

Michael Brodskiy

Mrs. Greer

AP Language

October 8, 2020

Analyzing Political Cartoons

I. In S.J. Ray’s and K.C. Star’s cartoon entitled, “The Rude Awakening,” Adolf Hitler is depicted in a dazed, perturbed state as a result of the Eastern front closing in. The bear in this figure serves the purpose of a hyperbolic metaphor, the symbol of Russians, the predominant ethnic subculture of the former Soviet Union, with Jaws wide open, ready, to snap and questioning Hitler’s “*intuition*”, in reference to the defeat of the German Sixth Army.

II. Hitler in bed, frightened and in an inherently vulnerable position while the behemoth labeled Russia stares menacingly. The bear taunts Hitler’s inevitable series of defeats starting in early 1943. Hitler’s “*intuition*”, *blitzkrieg*, enabled his armies to traverse the European republics of the Soviet Union, but failed in the long-run, and *rattenkrieg* took it’s place in the ruined Soviet cities. This composition serves as a symbol of shame and defeat, and a foreboding warning for the future, which would see the collapse of the Nazist regime at the hands of the Soviet Union.

III. This image’s intent is clear – it is meant to mock the dwindling Nazist regime – ultimately causing a decline in morale. The ominous bear, hungry for a meal (i.e. *victory*), is much like the Soviet Union. The bed in which Hitler is laying represents both his and the bear’s awakening. As such, the cartoon argues that Hitler has raised a force to be reckoned with. The expression of sheer horror on Hitler’s face exemplifies the premonition of destruction and conveys the idea

that he realized his “*intuition*” had gone too far. Ergo, Ray’s and Star’s cartoon would be not only a prediction of the short-term future, but also the decades of tension to come, with the great awakening of an industrially dominant superpower regime.



Figure 1: Ray, S.J. and Star, K.C. “The Rude Awakening” [illegible] City Journal, 1943

Word Count: 299