



Sendai Shirayuri Gakuen High School Blog post – the Homefront WWII Propaganda

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In our ongoing search for a clearer understanding the word “Propaganda”, we found that this means information, ideas, or rumors deliberately spread widely to help or harm a person, group, movement, institution and nation.

In our country of Japan, this is an unfortunate part of our wartime history.

In World War II, Japan and many countries used propaganda, government leaders found that it was an easy and most importantly cheap way to motivate citizens to take action against an enemy or minority.

In a biblical sense, the word often used is “scapegoat”. In the Bible, a goat is sent into the fields by an elder priest who has “Put all the sins of the people upon it”. Thus, the people no longer are responsible for their actions, now the goat is.

Many people were influenced by propaganda, for example, the Japanese were taught that Americans were meat eating monsters, and 75 years ago with no internet, no unbiased newspapers, many people had no choice but to believe this, if they didn’t, they would be punished by the authorities.

We are searching for the few remaining women who were in Japan during World War II. These are difficult topics for them to discuss, it is difficult for us to ask our elders these sensitive questions, but we keep trying because it is important that we learn from history to make sure that we never repeat the “sins” of the past

We have found some flyers and the other forms of propaganda, but it is not easy to find out because it was used to threaten the public and most of these items have been destroyed.

However, some of what we found in our research has said that Americans thought the Japanese people were good hard working citizens. However, as the war progressed, both governments, Japan and the USA used stereotypes and cultural propaganda to motivate their citizens to follow the government’s orders.

Japan and America are a little bit the same in this area. It is interesting to see that we are all maybe very similar to each other.