seeing as this didn't seem to portray any particular death, it's easy to laugh at. I can see why one would think this way, because there seems to be a lot of distrust in the government in the time we live in. The "unpatriotic" tones don't phase me at all -- we're all extremely used to it by now.

This does bring some curiosity into my mind, because we've seen many previous examples of people being jailed, murdered, or even kicked out of our country for practicing free speech to an extreme during wartime. It leads me to wonder: Are we in a war with terror? Are we close enough to war with North Korea to include this war-time lack of free speech policy? How is the internet going to change how the government monitors free speech during wartime? Only time will tell, but personally I'd rather be safe than sorry.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

2

[Permalink](#) | [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)**Lady Liberty Poster**

by Amber Leonard - Thursday, May 18, 2017, 9:37 AM

The poster from WW1 is saying you need to buy a war bond and do your part to help or Lady Liberty will die, and American democracy will die with it. The photoshopped version from today is saying stop asking questions and agree with what the government is telling you. If you don't you must support the terrorists. If you ask questions and doubt the government you are seen as unamerican. The history behind the poster relates closer to Emma Goldman. She actively spoke out about the war and how we should resolve our problems with peace without war. Because she spoke out about the war she was seen as unamerican and the government deported her to Russia. The message in the poster from today is kind of threatening, it says if you ask questions you are supportive of terrorists not supportive of your country. And in America we do not treat terrorists or anyone suspected of terrorism kindly so the hidden message behind that is that you will be treated like a terrorist as well. I think this poster was chosen for alteration because Lady Liberty is pointing right at you and has a very mean face that looks like she is yelling.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

2

[Permalink](#) | [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)**Re: Lady Liberty Poster**

by Katlyn Smelcer - Saturday, May 20, 2017, 3:06 PM

Nice example about Emma Goldman being sent to Russia for speaking out against the war. At first I couldn't see the connection between the two images but after reading your post I agree that there is a hidden message. Like you mentioned the way she looks angry and is pointing and also the fact that she's sort of calling you out by yelling "You!" first. I think the point of this picture was to threaten anyone who was not supportive of the war. During wartime back then there probably was no being in the middle. You were either with the U.S. or you were the enemy. I don't think people would respond very positively to a poster like this today but it was probably pretty effective at instilling fear about the war during WWI and WWII. I also believe the original poster was meant to be a little bit of a guilt trip by tricking U.S. citizens into thinking if they don't help out with the war then they could be a reason for the U.S. losing.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

1

[Permalink](#) | [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)**Re: Using & Abusing History - liberty bond poster**

by Giselle Flores - Thursday, May 18, 2017, 9:56 PM

The image pair that makes the biggest impact me is the bond one that has the statue of liberty in it. I would say this one because they both have very deep meanings that just make you think, "wow." In the original it is basically saying that you have to buy a liberty bond if you want to be able to keep having liberty; hence, the statue of liberty pointing at you saying she'll perish if you don't buy one. The one on the right is talking about how Americans need to stop questioning the choices this country is making against terrorists, because you're either with us, or with the terrorists. It's meaning that we'll be able to keep the statue of liberty, and our

freedom, if we stop asking questions and let the government do their job. In my opinion, I think these are very clever. The message would most likely be a warning to the people, a very blunt one. I believe this poster was chosen for alteration because it is so relevant to situations going on today, and it helps get the point across a whole lot better, too.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: Using & Abusing History - Rationing poster

by Giselle Flores - Saturday, May 20, 2017, 5:15 PM

Another of these image pairs that made an impact on me was the rationing one where it has the soldier smiling and it says, "Do with less - so they'll have enough! Rationing gives you your fair share." In the modern, updated one it says, "How about rooting for our side for a change, you liberal moron. If you love freedom, try rooting for some real freedom fighters." In the original one it is talking about how people should limit what they're using, so the soldiers overseas can have enough as well. In the modern one, the way I interpreted it is that so many liberals are against what our country is doing and the soldier is saying why not root for us for a change? I don't think this is offensive at all. I think it is actually clever and gets the point across very well. Of course some people will see it as disrespectful, I just see it as honesty. I think this poster was chosen for alteration because so many people in the past even rationed so they could support our troops overseas, and nowadays everybody seems to just judge and not support our troops anymore.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: Using & Not Abusing Iwo Jima

by Jason Pickens - Saturday, May 20, 2017, 8:17 PM

Which one of these image "pairs" make the biggest impact on you personally, and why? (Be certain that you explain that you fully understand the meaning behind the images, including the WWII-related history behind the one on the left, as well as the modern day and/or current events behind the one on the right.)



Of these two image comparisons I think this one has the biggest impact on me. I love the Image of the Marines and a Navy Corpsman (medic) raising the flag at Iwo Jima. I think it is such an iconic photo because the symbolism behind the real flag raising meant that the United States had for the first time in the Pacific theater planted it's colors on Japanese soil. This showed that the U.S. was making headway in defeating a strong enemy. At least that is what

has been taught to me through a series of military history classes. I believe that this picture gave hope to the people in the United States that were involved in the war either by family or friends fighting in it. Many Americans could relate to the picture in some way. As far as the Time cover goes...I believe that they are using a very powerful image to rally support for environmental issues. I mean, what a great way to show and use such a powerful image that gave the U.S. hope. I would think that Time is not being disrespectful, but rather using the image to show the severity of the state of the planet in saying that global warming is a strong adversary that our planet is facing.

-Jason

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

2



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