

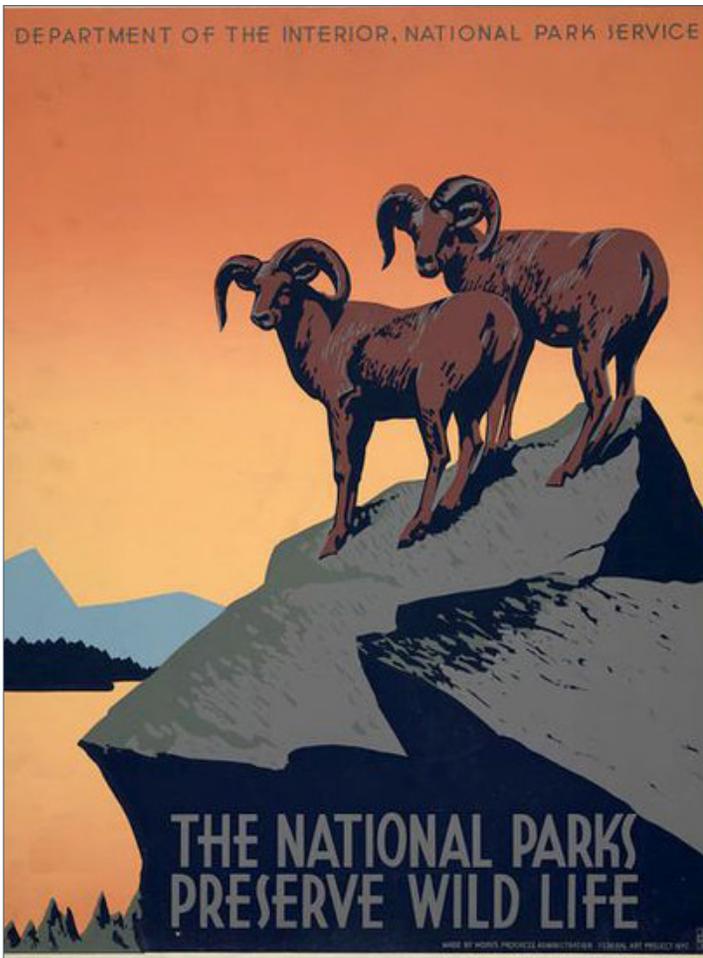


Propaganda in Black & White:

An Exploration of Overt and Covert U.S. Government Propaganda

The United States Government has engaged in numerous propaganda campaigns to win support for its activities at home and to combat enemies abroad. These campaigns range from “white” to “black” or overt (factually based messages of clear authorship) to covert (unattributed messages of varying degrees of truthfulness.)

The National Archives has the most substantial collection of propaganda materials in the United States—including films, audio recordings, leaflets, stickers, toys, posters, and magazines. This exhibit explores a fascinating array of materials that illuminate the image America has sought to impress upon itself and the world, as well as the tactics it has used in the name of freedom.



Exhibition Details

Content:

50 original documents and artifacts;
50 facsimile documents; exhibit cases;
audiovisual units; and hands-on interactive
components

Curator:

Alice Kamps, National Archives

Supplemental Materials:

Educational and promotional resources,
including an education and resource guide,
marketing resources, installation manual,
and exhibit-related products through the
National Archives Store.

Rental Fee:

\$45,000 for 12-week display

Security Requirements:

High security and environmental controls

Shipping:

Shipping is included in the rental fee

Size:

3,000 square feet

Number of Crates:

20 (estimated)

Insurance:

Exhibitor must provide insurance under an
all-risk wall-to-wall fine arts policy

Tour Dates:

Propaganda in Black and White will be
available for tour 2019 through 2021. Dates
are subject to change.

Project Status:

In development

More About this Exhibition

“Propaganda in Black and White” provides the opportunity to gain essential knowledge about the history of the U.S. Government’s use of propaganda from the Revolutionary War to Operation Iraqi Freedom. The exhibit covers the evolving strategies, techniques, and technologies used by the U.S. Government to win the hearts and minds of friends and destabilize enemies both at home and abroad.

Eye-opening! For many Americans, the term “propaganda” is associated with fascist and communist regimes. But the United States is no different from other world powers in its use of propaganda. The founders themselves designed the Declaration of Independence to consolidate support for the American Revolution. One of the National Archives’ most revered documents is propaganda.

Never Seen Before! While Liberty Bond and “Rosie the Riveter” posters are familiar, few Americans have seen the leaflets dropped on Japanese soldiers during World War II or the anti-communist booklets distributed in various countries during the Cold War.

Intriguing! American propaganda campaigns have ranged from harmless—encouraging Americans to visit National Parks—to devious—persuading enemy soldiers that their wives are being unfaithful in their absence. The exhibit relates the at times shocking stories of secret OSS, CIA, and military operations.

Powerful! Acclaimed artists and film directors were often drawn into propaganda missions to help stir the emotions of their intended audiences. Their propaganda creations are visually and emotionally powerful.

Current and Significant! Propaganda is everywhere. Technology has made it possible to communicate instantaneously to an ever-wider audience. Learning about the history of the U.S. Government’s propaganda campaigns can strengthen our ability to recognize the propaganda we are confronted with on a daily basis.

National Archives Traveling Exhibits Service

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