

HST 203: U.S. History Sp19 (Escobar)

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Using & Abusing History

by [Joe Escobar](#) - Friday, May 10, 2019, 11:24 PM

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, which clearly describes the picture set and questions you are addressing. Do NOT simply leave it RE: Using & Abusing History

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Re: Rosie the Riveter and sexism

by [Jessie Shafer](#) - Monday, May 13, 2019, 2:42 PM

I chose the image pair of Rosie the Riveter, and the modern one of her saying "it takes a woman to clean up the house". I chose it because it goes back in time in a way from what woman have worked so hard to get, and that's equality among the sexes. Rosie is saying We can do this, let's show these people that we can do a job as good as a man, and we can get it done as well. The modern one is basically telling women to get back in the kitchen and that's your only job. I personally think it is manipulating WW2 in a rather disrespectful, negative way. The women took over the men's jobs since they left for war, but the message that the modern image is sending out, is that we should stay in the house, and be good little wives and not help our men. That's not only sexist, but it sends out a negative message about relationships. The modern image suggests that a woman should not help her partner do things for the household, like earn money. A man should not help his woman in the kitchen, or with the chores. It just goes against everything that women have had to fight for, and are still fighting for. In the end, I think the Rosie the Riveter image was chosen for this "modification", because it was an easy image to make fun of. I have heard many sexist jokes and remarks made by men, about this Image long before this class.

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Re: Rosie the Riveter and sexism

by [Owen McCoy](#) - Tuesday, May 14, 2019, 8:30 AM

I agree with everything you said as far as how women have been fighting for equality for many years (and rightly so). The image on the left seems to be an encouraging message, whereas your interpretation of the one on the right would definitely be a negative message that I would hope wouldn't go over well today. However, I think the artist might have been trying to say something else.

When my grandmother went to see Wonder Woman, she told me afterward that she always knew it would take a woman to save the world. I think that is kind of what the artist is trying to say here. The caption on the bottom right says "Nancy Pelosi, Minority Leader." The face in the image on the right appears to be that of Pelosi, who as of the most recent election is Speaker of the House. If I had to guess, I would say that the artist is referring to the House of Representatives in the image. He seems to be saying that the men (i.e. previous Speaker of the House Republican Paul Ryan and other House Republicans) were letting the House get "messy," so to speak, and that it takes a woman (Democrat Nancy Pelosi) to get the House of Representatives in order. Still, that sort of reference to previous gender roles, however well-intentioned, is enough to make one uncomfortable for all of the reasons you mentioned.

Sum of ratings:3(1) 3

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Re: Rosie the Riveter and sexism
by [Jessie Shafer](#) - Wednesday, May 15, 2019, 12:31 PM

I honestly didn't see on the bottom that it said Nancy Pelosi until you mentioned it. That does change my view a little on the image, mainly on the fact that she is the highest-ranking elected woman in the United States history (wikipedia), that maybe Congress did need a woman's touch to bring some things to order. But the wording is still very sexist, and had I been someone who doesn't know who Nancy Pelosi is, it would have left a very sour taste in my mouth.

Sum of ratings:1(1) 1

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A Sarcastic Swipe at Trump
by [Owen McCoy](#) - Monday, May 13, 2019, 4:19 PM



The image on the left is one that would have been seen in the allied camps during WWII. The American commanders wanted to make sure that their troops could identify other allied troops and therefore not shoot them. (class lecture notes). Such posters were used to identify other allies, and they may have also served to ease the general distrust of foreigners that we've seen in the three strains of nativism. Of course, the Americans and the Russians had only a brief alliance, but it was necessary and tolerated because of the threat of a common enemy. Such a poster would have also reminded soldiers what they were fighting for by playing the freedom card.

The modern adaptation on the right seems to be coming from the left side of the political spectrum. President Trump has sustained much criticism (particularly from the left) for his interactions with Putin and his conduct of relations with Russia. The author of the cartoon is feigning what they see as propaganda from the Trump administration trying to ease Americans' distrust of Putin as well as to defend Trump.

Clearly, the adaptation would hypothetically be used for a different purpose than the original. However, both are propaganda to some degree. The cartoon author seems to be trying to poke fun at this sort of propaganda, while at the same time expressing their beliefs about Trump and Putin.

Sum of ratings:2(1) 2

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Re: Using & Abusing History: Iwo Jima fag raising/Anti-Flag

by [Joe Kiefer](#) - Monday, May 13, 2019, 6:54 PM

I am choosing to comment on, what I believe is one of the most iconic images of WWII, the American flag being raised on Iwo Jima. I wanted to understand how and why this photo was taken, so I went to YouTube and found the story from the photographer himself (YouTube,



). The story goes that he got there and there was already a flag raised on a pole, but the guys there said that the commander wanted a bigger flag raised so that the men on the beach could see the flag more plainly. I gather that it was to let the men know the objective had been achieved. These men had just been through a tremendous battle, which entailed fighting against dug in machine gun nests and heavy artillery on the side of a 500-foot mountain. I can only imagine the shear horror that these men had just gone through to achieve this objective. I believe that the commander was trying to let his men know that the great sacrifice many had just made was not done in vein, as well as boosting the morale of those that had just endured the ordeal. As it would turn out, it was also a great morale booster for the American public as well when it was shown in American newspapers.

As for the image on the right, the small print at the bottom of the image says, "Anti-Flag does not mean Anti-American, Anti-Flag means anti-war". To me, the people that made the image on the right might have misjudged the meaning of the image on the left, thinking that it was a pro-war image, when in fact it is more likely an image that was more of a morale booster for the men that had just sacrificed a great deal to achieve an objective. Now as for the way it was used in the papers here at home was probably more of a pro-war picture, meant to keep people supporting the war effort here at home. But you must remember why we were fighting this war anyways, we were attacked at Pearl Harbor, causing the loss of thousands of lives and not all of them were military men.

The image on the right also uses the upside-down flag, which is the signal of distress, which I don't find very appropriate since being anti-war is a state of distress. Not to mention, I feel it is very disrespectful to the image on the left, which was not intended as a pro-war image, even if it was used as such by some here at home. I believe that the image on the right is trying to convey a message of dire warning, but I am not sure that strikes the tone that they were going for, at least not for me anyways.

Sum of ratings:[3 \(1\)](#)

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Re: Using & Abusing History: Iwo Jima fag raising/Anti-Flag

by [Tiffanie Chapman](#) - Saturday, May 18, 2019, 11:54 PM

Joe,

I agree with your post up until the last paragraph. I agree with the part that it is disrespectful to the original photo, but I think it is used as a way to make a clear statement as to how being anti-flag is anti-war and not anti-American. Even though I completely disagree with the photo on the right and believe it is Anti-American, I'm trying to view it from the artist that made the photo. I think they are trying to use it as their own 'rallying moment' and how they no longer believe the U.S. should be involved in any wars. I think the tone they are going for is correct and truly does convey a message of dire warning. I also think this goes back to whether or not U.S. citizens should or shouldn't have pride in their country. I believe the flag that represents your country is apart of what makes your country, so when you go against your flag..you go against your country. The photo on the right can be comparable to the recent times when people were burning our flag to make a statement. My opinion is that all these acts (being drawn upside down and burned) are anti-American and the flag should be respected.

Sum of ratings:[1 \(1\)](#)

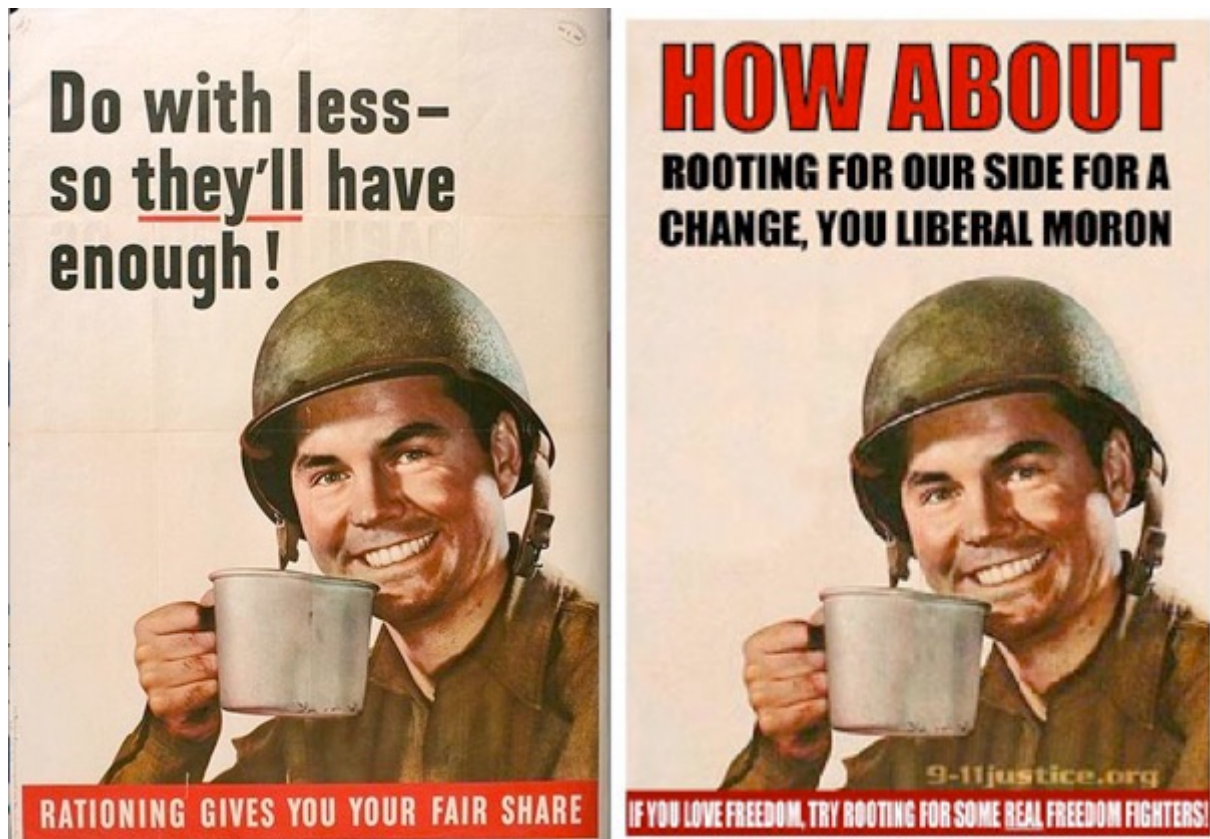
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Rationing for War

by [Baylee Crowson](#) - Monday, May 13, 2019, 10:07 PM

I chose the pair about rationing during war time. I chose this pair because it made the most sense to me on both sides. I know why they wanted to ration and it's not too hard to interpret the modern version of it. I believe they made the new poster in a disrespectful way towards liberals as they are calling people who aren't rationing enough liberal morons which is offensive when used that way. I think the message is a bit negative and is meant to bully people into rationing so others aren't judging them and calling them moronic liberals in an offensive way. I believe this poster was chosen for a modern makeover because it had strong meaning then that we can see today. Also because not rationing and not getting enough supplies to troops and then something bad happens, is something the government could easily use to guilt trip people and make them feel like they need to go out of their way to do it to the extreme to hopefully prevent it from happening to them again. I feel like this modern version is the wrong way to go about getting people to help and be on your side.



Sum of ratings: [1\(1\)](#) 1

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Re: Rationing for War

by [Kaylee Calvert](#) - Tuesday, May 14, 2019, 9:09 PM

I completely agree with you! I think that nowadays there is not as much support for the military as there once was back in the day so this seems like it is, like you said, bullying people into supporting and "doing more" for the military and government which I think is the reason for the alteration of this poster. Also, nowadays there seems to be more of a rivalry between liberals and conservatives. Although both sides have always differed, of course being on opposite sides of the spectrum and all, but it seems like in these days it is more of a thing to insult each other. Obviously, this poster was made by a conservative targeting liberals which I think is also something we see a lot in these days more than before. I think that this manipulation is very disrespectful and shows the authors lack of knowledge.

Sum of ratings: [1\(1\)](#) 1

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Re: Rationing for War

by [Owen McCoy](#) - Wednesday, May 15, 2019, 9:42 AM

I think you're right and yet, we've learned that propaganda doesn't work unless there is some element of truth to it. (class lecture notes) So what is the element of truth here? And is there a connection between the two posters or did the artist just pick this image because it looked good?

You pointed out that support for the military has dwindled over time. We also saw in class how president Eisenhower's campaign was bolstered by the fact that he was a military hero, which probably wouldn't be the case today. (class lecture notes) Going back a few years before Eisenhower, the Roosevelt administration was able to get tremendous cooperation for the war effort, the likes of which would be

unimaginable today. "War bonds, rationing, and progressive taxation encouraged a sense of shared sacrifice." (textbook p. 869) This idea was supported by the federal government with propaganda posters such as the aforementioned one on the left.

I can't help but wonder though, what does the artist mean to say by "rooting for our side for a change?" Is he implying that liberals are unpatriotic? Certainly, I would say that of the two major political parties today, the Democrats are probably less supportive of war than the Republicans. That said, I wouldn't go so far as to say that liberals are always rooting for the other side. The author seems to be trying to express his political views, but I agree with you that he isn't doing it in the most respectful way.

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Re: Rationing for War

by [Kaylee Calvert](#) - Wednesday, May 15, 2019, 8:16 PM

I think that in these days it is believed that liberals are unpatriotic, especially, of course, from a conservatives point of view. Also, as you said, they are probably the ones that are less supportive of the war. So, I think that is the authors own element of truth for his remake of the poster. I also think this is the connection the author made when deciding to remake this poster specifically. I'm not sure if I find it to be completely true but I'd say that is what the author was thinking.

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Re: Rationing for War; commenting on your post

by [Joe Kiefer](#) - Wednesday, May 15, 2019, 2:33 PM

I think that you all might be missing some of the context of the times when analyzing the two photos. Remember, that when the first one was made, we had been attacked at Peral Harbor, the whole reason we got into the war. Peoples patriotism was very high, and most were willing to sacrifice to get justice far all those lost at Pearl Harbor. The textbook shows how high the patriotism of the time was, "The scope of unpaid labor, long provided primarily by women, also expanded. Volunteer activities such as Red Cross projects, civil defense work, and recycling drives claimed the time of women, children, and older people."(p. 871 of textbook) You are right the people of this time period were greatly behind the military, mainly because of the Japanese attack, but I would say that an event like that would rally the people at any time in history. Take for example the attack of 9-11, that attack galvanized the country as well, and garnered a lot of support for the military and raised most people's patriotism. The book also said, "With few goods to buy, Americans put money in their savings accounts and invested in war bonds. Essentials such as food, fabrics, and gasoline were rationed and, consequently, were shared more equitably than ever before the war. War bonds, rationing, and progressive taxation encouraged a sense of shared sacrifice.(p. 869 of textbook) Also, remember that with the sheer number of soldiers that were going to be sent to fight, most people had someone that were family or friends and were willing to do whatever it took to make sure as many would come home as possible, war at this time was hell.

As for the pic on the right, I agree that it doesn't do anything more than serve as red meat for a portion of the country as well as deepening the divide in the country. But there is some truth to it, as some of the country are definitely not supportive of the incredibly hard job that the military has today. There are so many more restrictions that they must follow that were not there in the past. For instance, the military does their best to not have civilian casualties but when there are, the military is the bad guy, this was not worried about in the past. You can see this clearly when the atomic bombs were dropped on Japan, those were all civilians not military personnel. Another part I would like to point out is that with the rise in popularity of some form of socialism, which would have limitations of freedom, you can understand the bottom line of the pic. Although, I will agree that the tone is not productive in garnering support, but I'm not sure that was the intent of the alteration anyway. Let me know what you think.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

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Women Work

by [Amanda Francis](#) - Monday, May 13, 2019, 10:42 PM

Rosie the Riveter has been an icon of women strength since WWII. She symbolizes the American women that took over jobs that had been predominately worked by men when there were labor shortages during the war with "We Can Do It!". The video explains that women took over many dangerous jobs such as welders, steel workers, gun

powder sifters, and most of them had never worked before. They fought for equal pay and some of them got it. Others were told that they “were only good for being married and having babies” (video clip 5:05). These women worked hard and, for the most part, didn’t get the respect or pay they deserved which is why it’s annoying that the picture next to it shows the same iconic, muscle-flexing Rosie with “Mansplain Survivor” above it. Yes, mansplaining is an irritating thing that happens from time to time and to use the image of Rosie the Riveter and the word “survivor” is insulting to the women of that time period and the difficult situations they had to endure. One woman from the video survived being hit in the head with a large piece of steel while welding on a tall building. That's a survivor story to be proud of.

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2

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Appeasement and Trump
by [Tiffanie Chapman](#) - Monday, May 13, 2019, 11:02 PM

I chose the historical poster of Chamberlain signing the Munich Pact with Hitler and the comparison of the Trump-Putin Summit. These photos stood out to me the most because I believe the Trump poster really played into the general fear of "history repeats itself", when I don't necessarily agree with the statement the author is trying to portray. The definition of appeasement that was given during lecture is "appeasing a dictator". With that definition in mind, comparing the two images and saying that this time in history was used appropriately to compare is, in my opinion, very inappropriate. The reasoning behind my opinion is that Hitler and Putin are not even close to comparison and Putin is not a dictator. We were also not currently on a war path like Hitler was when Chamberlain and him signed the Munich Pact. I think appeasement was not the correct term the author should have used in the Trump cartoon.

Sum of ratings:[2 \(1\)](#)

2

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Re: Appeasement and Trump
by [Joe Kiefer](#) - Saturday, May 18, 2019, 10:00 AM

Tiffanie, I agree with about 95% of your post. Chamberlain should have known that you can not trust Hitler knowing that he had violated the terms of the armistice that Germany had signed at the end of WWI as well as the rhetoric that Hitler was spewing before they signed the Munich Pact.(class lecture) As for the cartoon of President Trump, I think it is completely off base from what actually happened and what is going on between the two countries. First, President Trump is in no way trying to appease Putin, in fact the President has sold arms to Ukraine to defend themselves against the Russian backed separatists that are trying to rebel. Second, the trump administration had leveled sanctions against Russia that are taking a toll on them, which are a direct result of the Russian meddling in the election of 2016. I think this cartoon is directly related to the fact that president Trump didn’t push Putin at the Helsinki summit on the fact of the Russians meddling that did occur, remember that the president is a deal maker and you can’t make a deal; with someone that you calling a liar while you are standing next to in a press conference,, I mean what are you supposed to do when the man tells you unequivocally that they did not meddle in our elections. The only thing you can do is agree to disagree and leave it there.

The one point I disagree with you about is where you say that Putin is not a dictator. Actually, Putin is a dictator that rules under the guise of open elections, everyone in Russia knows better than to challenge him. Almost all the people that have ever challenged him have had untimely occurrences happen to them, and by that, I mean that they have died. I do agree that Putin in by no measure on the par of Hitler because he is not exterminating people like Hitler did. Although, Putin does hunger for the chance to rebuild the old Soviet Union, this is no secret. There is nothing he would like to do more than go back to the old days, even though he will never admit it publicly. I have confidence that no presidential administration will ever trust Putin the way that Chamberlain did Hitler, so I don’t think the appeasement cartoon is accurate and is in very bad taste.

Sum of ratings:[3 \(1\)](#)

3

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Re: Appeasement and Trump
by [Owen McCoy](#) - Saturday, May 18, 2019, 10:14 AM

As to the first point you made, we’ve learned that history doesn’t repeat itself, but individual people tend to act very predictably. (class lecture notes) And I think that while yes the circumstances were different then and now, there are still some similarities. Chamberlain saw Hitler’s military aggression and general hostility and wanted things to settle down. One of the last things that Obama did while in office was to impose sanctions on Russia for allegedly interfering in the 2016 elections. Concerns about Russia were left for president Trump to deal with (or, some might say, exacerbate). Still, I agree that appeasement is probably not the right word for the Putin-Trump Summit and in any case since appeasement has a negative connotation, Trump definitely wouldn’t use it to describe the meeting.

Sum of ratings:1(1)

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Rosie the Riveter

by [Daniel Quirk](#) - Monday, May 13, 2019, 11:04 PM

I chose this image pair because I feel like I understand it the most. I also felt like it'd be fun to analyze closely because they are polar opposites of each other. The picture on the left, "Rosie the Riveter," is about feminism, women rights, and boosting the morale of female workers. The image on the right, a negative and disrespectful alteration, is clearly Hillary Clinton's face photoshopped onto Rosie's while holding two plungers and instead of saying "We Can Do It!" it says "It takes a woman to clean up the house." This is clearly degrading women by using offensive stereotypes (in this case, cleaning/maid). It also takes past progressivism (feminism and women rights) and showing it with today's figures (Clinton) to mock leftist views on how to run our country. This photo was chosen for alteration because of how easy it is to degrade feminism and how this topic, specifically women rights, is immediately offensive to its' supporters.

Sum of ratings:1(1)

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Re: Rosie the Riveter

by [Owen McCoy](#) - Thursday, May 16, 2019, 12:35 PM

The picture on the left is definitely more optimistic about women's roles. On the other hand, the picture on the right goes back to stereotypes from before the progressive era. However, I think there are a few things without which the image definitely comes across as offensive.

I'm pretty sure the face is actually Nancy Pelosi (her name appears at the bottom right corner) and I think the "house" that the cartoonist refers to is actually the house of representatives. I think that the artist is actually trying to celebrate the fact that Pelosi was coming to a leadership position in the federal government. The reason some might think it is funny is that after seeing the house led by Republican men, they would be excited about the prospect of a Democratic woman taking leadership.

Nevertheless, I agree that if that wasn't the case then it would be degradative and even despite the author's intentions, the reference to those old stereotypes is still a bit unnerving.

Sum of ratings:2(1)

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Misunderstanding

by [Daniel Quirk](#) - Saturday, May 18, 2019, 10:47 PM

Thank you for clearing up what I misunderstood. Now that you've explained the real meaning it makes more sense to me. It's becoming more common to have women as a part of big seats in the government, especially Democrats. As of right now, the HoR is controlled by Democrats and 23% of the house are women which is the highest percentage almost ever. I think the main reason I believed this to be offensive is that the plungers (used in this context) seemed like a derogatory message towards women. Also, it seemed like the author was making assumptions about what a woman "should" be doing.

I appreciate your feedback.

Sum of ratings:1(1)

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Kissing Sailor

by [Alexandra Lindbloom](#) - Monday, May 13, 2019, 11:55 PM

I chose these photos mainly because I've seen the left one so many times. I don't know that I'd say the meaning is being manipulated, but the photo on the right is giving it a negative message. This photo was meant to show just how happy people were at the end of the second world war. I think this poster was chosen for alteration probably because of the focus on the #MeToo movement. This kind of situation wouldn't happen these days. If you grab a random girl and kiss her, it would be seen as sexual assault, rather than a way to celebrate something.



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1

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Re: Kissing Sailor

by [Anna McNutt](#) - Thursday, May 16, 2019, 10:50 PM

I agree that now days grabbing and kissing a random girl would be seen as sexual assault. Times have definitely changed! I think this poster could be taken as mocking the "Me Too" movement and most likely comes from someone who things the movement is "over exaggerated." They are using what has been known as a positive, exciting photo, and putting a negative connotation on it. Because its always been seen as positive and even patriotic, I think it comes from someone who doesn't see this as assault. But I think this image brings up something positive: the fact that woman now can speak up and don't have to fall in line behind men. Like I said, times have changed.

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1

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Re: Kissing Sailor

by [Alexandra Lindbloom](#) - Saturday, May 18, 2019, 5:40 PM

Yes I could definitely see that as well with the second picture! I also agree that it's great that women are able to speak up for themselves now and that we're seeing it more and more often. I think it'd be really interesting to hear somebody explain their take on the altered photo if they didn't understand or agree with the "Me Too" movement.

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0

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Re: Kissing Sailor

by [Baylee Crowson](#) - Saturday, May 18, 2019, 11:18 PM

I think the modernization of this poster is a bit too much. During the time that the picture was taken, they were joyous and celebrating the good news. I do agree that if someone were to grab a stranger and kiss them, the stranger would feel violated. I think that whoever made this poster is making jumps and leaps to describe what happened, if they had read the story, they would of known the lady was mistaken as a nurse and that's why he kissed her. I found this in an article from the internet, that the man helped pull the wounded out and watched

the nurses try to help and save them and that he was in such awe that he walked away from his wife and grabbed the nearest "nurse" and gave her a celebratory kiss. I also think the modern artist was possibly trying to just get a hot conversation started around one of the most adored photos from WW2. The woman goes on to say that the kiss didn't change her or her life, and I would expect that true sexual assault would change some aspect of you or your life.

Sum of ratings:1(1)1

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 **Re: Using & Abusing History**
by [Dago Franck-Nathan Kouassi](#) - Tuesday, May 14, 2019, 11:33 AM



Is the message positive?

This image represents Rosie, the iconic image of working women. She helped women enter the world of work during the Second World War. The American women, thanks to Rosie's struggle, were enlisted in the factories to do the work of the men because all the men were enrolled to go to war. The women's disengagement was important for the victory of the Second World War for the US and their allies, as its women, worked in factories to manufacture ammunition, certain women worked in the US aircraft industry in 1943, making up 65 percent of the industry's total workforce. Between 1940 and 1945, the female percentage of the U.S. labor force increased from 27 percent to nearly 37 percent, and by 1945 nearly everywhere.

so yes this message was an important message as it motivated women to support their men in wars by working in factories and remembering their needs.

Sum of ratings:1(1)1

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 **man and woman kissing in Times Square**
by [Kaylee Calvert](#) - Tuesday, May 14, 2019, 7:32 PM

The set of photos I chose were the ones of the sailor kissing the nurse in the street. I chose these photos because I feel like there is a lot to be said about them. I think that the remake of this photo is somewhat accurate considering the history of the photo. The man in the photo apparently was out in Times Square when he had heard the news of the war ending and to celebrate he spun the woman around and kissed her, a woman who he had never seen or met before. Nowadays that kind of behavior is absolutely unacceptable. Definitely for me at least, I personally would not want some random stranger to kiss me out of nowhere. In the 1940s though, that kind of behavior seemed to be just fine. The people of that time saw that photo and were okay with the circumstances because it captured the jubilation people felt when the war ended. It captured a moment of pure relief and represented people letting go of their inhibitions. The woman in the photo even said herself in an interview that it was just a form of celebration. I think the remake of this photo is negative, not that spreading awareness for sexual assault is negative at all, but I don't think this was the appropriate photo to use for the circumstance. I believe that this specific image was chosen for alteration simply because it drew so much fame and attention over the 20th century.

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Re: man and woman kissing in Times Square
by [Sidney Axtell](#) - Thursday, May 16, 2019, 11:41 PM

I completely agree with your explanation. It seems pretty clear, that what George (the male in the photo) had committed would be considered sexual assault by modern standards. The fact that this much-loved, and envied photo is a depiction of sexual assault, rather than passion, is an uncomfortable truth. Of course the sailor had every right to be overjoyed since the war was over. And the kiss was meant to be a spontaneous celebration, and during that time period it wasn't viewed as harshly as it is today. It still doesn't classify it as being something that's okay to do, regardless of the time period. I think most women would agree that they would be angry if some stranger grabbed them and kissed them without consent. It's also interesting while looking closer at the original photograph, Greta Zimmer (the women being kissed in the photo) was defensively pulling down her skirt, not swooning in his embrace over the spontaneous kiss.

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This man is your FRIEND. He fights for FREEDOM.
by [Robert Whitney](#) - Tuesday, May 14, 2019, 10:27 PM

I chose the Russian freedom fighter photos because I think that it represents a lack of knowledge of history within the US population as well as being a perfect opportunity for a sarcastic, modern day twist. I think that history is generally misrepresented in this alteration. I can see how the sarcasm in the second photo is relatable because while the Russians were indeed our friends during war time, they weren't exactly fighting for freedom. The Russians today are neither our friends, nor fighting for freedom, so I think that it was a good way to be sarcastic. I think that the overall message of the alteration is sarcasm and it was picked because it seemed to be a perfect fit for a mood of sarcasm and also shows the change in US-Russia relations over the past 70-80 years.

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Re: Using & Abusing History
by [Dago Franck-Nathan Kouassi](#) - Wednesday, May 15, 2019, 10:20 PM



After a careful analysis, why do you think this specific historical image/poster was chosen for alteration?

The image "This man is your Friend hr fights for freedom" is a poster appeared in 1942 that showed the US allies in the war effort. for many Americans who were staying at home, this poster was made to make our allies recognizable to Americans at home. The series included Australian, Canadian, Chinese, English, Ethiopian and Russian men. The Americans wanted the people to recognize their allies here at home. But also, According to (the lecture class), it was also made to help men in combat identify who was on their side "allies" or not, to avoid confusion and kill their

allies.

This image was chosen as alternation, I think because of the rumors saying Russians interfering in US election to help Trump to win the competition in 2016. For several people, the Russian had a role to play in the result of the votes. which led to the victory of President Donald Trumps, But how can this relate to this image, by this image I understand that people want to say, we must not doubt the Russian, nor think that it could be al harm such fraud, because it also fights for justice.

But these two photos do not reveal the same story

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Liberty Bonds
by [Robert Whitney](#) - Thursday, May 16, 2019, 2:43 PM

For my second post, I will be analyzing the Liberty Bond propaganda poster. I chose this one because I think the historical background on the left photo is interesting, and the right photo's adaptations are humorous.

On the left side, a seemingly angry and serious looking Lady Liberty is pointing toward the viewer with the caption "You buy a liberty bond lest I perish". I'm sure that considering the wild wave of patriotism that encompassed the United States during WWII, people who viewed this got excited and felt encouraged to support their country. Looking at this now, well after the war and with years and years of speculation after its creation, I see this as actually quite menacing. It is establishing guilt to people who do not or have not bought bonds, and I think could have created a separation within the country based on who has and has not bought a liberty bond. If this kind of propaganda was created by the United States now, I think that a lot of backlash would come of it. I think that it represents a significant decrease in unquestioning patriotism.

On the right, the same Lady Liberty is seen pointing at the viewer, but with a different caption. She says: "You! Stop asking questions! You're Either With US or With the Terrorists!". The author also ties this into government using the small disclaimer at the bottom, crediting the Ministry of Homeland Security. I think that this adaptation is a response to increased surveillance and monitoring within the United States following the 9/11 attacks. It is telling the American public to not worry about what its government is doing, only to unquestionably believe that it is the right thing. They definitely tie in the unquestionable nature required from the viewers.

I think the phrase "You're either with us or with the terrorists" is a statement to how life was back in the time period of the first poster. In the 40s and 50s, especially with the Communist hunts, it was really one side versus the other. Your were either a true diehard American, or a dirty Communist.

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Appeasement?
by [Amanda Francis](#) - Thursday, May 16, 2019, 3:03 PM

In 1938, British Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain along with France’s leaders met with Hitler to sign an agreement at the Munich Conference that Germany wouldn’t seize anymore land. It was supposed to be a “guarantee of ‘peace in our time’” (textbook p.855). Little did France or Britain know at the time of the agreement, but Germany would invade Poland by the next year and officially start World War II. Chamberlain got an immense amount of push back for trying to “appease” a dictator. The black and white picture to the left is Chamberlain holding the signed agreement with the word “appeasement” in big orange letters across the top.

The political cartoon to the right is of Donald Trump holding a piece of paper in a similar style as Chamberlain with the words “Putin-Trump summit” on it. In the quote bubble says, “We have appeasement for our time!”. Trump has gotten a lot of backlash for his relationship with Vladimir Putin and Russia. Some people, mostly on the left side of the political spectrum but even some on the right, think Trump has been too friendly with Putin. Obama received similar criticism from his willingness to meet and “appease” Iranian leaders. Whether you disagree or agree with Trump or Obama, neither of their relationships or “appeasements” with foreign dictators have led to the next world war such as it did with Chamberlain, but as we’ve discussed in class, we don’t know everything...yet.

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Re: Appeasement?
by [Robert Whitney](#) - Friday, May 17, 2019, 9:40 AM

I think that the cartoon is also trying to remind us that the summits could lead to something we did not expect. Historically, the Russians have not been a nation the Americans could trust for very long, if at all. With the atomic bomb spying, Cold War immediately following the end of WWII, and even up to today with the 2016 elections. Heck, we couldn't even trust them to fight against the Japanese without ulterior motives. What I think the author is trying to say in their comic is that we can't trust the Russians and we can't trust Putin. If we appease him and let our guard down thinking a piece of paper can prevent double-crossing, we will be severely hurt. Especially with corrupt dictators, there is no negotiating. We have seen that time and time again in history, and I think that people forget (or don't know) and just want to believe that everything can be solved using our words. Sometimes that is not the case. However, I think that today's preparations of war are vastly different than back in WWII. Then, big wars were fought with ground troops and tanks. There is a reason we haven't seen a big war in many years: MAD. If the US and Russia were to go to war, America's large array of allies and Russia's powerful allies in China and North Korea would create a nuclear war which the world wouldn't have a chance to survive. I don't think the cartoonist is going that far, but I think their message is to not have us let our guard down like Chamberlain did.

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Russia is our friend?
by [Anna McNutt](#) - Thursday, May 16, 2019, 9:52 PM

I chose to talk about propaganda poster of a Russian soldier that says "This man is your friend. He fights for freedom." As we learned about in class, these posters were made for each of our allied nations to literally give a visual of their appearance. I find just that idea really interesting. Today we have a good idea of cultural differences, and if you didn't you could just pop right on to google. These posters though, were made because there was a good chance of people not knowing what someone from a different place looked like.

The remade picture is the same except instead of a random soldier, Vladimir Putin is pictured. So in the original we were saying that Russia was our "friend," our ally. It's a little weird to think of Russia as our friend because we never really had a great relationship. This poster was made during the war, and after the war we found out that they were spying on us. That doesn't seem like a very loyal "friend" to me. Anyways, my understanding is that we haven't had the best relationship since then, or even before the war. So this remade poster, I first interpreted to be sarcastic. As I looked at it more though it seems to just be a statement. He isn't depicted in a mocking way, there is nothing insulting, which I would image to be on a poster that was against him. My interpretation of this poster is that someone who supports Putin is promoting him to be a "good guy." Its pretty obvious as to why they would chose this poster to remake. The original showed Russia as our friend, fighting for freedom. The second poster is simply saying the same thing, but in terms of today.

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Re: Russia is our friend?
by [Robert Whitney](#) - Friday, May 17, 2019, 9:28 AM

I agree with some of what you are saying. The United States–Russia relationship has never been great. I think something that both of the poster's time periods have seen is Russian spying/meddling. In the 40s and 50s, the Russians spied on our nuclear tests and even sped up their atomic weaponry development by around 6 years. Today we have seen Russian meddling with our elections and spying on our government. The only difference is that the United States spies back now. I think that is a testament to decades of mistrust of the Russians. I agree with you that it is not insulting towards Putin, or Russia, but more as a statement of saying that they are not our allies. I believe there is some sarcasm as well, with keeping the quote: "He fights for freedom". Putin has been known to be an oppressive leader and relating freedom to Putin is a huge mistake. The present day alteration of the poster somewhat reminds me of what Mr. Escobar told us about the posters made during the war, encouraging Americans to kill Hitler had they seen him. While the negatives of both posters are not on the same level, I feel a bit of resemblance.

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Re: Russia is our friend?
by [Anna McNutt](#) - Friday, May 17, 2019, 3:40 PM

Thank you! I agree that the poster could have been made sarcastically to say that Putin is not our friend and does not fight for freedom. I guess it depends on which side the author is on, it seems to be up for interpretation. I think its interesting that you compared this poster to the one essentially telling Americans to kill Hitler. I could kind of see that! However that poster was definitely more straight to the point.

Sum of ratings:0 (1)

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Raising of the flag vs. war on global warming
by [Sidney Axtell](#) - Thursday, May 16, 2019, 10:32 PM

I chose the image "Flag Raising on Iwo Jima" and the Times magazine cover "How to Win The War on Global Warming" because I felt that this is a strongly discussed topic in the U.S today. The image "Flag Raising on Iwo Jima" is an image that takes place in WW2. It is a honest representation because it's a common debate. Americans don't like to lose wars, considering there are many ways to define war. The world today is fighting a war against Global Warming. The steady deterioration of the very climate of our very planet is becoming a war of the first order. I believe this is meant to be a positive message, considering the Flag Raising image was considered a positive viewpoint on America when Marines captured Mount Suribachi. An American flag was quickly raised, and viewed as a symbol of unity in the long-fought war. The viewpoint on the left image "Fighting a War against Global Warming" is a relevant lesson about the U.S working together and fighting to fix the causes of global warming. Change only happens when individuals take action. The photo was chosen for alteration because, carbon dioxide is the climate's enemy. Just as the Japan was the enmy at the time of the original right photo in WW2.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Re: Raising of the flag vs. war on global warming
by [Anna McNutt](#) - Friday, May 17, 2019, 3:33 PM

I also was interested in the remade photo that you chose. I think that it was a clever use of history, but I'm sure others could see it as abuse. In the remade photo climate change is being directly compared to war which some people would not agree with. However, I think it brings our problems into perspective by saying that climate change is a war we not only need to fight but one we need to win. I also liked that it brings the message that this is a fight that the US needs to work together and fix, like you said.

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Re: Raising of the flag vs. war on global warming
by [Tiffanie Chapman](#) - Saturday, May 18, 2019, 11:24 PM

Sidney,

I agree with your post. I think raising of the flag on the right was also used back in the U.S. as advertisement of why our country could no longer remain "neutral" and why we had to fight in Iwo Jima after the attack on Pearl Harbor. It was also rallying moment during a time when the government was needing the war to be funded. This is why I think the image on the right is used appropriately, in this context. Time magazine is trying to portray the same thing. What I get from the photo on the right is that they are saying the "U.S. Neutrality" has to stop with the war on global warming. U.S. involvement in WWII was one of the ways the war finally came to an end. Time Magazine is also saying we will win the war on global warming once the U.S. stops being neutral on the matter and becomes more involved and starts funding the movement that will end global warming.

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Past v Future
by [Levi Savage](#) - Thursday, May 16, 2019, 11:50 PM

The last set of images caught my attention the most with president Trump holding onto a piece of paper with "Putin Trump Summit". Ever since 2016, there have been investigations into whether or not Russia influenced the elections and the conclusion we have seen is yes. Russia did, in fact, influence our elections no one in the government is denying this anymore other than the President himself his own party has said the Russians did, in fact, do this. While Trump continues to deny the facts presented to him by the most powerful and influential intelligence gathering agencies in the world yet he still continues to disregard the very facts before because he personally thinks the Russians more specifically Putin did not do this. Is this distorted yes and no Hitler unlike Putin engaged in

actual ground warfare while the Russians engaged in cyber warfare where the battlefield is the internet which ranges from articles images and propaganda videos all of which we can see took place and probably still are. Why out of all of the possible images was this made the author is eluding to a possibly much larger conflict with Russia where we are the ignorant ones or rather our President is to the dangers Russia presents. One could go even further to say that we are forgetting the past as the other forum discussion is on historical amines one could take this as we are forgetting the signs that those that came before us failed to see and act on to prevent one of the worst conflicts in history. I can't imagine what a modern day ww3 would look like but I doubt we would live very long to see it.

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Re: Using & Abusing History
by [Dago Franck-Nathan Kouassi](#) - Friday, May 17, 2019, 9:06 PM

" When you ride alone, you ride with bin Laden " is a poster that comes from the book What the Government SHOULD Be Telling Us to Help Fight the War on Terrorism. Author Maher uses old propaganda posters and manipulates images to apply them to the current world and US problems. by this poster, the author denounced how the US various problems that the country met and also criticized the way in which the government began the fight against terrorism.

But the image of "when you ride alone, you ride with Hitler", an image that made its appearance in the United States during World War II to encourage Americans to keep gasoline for the war.

I try to understand the image why this image was assimilated to Bin Laden but I can not understand the link. does somebody understand this pair picture?

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Lady Liberty
by [Alexander Marx](#) - Saturday, May 18, 2019, 12:00 PM

I chose the image pair of the Statue of Liberty encouraging the purchase of liberty bonds because of the tone it conveys during the war. While I said encouraging, it comes across with more of a demanding vibe, with a stern accusing look in the statues eyes. With taxes and bonds being the two largest factors in funding war, taxes are involuntary while the purchase of bonds is not, therefore it is necessary to push for the purchase of these bonds by any means necessary. This image uses the intimidation and guilt tactics, implying that without doing so the country as you know it will perish. It is a clever way to get people on the fence about the matter to ultimately make the purchase. It also serves as a warning making a strong point of the necessity there was to be victorious in the war. The altered image next to it has a similar intimidating tone, with the text demanding that you stop asking questions otherwise you are a terrorist. I believe the intimidation factor is the reason this poster was chosen to be altered, though instead of a sincere warning it gives off a satirical vibe in order to bring to light government and corporate corruption and their attempts to avoid people digging deeper into the issues. Using Lady Liberty in this manner is an effective way to get the desired point across that the people's voice may be under suppression by those in power.

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Re: Using and Abusing History for the good?
by [Jessie Shafer](#) - Saturday, May 18, 2019, 6:53 PM

I chose the image pair of the flag raising on Iwo Jima, and the soldiers lifting a tree to fight the war on global warming. The modern image actually means a lot to me, as I have written papers about the effects of global warming, and ways that we can help to reduce the speed of progression. The use of history is a very positive one, because it really is a war on global warming, and we need to conquer it. Not only is it a positive message, but it was done respectfully in the memory of the soldiers and the battle of Iwo Jima. The original flag raising was in victory of the America winning Iwo Jima from the Japanese Imperial army (class notes). To put that image with a tree and to win the war against global warming just says we need to have another victory with an imposing enemy.

In short, the reason the artist chose this image to be altered was because it is an already iconic picture. If you put an already iconic picture with something like global warming, an issue that needs to be won against, then more people are apt to pay attention to the message.

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The People's Indoctrination
by [Zach Edmiston](#) - Saturday, May 18, 2019, 9:34 PM

The image that I chose to critique and observe was the very first one, with the woman (Miss USA) on the typewriter. I chose this image because I felt that it was the most relevant to the topic at hand, and that it was the most accurate representation of what this forum topic is about. I feel that this image was modified appropriately, and it teaches us all a relevant lesson about the politics during WW2. Due to the lack of quick communication and easy access to information, the government and their "propaganda" was the quickest and often most efficient method for the general public to have access to information and facts about the war. Due to that prior fact, I believe that this was the best method for a government to attempt to turn the opinion of the public into their favor, and the illustration shows that in the second image. It makes a very good point about the fact that "Miss USA" isn't typing what she believes, she is typing what the government at the time wanted her to type, and therefore spread the message that they want her to spread; and by extension she is controlling the people, as the illustration says. It shows a very interesting perspective about the politics and the access to information during the time, and how women and people who worked under the government were helping to sway the opinions of the general public for the own gain.

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Re: The People's Indoctrination
by [Tiffanie Chapman](#) - Saturday, May 18, 2019, 10:46 PM

Zach,

I completely agree with this post. I wanted to back up your opinion even more about the "government attempting to turn the opinion of the public into their favor," and how in our textbook the authors discuss when President Roosevelt created the Office of War Information. On page 857 the authors state, "Roosevelt created the Office of War Information (OWI) to coordinate propaganda and censorship. Many New Deal Democrats viewed the OWI as catering more to advertisers who preferred imagery extolling the future joys of consumerism than to ones promoting broader visions of liberty and equality. Republicans, by contrast, blasted the agency for cranking out political appeals for causes favored by New Dealers. Despite criticism from both left and right, the OWI established branch offices throughout the world and produced hundreds of films, posters, and radio broadcasts." This definitely agrees with your statements and the statement on the right photo when said "you write what you're told" and how the government dictates the information that is given to the public. I also would say theses images are comparable to today's issues with the media. We are constantly having to try and decipher between what is real and what is fake news, which makes it hard to trust what is being told by our government.

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Re: Sailor kissing Nurse
by [Daniel Quirk](#) - Saturday, May 18, 2019, 11:16 PM

The photo I will be discussing is the man kissing the nurse in the street. Unless this photo is to spread awareness rather than to bash sexual harassment and the laws regarding, this photo is NOT appropriate considering the time difference. The photo on the left was taken in the '40s, EIGHTY years ago. Our society has changed a LOT. This is clearly an act of pure excitement and joy (seen by both, the man and woman, which is stated in an interview) after the end of the war, not some guy intentionally trying to make this woman uncomfortable. Although, in today's world, I would not be defending the man. There has been a multitude of laws and restrictions on things like this that have been put in place to prevent these situations from happening, and I grew up along those lines. To reiterate, the image is not an accurate representation of today. This image was definitely chosen for alteration because a lot of people don't know the backstory behind it and often jump to conclusions, which makes for good propaganda.

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