

The Political Impact of Propagandists and Cartoons on World War II

Student's Name or Students' Names

Department Affiliation, University Affiliation

Course Number: Course Name

Instructor's Name

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Influence of Comic Books

During World War II (WWII), comics were used beyond entertainment to influence Americans' worldviews. The comics displayed Americans' ways of life, including their values and how they interacted with other races. The depiction of the American soldiers and other soldiers during WWII in the comic books made the difference. In the comics, German soldiers were viewed as aggressive and inhuman. In most comics, Americans displayed German soldiers as immoral and did not value human life (Gutierrez, 2019). American children had access to such books, making them develop hatred towards Germans. In their comics, Americans accused the Nazis of causing the war, making people view Germans as the most hostile people. The comic messages motivated Americans to support the fight against Germany.

Superman was common in American comics and was used to display the strength of the American forces. For example, Superman was displayed holding Hitler on the neck in one comic book. It is an indication that Americans were destroying Hitler, the Nazi leader. American comics also elaborated on Japanese fighters as destructive and violent people who did not see any value in human life (Gutierrez, 2019). The depiction placed Japan as one of the American enemies, accelerating the war. More elements that were added to the comics communicated a lot of information. For example, yellow skin, abnormal eyes, and elements resembling rats were used to describe Japanese soldiers. These features displayed Japanese soldiers as heartless, making Americans hate them and support the fight against them.

Superman portrayed good things about America, including their love for humanity, even though he was an immigrant. The comics were used to convince Americans to support the war directly or indirectly. Through the comics, Americans were asked to invest in war bonds that

yielded enough money to support the war. The comic books also spread false information about the war among Americans. The introduction of war bonds made all Americans to participate in the war. Comic books provided information about wars in Europe and Asia, influencing Americans to participate in the war. Batman comic was used to convince Americans to join WWII by portraying it distributing war weapons and loans. Batman was also used to sell war bonds to Americans. The Captain America comic was displayed fighting the Germans, motivating many Americans to support the war by buying war bonds or volunteering to join army forces (Onyon, 2018). Millions of Superman and Batman comic copies were sold to Americans, encouraging them to support the war in different ways. The content of the comic books also created hate between Americans and Germans, who they viewed as enemies.

Influence of Propaganda

Germany used propaganda during WWII to facilitate their relevance in the war. The propaganda was used to convince Germans about the importance of war participation. Through misleading information, the Nazis indicated they were about to win the war, convincing many Germans to support the war to bring the victory home. The Nazis used propaganda to defame their enemies and that only the war would save the Germans from the enemy. The Nazis made the Germans believe that they should fight for their survival, motivating them to support the war in different ways (Crumm, 1996). Through such propaganda, most Germans joined army forces to help fight the enemy. Some people also worked in industries where war weapons were manufactured.

Nazis controlled most of the German media houses, ensuring only their stories were captured and no other person challenged them (Crumm, 1996). Germans portrayed their army as the most potent and other armies as cowards who lacked value to humanity. The British used

their radios to spread propaganda about their enemies. Such propaganda disrupted their enemies during the war. Due to the impacts of the Great Depression, most Americans did not want to be involved in the outside war. Propaganda was used to convince Americans to support the war. Propaganda about women in the workforce motivated most American women to participate in the war (American Experience, n.d.). In America, propaganda was spread in posters and movies. Americans could access such posters in their places of work, encouraging them to support the war.

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