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**Demonizing the Enemy**by [Joe Escobar](#) - Friday, May 8, 2015, 11:16 AM

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

After studying the required materials, address the various questions. To make your POSTS, click the reply link in this, MY post. To reply to another student's post, be sure to click the reply link within in THEIR post.

IMPORTANT - SUBJECT LINES

BE SURE to use an informative subject line for your post. Do NOT simply leave it RE: Demonizing the Enemy

Sum of ratings: -

[Edit](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)**Re: Demonizing the Enemy**by [Connie LaMorte](#) - Saturday, May 9, 2015, 10:02 AM

I found this article on demonizing the enemy to be very informative and it related back to our text which states that this type of propaganda was used during the Truman administration to implement the containment policy. The text goes on to say that Truman's "Campaign of Truth" was a psychological and informational offensive sponsored by Washington to sustain national security (p.920). As the article stated, it is easier to kill another human being if they appear evil.

Sum of ratings: 1 (1) 1

[Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)**Without propaganda would the enemy appear so evil?**by [Katherine Potter](#) - Thursday, May 14, 2015, 11:39 PM

I agree it would be easier to kill another human if they appear evil. That is why the government has the propaganda they do so that the people of Americas conscious doesn't get the better of them. I believe that if we didn't have the propaganda it would be harder for us to go over and fight and kill other people. There are a few people who are truly evil but then we make them appear worse than they probably are.

Sum of ratings: 1 (1) 1

[Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)**Re: Without propaganda would the enemy appear so evil?**by [Yanchun Deng](#) - Saturday, May 16, 2015, 9:10 PM

I agree with you. just imagine that if we dont have propaganda to lead people's mind and if we have a free thinking without rumor we may not to start a war. it is hard to start a war if people are not band together. so paopaganda can let the dispersed people get together that the is most important reason to start a war. and also the war is very cruel it will hurts many innocent people especially children and women.

Sum of ratings: 1 (1) 1

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Re: Without propaganda would the enemy appear so evil?

by [James Haynes](#) - Saturday, May 16, 2015, 11:01 PM

I agree with you buy makeing the enemy out to be an animal or evil would make it easier to kill them. I also belive that the propaganda is used to get the public on board to go to war with other countries buy portraying them to be evil even if they are not a threat to the United states. I wonder if the government has ever used propaganda to go to war for their own capitalist interest and not to protect our freedom?

Sum of ratings:1 (1) 1

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Demonizing who we think is the "enemy"

by [Joshua Melick](#) - Saturday, May 9, 2015, 12:36 PM

I believe that the major intent for propaganda is to gain support for one side of an issue and to create hatred for the other. I have constantly seen how propaganda tries to push out a grey area and focus more on good versus bad ideologies. This way of seeing issues makes people want to jump to the "good" side and fight the "bad" with out having having remorse about killing another individual. In times of war the nations fighting need as much support as possible to help insure a victory and what a better way to gain support then brainwashing the people into joining the "good" side and not questioning whether they are actually good or not.

A major problem with propaganda is when we need to join forces with groups that we have had issues with in the past. Like what happened with Russia, we originally had a lot of propaganda labeling them as "evil" but when we needed to join with them in WW2 we dropped propaganda against them only to bring it back during the second Red Scare. These flip flops of who's evil and our friends can cause confusion and a blurring of the lines of good/evil. This blurring makes labeling current allies an enemy in the future a hard task because it makes the general population to begin to question what they are being told, and when this happens propaganda begins to loose its power. Like what Pratkanis said "In hindsight, when you know it's false, it looks over the top and outrageous." Another problem with propaganda is when it is used for bad motives like having surveillance on the general population to help bring down terrorism. It makes people forget about the fact that there right to privacy is being taken away and instead focus on ridding our nation of the "evil that will come kill us and our loved ones".



Sum of ratings:3 (1) 3

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Re: Demonizing who we think is the "enemy"

by [Anna Goodrie](#) - Monday, May 11, 2015, 10:39 PM



I really enjoyed the way you described your thoughts on demonizing. I completely agree with your first paragraph. More of my interest came in your second paragraph where you pointed out a few of the main problems with propaganda, specifically in the US. In your last point you relate it with surveillance and the cartoonists having bad motives. The thing about propaganda is that yes some of it can come from the government, but a lot of it is private papers making these opinionated cartoons. Obviously the press have to get their ideas from somewhere, but it is still around today because it works. It gets people laughing and when people laugh they tend to not realize the reality of the situation in front of them. For example near the beginning of the class we had to watch a ten minute or so clip from a British comedian who talked about American Oreo pizzas and inflatable BBQs. I would be surprised if you said you didn't crack a smile throughout his set. I know I did, but in reality he was bashing on how Americans would consume anything under the sun, especially things we don't need. We laugh at first and then it just sits in the back of our mind. It is funny and relatively true, but then we realize that he is completely bashing on Americans. Same goes for propaganda. We laugh and joke, but it sits there in the back of our mind knowing that the cartoon isn't the full story, but because the press isn't bashing on the US as a whole no one really cares, so we laugh and that's it. Those cartoons don't seem to be as funny as time goes on.

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Consequences of Demonization

by [Hannah Donner](#) - Saturday, May 9, 2015, 2:12 PM

There were many consequences that arose due to demonizing enemies during WWII. The way the Japanese and the Germans were depicted in posters and cartoons encouraged a lot of hatred and killing. As James Forsher states, many enemies became animals in WWII propaganda which dehumanized people. The U.S., as well as the Axis Powers, also dehumanized people by illustrating the enemy killing women and children in a barbaric way.

I believe an unintended consequence from this dehumanization is that it was mentally easier to confine Japanese-Americans during the war. In other words, when Americans saw lots of posters demonizing the Japanese it made it easier to justify internment. Also, dehumanization encouraged hostility and discrimination towards Italian, Japanese, and German immigrants (Textbook pg. 901).

In addition, there are unintended consequences that affect the U.S. even today. For example, our country has to be extra careful about racial issues today because of how we depicted these certain groups in WWII propaganda. As mentioned in class, some documentaries have been removed because of the derogatory labeling of Japanese as "Japs." Hopefully, these consequences have taught the U.S. about all the horrors that can happen by tolerating the dehumanization of people.

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Re: Consequences of Demonization

by [Benjamin Bross](#) - Monday, May 11, 2015, 7:19 PM

While I agree with you to some extent, I don't believe the images of enemies as animals always leads to violence and acts such as internment. Earlier in this term we saw a couple of cartoons where the Irish were depicted with ape like features. While they were discriminated against, they were never sent to internment camps. But, I do sort of agree with you. I think picturing German's and Japanese people the way we did led to a harsher view of them and made it easier to go to war against them. Overall, I'd say it de-humanized the German's and Japanese and made it easier to kill them in the minds of the American public and soldiers. But I think after Pearl Harbor, American's would have been fine going to war against them even without the images of Germans and Japanese people being de-humanized.

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Re: Consequences of Demonization

by [Anna Goodrie](#) - Saturday, May 16, 2015, 11:26 PM

I completely agree with you on your last point stating that after Pearl Harbor Americans would've went to war against the Germans and Japanese regardless. The propaganda didn't convince Americans that they wanted/should go to war in the second world war after the mess the first world war got them into, but after that event I'm sure that the rates for those political war cartoons skyrocketed. After a country goes to war it would only make sense that

propaganda raises. The government wants to convince its people that the people are donating for the "good guys" and the "heroes" of the war, and in the heat of battle the losers are usually the ones who run out of money first because of the decline of patriotism/nationalism. What I'm getting at is that propaganda doesn't start a war, its what fuels the war. It fuels the brains of people supporting one side vs. people supporting another, and both sides believing that they are the "good guys." No one is ever going to willingly fight for the "bad guys"

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Demonization is a tool to start a war

by [Yanshu Li](#) - Saturday, May 9, 2015, 6:45 PM

Citizen needs public voice to dominate their attitude toward who the government think is the country's enemy, propaganda is just a perfect way to achieve this goal without any violence activity. Killing people would must be the most horrible experience in the world; therefore soldiers need a method to release their guilty and feel less pressure when they were on the battlefield. Before the Spanish- American War, the "Yellow Journalism" era prevailed, fake news and exaggerate reports dominate the public. Pulitzer and Hearst is the guidance of public voices. Hence, after the letter which disclosed Spanish judge American President as a weak politician, ignition of war is imminent.

We can't judge the demonization is bad or good; In my view, it tool to start a war and dominate public views. just like the author wrote in the article : You can kill a monkey a lot more easily than you can kill a neighbor.

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Re: Demonizing the Enemy

by [Jie Lai](#) - Saturday, May 9, 2015, 11:38 PM

Propaganda normally starts with a simple decision. The desire to influence the public drives propagandists. As long as an incentive exists, the propagated idea does not need to be personal beliefs. In the more extreme cases, demonization is employed in order to maximize propaganda effectiveness. However, due to the fact that there are many ambiguous definitions of the term propaganda, a more formulated and operational definition should be given. Propaganda is the systematic propagation of information and ideas by an interested party in order to encourage or instill a particular attitude or response.

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Re: Demonizing the Enemy

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

Couldn't agree more on your thoughts and definition. What still gets me is why they have to be so mean about it. Why does saying mean things or drawing a cartoon in a different way to make people connect and be influenced by them? I'm not saying all of them are mean, but for being political cartoons you'd think that they should be a little more politically correct... Obviously that has never been the case and no one would just hear what the government said and actually listened to it. People need to think that their idea is the right idea (and more likely or not their idea that the government has put into the back of their head) aka propaganda. People think that propagandist are on their side because they make fun of our government and other countries, but in reality they are just pushing popular opinion and making it even more widely accepted.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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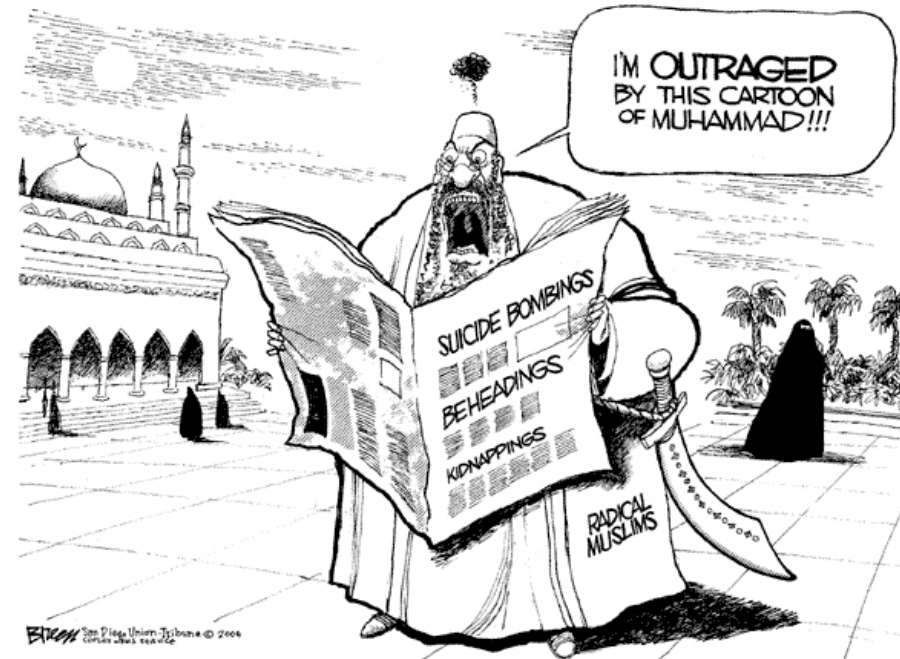
Demonizing Islam

by [Aj Glessner](#) - Monday, May 11, 2015, 8:45 PM

Ever since 9/11 there has been a general demonization of the religion and culture of Islam. I see this in my everyday life on social media. I see people making posts claiming all Muslims are terrorists or otherwise evil, often I notice that these criticisms come from more conservative people. The issue is with the violent radicals, but the media does a terrible job of showing this, which results in a gross generalization that all members of the Muslim faith are "American haters and terrorists," which is a demonstrably false notion as there are millions of Muslims in the US who have never committed a

crime or opposed the US in anyway. The unfortunate truth is that demonizing the "enemy" is an extremely effective way to gain public support for military action. It brings volunteer enlistment up and sells war bonds. But it's clear that it can't last forever. The US's "war on terror" has lost much of it's initial support and many citizens of the US are displeased with the US's continued occupation of Middle Eastern nations.

Below I've posted a couple cartoons that show the demonization that Muslim's receive. Although these cartoons do a better job of specifying that radicals are the ones to blame, showing the anti-radical strain of american nativism is still true today.



Sum of ratings:3 (1) 3

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Re: Demonizing Islam

by [Benjamin Bross](#) - Saturday, May 16, 2015, 6:45 PM

I think you have a good point about muslim's being demonized in America today. However, it is to a much lesser extent to what was shown about the Japanese and Germans. It is a much less racist depiction today than it was then. Japanese were often shown as big toothed and small eyed people, who were obedient to their leader. Germans were pretty much just shown as being pure evil. At least today, in most cartoons, the muslim people still look generally like real people. While we demonize Islam, it is nowhere near what it was in WWII.

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Re: Demonizing Islam

by [Jesse Bowman](#) - Saturday, May 16, 2015, 8:18 PM

I do not think that just because the cartoonists in America are refraining from depicting their "enemy's" as inhumane, to an extent, compared to what they did during WWII does not mean that the demonization is of lesser extent or that the intentions are any less different.

For example, the picture below depicts a nazi skeleton uttering the phrase "Allah Akbar, Baby!" (one of Islam's sacred phrases) is very recent and attempts to equate Islam with the Nazi's. This picture alone is littered with multiple references of entities we demonize in America and attempts to link them to the with Islam as if they were they same thing. Careful examination of this cartoon reveals extreme amount of prejudices used to influence citizens that an entire culture is a danger - rather than the smaller factions that actually want to cause harm.



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Propaganda and the Lasting Effects

by [Cody Souza](#) - Monday, May 11, 2015, 10:23 PM

With regards to propaganda and demonizing the enemy, they are meant to make the enemy easier to kill. Humans are usually apprehensive about killing another human being. However, when bombarded with propaganda or political cartoons it essentially gives justification or reason to kill that certain enemy, whether it be the "buck toothed Japanese" or the "gorilla Germans". An unintended consequence of this demonizing of enemies is that people who have never interacted with that certain group of people won't know any better. Or perhaps a member of their family has violent feelings towards that group and passes that way of thinking to the younger generation. Located in this post is a political cartoon depicting the face of Muhammad and that his beliefs allow only for hate, death and etc. Obviously this is not the case to those who know about the religion but it is what many people feel as truth. Cartoons, propaganda and other forms of media are very effective in swaying public opinion because they are easy to digest. No thinking required, if you will. They are also so easy to produce to the masses.



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Re: Propaganda and the Lasting Effects

by [Joshua Melick](#) - Saturday, May 16, 2015, 5:32 PM

I really like your point on family members who have violent feelings toward other ethnicities simply because of the prevalent use of propaganda in their childhood. These ideas of "who is our enemy" at the time eventually changes but the hatred for these people still carries on. I believe a great example are people who are racist in today's culture. Most of these people grew up with racism in their family and I believe propaganda was a part of this. The heavy racism on blacks in the south was because families would discuss how much they hated blacks and then keep these ideas only to pass them on to their children and their children's children. We also need to remember that propaganda was used to dehumanize and ultimately make you hate a group of people to the point where you showed no feeling for killing them. The issue with doing this is when we are no longer at war yet we still feel this hatred for someone we have never met and ultimately promotes racism in our country.

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Demonization: An Effective Tool

by [Darren Rolewicz](#) - Monday, May 11, 2015, 10:26 PM

I feel it goes without saying that demonizing propaganda is successful. If it were not, it would not have been used throughout history since its installment. It is not only successful in swaying public opinion and minimizing dissent, but when coupled with ads for war bonds, it can assist largely in funding. As mentioned in the Michael James article, demonization becomes a much easier task when you have "somebody to hate", or a face to put to the enemy. This is easily done with groups like the Nazi's, but even when there is no popular villain, one can be created; like we see in the depiction of the Japanese. While I'm certain there are still cartoons that demonize our enemies today, I see a majority of demonization coming in the way of "memes". Social media is probably the most effective way to access the majority of citizens and everyday I see "memes" that demonize Islam as a whole (and sometimes just middle easterners), not just the extremist sects that are the true opposition. This is where the consequences of demonizing come into play. An entire ethnicity/race or religious group of people will begin to be discriminated against by the entire nation. This consequence has held true from the Germans and Japanese all the way to the radical Muslims today. While this may be seen as an unintended consequence to some, I have a feeling it's more of an "acceptable symptom" of demonization. It creates a public opinion that is black and white based on nationality, and this stern opinion makes it much easier to pass legislation. Demonizing turns out to be a culturally dangerous, however largely effective tool.

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Demonizing the enemy is the best way to start a war

by [Yanchun Deng](#) - Monday, May 11, 2015, 10:54 PM

Demonizing the enemy is a way to start a war. Because if an army wants to start a war they must find a reason to let normal people to support them. Sometimes the "bad" is not really bad and the "good" is not really good. It all depends on how propaganda says. In a war, every nation needs as much as possible to have a support with other people. So the best way to have a support is demonizing the enemy. Let the enemy look like an evil and the justice is on our side. So there is no justice in the war. People start the war that means all nations are evil; they don't care about the people's life and the war is very cruel. Sometimes propaganda will make people forget the truth and blind people's eyes. So demonization of the enemy is the most important element of propaganda which can be much easier conducted if the enemy is personalized in one man. Demonizing the enemy will control people's mind that the entitled person will control normal people to do things.



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Re: Demonizing the Enemy

by [Jon Sims](#) - Tuesday, May 12, 2015, 7:45 PM

"The secret to propaganda is when you demonize, you dehumanize"

This quote quite literally sent a chill down my spine, And its absolutely true. I cant even imagine the years of racial and cultural tension these ads must have created. The worst part to me is just how well it worked. That Americans were so sheltered and censored in a country where one of its main points of pride is "free speech". Not to mention that the ads were splattered indiscriminately everywhere for even children to see. I remember as a kid i found a reprint of an old Batman comic and in it there were propaganda ads of BATMAN SHOOTING NAZIS WITH A MACHINE GUN WHILE ROBIN WAS LOADING IT.

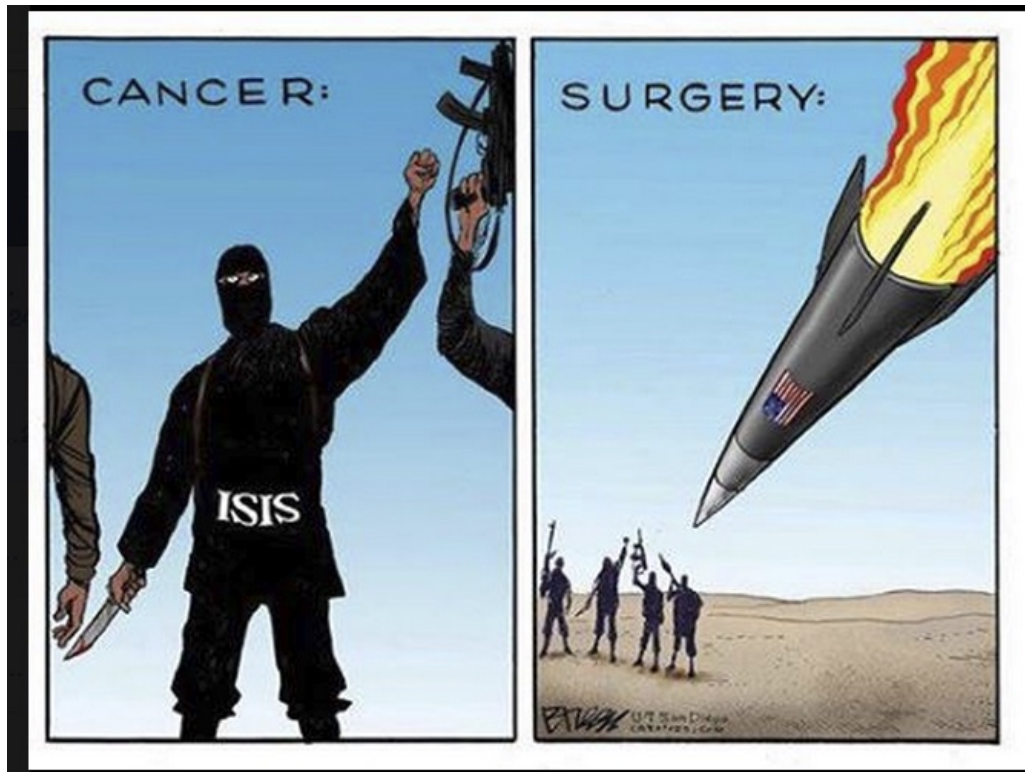


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**Cancer,surgery and Isis**

by [James Haynes](#) - Thursday, May 14, 2015, 12:27 PM

I feel as if the United states has to justify killing the enemy to get people on board with war. I found this image online labeling Isis as cancer and a United states missile as surgery. By labeleing them this way I feel that they are trying to dehumanize Isis and justify blowing them up. I don't feel that war on Isis is a bad thing because they do really bad things and hurt civilians. I have a friend that was in the military and did a tour in Iraq he said that he was taught to think of killing the enemy as a video game to disassociate himself from the horror of what he had to do in order to complete his mission. So do I think that dehumanizing the enemy is a bad thing? No because it could cause a lot of mental issues with military members if they thought about the enemy as a human instead of bad guy in a video game.

**DEHUMANIZE**

by [Mirna Becerra](#) - Saturday, May 16, 2015, 3:52 PM

"You can kill a monkey a lot more easily than you can kill a neighbor" This quote simply summarizes what propaganda does and creates. It creates this idea of support for one side and distrust or hate for the opposing side. The article mentioned, "For most human beings, it takes an awful lot to allow them to kill another human being," said Anthony Pratkanis, a psychology professor at the University of California, Santa Cruz". That's exactly why we need propaganda, to dehumanize and make it in some ways "acceptable" to destroy the enemy. I have to say that using propaganda makes it easier to go ahead and do what needs to be done.

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