

White Propaganda during World War II

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Historical Context

- 1944 was the beginning of the end
 - Near the end of Nazi Germany and WWII



Source: <https://young hopes.files.wordpress.com/2011/10/1.jpg>

White Propaganda

the intentional suppression of potentially harmful information and ideas, combined with deliberate promotion of positive information or ideas to distract attention from problematic events

Propaganda Tactics:

- Card-stacking
- Bandwagon
- Plain Folks
- Name-calling

Frontpost Ausgabe Süd

- U.S. 5th Army in Italy produced several white propaganda leaflets and newspapers, including Frontpost--sent to German troops and civilians in Europe
- “German soldiers are surrendering at a rate of from eight to twelve thousand daily.”
- “Finland Quits!-After Italy, Rumania and Bulgaria, Finland is the fourth country to break her alliance with Germany.”
- “Southern France free of Germans”

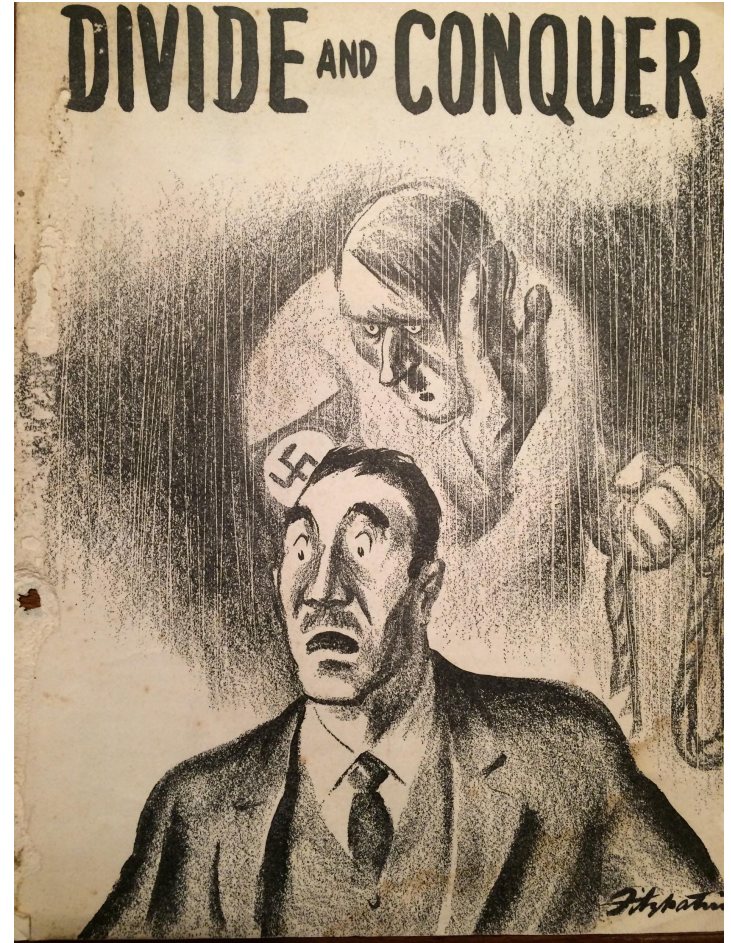


Source: Riegel Collection, Special Collections, Washington and Lee University

Divide and Conquer

What is the Nazi's ultimate goal?

“To destroy our national unity, create unrest in all groups of the population, and deflect us from our major purpose--the defeat of the Axis--Hitler is trying to set capital against labor, white against Negro, Catholic against Protestant, Christian against Jew.”



To officers and men of the German forces

- Intended to be an assertion of authority by the allied forces to try and influence the German public
- “Either you fight against the overwhelming superiority - and actually fight to the last cartridge; and die rather than surrender. That is the war of the S.S. and party fanatics whose guilty consciences and blood-stained hands leave them no alternative.”



From the UN to the German Soldiers in Southern France

- “It is no mere phrase, but deadly earnestness when we affirm that for every bomb 10, or if necessary, 100 will be hurled back.” -Hitler
- Card stacking: “Now can we just get out of France?’ is the big question for every German private soldier”
- “The total number of Germans who, despite the severest measures of the Nazi govt, have the courage not to return to the front, in order to preserve themselves for their own folks and a better future, is now estimated at about 150,000 inside Germany”



German soldiers at a sidewalk cafe in France during WWII

References

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