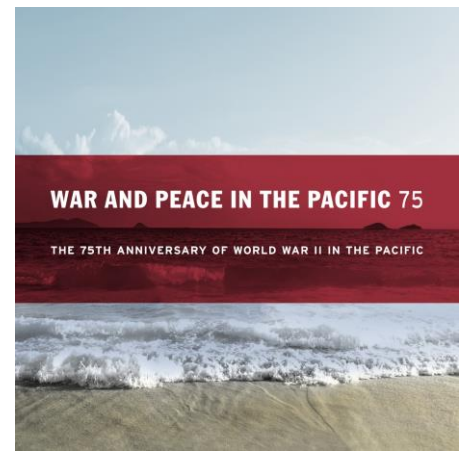


FEATURE STORY



Propaganda through Mass Media and Interview with Sister Katsuko Chitose and Sister Chieko Aoki

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Propaganda is most commonly defined as “information”, of a biased or misleading nature, this is used to promote or publicize a particular political cause or point of view. It includes the deliberate sharing of realities, views, and philosophies intended to alter behaviour and stimulate people to act. Mass media as a system for spreading information and messages to the public plays a role in amusing, entertaining and informing individuals with rules and values that situate them in social structure. Thus, propaganda is a necessity for solving conflicts between different classes in society. In a media-saturated modern society, mass media is the main channel for the carrying out the propaganda action and for achieving a change in ideas or perceptions. Modern propaganda includes using a variety of media in order to spread messages. This most commonly includes using newspapers, radio, television, film, computers, fax machines, posters, or meetings. But many other things can be used, like speeches, flags, or monuments.

The first use of mass media was the newspaper. I could find an example of the first mass movements that appeared by the spread of newspapers in France. It is a general case of Boulanger that happened in the 1880's. It involved a man who was tall, with blond hair and blue eyes. He was elite because he graduated from a military academy. He had made a lot of awards. He became popular after he took office as defence minister, and he became a French idol. Newspapers and political organizations published his information, and people bought it. This phenomenon strongly impressed the masses who followed their leaders.

That is, leaders who seemed strong were entrusted, and ordinary people wanted to unite with them. The influence of the newspaper on masses is extremely large. And, it can be extremely appealing.

Japan's Propaganda in Mass Media

Propaganda is biased information intended to promote a particular political cause or view. In that sense, Japanese propaganda was no different from other nations' propaganda, but it had some defining elements, such as nationalism. Japanese wartime propaganda was, as with Nazi Germany's propaganda, a reaction against perceived foreign cultural domination. In Japan's case, propaganda attacked Western, and particularly Anglo-Saxon, culture. The believers in this propaganda saw themselves as offering a different, distinctly Japanese way of life from Western Imperialism. Propaganda portrayed the West, and especially the Anglo-Saxon world, as decadent and weak.

During World War II, the radio was one of the main media used to convey information to citizens in Japan. Although the Japan Broadcasting Corporation conducted an overseas, short-wave program called Radio Tokyo at that time, listening to short-wave broadcasting from other countries was strictly prohibited in Japan, so people did not know what was happening in other countries. Of course, they did not know the America and Australia's situations. The first state of international broadcasting to be used was "counterpart propaganda". Due to the intervention of the military, anti-enemy broadcasting of Radio Tokyo was done using allied prisoners of war and programming of music using a DJ called Tokyo Rose. People prefer the position of winners, so the public opinion during wartime is often influenced by the belief they are on the winning side. Therefore, when the situation of the war is unfavourable, propaganda hides the damage and loss of its country, while exaggerating the damage of the enemy. Either side increased morale with such information or tried to convince the people to support the act of war.

Advertising here is basically to move people's minds and lead them to action. Impression is the driving force to move public opinion and it can be said that propaganda and excitement cannot be separated since it is not a government's job to create excitement, either they leave it to a professional advertising company or rely on artists and intellectuals who are good at evoking inspiration. Advertising companies were relatively new industries during the First World War, so mainly artists and intellectuals were used for propaganda. In order to expand the lies of war in emotionally moving ways, they needed poets and writers. Thus, it can be said that it was possible to convey accurate information to a large number of listeners in Japan very quickly because radio was an inexpensive medium. Most citizens had one, so primarily a radio was used to deploy propaganda to Japanese people.

On the other hand, America and Australia had much bigger fighting power so their country allies put out important speeches on the radio and listened to Japanese strategy. In overseas, other electrical media such as television and movies conveyed the information to the citizens more than radio. Radio was just an eavesdropping device for them.

Between 1941 and 1945, there was no TV in Japan, so the people who stayed in Japan only had movies, comedians, baseball, *sumou*, and so on. United States had TV at that time, but not many people watched it yet. Therefore, United States was same as Japan, main kind of entertainments were radio and movies.

Now, I will talk about movies that were released in World War II in Japan and USA. There were propaganda movies during World War II in Japan. For example, animation movie called "*Momotarou Umi no Shinpei*". The movie was released in April 1945, and made by Kusei Seo. The anime was about how the Japanese army attacked weak white people and created colony. Also, the movie was based on another animation movie which is released now. This movie most notable point is how ethnic stereotypes are used, because white people's characters have huge nose, big eyes, and flabby bodies. After World War II, stationed troops had orders to destroy the film, but for some reason a copy was not thrown away and later was restored. That was released in the United States.

In United States, we all know what Disney is, and the company made a movie to fuel the war against of Japanese people. The movie was released in 1943 during the World War II. The movie is called "Victory through Air Power." In the last part of the movie, animation shows a lot of bombs falling on Japan fields and the cities on five are is drawn vividly. The United States Air Force started bombing in 1944, shortly after the movie had released. And on the Japanese mainland, air raids were done over more than 200 cities, so both military and civilians suffer. It is said that more than 300,000 people died in the Tokyo Air Raid. Japan and United States both used propaganda movies to entertain and to move to support the war.

Interview from experienced person

We interviewed Sister Katsuko Chitose and Sister Chieko Aoki. They go through World War II when they were young.

Q. Which medium did you use for knowing propaganda? Or did you hear from others? How did you know that?

Sister Katsuko said there was no television at that time. At first, there were posters everywhere. However, continue the war for a long time, country took papers. So they used radio for getting information. The radio was dial, big and has to assembly of that. Children could not touch it because parents put it at heights. Actually, they did not listening the broadcast.

Q. When did you hear propaganda?

Around in 1942-1943.

Q. What were the contents of broadcasting?

Country broadcast just fit in militarism. For instance, Japan won a victory.

Sister Aoki said

When I was Year 4 or 5, air-raid shelter was built in playground. In school, we have to act as instructed by the teacher, so 5, 6 or 10 people group went to an air-raid shelter.

Q. Did around people trust propaganda?

Everyone trusted it. I heard only boss in the military didn't trust it.

Q. Who was listening to radio?

Men went to battlefield as soldier, so listener was almost women. Person who has ill and men who are disabled stay in Japan. And they made vigilante group.

Q. *During World War II, what did Japanese people think about Japan?*

Sr. Aoki was brainwashed into believing that we must do war. If someone revolt against Japan, the person was labeled unpatriotic.

Q. *Who is broad casting radio?*

NHK announcers. There is no commercial broadcasting radio at the time.

Q. *What did Sr. Aoki think propaganda?*

She believed what radio said. When Japan won, she frankly happy about Japan won.

However, she was spending her time evacuation from air raid at the moment. Go off an air raid alert, and U.S. B29 flew in the sky.



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