**REVISED Unit 7 Response Assignment Due 11/29**

*America’s Rise to Globalism: World War II*

(Tuesday, 11/20)

II. Brief Lecture/Film Clips: “The Role of Propaganda in World War II”

Brief lecture/Film clips question(s)

How does Prelude to War use the “basics of propaganda” discussed in the lecture? Do you think this film is effective? Why or why not?

When learning about WWII, we learned that the American government needed to propagandize in order to earn the support of the U.S citizens. Propaganda is defined as spreading ideas, information, or rumors; in order to help or harm an institution, cause, or a person. A man named Fritz Hippler, who was a film director, was influenced to make an informational video about the horror going on during WWII.

 This video uses propaganda to rally the citizens and military. The three basics of propaganda are as follows. One, simplify a complex issue, two repeat the message often, and three, speak the language of the masses. In the very beginning of this film they use the first basic of propaganda by simplifying the issue that every major country is involved in this war. They also simplify the issue of who the war is against; there is a diagram of two worlds one the “free” world and one the “slave” world.

 The film also simplifies the three evil groups in the axis power. The Germans who they simplified the reason that they followed Hitler is because they had an inborn love for regimentation and harsh discipline and Hitler could provide them with such. The Italians who were torn by hard times, like unemployment and poverty, decided to trust someone who had already betrayed others in their country. And finally the Japanese, they thought of the emperor as god, the group who was looking for power took advantage of this and became emperor to gain the trust of the Japanese. The Japanese threw away their basic human rights, and their dignity; they were known as the “human herd” which in my opinion simplifies the three major evils very well.

Another thing that the film does is it keeps repeating the question and restating why we went to war. The film also uses the last basic of propaganda which is to speak the languages of the masses. It does this by stating the basic principle of do unto others as they do unto you. They quote this idea from the Ten Commandments or from Moses, then from Muhammad, and then finally from Confucius. They also use this principle by quoting each evil leader and what they said to their followers; Hitler said to the Germans “Stop thinking, and follow me, I will make you masters of the world.” Mussolini said “Stop thinking and believe in me, and I’ll restore the glory that was wronged.” And the Japanese War Lords said “Stop thinking and follow your God emperor, and Japan will rule the world.”

I think that this film is very effective. If I were to have seen it during the war, I believe that I would have agreed with it, and supported our nation. This film was very interesting to watch because it opens your eyes to the horrible things that took place during the war, while providing background on how each evil came to power.