LP 4 – Propaganda and Prejudice

Tolerance and Inhumanity
Jeff McDonald

“"The function of propaganda to enable people to do in cold blood things that they could otherwise do only in the heat of passion."”
Aldous Huxley

Propaganda

Defined as:
- the spreading of ideas, information, or rumor for the purpose of helping or injuring an institution, a cause, or a person
- ideas, facts, or allegations spread deliberately to further one's cause or to damage an opposing cause

Merriam-Webster online dictionary
http://www.m-w.com/cgi-bin/dictionary?va=propaganda
Nazi Propaganda

• Purposes:
  • Before 1933: aimed at convincing the German people to put the Nazis in power during the Kampfzeit, the years when the party was fighting for political power (1919-1933).
  • After 1933: aimed at convincing the German people that the enemies of Germany needed to be destroyed.

Nazi Propaganda – 1919 to 1933

• Joseph Goebbels – the Nazi Minister of Propaganda said this about the Nazi party:

"We do not beg for votes. We demand conviction, devotion, passion! A vote is only a tool for us as well as for you. We will march into the marble halls of parliament, bringing with us the revolutionary will of the broad masses from which we came, called by fate and forming fate. We do not want to join this pile of manure. We are coming to shovel it out."

"We are coming neither as friends or neutrals. We come as enemies! As the wolf attacks the sheep, so come we."

Why Do We Want to Join the Reichstag? 30 April 1928

Nazi Propaganda – 1919 to 1933

• Goebbels said this about the Nazis’ political demands:

"Thus we demand the right of work and a decent living for every working German"

"Therefore we demand homes for German soldiers and workers. If there is not enough money to build them, drive the foreigners out so that Germans can live on German soil."

"Germany for the Germans!"

We Demand 25 July 1927
### Nazi Propaganda – 1919 to 1933

- Goebbels speaking just before the July 1932 elections:

> “We have lived this lie for 14 years. For 14 years we have worshipped this government; we have lived in want, suffered, sacrificed, starved, sometimes wept. And now we see the worst results of these 14 years: the German economy is in ruins, there are huge budget deficits, the nation’s fortune is squandered, people are robbed of their inheritance, people are desperate and without hope, the streets of our big cities are filled with an army of millions of unemployed.”

> “Loyalty to the people, loyalty to the idea, loyalty to the movement, and loyalty to the Führer! That is our pledge as we shout: Our Führer and our party — Hail victory!”

_The Storm is Coming 9 July 1932_

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### Questions to consider

- How do these speeches by Joseph Goebbels relate to the definition of propaganda?
- How is the platform of the Nazi party connected to the social and political situation in Germany after WWI?
- How do political parties in the US prey on people’s fears?

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### Nazi Propaganda – 1919 to 1933

- **Julius Streicher**: published Der Stürmer starting in 1923. He assumed for himself the unofficial title of "Jew-baiter Number One" of Nazi Germany.

  - Streicher “educated” the German people in hatred and incited them to the persecution and to the extermination of the Jews.

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Nazi Propaganda – 1919 to 1933

- Caricatures from Der Stürmer: 1928-1932
  
  Title: "Jewish Culture"
  Caption: "The natural and the unnatural."
  Explanation: A German couple enjoy the outdoors, while a Jew with his Gentile girlfriend are watching a pornographic movie. (August 1929)

  Caption: "They fight and the Jew grins."
  Explanation: While Germany is crucified on the cross of the Young Plan, an agreement on the payment of reparations from World War I (which set the total reparations at $26,350,000,000 to be paid over a period of 58 1/2 years), German political parties are fighting with each other. (August 1930)

- Adolf Hitler: probably the most damaging piece of propaganda was Hitler’s book "Mein Kampf"
  - Hitler never actually sat down and wrote the book, but instead dictated it to Rudolph Hess while pacing around his prison cell in 1923-24.
  - Hitler divides humans into categories based on physical appearance, establishing higher and lower orders, or types of humans. At the top, according to Hitler, is the Germanic man with his fair skin, blond hair and blue eyes. Hitler refers to this type of person as an Aryan. He asserts that the Aryan is the supreme form of human, or master race.

  Throughout Mein Kampf, Hitler refers to Jews as parasites, liars, dirty, crafty, sly, wily, clever, without any true culture, a sponger, a middleman, a maggot, eternal blood suckers, repulsive, unscrupulous, monsters, foreign, menace, bloodthirsty, avaricious, the destroyer and the mortal enemy of Aryan people.
Nazi Propaganda – 1919 to 1933

- When Mein Kampf was first released in 1925 it sold poorly. People had been hoping for a "tell-all" autobiography or a behind-the-scenes look of the Beer Hall Putsch. Instead, there were hundreds of pages of long, hard to follow sentences and disjointed thoughts.
- However, after Hitler became Chancellor of Germany, millions of copies were sold. It was considered appropriate to give a copy of the book to newlyweds, high school graduates, or to celebrate any similar occasion.

http://www.historyplace.com/worldwar2/riseofhitler/kampf.htm

Nazi Propaganda after 1933

- The Nazis target the youth of Germany
- School texts and curriculum
  - Jews were portrayed as poisonous mushrooms and predators
  - Children were shown how to tell a Jew from other people.

Nazi Propaganda after 1933

- The Nazis target the youth of Germany
- The Hitler Youth – Hitler believed that the future of Nazi Germany was tied to its children. The Hitler Youth corps was Hitler’s way of indoctrinating the youth of Germany into the Nazi way of life from an early age.
  - The Hitler Youth catered for 10 to 18 year olds
  - In 1933 its membership was at 100,000. By 1936, it was up to 4 million members.
  - In 1936, it became compulsory to join the Hitler Youth.
### Theories of Group Membership

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<tr>
<th>Social Identity &amp; Social Categorization Theories</th>
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<td>Argue that people see themselves and other people based on “group membership”</td>
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<tr>
<td>We are individuals with membership in many groups.</td>
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<tr>
<td>In the same way we categorize objects (pets, plants, food), we categorize people into groups, including ourselves.</td>
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<tr>
<td>We identify with the groups that we belong to (in-groups) and separate ourselves from the others (out-groups) by focusing on the differences between us and them.</td>
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### Social Categorization Theory

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<th>Highlighting the positive aspects of one’s in-group and the negative aspects of the out-group members increases self-esteem.</th>
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<td>German Nationalism and the concept of the “Volk” was as essential as anti-Semitism for enhancing self-esteem among the in-group of Germans.</td>
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<td>When people’s self-esteem and identity is threatened, they strike out at the out-group to increase unity and define themselves.</td>
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### Question to consider

| What are some examples of how the Nazis used propaganda to clarify the lines between in-groups (Germans, Christians) and out-groups (Jews, Communists)? |
Defining Jews as the Threat

“If men define situations as real, they are real in their consequences”

W.I. Thomas

The Nazis gained power based on fear – propaganda was used to convince people that the Jews and others were a threat to both the existence of Germany and the German people.

Legislation – The Nuremberg Laws

• Once people believed that the Jews were a threat, the Nazis had to legally discriminate against them and deprive them of their rights.
  • The Laws for the Protection of German Blood and German Honor (September 15, 1935) was the first of the laws to be passed.
  • Began a systematic removal of rights from German Jews and a legal exclusion from German society

http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/Holocaust/nurmlaw2.html

Legislation – The Nuremberg Laws

• The Reich Citizenship Law made the Jews second-class citizens
  • The Reich Citizenship Law stripped Jews of their German citizenship and distinguished between "Reich citizens “ and “nationals.”
  • Certificates of Reich citizenship were never issued and all Germans other than Jews were classified as Reich citizens until 1945.

http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/Holocaust/nurmlaw3.html
**Identification**

- Jews were to be classified as different people and treated as different people.
- Being a Jew was seen as a racial characteristic, that could be passed down through families.

According to R. Hilberg, "Perpetrators, Victims, Bystanders", p. 150

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**Identification**

- During the 1930s, Jews in Germany were forced to wear yellow ribbons or stars of David.
- Along with Romas (Gypsies), Jews were discriminated against by various racial laws.
  - Jewish doctors were not allowed to treat Aryan patients, and professors were not to teach Aryan pupils.
  - The Jews were also not allowed to use any public transportation, besides the ferry, and would only be able to shop from 3-5 in Jewish stores.

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**November 1938 - Kristallnacht**

- On November 9, 1938, (the 15 year anniversary of the beer hall Putsch) the Nazis planned and carried out a wave of pogroms (violent destructive demonstrations aimed at a group) against Germany’s Jews.
- In just a few hours, thousands of synagogues and Jewish businesses and homes were damaged or destroyed.

http://www.ushmm.org/museum/exhibit/online/kristallnacht/frame.htm
November 1938 - Kristallnacht

- This event came to be known as Kristallnacht ("Night of Broken Glass") for the shattered store windowpanes that carpeted German streets.
- In all 101 synagogues were destroyed and almost 7,500 Jewish businesses were destroyed.
- Jews were physically attacked and beaten and 91 died.
- 26,000 Jews were arrested and sent to concentration camps.

Kristallnacht

- The "cause" for this violence was the November 7 assassination of a German diplomat in Paris, Ernst vom Rath, by Herschel Grynszpan, a Jewish teenager whose parents, along with 17,000 other Polish Jews, had been recently expelled from the Reich.
  - Though portrayed as "spontaneous" outbursts of popular outrage, these pogroms were calculated acts of retaliation carried out by the SA, SS, and local Nazi party organizations.

http://www.ushmm.org/museum/exhibit/online/kristallnacht/frame.htm

Kristallnacht

- The Nazis decided that, since Jews were to blame for these events, they be held legally and financially responsible for the damages incurred by the pogrom.
- A "fine of 1 billion marks was levied for the slaying of Vom Rath, and 6 million marks paid by insurance companies for broken windows was to be given back to the state."

November 1938 - Kristallnacht

- Kristallnacht turns out to be a crucial turning point in German policy regarding the Jews and may be considered as the actual beginning of what is now called the Holocaust.
- By now it is clear to Hitler and his top advisors that forced immigration of Jews out of the Reich is not a feasible option.
- Hitler is already considering the invasion of Poland.
- Numerous concentration camps and forced labor camps are already in operation.
- The Nuremberg Laws are in place.
- The passivity of the German people in the face of the events of Kristallnacht made it clear that the Nazis would encounter little opposition -- even from the German churches.

http://www.mtsu.edu/~baustin/knacht.html

Fear Translates into Genocide

- Who were the Perpetrators?
  - The SS grew from 200,000 members (1933) to almost 1 million members during World War II.
  - Only a small number of these people actually guarded the camps (55,000 people).
  - The majority of the crimes against the Jews were carried out by ordinary people, who were neither members of the SS or the Nazi party.

"If you tell a lie big enough and keep repeating it, people will eventually come to believe it. The lie can be maintained only for such time as the State can shield the people from the political, economic and/or military consequences of the lie. It thus becomes vitally important for the State to use all of its powers to repress dissent, for the truth is the mortal enemy of the lie, and thus by extension, the truth is the greatest enemy of the State."

Joseph Goebbels

http://www.holocaustresearchproject.org/holoprelude/goebbels.html