



World War I -- America on the Homefront: "The Poster War"

Part 2

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(amended by Ms. Wallace)



4. Wartime Propaganda

The Committee of Public Information (George Creel)

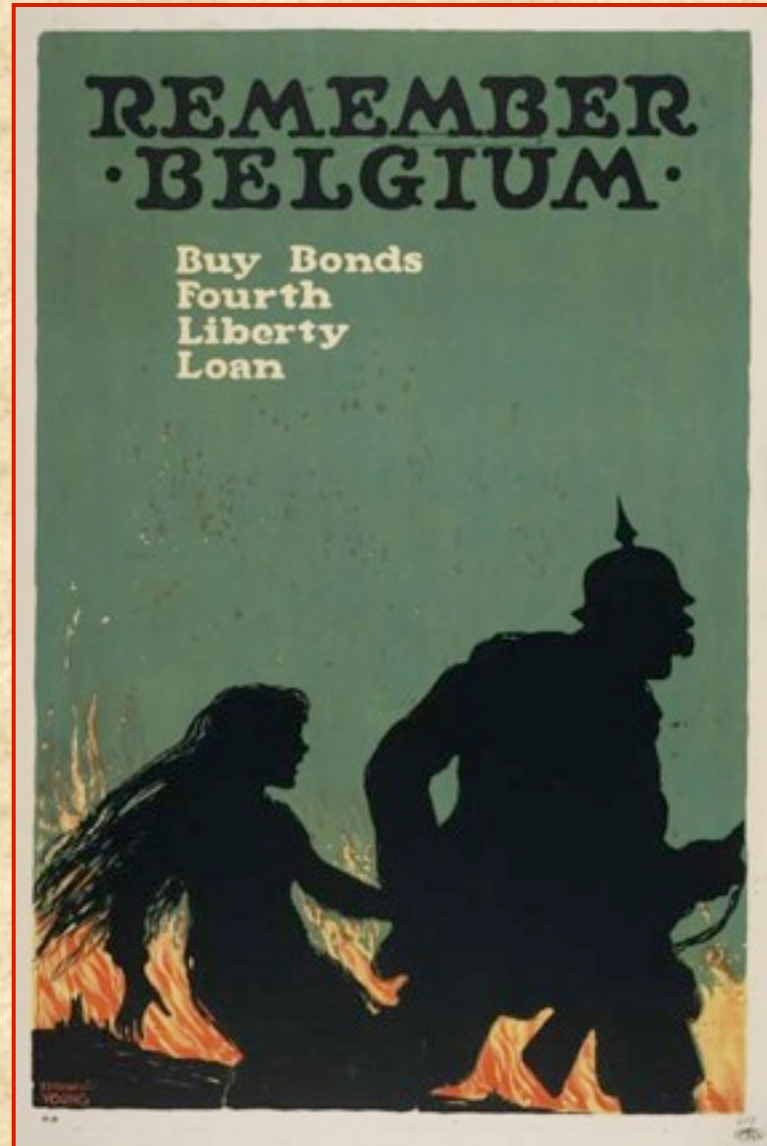
~~TOP SECRET~~ America's "Propaganda Minister?"

~~TOP SECRET~~ Anti-Germanism

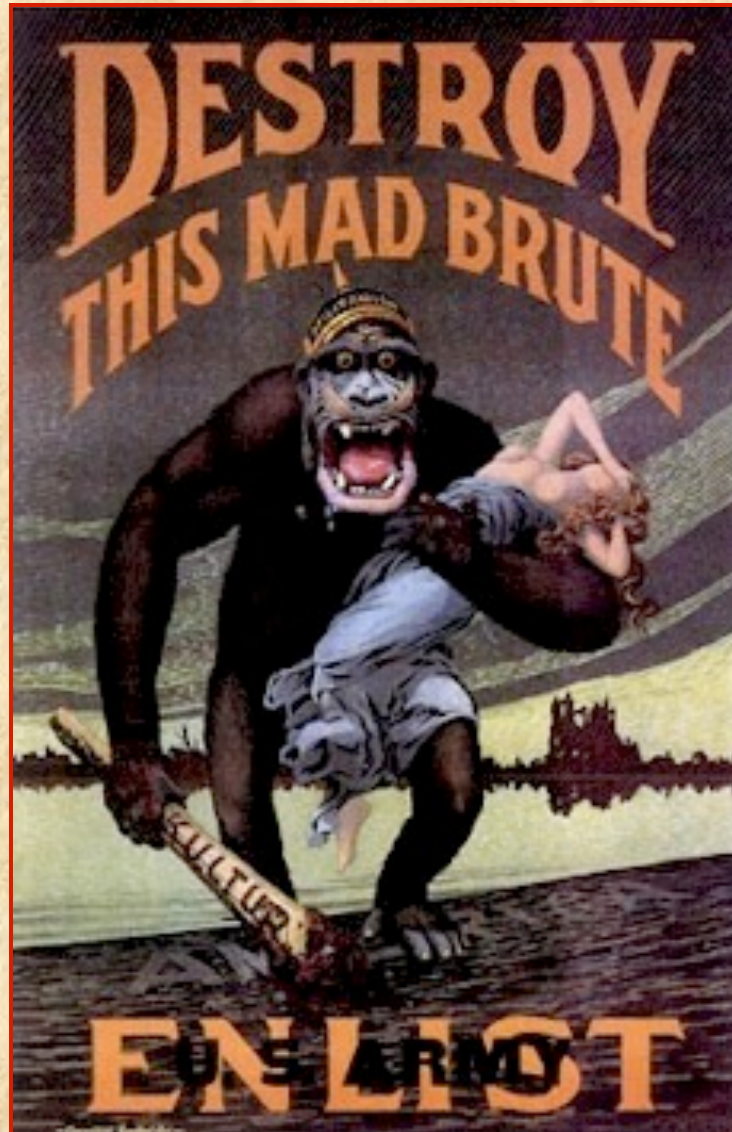
~~TOP SECRET~~ Selling American Culture



“Remember Belgium”



The “Mad Brute”



Beat Back the “Hun”



The “Menace of the Seas”



Creel Commission Film



Be Patriotic

A movie poster for the film 'If Your Soldier's Hit'. The poster features a central illustration of a wounded soldier sitting in a chair with a white bandage on his shoulder, a nurse in a blue uniform sitting next to him holding a tray of red fruit, and a standing soldier in a green uniform. The background includes a large American flag and a caduceus symbol. Text on the poster includes the title, presenter information, and a description of the film's content.

U.S.A. SERIES

"IF YOUR SOLDIER'S HIT"

PRESENTED BY THE DIVISION OF FILMS
COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC INFORMATION
GEORGE CREEL, Chairman.

DISTRIBUTED THROUGH THE
WORLD FILM CORPORATION

SEE HOW YOUR GOVERNMENT RESCUED YOUR WOUNDED ON THE BATTLE FIELDS AND HOW THEY WERE CARED FOR AND MOVED TO PLACES OF COMFORT AND SAFETY. PRODUCED UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF THE SURGEON GENERAL. U.S.A.



5. Attacks on Civil Liberties

Government Excess & Threats to the Civil Liberties of Americans

1. **Espionage Act - 1917**

- forbade actions that obstructed recruitment or efforts to promote insubordination in the military.
- ordered the Postmaster General to remove Leftist materials from the mail.
- fines of up to \$10,000 and/or up to 20 years in prison.



Government Excess & Threats to the Civil Liberties of Americans

2. **Sedition Act** - 1918

- it was a crime to speak against the purchase of war bonds or **willfully utter, print, write or publish any disloyal, profane, scurrilous, or abusive language** about this form of US Govt., the US Constitution, or the US armed forces or to **willfully urge, incite, or advocate any curtailment of production of things necessary or essential to the prosecution of the war...with intent of such curtailment to cripple or hinder, the US in the prosecution of the war.**



Government Excess & Threats to the Civil Liberties of Americans

3. **Schenck v. US** - 1919

- in ordinary times the mailing of the leaflets would have been protected by the 1st Amendment.
- BUT, every act of speech must be judged acc. to the circumstances in which it was spoken.
- The most stringent protection of free speech would not protect a man in falsely shouting fire in a theater and causing a panic. [Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes]
- If an act of speech posed a clear and present danger, then Congress had the power to restrain such speech.



Government Excess & Threats to the Civil Liberties of Americans

4. **Abrams v. US** - 1919

- majority ruling --> cited Holmes' "Clear and present danger" doctrine.
- Holmes & Brandeis dissented:

The best test of truth is the power of the thought to get itself accepted in the competition of the market, denying that a "silly leaflet" published by an "unknown man" constituted such a danger.



The Great Migration

Between 1914 and 1920, roughly 500,000 black southerners packed their bags and headed to the North, fundamentally transforming the social, cultural, and political landscape of cities such as Chicago, New York, Cleveland, Pittsburgh, and Detroit. The Great Migration would reshape black America and the nation as a whole.

Southern migrants did not always find the "promised land" they envisioned. They frequently endured residential segregation, substandard living conditions, job discrimination, and in many cases, the hostilities of white residents.

(Make sure you look at one of the links about The Great Migration!)



• The Influenza Epidemic of 1918

...killed more people than died fighting WWI.

World War I claimed an estimated 16 million lives. The influenza epidemic that swept the world in 1918 killed an estimated 50 million people. One fifth of the world's population was attacked by this deadly virus. Within months, it had killed more people than any other illness in recorded history. Over 600,000 Americans lost their lives.

There were actually two waves ... the first, in the spring, was mild and most people recovered. Then it came back in the fall, with a vengeance. That's when so many people died - even strong, healthy people - even those living in remote places like Alaska - some within hours of getting sick. And then, six months later, it was gone.



Congressman Victor Berger (WI)



You got nothing out of the war except the flu and Prohibition.

