

NAZI PROPAGANDA

Propaganda consists of the ideas or information that is spread deliberately to influence people's thoughts or actions. The information given in some cases may even be true. However, it is usually only one side of an issue or may be presented in a distorted manner.

Censorship is slightly different, and is usually used together with propaganda. **Censorship** is when the government controls the information that the public has access to. This involves editing newspapers, books, television, and music to prevent the public from learning certain information.

As a result of Nazi propaganda and censorship, Hitler and the Nazi's were able to gain the overwhelming support of the German people.

Nazi Censorship

In Berlin during May of 1933, Nazi youth groups burned around 20,000 books. Any books which had an "un-German spirit" were burned. Student groups throughout Germany carried out their own book burnings in the following weeks.

"I held my breath while he hurled (threw) the first volume into the flames; it was like burning something alive. Then students followed with armloads of books, while schoolboys screamed into the microphone their disapproval of the works... All Quiet on the Western Front (a book that described the horrors and stupidity of World War I) was most hated by the Nazis. It was widely burned throughout Germany."



How do you think these "book burnings" would affect German education?

Four Techniques of Propaganda:

- Propaganda often presents half-truths, or only those facts that support a particular cause. It is one-sided.
- Propaganda uses name calling.
- Propaganda identifies a cause with a famous person or noble idea -- religion, motherhood, innocence, etc.
- Propaganda shows the other side in the worst possible way – as blood-thirsty murderers, babykillers, etc.

A Walk through Nazi Germany

You are an eight year old child going through a typical day in your life in Nazi Germany. With your group you are to examine each document and assess how these documents might encourage you to think.

Document	How would this propaganda encourage a child to think- Be extremely specific with your answer!!!
1. The Poison Mushroom	
2. A Biology Lesson	
3. A Math Lesson	
4. A Geography Lesson	
5. Propaganda Posters	
6. Video Clip	

1. The Poison Mushroom (1938) (A Children's book)

The 7th year boys' class is dealing with the question of how to recognize a Jew. The teacher, Birkmann, has made various drawings on the blackboard to assist the class. The boy Karl stands before the board with a pointer and explains the drawings.

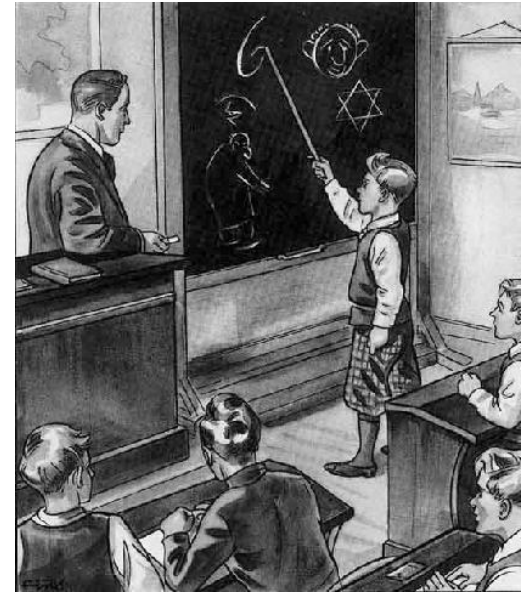
One can tell a Jew by his nose. The Jewish nose is bent at the tip. It looks like a figure **6**. So it is called the **Jewish six**. Many non Jews also have bent noses. But in their case the nose is bent up, not down. They have nothing to do with the Jewish nose.

Encouraged by the teacher, Karl points out that the eyes one can see that the Jew is: A false, deceitful person.

The following verses are written on it and are recited by the children:

From a Jew's face
The wicked Devil speaks to us,
The Devil who, in every country,
Is known as evil plague.

Would we from the Jew be free,
Again be gay and happy,
Then must youth fight with us
To get rid of the Jewish Devil.



2. A Biology Lesson

Background:

This is an excerpt from a 5th grade biology textbook, published in the midst of the war. Given what we know was going on in 1942, when this book was printed, it is clear that school textbooks too were a part of propaganda.

We can learn much from the behavior of bees and ants in the natural kingdom. Let us look at the following truth about bees and ants in the natural world:

- 1.The work of the individual has only one purpose: to serve the whole group.
- 2.Major accomplishments are possible only by the division of labor.
- 3.Each bee risks its life without hesitation for the whole.
- 4.Individuals who are not useful or are harmful to the whole are eliminated.
- 5.The species is maintained by producing a large number of offspring.

It is not difficult for us to see the application of these principles to mankind: We too can accomplish great things as do bees and ants.

LOOK HERE FIRST!- *What kinds of issues or problems are these questions asking students to think about? (do not try to actually answer the below questions!)*

3. The following math problems were given to German students by the Nazi government:

- (1) Germany had, according to the Versailles Treaty, to surrender all her colonies.
 - a. What was Germany's total loss in population and territory?
 - b. How much did each mandatory power receive in territory and population?
 - c. How many times greater is the surrendered territory than the area of Germany?
 - d. Compare the population of Germany with the population of the lost territories.

- (2) A bombing plane can be loaded with one explosive bomb of 35 kilograms, three bombs of 100 kilograms, four bombs of 150 kilograms and 200 incendiary bombs of one kilogram.
 - a. What is the load capacity?
 - b. What is the percentage of each type of bomb?
 - c. How many incendiary bombs of the $\frac{1}{2}$ kilograms could be added if the load capacity were increased by 50%?

4. School for Aryan Youth - A Geography Lesson:

In one geography class, the teacher explained that Germany was powerful now because of the doctrine of race purity. "Well, which country has always called itself the 'melting pot' of all nations?" Then came the chorus, "*America.*"

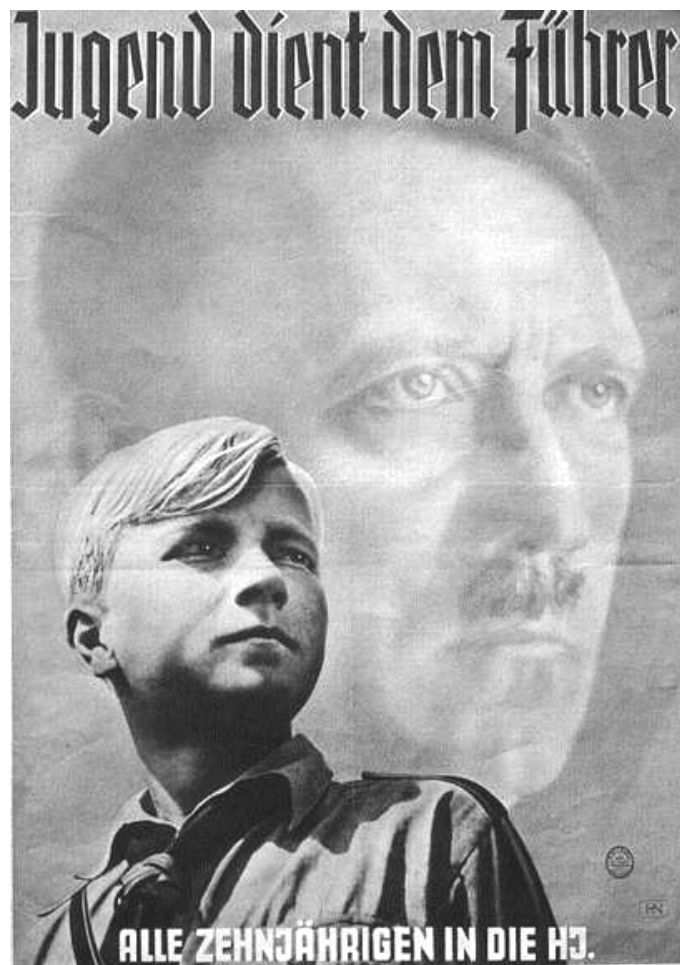
He explained how during the centuries there had been many men and women who could not get along in Europe. Most of them were criminals and crooks...undesirables. Whenever they broke the law in Germany, or any other European country, they got on a boat and went to the United States. There they married each other....Any German boy with intelligence could see what the result would be. The citizens of the United States were sinking lower and lower.

"There are many other weaknesses as a result of this lack of racial purity," he continued. *"Their government is corrupt. They have a low type of government, a democracy. What is a democracy?"*

"A democracy is a form of government in which people waste much time."

"A democracy is a form of government that will be defeated by the Fuehrer."

6. Propaganda Posters a child would likely see on the streets of Nazi Germany:



The poster above says:
“Youth Serves the Fuehrer.
All 10-year-olds into
the Hitler Youth”.

