

Worksheet 1: Propaganda Warfare

Group work

1. Inform the class about the Schlieffen-Plan and the beginning of the First World War. Part the class into three groups, which are supposed to analyze the sources 1, 3 or 4. Ask the pupils to develop the core information of these sources. Afterwards the pupils are supposed to search in Wikipedia for biographic information for one subscriber of each document. The groups elect speakers who play the part of their respective character and lead a discussion based on the information from the sources and their own research.

Interpretation of sources

2. Distribute copies of the poster “Destroy this Mad Brute“ in the class and explain to the pupils that this drawing is connected to the fields of problems as discussed in the first task. Lead the interpretation of the symbolic meaning and the message of the picture in the class.

Database Research

3. Inform the pupils that the poster which they have analyzed in the second task was taken from the online catalogue of Library of Congress. It's part of a voluminous collection of propaganda posters from the First World War. Present the online research database <http://www.loc.gov/pictures/collection/wwipos> in brief. Guide the pupils while they use this research tool in groups of two and give them the task to research five English Posters. After this they are supposed to create a list with all national symbols as depicted on these posters. Afterwards the whole class discusses the researched posters.

Research

4. Ask the pupils to find a scientific article that deals with war propaganda in general or with special events, like the “Burgfrieden“ or the “Spirit of 1914“ resp. military mail postal cards as a medium for propaganda. Ask them to write an annotated bibliographic abstract about the found scientific article. Collect the abstracts in a commentated bibliography and distribute it in the class. Lead a discussion with the class concerning the phenomenon of propaganda during the First World War that illustrates the varying interpretations on the basis of the texts read in class.

Essay

5. Ask the pupils to visit the homepage of „Valiant Hearts“, and to browse through the pages. Afterwards they are supposed to write an essay of two to three pages about the possibilities and limitations of depicting in an appropriate way the history of the First World War by the means of the internet and computer games. Pupils should reflect furthermore on the usefulness of these media for didactic purposes.