

Effortless English

propaganda: n. government lies
slogan: n. saying, a repeated phrase
pacifistic: adj. peaceful, anti-war
committed to: adj. dedicated to, really wanting
commission: n. group, committee
in turning: v. changing
population: n. society
hysterical: adj. crazy, super-emotional
war-mongering: adj. war-loving, wanting & loving war
tear the Germans limb from limb: idiom. attack & kill them
achievement: n. accomplishment, success
to whip up: v. to create or increase
hysterical: adj. emotional
Red: adj. communist
pretty much: idiom. mostly
unions: n. workers' groups
the media: n. newspapers, (radio, TV, etc...)
establishment: n. most powerful group
enthusiastically: adv. happily, with excitement
progressive: adj. liberal
circle: n. group
took great pride: felt proud
to drive: v. to force, to push
reluctant: adj. hesitant, not really wanting to do something
eliciting: v. bring out, cause
fanaticism: n. crazy & total belief
extensive: adj. thorough, broad
fabrication: n. lying, creating something that is false
atrocities: n. horrible acts, torture & murder...
put it: v. say/said, communicated

Role of Media 2

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Early History of Propaganda

by Noam Chomsky

Let's begin with the first modern government **propaganda**. That was by U.S. President Woodrow Wilson's government. Woodrow Wilson was elected President in 1916 on the **slogan** "Peace Without Victory". That was right in the middle of World War I. The population was extremely **pacifistic** and saw no reason to become involved in a European war. Wilson's government was actually **committed to** war and had to do something about it.

They created a government propaganda **commission**, named the Creel Commission, which succeeded within six months **in turning** a pacifistic **population** into a **hysterical, war-mongering** population... a population that wanted to destroy everything German, **tear the Germans limb from limb**, go to war, and save the world.

That was a major **achievement**, and it led to a further achievement. Right at that time and after the war, the same techniques were used **to whip up** a **hysterical Communist (Red) Scare**-- which succeeded **pretty much** in destroying **unions** and eliminating such dangerous problems as freedom of the press and freedom of political thought. There was very strong support from **the media** and the business **establishment**, which in fact organized much of this. In general, it was a great success.

Among those who participated actively and **enthusiastically** in Wilson's war were the **progressive** intellectuals, a **circle** that **took great pride**, as you can see from their own writings at the time, in having shown that what they called the "more intelligent members of society" (themselves) were able **to drive** a **reluctant** population into a war by terrifying them and **eliciting fanaticism**.

The means used were **extensive**. For example, there was a lot of **fabrication of atrocities** by the Germans-- Belgian babies with their arms torn off, all sorts of awful things that you still read in history books. Much of it was invented by the British propaganda ministry whose goal was to (as they **put it**) "direct the thought of most of the world".

crucially: adv. importantly
disseminate: v. spread, communicate to many people
concocting: v. creating (usually creating something fake)
convert: v. change
hysteria: n. powerful emotion (powerful upset emotion)
State: adj. government
deviation: n. change from, variation

But most **crucially** they wanted to control the thought of the more intelligent members of the United States, who would **disseminate** the propaganda that they were **concocting** and **convert** the pacifistic country to wartime **hysteria**.

That worked. It worked very well. And it taught a lesson: **State** propaganda, when supported by the educated classes, and when no **deviation** is permitted from it, can have a big affect. It was a lesson learned by Hitler and many others, and it has been **pursued** to this day.

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[Source Watch Propaganda Article](http://www.sourcewatch.org/index.php?title=War_propaganda)

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