

**Using & abusing history**

by Joe Escobar - Wednesday, 6 May 2009, 11:26 AM

Throughout human history, catastrophic wars have erupted, and history is never the same during, or after, the occurrence. Enemies are demonized, morality is pondered, and historical truths are difficult to determine as the past is written, re-written, forgotten, and sometimes deliberately obscured.

Under the HTD Materials link, you will find the materials you need for this assignment: two recent articles, a pdf file with 9 images, and a video. I suggest you view them in this order. Then, discuss how history is used or abused, both in these examples, and by all human participants in the conflict. What are the ramifications of these actions.

[Edit](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)**Re: Using & abusing history**

by Jeffery Nickel - Friday, 8 May 2009, 01:28 AM

Hello everyone,

I want to start off by agreeing to the censoring of media shown to the public during times of war or conflicts, whether it be photographs, or video footage. The video clip spoke about war correspondent Ernie Pyle, and the "self imposed" censorship he placed on his own writing. Ernie Pyle understood that instead of lying to the American people, he wrote and relayed what was "acceptable" for the time. I can tell you that the censorship is very much active today. American families have only a vague idea of what their sons and daughters are going through right now in Afghanistan and Iraq. Fortunately, or maybe unfortunately, depending on your own opinions, the choice of what information and media coverage we are allowed to view is not ours.

All the propaganda that has been used, and is still used today by America, to "dehumanize" the enemy, or whoever we are being told is the current "bad guy" is most likely a near perfect mirror to that same country's propaganda "dehumanizing" Americans to their citizens. Our planes dumped flyers written in arabic all over Iraq and Afghanistan, telling the people not be afraid, that we were there to help them. Even though all they can see is American soldiers shooting at their brother, father, or whomever, but this little piece of paper says we're friendly?

Throughout history, you can read about people that have been charged with war crimes, or people that are blamed for war crimes. Germans at the Nuremberg trials, the video clip mentions the Japanese attacking civilians at Nanking. We rarely hear about American soldiers that are charged with war crimes. The Abu Ghraib prison incident would appear to be a single incident in our history. That is the where historical truths are re-written, obscured, and hopefully forgotten, because I can tell you that Americans are subject to making immoral human mistakes just like anyone else. When it gets drilled into your mind over and over again that these people you are fighting are nothing, scum, dirt, even animals. It becomes easier and easier to see them that way. I'm sure it's the same whichever side you fighting for.

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**Re: Using & abusing history**

by Amanda Krumdieck - Thursday, 14 May 2009, 09:41 AM

First i want to start by saying i have never heard about the flyers that were given out to Iraq. Just curious where did you hear that, is there a sight i could read about it?

I agree with you about our use of propaganda. We don't want to make our own soliders look like the bad guys or show the U.S. people the crimes they have committed when we can show the society the crimes other nations and people have committed. By the media showing foul propaganda of other nations peoples, it makes us hate the people from other nations.

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**Re: Using & abusing history**by [Michael Courtney](#) - Thursday, 14 May 2009, 05:08 PM

Amanada,
Check out this site.
<http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2002/12/18/attack/main533414.shtml>

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**Re: Using & abusing history**by [Jeffery Nickel](#) - Thursday, 14 May 2009, 08:46 PM

Hi Amanda, I didn't hear about the flyers, I'm telling about what I saw, from flyers that I picked up off the ground. As far as your later statement about our "retaliation" against Iraq, If Osama Bin Laden took credit for the Sept. 11th attacks, and his Al Qaeda training camps were in Afghanistan, and he was reported to be in Afghanistan.... What exactly does Iraq have to do with it? In my opinion, this was a son "George W. Bush" finishing what daddy "George H. W. Bush" started with then Secretary of Defense Dick Cheney. I'm not saying that Saddam Hussein should still be in power, but what happened to Osama Bin Laden? Why don't we hear about how we are actively pursuing him and his Al Qaeda operatives anymore? I still don't think that any kind of "retaliation" has been accomplished for Sept. 11th. The guilty have not been captured or executed, the only thing it appears that we have done is send our troops into a completely different country, overthrow their government, and in the end, lose even more american lives, and turn our own economy upside down. Retaliation? I don't think so.

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**Re: Using & abusing history**by [Amanda Krumdieck](#) - Thursday, 14 May 2009, 09:05 PM

I was speaking about retaliation about the way we attacked them after 9/11. Do you not think it was right? Should we of just let them get away with killing hundreds of innocent american civilians? In Iraq, they have captured key militants of his regim. However i agree with you that i don't believe that most things have been accomplished in Iraq and we should of left the country awhile ago because we have lost many lives in this war and are not accomplishing much but should we have done nothing? That is my question for you. What should we have done sat back in our seats and waited for another attack or relatiated and invaded their country like they invaded ours.

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**Re: Using & abusing history**by [Jeffery Nickel](#) - Thursday, 14 May 2009, 09:40 PM

Amanda, Iraq did not invade or attack the United States. I don't know what else to say. It was admittedly Osama Bin Laden and Al Qaeda who committed, coordinated, and ordered the September 11th attacks, from Afghanistan. The country we originally started searching for them in, but then we left, to go have Mr. Bush's little private Iraq war.

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**Re: Using & abusing history**by [Amanda Krumdieck](#) - Friday, 15 May 2009, 09:03 AM

Ok i understand that Osama Bin Laden and Al Queda committed the september 11 attack. I'm sorry about stating wrong research. But didn't Bush invade Iraq because he thought some of Al Qaeda members were in Iraq? Then why was alot of the propaganda linked towars Iraq and not Afghanistan?

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**Re: Using & abusing history**by [Todd Miesen](#) - Monday, 18 May 2009, 06:27 PM

Amanda,

Try this website. It may not be the "whole truth", and it certainly is from one perspective, but it states facts rather than someone's hopeful feelings of a purpose for the invasion of Iraq. Bush stated many, many reasons to go to Iraq. The one reason you didn't hear on Fox news was the fact that in December alone of 2002 the US imported 11.3 million barrels of oil.

Now that's a funny thought when you consider this...

Donald Rumsfeld, Secretary of Defense:

"We don't take our forces and go around the world and try to take other people's real estate or other people's resources, their oil. That's just not what the United States does," he said. "We never have, and we never will. That's not how democracies behave."

There are a lot of different opinions on why Bush invaded Iraq. WMDs, dictator, terrorists, daddy's war, oil, religious beliefs, the list goes on and on. But one reason has a paper trail: OIL

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2004/jul/28/iraq.usa>

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Re: Using & abusing history

by [Zhijun Mao](#) - Friday, 8 May 2009, 01:42 PM

I just want to say: "World WarII is a nightmare to all Chinese." After watching video, I just remember how Japanese butcher Chinese during World WarII. There were more than 300 thousand Chinese killed in NanKing city, however, totally, more than ten millions Chinese were killed by Japanese, so there are still many Chinese hate Japanese now. In other hand, this period of history was disappearing in Japanese textbook. It means more and more Japanese will never know about this period of history. The shadow of World WarII never died to Chinese. There is a new movie named "NanKing", which directed by American. It really show what happened during World WarII in NanKing of China. It maybe gives you a big shock. You will find the horrible of war.

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Re: Using & abusing history

by [Therese Wible Wheeler](#) - Saturday, 9 May 2009, 11:49 AM

I believe that we are using the history that we have. Dehumanizing the enemy is the only way we cannot feel guilty about killing other human beings. It is a vicious cycle that we repeat.

The current war has more religious grounds, and the propaganda must be taking that to their advantage. I have seen little to no propaganda about this war myself, as I do not agree with it at all. I feel as though our country is far too nosy for its own good.

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Re: Using & abusing history

by [Amanda Krumdieck](#) - Wednesday, 13 May 2009, 08:49 PM

I agree with you that the war in Iraq has gone on way to long but what did you feel the day we were attacked on Sep. 11th? I felt that we took correct grounds on retaliation on Iraq because we didn't know if they were going to attack us again.

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Re: Using & abusing history

by [Todd Sulkoff](#) - Thursday, 14 May 2009, 11:21 PM

Almost nothing is more dangerous to our Democracy than a government that intentionally misleads us into war, and people unwilling to question what is happening. There has been a mountain of evidence since 9/11, and even before 9/11, that there was absolutely no link between Iraq and al Qaida. I remember clearly people were scared and wanted blood. But it is so important to attack the right people if you must attack. This excerpt cites how early we were being misled.

"Ten days after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, President Bush was advised that U.S. intelligence found no credible connection linking the attacks to the regime of Saddam Hussein, or evidence suggesting linkage between Saddam and the al-Qaida terrorist network, according to a published report. The report, published Tuesday, Nov. 22, 2005 in The National Journal, cites government records, as well as present and former officials with knowledge of the issue. The information in the story, written by National Journal contributor Murray Waas, points to an abiding

administration concern for secrecy that extended to keeping information from the Senate committee charged with investigating the matter. In one of the Journal report's more compelling disclosures, Saddam is said to have viewed al-Qaida as a threat, rather than a potential ally."

How willing we were to march in the totally wrong direction, little propaganda was even needed, just a lot of information suppression and jingoism. Just imagine how different things might be if people insisted we focus on Afghanistan. Maybe we would have gotten Bin Laden years ago. But how valuable would he be if he were captured? Much better to have him as a boogie man that keeps everyone scared, while we drill the fields in Iraq. Especially in times like that "Dissent is the highest form of patriotism". <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/10164478#storyContinued>

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Re: Using & abusing history

by [Jeffery Nickel](#) - Thursday, 14 May 2009, 11:51 PM

STANDING OVATION!!!!!!

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Re: Using & abusing history

by [Katie D'Orazio](#) - Sunday, 10 May 2009, 07:55 PM

Propaganda for many years has shaped the way societies think and feel about other countries. I agree with many of you above, in the fact that we should censor what the media lets out to the people. A photograph or poster can seriously alter someone's opinion about a race or culture; usually dehumanizing them. I do think that America and other countries do this not only to encourage their people to have a certain view point, but to also justify their actions towards their enemy.

Propaganda can also have a positive point as well. For instance having a picture that captures our soldiers fighting for something we strongly believe in can encourage us to not give up hope and to remember the people that are fighting for this country.

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Re: Using & abusing history

by [Jeffery Nickel](#) - Sunday, 10 May 2009, 11:09 PM

I just wanted to say "Thank You" to Katie. So far you are the only person to look at this topic from a positive standpoint. It made me take a step back, and close my eyes, and remember some very inspiring images that I have seen. You are absolutely correct, propaganda can certainly have a positive effect. I don't like to use a "Hollywood" example, but the movie "Flags of Our Fathers" puts into perspective how much an image can be not only motivating, but literally in some cases, revered. There's a part in the book, (I haven't seen the movie, but read the book), that talks about inside a house, there were only two things hanging on the wall. A painting of the Virgin Mary, and the Iwo Jima Flag raising on the front page of a newspaper. That to me is deep rooted patriotism, and that sense of hope that we love to hear about.

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Re: Using & abusing history

by [Katie D'Orazio](#) - Monday, 11 May 2009, 09:57 AM

Thanks Jeffery. That is exactly how I feel. It is so easy to get lost in the negative aspect of propaganda and many other things, but it is important to be patriotic and support our people; even if you don't support a war or topic.

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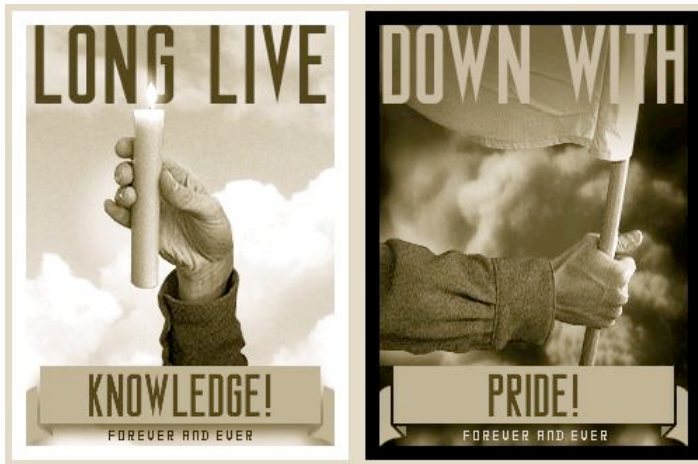
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Re: Using & abusing history

by [Amanda Krumdieck](#) - Wednesday, 13 May 2009, 07:05 PM

I agree with you completely about everything you said. Propaganda has shaped our society not always for the best. Yes there is positive propaganda and bad propaganda.



I believe this was a positive propaganda that wasn't degrading anyone and saying a statement. It didn't make me feel negative about anyone. What do you think about this picture? I found it really hard to find a photo of what i thought was positive and not degrading to anyone.

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Re: Using & abusing history

by [Amanda Dudley](#) - Monday, 18 May 2009, 12:51 PM

I too didn't feel like these photos were not degrading or saying anything negative about anyone. I did some picture scouting also and found some positive or neutral propaganda. It is posibal to make an impact on society with out turning anyone into the bad guy. I wish society would take this approach more offten. Not just with war but with Presidential elections, too. I am always turned off by the comercials messages that put down other canidates. I just don't feel it is needed. I don't see how that is going to get more votes.

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Re: Using & abusing history

by [Amanda Dudley](#) - Monday, 11 May 2009, 01:23 PM

After reading the articles and watching the viedo the statment "all is fair in love and war?" popped into my head. Is all fair in war? After seeing those photos it seems that it is. It showed me that fair is in the eye of the beholder. We made our actinos fair in war by propaganda and dehumanizing the enemy. In doing so our actions looked justified. If the enemy is rapeing and killing innocent Chinese bystanders then dropping atomic bombs on the ones doing so seems completely fair. It is all about what we are putting out their and the message they carry. I believe that each side can find justice behind what they are doing. This is why we will always have war because there will always be two sides, both seeing their side as fair.

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Re: Using & abusing history

by [Zhijun Mao](#) - Tuesday, 12 May 2009, 03:43 PM

I strongly agree with your idea "I believe that each side can find justice behind what they are doing. This is why we will always have war because there will always be two sides, both seeing their side as fair. " Why each side can find justice behind what they are doing? It is a result of the effect of propaganda. I have asked many American about what do you think about Iraq War. Most of them said American gave liberty and democracy to Iraqi. However, what's answer from Iraqi, is it the same as American. I do not think so.

In China, newspapers always report bad news about America, such as, Gun Shooting, Discrimination of Race. Actually, the United States is becoming better. I remember Obama have said : " We need change." Above 1890s, Africa-American got right of vote. Then, women got the same right.

I believe propaganda has two sides, which is advantages and disadvantages. For example, there was a big earthquake in Shichuan province, China. Because propaganda, many countries gave hands to Chinese. Today is commemorate day for one year of Wenchuan(the city of China) earthquake. It is advantage of propaganda.

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Re: Using & abusing history

by [Amanda Dudley](#) - Wednesday, 13 May 2009, 10:58 AM

Exactaly! Not only is what we are seeing affecting how we think, but what we aren't seeing is having an impact on us, too. Just because we don't see it doesn't mean it isn't there or didn't happen. Just because Japan doesn't remember the things they did doesn't make them less responsible. Just like the confidential files reasead in 1995 about the spys. At that time the public didn't know for sure if there really was anything to worry about. Did we still have the right to do the precautionary things we did with out real proof? What we don't know can have just as big affect on our actions. Propaganda can not only make us all look in one direction, but more importantally not in the opposite direction.

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Re: Using & abusing history

by [Amanda Krumdieck](#) - Wednesday, 13 May 2009, 07:11 PM

I agree with that, that there probably will never be peace between nations because everyone has there own side of view on what they believe. I also believe what you said about dropping the atomis bomb is right, if they are causing pain on other innocent people. Why should innocent civilians die in such a cruel way when we can help take away the terrible people.

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Re: Using & abusing history

by [Todd Sulkoff](#) - Thursday, 14 May 2009, 11:53 PM

I think it is easy to come to the conclusion that war is inevitable. It is inevitable if we believe it is, this is the worst that fatalism has to offer us. I found a great article from the Associated Press that addresses just this issue.

"The three books *Psychology of War*, *Why Nations Go To War*, and *War is a Force That Gives us Meaning* are attempts to explore the real reasons that war continues to be an option for civilized countries. The authors of all three books looked at the question of war from different view points but came to the same consensus. LeShan, Stoessinger, and Hedges all felt that despite historical theories about the cause of war, modern countries go to war because their leaders suffer delusions of grandeur about themselves and their countries."

It concludes **"If leaders saw themselves as mere men with no special powers and they saw the citizens of the world as valuable human beings who matter, there would be no war."**

Our founding fathers gave us the tools of a free press, and the right to dissent through free speech. We must be engaged and unwilling to support war so easily, while not believing that it is bound to happen anyway, if ever we are to achieve real peace in this world. The people of this country must stop equating unwillingness to go to war with a lack of patriotism. We are in the unique position in America to be an example to the rest of the world, and often we have squandered that opportunity. The link is here : http://www.associatedcontent.com/article/1682468/why_has_there_always_been_war.html?cat=47

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Re: Using & abusing history

by [Jeffery Nickel](#) - Friday, 15 May 2009, 12:14 AM

I completely understand what you're saying Todd. Speaking as someone that was sent to the "sandbox" to take part in something I did not agree with, when I got back to the states, there were people that would walk up and shake my hand and say "thank you", and "you did a service to your country" and things like that. My usual response was like so many service members, I said thank you, and I just did my job. I don't agree with war, I don't agree with what we are doing in Iraq, and I probably won't agree with the next conflict that the U.S. gets involved in, but make no mistake, I am a patriot. I love this country. I only hope we can start paying some much needed attention to our people, our problems, and our own struggles within our borders. I believe our current administration is trying. And thanks for the link regarding the article.

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Re: Using & abusing history

by [Todd Sulkoff](#) - Friday, 15 May 2009, 04:11 AM

Thanks for your feedback Jeff. Whenever we criticize our government in times of war we tend to get branded as unpatriotic. Such is the effect of so many years of our own propaganda. Absolutely, I consider myself a patriot as well. If I didn't care I wouldn't dissent, like in 2003. I think more people have gotten wise to the wickedly effective, yet false notion that criticizing the war equals not supporting the troops. I truly thank you for your service, regardless of the justness of the war. I tend to view our country from the idealistic lens of some of our founding father's visions, and see our country like a parent might view a popular, brilliant, talented child that at times fails miserably to live up to it's potential.

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Re: Using & abusing history

by [Chance Crocker](#) - Saturday, 16 May 2009, 05:17 PM

All is fair in love and war. The winner's get to write the history books which makes me think of what the victor of a total war with the US would read? Would another country be able to factually document us as losers, how would we be dehumanized, what atrocities would we be blamed for, why did we lose, how are we inferior? It would be most likely very similar to how our propaganda looked during the world war years. Like the example in class it's very inaccurate to portray the average American Joe as a Tommy gun wielding gangster sociopath but that was part of Axis propaganda. How are we portrayed in propaganda today.

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Re: Using & abusing history

by [Michael Courtney](#) - Monday, 11 May 2009, 02:04 PM

I guess the best way to start this is by asking a question. If you have nothing to hide, is there a need for censorship? If my child was in a situation that could him or her bodily harm or maybe death, I would want to know what is going on and who is making these decisions of life and death. Those who write about and report on affairs that our country is or might be involved in do express their own personal slant on what they convey as news.

Propaganda is not news and it is used by the spin machines as if it is the news. The Spanish American War was heated up by journalists who had their own agenda to serve and no one questioned the validity of their reporting. The Viet Nam War was cruising right along until a reporter, Walter Cronkite, brought up the possibility that the whole mess was a losing proposition and we should get out now. This was not new news to those of us who were running around the jungle, but those who felt great confidence in the actions of our leaders and a kinship with Mr. Cronkite, suddenly felt there might be something wrong with the way things were progressing. Point of fact, my dad.

They say that history is written by the victors. I say the victors assure their victory by abusing history to assure the support of the populace. Any government involved in a conflict has to have the support of the people. If this support is not given, the government must now fight two enemies, the one on the front and the one at home. This is true of Viet Nam, the government could sustain control of the American people and fight the communist in the jungle. Wisely they gave up the jungle and settled matters at home.

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Re: Using & abusing history

by [Amanda Krumdieck](#) - Thursday, 14 May 2009, 03:27 PM

I agree with you on many points but however I don't know if I just didn't understand this, but who would you rather tell you that your children are in danger the president or high rated official who has evidence or a journalist who abuses propaganda and what they are writing could be false? I prefer someone who has the proof behind their statement to tell me the facts about the situation, so we don't assume some other nation is horrible and go to war with them over false allegations that the press displays to us. As you mentioned Viet Nam.

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Re: Using & abusing history

by [Michael Courtney](#) - Tuesday, 12 May 2009, 10:17 PM

Many people feel that President Johnson is responsible for our involvement in Vietnam. He was a major player, but our energies were being absorbed in that region for some time.

From 1949 the U.S. sent aid to the French forces fighting to keep French colonial rule in Vietnam. Then in 1954 America refused to allow free elections to be held throughout Vietnam because they were afraid the communists would win the elections.

According to Encyclopedia Britannica Online, "In April-July 1954 the Geneva Accords, which were signed by French and Viet Minh representatives, provided for a cease-fire and for a temporary division of the country into two military zones at latitude 17°N."

N. The last of the Geneva Accords - called the Final Declaration - provided for elections, supervised by the commission, to be held throughout Vietnam in July 1956 in order to unify the country. Viet Minh leaders appeared certain to win these elections, and the United States and South Vietnam would not approve or sign the Final Declaration; elections were never held.

Until 1960 the United States had supported the Saigon regime and its army only with military equipment, financial aid, and, as permitted by the Geneva Accords, 700 advisers for training the army. The number of advisers had increased to 17,000 by the end of 1963, and they were joined by an increasing number of American helicopter pilots. All this assistance, however, proved insufficient to halt the advance of the Viet Cong, and in February 1965 U.S. President Lyndon B. Johnson ordered the bombing of North Vietnam, hoping to prevent further infiltration of arms and troops into the south. Four weeks after the bombing began, the United States started sending troops into the south. By July the number of U.S. troops had reached 75,000; it continued to climb until it stood at more than 500,000 early in 1968."

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Re: Using & abusing history

by [Katie D'Orazio](#) - Wednesday, 13 May 2009, 04:46 PM

I do agree with the fact that because we as people will never fully agree, due to our opinionated nature, there will always be war. Propoganda is not the only reason that we have war or hatred on other countries. People know that propoganda is exagerated opinions. I dont think that most people are stupid enough to believe everything that it stands for. Propoganda unfortunatly holds some truth to how people really think and what people are saying.

I am a strong believer that history is not factual. Every writer or historian has the power to apply their own opinion in our history books, who is to say what is true or not? Don't we all look at war and situations differently?

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Re: Using & abusing history

by [Amanda Krumdieck](#) - Thursday, 14 May 2009, 03:33 PM

I completely agree with you that propaganda isn't the main reason we go to war but it plays a major role. However like you said how can we be sure that historians tell the truth in all history books, we can't. So that plays a large role in peoples minds to. I also believe we will never have peace between all nations because one we have peace with one someone else will get jealous and possibly go against the United states, we just don't know. Yes and the last question you wrote i agree with you. When 9/11 happened i felt it was right that we invaded Iraq becuase we didn't know if they were going to attack us agagin. Today i look at it completely different becuae why do we need to protect there country when we should have our soliders home protecting ours. That is my oponion on the war today and like you said everyone has there own oponion on the war.

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Re: Using & abusing history

by [Jeffery Nickel](#) - Thursday, 14 May 2009, 09:00 PM

Hi Michael,

It's just like what Escobar said in class on Tuesday, we will always side against the communists, throughout history that is what we have done. We supported the Saigon regime simply because the Viet Minh represented communism, the big RED SCARE!! In 1954 if the Saigon regime had turned around and said "hey, we are now communists", and the Viet Minh reps said "and now we are not communists", I'm almost certain Lyndon Johnson would have said "Well then, the United States will support the Viet Minh!" It's pretty sad actually.

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Re: Using & abusing history

by [Jeffery Nickel](#) - Thursday, 14 May 2009, 10:10 PM

Thanks Michael,

it's nice to know some of us can look up a topic before we start rambling on about it. Well thought out and well represented statements. Kudos for doing some research. It shows.

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Re: Using & abusing history

by [Amanda Krumdieck](#) - Wednesday, 13 May 2009, 06:21 PM

I strongly agree that propropaganda has changed the views on many people. However propropaganda has developed it's way into our culture, and it's not always for the best or positive. When I have seen the photographs in class, it makes me feel irry about other nations around the world and I don't believe that the media should have the right to change my view of another country with a lie. Just like everyone else in this world has restrictions, I believe the media needs to have restrictions or stricker restrictions, so they cant express lies through there work without evidence that has been proved.

The photograph that our teacher put up about the soliders holding up the tree in the time magazine. I think that is ridiculous, and degrading to the soliders who risked their lives to protect our country. If the media wants to speak about global warming then they need facts to prove there oponion and they should worry about the earth and not degrad the soliders.



I found this in google and again the media is protraying that either you are on the side to fight or your on the side that is going to be fought. The media is trying to convince you that we always need to fight.

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Re: Using & abusing history

by [Todd Miesen](#) - Wednesday, 13 May 2009, 07:25 PM

I know how you feel. The problem is I also want to have free speech. And do you have more of a right to say what you want then people in the media? Sure it may be a lie or half-truth, but should that be against the law?

I'm a little confused on what you meant with Time magazine. I know I'm guessing here (because I haven't read the issue) but I would think that they have facts on global warming in the magazine. And I'm not really sure why that would be degrading to soldiers. My brother just got out of Iraq and I'm sure he'd have no problem being on the cover of Time magazine.

I don't mean to sound critical you have very valid points on propaganda and how it used. Only looking at some of your arguments from a different prospective.

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Re: Using & abusing history

by [Amanda Krumdieck](#) - Wednesday, 13 May 2009, 08:34 PM

No, about the time magazine i didn't read the article it was the picture that was in the HTD handouts or whatever it is called that we have to read before we state our opionion. But all i was trying to say is that the men that served in world war two have that memorial of themselves holding up a flag, but they changed it to a tree and i just didn't feel it was right

because i took it as degrading to them. I understood the picture was them trying to hold up our environment and not what they were meant to do. At that time they weren't meant to hold up the environment (global warming issue) but protect our society from other nations. That is just what i thought about that propaganda photo. I also had a cousin who just came back from the war and i agree with you that he would love to be on TIME magazine but that wasn't my point.

I also agree with you that we should have free speech but is there any stopping ground for them? Should the media be able to post anything they desire? I don't think it should be against the law i just think they need boundaries, so were not convincing our younger generations that every other nation in the world is bad.

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Re: Using & abusing history

by [Todd Miesen](#) - Wednesday, 13 May 2009, 07:06 PM

Is propaganda black and white?

The answer is no. Not all propaganda is naturally bad or good. It is a tool. Used by the media to control the general populations opinion. It is all around us everyday, and has even been embedded in people's brains furthering its reach.

It is important to understand that propaganda is changing. With ever increasing technology, it is easier and easier to get closer to the "truth" then ever before. The "man" (media) knows this and has been marketing their new brand of propaganda to a nation that has been growing smarter.

History has shown us however that propaganda can be a means of making hatred. Looking at the old war cartoons shows that. And history in your own country always seems to be somehow distorted so we can feel patriotic. There is no doubt that German/Russian/Japanese media portrayed the US just as poorly as we imagined them. In reality they are the same...just another group of people brought up in a different society and told how to act by those in power.

But can propaganda be positive?

YES. WW2 is an easy example of propangda used that in the end was justified as is the war (in my opinion). I don't agree with many of the wars in our nations history but I think it is plain to see that this one had merit. We may not have known at the time of the horrors the Nazis were doing, but in retrospect the fight for innocent lives is diffenitely worth lies being thrown at Americans from their own media.

Some lies however go to far. Today comedy in media jokes about race relations but in the past race was a very serious topic. My grandpa to this day will say "jap" as a derogatory word. It makes me cringe but you've got to understand thats how he grew up. It wasn't bad to say it, they were saying it everywhere. The problem with making foreign affairs look like it's "bad vs. good" in the media, is that the populations life perspectives can change from it. Especially in the US this can become a problem because we are a mixed culture. Even today with our war now race is still a issue. It's time for the propoganda to change tactics because in the end it is damaging to our society.

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Re: Using & abusing history

by [Michael Courtney](#) - Thursday, 14 May 2009, 05:02 PM

Todd,

Very good! You have a full understanding of the meaning and uses of propaganda.

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Re: Using & abusing history

by [Chance Crocker](#) - Saturday, 16 May 2009, 11:35 AM

You have a great point even if the end justifies the means in propeganda people are still conditioned after the conflict with the negative images and stereo types of the propeganda campaign. Your right about propeganda needind to change tactics because it's harmful to have these stereotypes imbedded in our culture, it's almost seems we have to have propeganda to fight our own old propeganda. The solution would be reform of propeganda that motivates people to fight but doesn't create stereotypes which is probably impossible.

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Re: Using & abusing history

by [Max Nunnelee](#) - Thursday, 14 May 2009, 12:13 AM

Propaganda throughout history has always displayed Americans as the heroes and who ever opposes as evil whether it is the Japanese or the Germans. People want to hear that we are the heroes and want to hear that is war we are fighting is a war against evil. There is always two sides the good and the bad or evil side but the people on the evil side don't think they are doing the wrong thing otherwise why wouldn't they do it. As we saw in class the Germans used propaganda posters to show them as heroes and the Americans as the "bad guys." The problem with propaganda no matter what side it comes from doesn't show the

real truth that war is a killing machine. As the video said 50 million dead world wide from the war and that isn't including the 6 million that died in the holocaust. How can any one be called a hero when there is 50 million dead? Propaganda portriated the Japanese as terrible people that attacked the American way so what do the "heroes" do we drop the most destructive bomb the world had ever seen, twice. Propaganda is a sucess the american way is safe but propaganda fails to show the truth and that truth is the world has seen a new weapon that would start a world panic wondering when and where the next one will hit. Propaganda has always been used to hide the truth that people are dying and the wars will continue.

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Re: Using & abusing history

by [Katie D'Orazio](#) - Thursday, 14 May 2009, 08:50 AM



Propoganda is not only about other countries but often about our own politics. Like these above. You would agree with one based purely on your political view.

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Re: Using & abusing history

by [Todd Sulkoff](#) - Friday, 15 May 2009, 12:39 AM

I think it is hilarious how the same people that decry O'Bama as a Socialist, or a Fascist depending on how uninformed they are, also call him an "Elitist". Fascism clearly despises intellectuals. If he is a Socialist, than he is empathetic with the common man, not the rich. Amazing it is how willing people are to throw around words that sound scary, while having no basis in reality. A certain FOX commentator recently called FDR a Fascist. . . . FDR! While in the same breath he called Henry Ford an Anti-Fascist. Who, by the way, published an anti-Semitic book "*The International Jew: The World's Foremost Problem*" and Henry Ford was awarded the Grand Cross of the German Eagle on his 75th birthday, 30 July 1938..And some people believe that O'Bama is a Fascist-Socialist, whatever that is supposed to be. Simply amazing! This tendency to invoke Hitler, and the propaganda film "Expelled" that our instructor previewed, from the last section is addressed at this link.

<http://www.vueweekly.com/article.php?id=8848>



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Re: Using & abusing history

by [Amanda Krumdieck](#) - Thursday, 14 May 2009, 09:30 AM

I agree with you in the since that we use propaganda to hide the truth, but sometimes we can use it as a positive way. Yes i agree with you that we shouldn't be portraying ourselves or others as good guys when we kill 50 million world wide, i dont feel that is right.

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Re: Using & abusing history

by [Max Nunnelee](#) - Thursday, 14 May 2009, 03:29 PM

Propaganda can be used in a political sense as well which is not a negative as some other propaganda but it is also used to "trick" the public. Propaganda wants people to believe in their cause even if the cause isn't right. Propaganda feeds off the belief that people want to believe in a greater cause.

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Re: Using & abusing history

by [Chance Crocker](#) - Thursday, 14 May 2009, 07:31 PM

The way we distort history to produce propeganda has made me evaluate some of the propeganda we have seen in class and from the discussion materials I agree that propeganda has a dehumanizing effect. To first kill it becomes necessary to hate so by highlighting vicious acts through propeganda you dehumanize the enemy and even animalize them which makes killing them easier. For example potraying Japanese as rats and Germans as apes. What I found interesting was that propeganda also builds up the enemy at the same time, there is little honor in killing something weak so at the same time it's necessary to potray the enemy as strong and dangerous. An example being again the Germans apes with clubs and Japanese rats with knives. We inflate their ability to harm us which justifies and even glorifies the action of killing them. Examples being the many propeganda posters depicting a homeland attack on the US justifies preemptive action. Propeganda is definately an essential part of the process in motivating morally righteous people to kill. So the end might justify the means when fighting fire with fire.

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Re: Using & abusing history

by [Casey Anderson](#) - Monday, 18 May 2009, 12:25 PM

As far as abusing history goes, that part in the video about Ernie Pyle using his own censorship and telling American people less than the whole truth is, to me, acceptable during wartime. We have seen in the recent past, such as the "Holy War," where directly after the 9/11 attacks the people of America had their emotions dramatically shaken. As a result, an overwhelming majority of the people supported going to war. But as time goes on and new, negative information about the war is out, the moral of the citizen of this country decays until the very subject of that particular war plays a decreased role in even determining the last presidency election. So, I would agree the censorship, during wartime anyway, is in fact acceptable and rather advised.

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Re: Using & abusing history

by [Katie D'Orazio](#) - Monday, 18 May 2009, 09:08 PM

I don't know if anyone else thinks this but don't you think that after 9/11 everyone (generally speaking) was for the war, but then as media drifted away from what happened on that day people automatically jumped on the negative media coming out about the war. Media plays such a huge role in affecting people's opinions, personally I think that if we continued to show footage of what happened that day and continued to talk about the groups that want to attack us, then maybe more people wouldn't oppose the war as much as they do at this moment. Sometime I feel that people forgot how they felt that day on 9/11, it's important to know that feeling and to not forget it, some things are worth fighting for.

Yes I know that the war is way beyond just terrorist, but if the media or propaganda reminded us daily **what some of the things we are fighting for** than opposition to war in my opinion would not be so high.

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Re: Using & abusing history

by [Todd Sulkoff](#) - Monday, 18 May 2009, 11:09 PM

I think most people were for the Afghani war, the one that had any rational. I know plenty of people in 2002 that smelled a rat the minute Iraq started being mentioned by Bush. Or is vengeance served to just attack any Muslim nation? The enemy image of Iraq had been well imprinted on us. There were plans to do this invasion of Iraq back in the nineties. Check out the the "Think tank" Project for a New American Century on wiki. They had Iraq as one of their stated goals, and were made up of many in the Bush administration. Here is a wiki excerpt:

"Post-9/11 call for regime change in Iraq

On September 20, 2001 (nine days after the September 11, 2001 attacks), the PNAC sent a letter to President George W. Bush, advocating "a determined effort to remove Saddam Hussein from power in Iraq," or regime change:

...even if evidence does not link Iraq directly to the attack, any strategy aiming at the eradication of terrorism and its sponsors must include a determined effort to remove Saddam Hussein from power in Iraq. Failure to undertake such an effort will constitute an early and perhaps decisive surrender in the war on international terrorism.[18][4]

From 2001 through 2002, the co-founders and other members of the PNAC published articles supporting the United States' invasion of Iraq.[19]. On its website, the PNAC promoted its point of view that leaving Saddam Hussein in power would be "surrender to terrorism." [20][21][22][23]

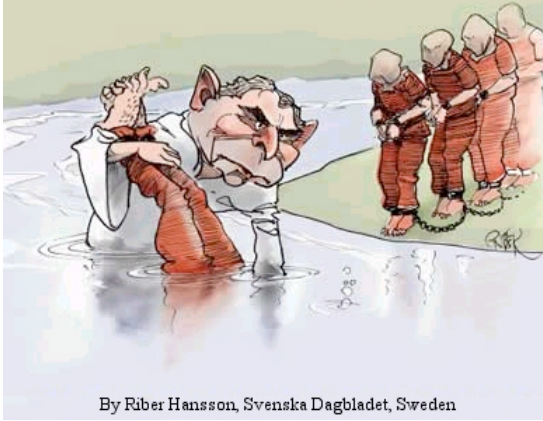
In 2003, during the period leading up to the 2003 invasion of Iraq, the PNAC had seven full-time staff members in addition to its board of directors.[1] . . .

. . . was developed by Rumsfeld, Cheney, Wolfowitz and Libby, and is devoted to matters of 'maintaining US pre-eminence, thwarting rival powers and shaping the global security system according to US interests.'" [30][31]

William Rivers Pitt, editorial director of Progressive Democrats of America, wrote, in an editorial published by Truthout.org, that PNAC was motivated by an imperial agenda of US military expansionism, which would bring negative side effects to ordinary citizens of the United States, while enriching some industries: "defense contractors who sup on American tax revenue will be handsomely paid for arming this new American empire."

They clearly knew there was NO connection, hence the torture began so as to force the appearance of a connection that simply was not there. We're seeing this unfold in the news now. Even going to the extremes of exposing one of our own CIA agents as revenge for not going along with the propaganda machine. Just the tip of the iceberg in the unfolding scandal that was the Bush administration. America will be stained by Iraq and the torture incidents for a very long time, sadly.

BUSH, "WE DON'T TORTURE" WE BAPTIZE!



By Riber Hansson, Svenska Dagbladet, Sweden

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Re: Using & abusing history

by [Avtar Khalsa](#) - Tuesday, 19 May 2009, 01:03 PM

History is generally used in times of war as a tool, a tool to sway the conscience of the public toward the benefit of the country. Whether it be propagandistic flyers stirring up old hatred, or sidestepping historical truths to gain the support of the people [as seen in the article "japan's historical amnesia"], countries have become very good at using history to their advantage. In a modern day example the war in Iraq has been associated with historical events many a time; such as the Vietnam War association used by those opposing the war. Also The bush administration admittedly used the horrific events of 9/11 as a platform to invade Iraq despite Osama Bin Laden's more... Anfgani location. Although in today's society i feel there are more ways to see the truth of the matter, political cartoons and the propaganda out there can sway many, which is a prime example of modern demonizing the enemy.



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Re: Using & abusing history

by [Zhijun Mao](#) - Tuesday, 19 May 2009, 06:51 PM

[Escobar](#) taught about "Red Scare" in 1950's after [World War II](#) Tuesday class. We also knew Senator [Joseph McCarthy](#), from whose name "[McCarthyism](#)" is taken. Look this picture,



I think it is effect of propaganda. Actually, the idea of Communism is very great, which every one has equal fortune and society is fair to every citizen. However, we can not achieve this goal because the standard of production is lower than Communism's require.

After this Economics Crisis, many banks and big car companies are controled by government in Untied States. If you look at China, you will find China is Capitalism country, which most companies owned by private. I heard China is more and more Capitalism and America is more and more Communism. It means Capitalism and Communism's difference is narrow.

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Re: Using & abusing history

by [David Kroesen](#) - Friday, 22 May 2009, 11:33 AM

I agree with Mao on the Narow differences between Communissm and Capitalism, i also agree that Communism isn't a bad thing when practiced theway it should be. The American people were duped into beleiving that its some terrible thing to be by our Governemnt through propaganda. That would be an example where propaganda was used maliciously. Ill though i do believe communism is a good thing i also think its impossible, human beings are just too damn greedy. I think i good misx of socialism and capitalism is the way to go.

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Re: Using & abusing history

by [David Kroesen](#) - Friday, 22 May 2009, 11:05 AM

I beleive that in a total war such as WWII propaganda is completely necessary. The people need to rally behind the cause. In my opinion the threat of the Nazis andThe Japanese was very real. I recall a criticism of the isolationists that struc a cord with me it was some thing along the lines of "They say America First while the [Axis] is saying America next". I think who ever coined that saying hi th nail on the head. Im sure tha attacks on American soil (besides Pearl Harbor) were ineviatable. So propaganda would be necessary to help ensure support for a war that was necessary.

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Re: Using & abusing history

by [Mickey Hansen](#) - Sunday, 24 May 2009, 10:07 PM

The use and abuse of history is a valid topic to discuss for a variety of reasons, and due to the fact that memorial day is being observed so close to the deadline of this assignment perhaps these mere truisms may carry more depth of feeling and instill a sense of urgency for us all to strive for more truth and ethics in how we view the world and to be more cognizant of those who are entrusted with the task of documenting an accurate historical account. It is a responsibility that is too important to be handled flippantly. History in the hands of an elitist or fanatic can and has been used with devastating effect. People can be manipulated by their fears and desires, demonizing of the enemy is a great example of that. At a glance, these efforts seem almost childish, depicting the foe as a horrible animalistic adversary in an attempt to disassociate the audience from the atrocity of war by stripping the humanity from the targeted nation while simultaneously evoking fear by stimulating the childlike but powerful imagination of youth. But these attempts are used for one simple reason, they work...They get the readers attention and make an impression with quick and blazen subject matter and influence us without us even realizing it. We must assert ourselves as listeners and providers of information to a standard of integrity, dignity, and accuracy with regards to every front. For the sake of the world and for all those who serve this country with all they have. We cannot abuse their legacy. I think this task has made progress and have high hopes. Art is a great way to express the emotions of the events that shape our world, the video cited work by Picasso, I think back to the days of Goya who captured the essence of difficult events in the facial expressions of his haunted and demented characters in a dark world wrought with human suffering. Sometimes the truth is hard and unyielding, but must be retained and recalled so that future generations will be able to better understand the world in which they inherit. History tends to be diluted over time, from a personal perspective and first hand accounts become increasingly rare so it's no wonder that historians have an immediate and deliberate job, but one that yields priceless insight. Anyway, from now on I'll listen with a more sensitive ear, and remember those who lived through the trying times and paid their dues with valor, and say a prayer that the guy got it right.

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Re: Using & abusing history

by [Mickey Hansen](#) - Monday, 25 May 2009, 03:41 PM

I found a statement which expresses the point I was trying to make much more efficiently. So here it is:

" History is useful when it is used properly, to understand why we and those we must deal with think and react in certain ways. It can offer examples to inform our decisions and guesses about the consequences of our actions. But we should be wary of looking to history for dogmatic lessons, call on it to justify unreasonable claims to land, for example, or restitution. History can be dangerous in the hands of nationalistic or religious or compromised ethnic leaders who use it to foster a sense of grievance and a desire for revenge"

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