**Name: Paul English**

**War Propaganda**

The definition of propaganda is: *information, especially of a biased or misleading nature, used to promote or publicize a particular political cause or point of view.*

For this assignment, you are to find a piece of war propaganda from any time period. This can be in the form of something visual (like a war poster or cartoon), something written or spoken, or a piece of music. Keep in mind that war propaganda is used for both pro-war and anti-war purposes. Once you find a piece of propaganda that sticks out to you, answer the following questions. (Please do not paste the propaganda below. Your job is to describe it. Please type into this form, single space. Turn in a hard copy in class on Tuesday March 5. It is worth 5 points.)

Describe what this piece of propaganda is and speak to the following questions: What type of propaganda is it? Who is the target audience? How and when was it used? What is effective or ineffective about it? What were or could be the effects of accepting the ideas put forth? Does it seem to be a purposeful misrepresentation of facts, or the product of a natural and unintentional bias? (Be sure to give some good detail and explanation to these questions and write a minimum of 300 words)

**Description:**

It’s an American Cold War era comic book titled, “Is This Tomorrow, America Under Communism.” It’s a 48 page comic book that follows a story of a communist uprising in the United States, and the effect it would have on day to day life, from an extremist point of view. It narrates, loosely, how a small group of influential communist leaders overthrow the U.S. executive branch and congress, and implement a communist regime and nationalized system in our own country. They take over our political system, control our media, replace our teachers, and destroy religion.

**What type of propaganda is it?**

It’s a comic book that polarizes the ideas of Communism in a negative light. It’s shocking, deceptive, and covert in the way it describes Communist thinkers.

**Who is the target audience?**

It’s targeting American kids, youth, or a generally younger impressionable audience. Adults rarely read comic books, and young kids do. They’re impressionable and easily influenced by the narratives that they contain.

**How and when was it used?**

It was distributed during the Cold War by Catechetical Guild Education Society, an organization by a Catholic minister, and distributed to Catholic schools.

**What is effective or ineffective about it?**

It’s certainly effective at portraying an evil communist uprising, and teaching a highly negative view of communist beliefs. It communicated a strong message using graphic images, in an innocent format that kids are likely to fall for.

**What were or could be the effects of accepting the ideas put forth?**

The effects of a comic book like this seemed to help encourage numerous Communist conspiracy theories, and likely scare many kids into believing that Communism is entirely evil, and that anyone with a Communist agenda is an enemy to the United States.

**Does it seem to be a purposeful misrepresentation of facts, or the product of a natural and unintentional bias?**

It’s filled more than just unintentional bias, though that is a contributing factor. It’s a story that very purposefully attempts to discredit Communist thought, portraying them as a violent, controlling, and scheming group that wants to control the United States way of life. It’s written with a strong bias in favor of the Catholic church, posing Communists as a godless group that wants to destroy the religious institutions of America. Not all Communist thinkers believe in taking such extreme measures to enact their political systems upon a people, and the comic books primary goal is to cast them as an enemy and a group that can’t be trusted.