

## Propaganda: The Conception of Fallacies

to wear, for free. These glasses would be better than the X-ray glasses you could order in the comic books of days long past. Firstly because they would really work and secondly because they would allow you to see truth instantly, bypassing all deception and any influences of personal opinions. Can you imagine this? “Hey Kazuhiro? Thanks so much buddy for the glasses, I can’t believe what I am seeing! Thank you for helping me and my family! But why did you send it, I’m grateful, but don’t even know you” - my reply would be “you’re welcome, I’m very happy, ‘Love’ and you do know me..”

Propaganda works by having the plan strategically laid out and then using ‘imitation’ and ‘repetition’. Sometimes making the lie so large that people would think it not possible to be untrue. This almost sounds ridiculous, but it is a proven fact and it’s frightening that it does work. Adolph Hitler, with the work of Joseph Goebbels set the precedent by using these very same tactics in his Nazi Germany WWII propaganda campaigns. However, Hitler’s propaganda was also tinged with violence and fascism.

At this time, in Hitler’s Germany, all knew that telling the truth was treason. The children youth groups, although more aggressive in teaching methods, trained them much like any school would. Meaning you believe what you are fed and through repetition and being told what is right or wrong, you become accustomed to it. Other words, it becomes your reality and you become brainwashed to that belief only. Coinciding with the mass burning of books that didn’t conform to his agenda, Hitler ordered new textbooks for the children in his Nazi Youth camps and began to mold them to his image.

In Dr. Willelm Reich’s book ‘The Mass Psychology of Fascism’ he states *“Speeches in National Socialist meetings were indeed characterized by very clever manipulations of the emotions of the mass individuals and by strict avoidance of objective argumentation.”* and *“..for it was an essential characteristic of social democracy to spread illusions.”* The US federal government not only banned Dr. Reich’s book in the 1950s, but they actually conducted a national book burning of this book. They took the same course of action

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Hitler used in Germany, which is also likened to the book burnings of the middle ages. In Erika Mann's 1939 book titled 'School for Barbarians: Education under the Nazis, she states "*One of the surprises of the national socialist revolution was the speed with which signs and names were altered in 1933, when it was possible to call anything black that, a week ago, had been painted white.*" She further goes on to explain that someone who leads a private, normal lifestyle was considered an outsider and a suspect then elaborates on the mind conditioning of oft repeated words that the children were subject to by saying "Heil Hitler!" 50 to 150 times a day. This mind inducing formula was required by law. That was just the foundation, but it's the most important as without a strong foundation, we all know what happens. Everything built upon it collapses.

Joseph Goebbels's propaganda campaigns were consistently hammered into the heads of the German population. As time went on the German people became more accustomed to it. Resulting in easy acceptance of the propaganda, slipping them into a separate reality. That is to say, they began living in the reality of total propaganda, Goebbels's propaganda. They grew used to it and liked it. The minds were fed the propaganda food and that was their nourishment. Any other food given to the mind of the people at that time would be hard to swallow and not be accepted. Thus, if you were to tell a German who was induced with Goebbels's propaganda that he was not telling the truth and even show them facts to prove his enormous lies, they would not be moved easily, in addition the Gestapo would, most certainly, be paying you a visit soon after as the number one rule was "no arguments or opposition" or the fallacy will eventually fail and the induced reality would dissipate. Thus, the truth was considered treason.

### **Vomiting the truth**

You can say the people would vomit the truth if it was fed to them. Sorry, I know it's a disgusting vision, but it is a necessary visual that you need this moment in reading. Think of eating a very pleasant meal, one that you are accustomed to and enjoy eating. Upon