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Hawthorne High School
Center for Cold War Studies: Contemporary Conflicts in light of the Cold War
August 2004

Title: Deception, Propaganda, and International Terrorism.

Duration of Lesson: 3-5 days Traditional/Block Schedule

Placement of Unit: Synergistically with Cold War and Post-Modernity in nation-building and ideology.

Educational Goal: Students will discuss the causes and effects of propaganda and deception in relation to nation-building and terrorism both domestically and internationally.

Instructional Objectives:

1. Students will understand the meanings of deception, propaganda, and terrorism.
2. Students will analyze primary and secondary source documents.
3. Students will know the locations of Saudi Arabia and Pakistan.
4. Students will relate Cold War policies in the Middle East with current global threats of Terrorism.

Rationale:

CA Content Standard World History

10.10 Students analyze instances of nation-building in the contemporary world in at least two of the following regions or countries: the Middle East, Africa, Mexico and other parts of Latin America, and China.

1. Understand the challenges in the regions, including their geopolitical, cultural, military, and economic significance and the international relationships in which they are involved.
2. Describe the recent history of the regions, including political divisions and systems, key leaders, religious issues, natural features, resources, and population patterns.
3. Discuss the important trends in the regions today and whether they appear to serve the cause of individual freedom and democracy.

LISTENING AND SPEAKING LANGUAGE ARTS

GRADES 9/10

Listening and Speaking Strategies:

1.0. Students formulate adroit judgments about oral communication. They deliver focused and coherent presentations of their own that convey clear and distinct perspectives and solid reasoning. They

incorporate gestures, tone, and vocabulary tailored to audience and purpose.

Comprehension:

1.1. formulate judgments about the ideas under discussion and support those judgments with convincing evidence

1.2. compare and contrast how media genres (e.g., nightly news, news magazines, documentaries, on-line information) cover the same event

Materials:

1. Primary and secondary documents (Images of Terror *What We Can and Can't Know about Terrorism* by Philip Jenkins; *Anti-American Terrorism and the Middle East* by David Zeidan)
2. Maps of Middle East
3. Terrorism: Name the Nightmare *Digital Video Clip from DigitalCurricul.com*

Frontloading:

l) Skit: "The Issue"

Mister MiZLeader A: Discovers that one of his members has "snitched" about a very lucrative forthcoming drug deal. He discusses the "issue" with **Decep B** about a response. **Mister MiZLeader** tells **Decep B** to get someone completely out of their core of their membership to "eliminate 'the issue' and all know immediate connections" and how important it is that the 'Perp' known as **Mr. Deceptione** is to carry out the "eliminations" as though is came from a rival group rather than from inside in order to prepare for a forthcoming power-play by **Mister MiZLeader**.

QuickWrite: (20 Minutes)

1. Briefly describe each individual's role in the "issue".

2. Why do you think that Mister MiZLeader wanted to use someone “completely out of core of our membership”?
3. What or who was supposed to be “eliminated”?
4. What or who are “immediate connections”?
5. Why would both ‘the issue’ and ‘all known immediate connections’ need to be “eliminated”?
6. How do you think this relates to today’s topic of Deception, Propaganda and International Terrorism?
7. Read, Write, Rotate (complete at least three other student’s papers)
8. Present QuickWrites
9. Comments and Questions
10. Assigned Readers (Read First Article *Images of Terror*) be prepared for Quiz at the beginning of class covering tonight’s reading.

Days 2-5

- Days 2-5 will consist of Quizzes from readings and discussions
- Review of readings
- Re-introduction of and checking for understanding regarding terminology (Deception, Propaganda, and Domestic and International Terrorism)
- Class discussions of quotes and readings, also clarifying similarities and differences of “the issue” skit context and that of “False Flags” including a working definition of Terrorism, i.e. Dr. Bale’s definition
- Re-write of QuickWrite with mandatory referencing of aforementioned reading (at least five quotations)
- Read, Write, Rotate
- Next Assigned Reading

Final Unit Assessment: 3 – 5 page typed essay on Deception, Propaganda, and International Terrorism using their Assigned Readings, QuickWrites, discussions, etc.

Deception, Propaganda, and International Terrorism

All propaganda must be so popular and on such an intellectual level, that even the most stupid of those towards whom it is directed will understand it... Through clever and constant application of propaganda, people can be made to see paradise as hell, and also the other way around, to consider the most wretched sort of life as paradise.

-- *Adolf Hitler*

“A military operation involves *deception*. Even though you are competent, appear to be incompetent. Though effective, appear to be ineffective.”

Sun-tzu (~400 BC), *The Art of War. Strategic Assessments*

“It is double the pleasure to deceive the deceiver.”

Proverb

Propaganda is to democracy what violence is to totalitarianism.

- Noam Chomsky

In wartime, truth is so precious that she should always be attended by a bodyguard of lies.

-- *Winston Churchill, British Prime Minister during World War II*

Those youths (referring to Islamist youth) know that their rewards in fighting you, the United States, is doubling their rewards fighting someone else not from the people of the book. *They have no intention except to enter Paradise by killing you. An infidel, and an enemy of God like you...*

- Declaration of War (August 1996) Usama Bin Laden

Probably every conflict is fought on at least two grounds: the *battlefield* and the *minds* of the people via propaganda. The “good guys” and the “bad guys” can often both be guilty of misleading their people with distortions, exaggerations, subjectivity, inaccuracy and even fabrications, in order to receive support and a sense of legitimacy.

What is Propaganda?

Encyclopedia Definition of: **Propaganda**

Propaganda

Propaganda is a specific type of [message](#) presentation, aimed at serving an agenda. Even if the message conveys true information, it may be partisan and fail to paint a complete picture. The primary use of the term is in [political](#) contexts and generally refers to efforts sponsored by governments.

A similar manipulation of information is well known, e.g., in [advertising](#), but normally it is not called propaganda in the latter context. The word propaganda carries a strong negative connotation that advertising does not.

Elements of Propaganda

Propaganda can serve to rally people behind a cause, but often at the cost of exaggerating, misrepresenting, or even lying about the issues in order to gain that support.

While the issue of propaganda often is discussed in the context of militarism, war and war-mongering, it is around us in all aspects of life.

As the various examples below will show, common tactics in propaganda often used by either side include:

- Using **selective stories** that come over as wide-covering and objective.
- **Partial facts**, or historical context
- **Reinforcing reasons and motivations** to act due to threats on the security of the individual.
- **Narrow sources of “experts”** to provide insights in to the situation. (For example, the mainstream media typically interview retired military personnel for many conflict-related issues, or treat official government sources as fact, rather than just one perspective that needs to be verified and researched).
- **Demonizing the “enemy”** who does not fit the picture of what is “right”.
- Using a **narrow range of discourse**, whereby judgements are often made while the boundary of discourse itself, or the framework within which the opinions are formed, are often not discussed. The narrow focus then helps to serve the interests of the propagandists.

Images of Propaganda and Effects of International Terrorism







Demeaning and deceptive images of Jews and their motives