

National History Day 2020-2021

Communication in history:

The Key to Understanding

The WWII Propaganda Push: Weaponization of Communication

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Group Website

1200 words on the website

495 words on the process paper

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Our teachers and coordinators allowed us to choose a topic that we want to do, so my partner and I decided that we wanted to use a topic that relates to our heritage as Indian Americans. We began specifically focused on topics related to the Indian independence because we have family members and legacies that relate to fighting for independence. When thinking about this, my partner and I began to wonder how entire countries rallied the power to do this, as there had to be some kind of outside influence on the people. After doing a little research, we learned that in India, that many imperialist powers played a significant role, using anti-British propaganda to garner the support of the Indian citizens. This tied really well into the 2020-2021 NHD Topic: Communication in History: The Key to Understanding because propaganda is the form of communication that throughout history, has brought immense change to countries and people throughout history.

We began conducting our research simply, researching on Google about propaganda used. As we began to cultivate more and more knowledge over our topic, we talked with our advisors in our weekly History Day meetings, and they began to help us to find more ideas. We were then able to start finding scholarly articles from universities on Imperialist propaganda, which gave us a wide range of reasoning on why these powers chose to use propaganda, and the influence it had upon citizens. In addition to that, we found many archives of historic propaganda, which gave us a clear in-depth perspective of not only professionals but also those who experienced it as well.

As we were writing this, both of us were deeply involved with some sort of programming language dealing with web development. Hence, it was only right to choose a website as our project source. We plan on using our newfound skills to further help our website be the greatest it can be. In case the worst comes to the worst, and our project did not save, or a glitch were to happen, we have all of our information backed up on a Google Document that is independent of the website.

Everyone knows that a revolution or birth of a nation is a milestone in history, but my partner and I wanted to delve deeper into the fact of *how* the ideas and promise of revolution and change get to the people and soul of the country itself. We realize that it is important to bring to light this fact because the journey of *ideas* that create major events is often overlooked. With that, our topic relates to this year's theme, because we believe that propaganda has been a form of communication that has carried those ideas that has shaped the course of the history of the world, and our heritage and ancestry. We aim to show the impact of these ideas, and how they have had the ability to effect and shape populations throughout history.