

british first world war posters

British First World War Posters

During the First World War, Britain, like many other nations involved in the conflict, utilized a powerful visual propaganda campaign to mobilize public support, encourage enlistment, and promote wartime efforts. British First World War posters played a pivotal role in shaping public opinion, boosting morale, and communicating government messages across the country. These posters, characterized by their compelling imagery and persuasive slogans, have become iconic symbols of wartime Britain and offer valuable insights into the social and political climate of the era.

The Role of Propaganda in Britain During WWI

The Importance of Posters in Wartime Britain

In the early 20th century, posters emerged as a primary means of mass communication. The British government recognized their potential as a tool for:

- Encouraging men to enlist in the army
- Promoting war bonds and financial contributions
- Inspiring women to support the war effort through work and sacrifice
- Promoting conservation of resources such as food and fuel
- Maintaining morale among civilians and soldiers alike

Posters could reach a broad audience quickly and effectively, often incorporating emotional appeals, patriotic symbols, and concise messaging.

Government Agencies and Propaganda Efforts

Several government departments and organizations collaborated to produce and distribute wartime posters:

- War Office: Focused on recruiting soldiers
- Ministry of Munitions: Promoted resource conservation and production
- War Savings Committee: Encouraged investment in war bonds
- Ministry of Food: Advocated for food conservation and rationing

These agencies worked together to ensure a cohesive and widespread propaganda campaign.

Key Themes and Messages in British WWI Posters

Recruitment and Enlistment

One of the most prevalent themes was encouraging men to enlist and join the army. Posters often depicted idealized images of soldiers, patriotic symbols, and calls to duty.

Common motifs included:

- The image of the "Tommy" soldier
- Patriotic symbols like the Union Jack
- Slogans such as "Your Country Needs You" and "Join the Fight for Freedom"

Financial Support: War Bonds

Funding the war effort was critical, and posters played a role in convincing civilians to invest in war bonds.

Features included:

- Patriotic appeals to civic duty
- Images of soldiers or national symbols
- Messages emphasizing the importance of financial sacrifice

Women's Role and Support

Women were encouraged to support the war effort through various means, including working in munitions factories, conserving resources, and volunteering.

Themes highlighted:

- Women as vital contributors to the war effort
- Portrayals of women in work uniforms
- Calls to action like "Women of Britain—Save Food"

Resource Conservation and Rationing

Posters aimed to promote rationing and resource conservation to support soldiers and war industries.

Key messages:

- Reducing waste and consumption
- Using less fuel, food, and materials
- Encouraging community participation

Morale and Unity

Posters also aimed to bolster morale, reinforce national unity, and foster resilience among civilians.

Examples:

- Emphasizing shared sacrifice
- Celebrating patriotic pride

- Portraying enemies as threats to British values

Iconic British WWI Posters and Their Impact

“Your Country Needs You” (1914)

Perhaps the most famous British WWI poster, featuring Lord Kitchener pointing directly at the viewer. This poster became an instant symbol of recruitment and patriotism.

Impact:

- Significantly increased enlistment
- Set a template for future recruitment campaigns
- Became an enduring image of wartime Britain

“Daddy, What Did You Do in the Great War?” (1915)

A poignant poster aimed at inspiring boys and young men to enlist, emphasizing family and patriotic duty.

“Carry on Giving” (1917)

Encouraged civilians to buy war bonds, emphasizing collective effort and sacrifice.

“Food Will Win the War” (1917)

Promoted food conservation, urging citizens to reduce waste and support the war effort through rationing.

Design and Artistic Features of British WWI Posters

Visual Elements

- Bold, eye-catching colors (notably red, white, and blue)
- Strong, clear imagery conveying messages instantly
- Use of patriotic symbols: flags, coats of arms, eagles, and soldiers

Slogans and Texts

- Concise and direct messaging
- Use of rhyme or alliteration for memorability
- Emotional appeals to duty, patriotism, and sacrifice

Artistic Styles

- Realistic portrayals of soldiers and civilians
- Sometimes exaggerated or caricatured to evoke emotion

- Incorporation of national symbols to foster pride

Legacy and Preservation of British WWI Posters

Cultural and Historical Significance

British First World War posters are now treasured artifacts, representing a vital part of Britain's wartime history. They provide:

- Insight into public sentiment and government strategies
- Visual documentation of societal values and norms
- Inspiration for modern propaganda and advertising

Preservation and Exhibitions

Many posters are preserved in museums such as:

- The Imperial War Museum (London)
- The British Museum
- The National Archives

Exhibitions often showcase these posters to educate the public about wartime propaganda and its influence.

Modern Interpretation and Influence

Contemporary artists and historians study WWI posters to understand their persuasive techniques and cultural impact. Their enduring power is evident in how they continue to influence visual communication and propaganda studies.

Conclusion

British First World War posters serve as a powerful testament to the nation's collective effort during a time of unprecedented conflict. Their compelling imagery, emotional appeals, and strategic messaging played a crucial role in shaping public opinion, boosting enlistment, and supporting the war economy. Today, these posters remain iconic symbols of Britain's wartime resilience and ingenuity, offering valuable lessons in communication, patriotism, and societal unity. As both historical artifacts and artistic achievements, they continue to inspire and inform generations about the power of visual propaganda in shaping history.

Additional Resources

- Imperial War Museum: Extensive collection of WWI posters and related materials
- British Museum: Exhibits on wartime art and propaganda

- Historical societies and archives: Access to original posters and promotional materials

By understanding the themes, design, and impact of British First World War posters, we gain a deeper appreciation of how visual culture influenced wartime Britain and contributed to the national effort.

Frequently Asked Questions

What was the main purpose of British First World War posters?

British First World War posters aimed to boost morale, encourage enlistment, promote war bonds, and motivate civilians to support the war effort through activities like conserving resources and volunteering.

Which famous artist designed some of the British First World War posters?

While many posters were designed by various artists, one notable contributor was Sir William Rothenstein, who helped create compelling imagery to inspire patriotism and support for the war.

How did British First World War posters influence public opinion?

They used powerful imagery and slogans to evoke emotional responses, rally national pride, and persuade civilians to participate actively in the war effort, significantly shaping public opinion and behavior.

Are British First World War posters considered valuable collectibles today?

Yes, original posters from the war era are highly sought after by collectors and can be quite valuable, especially those in good condition or featuring rare designs.

What themes were commonly depicted in British First World War posters?

Common themes included patriotic duty, recruitment, resource conservation, war bonds, and messages urging women to support the war effort at home.

How did the design of British First World War posters differ from those of other countries?

British posters often emphasized patriotic duty with bold, straightforward imagery and slogans, sometimes incorporating humor or emotional appeals, while other countries' posters varied in style but shared similar goals of rallying support.

Are there any notable collections or exhibitions of British First World War posters?

Yes, institutions like the Imperial War Museum in London hold extensive collections of wartime posters, and exhibitions often showcase their historical significance and artistic design.

Additional Resources

British First World War Posters played a pivotal role in shaping public opinion, mobilizing the masses, and sustaining morale during one of the most tumultuous periods in British history. These visual propaganda pieces were meticulously crafted to communicate messages quickly and effectively, often utilizing bold imagery, compelling slogans, and emotionally charged themes. As a vital tool of wartime communication, British posters from the First World War offer a fascinating insight into the era's social psyche, government priorities, and cultural values. This article explores the development, themes, impact, and legacy of these posters, providing a comprehensive understanding of their significance.

Historical Context of British WWI Posters

Origins and Evolution

The outbreak of the First World War in 1914 marked a significant turning point in the way governments communicated with their citizens. Prior to the war, posters had been used mainly for commercial advertising, but the scale and scope of the conflict prompted an urgent need for mass mobilization. The British government, recognizing the power of visual communication, quickly adopted posters as a primary means to rally support, encourage enlistment, and promote home-front efforts.

Initially, posters aimed to appeal to patriotic sentiments, emphasizing duty and national pride. Over time, their themes expanded to include resource conservation, war bonds, and civilian contributions. The design and messaging evolved in response to changing wartime needs, making British WWI posters a dynamic and adaptable form of propaganda.

Government Agencies and Production

The Ministry of Information and various other government departments oversaw the production of wartime posters. Prominent artists such as Sir Frank Brangwyn and Alfred Leete contributed to the visual landscape, creating memorable images that remain iconic today. The posters were distributed nationwide, pasted on walls, displayed in public spaces, and even sent abroad as part of diplomatic efforts.

The mass production and widespread dissemination of posters made them an accessible and effective medium, capable of reaching diverse segments of the population—soldiers, workers, women, and children alike.

Common Themes and Messages

Patriotism and National Pride

Many posters sought to invoke a sense of patriotic duty. Slogans like “Your Country Needs You” accompanied images of soldiers, often featuring Uncle Sam-like figures or heroic soldiers calling civilians to action. These posters aimed to foster a collective sense of responsibility, urging men to enlist and women to contribute on the home front.

Features:

- Patriotic imagery such as flags, coats of arms, and national symbols
- Personal appeals directly addressing the viewer
- Emphasis on duty, honor, and sacrifice

Pros:

- Instilled a sense of unity and purpose
- Motivated enlistment and civilian participation

Cons:

- Sometimes exaggerated or oversimplified the realities of war
- Could induce guilt or fear among certain demographics

Enlistment and Recruitment

Perhaps the most recognizable theme is recruitment. Posters like Alfred Leete’s “Britons: Who Will You Help?” featuring the iconic Lord Kitchener figure, became symbols of the call to arms. These posters often depicted authoritative and commanding figures pointing directly at the viewer, creating a personal connection.

Features:

- Direct address to potential recruits
- Use of authoritative figures
- Urgent and commanding language

Pros:

- Highly effective in increasing enlistment numbers
- Created a sense of immediacy and importance

Cons:

- May have fostered fear or peer pressure
- Focused primarily on male enlistment, marginalizing women and other groups

Resource Conservation and Home Front Efforts

As the war prolonged, posters increasingly emphasized conserving resources like food, fuel, and materials. Slogans such as “Save Food for Our Fighters” and “Dig for Victory” (the latter more prominent in WWII, but roots can be traced back to WWI efforts) encouraged civilians to reduce waste and support national production.

Features:

- Simple, memorable slogans
- Visual cues such as empty plates or fuel gauges
- Appeals to patriotism and shared sacrifice

Pros:

- Helped sustain wartime supplies
- Fostered community effort and discipline

Cons:

- Could induce anxiety or guilt
- Overemphasis on sacrifice might lead to fatigue

Women's Roles and Gender Norms

Posters also played a crucial role in redefining women's roles in society. They depicted women working in factories, serving as nurses, and taking on responsibilities traditionally reserved for men. Campaigns like “Women of Britain Say ‘Go!’” emphasized women's contribution to the war effort.

Features:

- Depictions of women in active, empowered roles
- Slogans encouraging women's participation
- Visuals challenging traditional gender stereotypes

Pros:

- Promoted gender equality in the workforce
- Highlighted the importance of women's contributions

Cons:

- Reinforced gender stereotypes in some imagery
- Some posters still subtly emphasized women's roles as caregivers

Design and Artistic Features

Visual Styles and Techniques

British WWI posters employed a range of artistic techniques to maximize impact:

- **Bold Colors:** Reds, blues, and blacks were common, designed to grab attention and evoke strong emotions.
- **Simplified Imagery:** Clear, straightforward visuals ensured messages were immediately understandable.
- **Caricatures and Symbolism:** Use of exaggerated features or symbols (e.g., the Uncle Sam figure, the "Kitchener's Call") made posters memorable.
- **Typography:** Strong, legible fonts emphasized slogans and calls to action.

Iconic Posters and Their Significance

Some posters achieved iconic status, becoming symbols of the war effort:

- Lord Kitchener's "Your Country Needs You" (1914): Featuring Kitchener's pointing finger, this poster is perhaps the most recognizable WWI recruitment image.
- "Daddy, What Did You Do in the Great War?" (1915): Targeted mothers and children, emphasizing the personal stakes of the war.
- "Food Will Win the War": Promoted rationing and resource conservation.

These posters not only served immediate purposes but also left a lasting visual legacy, influencing future propaganda campaigns.

Impact and Effectiveness

Mobilization and Public Response

British WWI posters were remarkably successful in mobilizing the population. Enlistment surged following the publication of certain posters, and civilian cooperation in resource conservation increased. The visual immediacy and emotional appeal proved highly effective, especially in an era before television and digital media.

Propaganda and Morale

Posters contributed significantly to maintaining morale and fostering a sense of collective purpose. They balanced messages of sacrifice with patriotic pride, helping to sustain support for the war effort despite hardships.

Criticism and Limitations

While effective, posters also faced criticism:

- They sometimes exaggerated threats or vilified the enemy.
- Propaganda could foster xenophobia or intolerance.
- Over-reliance on visual persuasion risked oversimplifying complex realities.

Legacy of British WWI Posters

Post-War Influence

After the war, many posters entered the realm of historical artifacts, influencing future advertising and propaganda. Their vivid imagery and straightforward messaging set standards for visual communication.

Collector's and Historical Significance

Today, these posters are highly collectible and serve as valuable artifacts for understanding wartime Britain. Museums and exhibitions showcase them to educate about propaganda, societal values, and the history of the era.

Modern Perspectives and Critiques

Contemporary scholars analyze these posters through lenses of propaganda theory, questioning their ethical implications and examining their role in shaping public perceptions.

Conclusion

British First World War posters stand as powerful testament to the role of visual communication in wartime. They combined artistry, psychology, and strategic messaging to rally a nation, shape public behavior, and sustain morale. While their messages were often propagandistic and sometimes problematic, their impact on British society and their enduring visual legacy remain undeniable. As historical artifacts, they continue to inform our understanding of the social dynamics, cultural values, and political strategies of wartime Britain.

In summary, the British First World War posters exemplify how graphic design and persuasive messaging can influence mass behavior during critical moments in history. Their themes of patriotism, enlistment, resource conservation, and gender roles reflect the multifaceted approach of wartime propaganda. Their artistic features—bold colors, clear imagery, and memorable slogans—maximize impact, while their legacy continues to

inform both historical scholarship and modern advertising strategies. Despite some ethical concerns, their contribution to wartime efforts and their cultural significance remain profound, making them a fascinating subject for both study and appreciation.

British First World War Posters

british first world war posters: British First World War Propaganda David Monger, 2025-07-10 A comprehensive A to Z examination of British propaganda during the First World War, this book explores 26 dedicated topics. The First World War was a critical period in the development of modern propaganda and Britain's activities were particularly influential. Combining analysis of the latest scholarship with discussion of original propaganda sources, Monger provides a critical introduction to the diversity of British First World War propaganda. Examining subjects ranging from Duty and Jokes, to Kultur and Unofficial Propaganda, the author highlights how each form of propaganda was conceived, who was involved in its creation, and how it impacted its targets, whilst also crafting a narrative that links each topic from A to Z. Individual forms of propaganda are central to Monger's account, and each form serves as a starting point to examine broader social and cultural aspects of wartime Britain. For example, by linking imperial support to Britain's self-styling on both world and home stages, and demonstrating how notions of 'the British way of life' played into ideas about duty and encouragements to enlist, Monger highlights the pervasive nature of British propaganda during the First World War, and reinforces its dependence on existing sociocultural factors.

british first world war posters: Posters of the First World War David Bownes, Robert Fleming, 2014-07-10 The First World War, a new low in the annals of armed conflict, coincided with a golden age for the relatively new art of advertising. Striking and colourful posters were produced throughout the years 1914-18 to recruit soldiers, promote investment, keep up morale and, naturally, to vilify the enemy; prominent artists including Alfred Leete paired bold images with punchy text to maximise impact. The selection in this book offers an informative guide to the range of posters created and to how they were displayed around the nation, and explores the public's increasing dissatisfaction with being patronised and goaded. From the iconic, commanding Your Country Needs YOU! to the anxious domestic scene of Daddy, What Did YOU Do in the War?, and including the infamous depiction of a bayoneting in Back Him Up!, this book puts the reader in the shoes of the Great War 'man in the street'.

british first world war posters: Edinburgh Companion to the First World War and the Arts Ann-Marie Einhaus, 2017-05-24 A new exploration of literary and artistic responses to WW1 from 1914 to the present This authoritative reference work examines literary and artistic responses to the wars upheavals across a wide range of media and genres, from poetry to pamphlets, sculpture to television documentary, and requiems to war reporting. Rather than looking at particular forms of artistic expression in isolation and focusing only on the war and inter-war period, the 26 essays collected in this volume approach artistic responses to the war from a wide variety of angles and, where appropriate, pursue their inquiry into the present day. In 6 sections, covering Literature, the Visual Arts, Music, Periodicals and Journalism, Film and Broadcasting, and Publishing and Material Culture, a wide range of original chapters from experts across literature and the arts examine what means and approaches were employed to respond to the shock of war as well as asking such key questions as how and why literary and artistic responses to the war have changed over time, and how far later works of art are responses not only to the war itself, but to earlier cultural production. Key Features Offers new insights into the breadth and depth of artistic responses to WWI Establishes links and parallels across a wide range of different media and genres Emphasises the development of responses in different fields from 1914 to the present

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british first world war posters: The Oxford Illustrated History of the First World War Hew Strachan, 2016 A team of some of the world's most distinguished First World War historians chart the causes, course, and profound political and human consequences of a conflict that changed the world.

british first world war posters: Fields of Agony: British Poetry of the First World War Stuart Sillars, 2007-01-01 A study of poetry written by men and women in all parts of the British Isles during the First World War, 1914-18. The book discusses significant individual poems by the writers named, exploring them within their social, political and aesthetic frames and.

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british first world war posters: Sheffield in The Great War Peter Warr, 2015-05-29 This fascinating new book is devoted to an almost unknown period in the history of Sheffield. It sets the city's people and events against a background of key national developments by looking also at the way government regulations were tightened, how the country's morale was maintained, and how industry was encouraged to deliver more output. Sheffield in the Great War is written for the general reader, and a large number of the city's residents, companies and streets are mentioned by name. Many aspects of life and work are described and illustrated with more than one hundred original photographs. Numerous advertisements and excerpts are presented from the city's wartime newspapers, and highlighted Display Boxes in every chapter summarize particularly interesting or quirky themes. For more specialist readers, Notes at the end of the book provide additional detail and links to other publications and websites; general readers can of course ignore those. Two substantial Indexes make it easy to find personally-relevant people, topics and places. The book thus offers to the general reader an easy-to-read narrative with many pictures, and it provides a valuable source of information and reference to those who would like to learn more. Sheffield in the Great War starts with a brief account of the conflict itself, looking at its enormous cost not only in terms of money but also in thousands and thousands of men and horses killed or disabled. Next it presents short reviews of Britain and the city in 1914 to introduce national features which became important in wartime Sheffield. The following chapters describe Sheffield life in the four and a half years of war, with special attention to recruiting and the creation of more than twenty new military

hospitals. Huge numbers of people devoted themselves to voluntary work, and the book includes much information that has been lost for the past hundred years.

british first world war posters: Handbook of British Literature and Culture of the First World War Ralf Schneider, Jane Potter, 2021-09-20 The First World War has given rise to a multifaceted cultural production like no other historical event. This handbook surveys British literature and film about the war from 1914 until today. The continuing interest in World War I highlights the interdependence of war experience, the imaginative re-creation of that experience in writing, and individual as well as collective memory. In the first part of the handbook, the major genres of war writing and film are addressed, including of course poetry and the novel, but also the short story; furthermore, it is shown how our conception of the Great War is broadened when looked at from the perspective of gender studies and post-colonial criticism. The chapters in the second part present close readings of important contributions to the literary and filmic representation of World War I in Great Britain. All in all, the contributions demonstrate how the opposing forces of focusing and canon-formation on the one hand, and broadening and revision of the canon on the other, have characterised British literature and culture of the First World War.

british first world war posters: *Poetics of the Poster* David H. T. Scott, 2010-01-01 This book sets out to explore the way, with the onset of a new and integral relationship between text and image, the modern poster is able to evolve distinctive persuasive strategies that will transform modern advertising. The book shows how this fundamental development is closely related to contemporary developments in the visual arts - in particular Futurism and Art Deco - and reflects the increasing cross-fertilisation and symbiosis between art and graphic design. The book focuses in particular on the way conventional textual strategies - metaphor, metonymy, rebus - are adapted by the modern poster to produce visual or textual/visual equivalents which, through their employment of combined pictorial and linguistic elements maximise their attractive or persuasive power over the viewer/reader. A key aim of the book is to clarify the assumptions on which semiology (the study of signs) is based in the context of modern poster artists' practice. The text/image relation is explored through five chapters focussing on (1) the rhetoric of image/text in general; (2) text and image in airline logos: British Airways and Air France; (3) visual metonymies in boxing posters; (4) text and image in posters expressing speed; (5) text/image in Swiss tourist posters. There are approximately 120 colour illustrations arranged in groups that reflect the different orientations of the chapters.

british first world war posters: French Cinema and the Great War Marcelline Block, Barry Nevin, 2016-02-04 Even a century after its conclusion, the devastation of the Great War still echoes in the work of artists who try to make sense of the political, moral, ideological, and economic changes and challenges it spawned. France, the military major power of the Western Front, carries the legacy of battles on its own soil, and countless French lives lost defending the nation from the Central Powers. It is no surprise that the impact of the First World War can still be seen in French films into the present day. *French Cinema and the Great War: Remembrance and Representation* provides the first book-length study of World War I as it is featured in French cinema, from the silent era to contemporary films. Presented in three thematic sections—Recording and Remembering the Great War, Women at the Front, and Interrogating Commemoration—the essays in this volume explore the ways in which French film contributes to the restoration and modification of memories of the war. Films such as *La Grande Illusion*, *King of Hearts*, *A Very Long Engagement*, and *Joyeux Noël* are among those discussed in the volume's examination of the various ways in which film mediates personal and collective memories of this critical historical event. This volume will be an invaluable resource, not only to those interested in French Cinema or the cinema of the Great War, but also to those interested in the impacts of war, more generally, on the cultural output of nations torn by the violence, death, and destruction of military conflict.

british first world war posters: Space, Place and Hybridity in the National Imagination Christine Vandamme, André Dodeman, 2021-10-26 This volume explores space, place and hybridity in today's multicultural societies with a strong emphasis on the role of art and spatial representations, in order to map out the complexity of modern nations and celebrate the creative

powers of their highly dynamic communities and cultures. It considers how the very idea of the nation has evolved since the emergence and development of the idea of the nation-state at the end of the eighteenth century, and how art can reinvigorate representations of nation-states worldwide without relegating their minorities to the margin. Instead of merely focusing on the role of place and land in national representations, the book adopts a wider and more critical approach to space in the arts by investigating the notions of both hybridity and Bhabha's "Third Space" in the fields of aesthetics, film studies and literature, with a particular emphasis on postcolonial literature.

british first world war posters: Conscripts Ilana R Bet-El, 2009-05-29 Drawing on diaries, letters and personal accounts from British conscripts who served on the Western Front in the latter half of the Great War, this is the first book to explore the contribution they made to the war effort. By the end of the war more than 2.5 million men had been conscripted, but their memory has not lived on; they are the lost legions of the First World War. Here, at last, their story is told: the story of ordinary men, from manual workers to clerks and solicitors, who became soldiers, fought and - for those who survived - went home. In this ground breaking work, Ilana Bet-El explains their absence from the imagery of the war. She reconstructs the daily life of soldiers on the Western Front as we are told, in the conscripts' own words, of the grim reality of dirt and lice and hunger, the mysteries of army pay and military discipline, and the joys of leave and cigarettes. It is a compelling journey back in time, which restores these men to the public image of the Great War by rediscovering the 'forgotten memory' of Britain's conscript army.

british first world war posters: Collision of Empires A. D. Harvey, 1993-07-01 The only previous war to match the world wars of the twentieth century in scale and impact was the French War of 1793-1815. This book is the first book to compare these conflicts, which together shaped the history of the modern world. A.D. Harvey relates the causes, conduct and outcome of these wars to the fundamental nature of the societies which fought them. Political decisions, economic power and social attitudes interfaced with the demands of military technology to determine the outcome of each case. Britain is the centre of focus, but is seen against a background of the other combatants. Harvey's ability to make large-scale generalisations is backed up by a wealth of fascinating and carefully documented detail, making this outstanding and exceptionally well-written book a pleasure to read. The author has tackled a huge subject and has not been afraid to face up to either its complexities or its implications. By asking new questions and using a range of unfamiliar sources this book provides an unusually profound analysis not only of these wars but also of the nature of modern society and of our understanding of the past.

british first world war posters: Bloody Good Allen J. Frantzen, 2004 In the popular imagination, World War I stands for the horror of all wars. The unprecedented scale of the war and the mechanized weaponry it introduced to battle brought an abrupt end to the romantic idea that soldiers were somehow knights in shining armor who always vanquished their foes and saved the day. Yet the concept of chivalry still played a crucial role in how soldiers saw themselves in the conflict. Here for the first time, Allen J. Frantzen traces these chivalric ideals from the Great War back to their origins in the Middle Ages and shows how they resulted in highly influential models of behavior for men in combat. Drawing on a wide selection of literature and images from the medieval period, along with photographs, memorials, postcards, war posters, and film from both sides of the front, Frantzen shows how such media shaped a chivalric ideal of male sacrifice based on the Passion of Jesus Christ. He demonstrates, for instance, how the wounded body of Christ became the inspiration for heroic male suffering in battle. For some men, the Crucifixion inspired a culture of revenge, one in which Christ's bleeding wounds were venerated as badges of valor and honor. For others, Christ's sacrifice inspired action more in line with his teachings—a daring stay of hands or reason not to visit death upon one's enemies. Lavishly illustrated and eloquently written, *Bloody Good* will be must reading for anyone interested in World War I and the influence of Christian ideas on modern life.

british first world war posters: Haig and Kitchener in Twentieth-Century Britain Stephen Heathorn, 2016-04-22 Lord Kitchener and Lord Haig are two monumental figures of the First World

War. Their reputations, both in their lifetimes and after their deaths, have been attacked and defended, scrutinized and contested. They have been depicted in film, print and public memorials in Britain and the wider world, and new biographies of both men appear to this day. The material representations of Haig and Kitchener were shaped, used and manipulated for official and popular ends by a variety of groups at different times during the twentieth century. The purpose of this study is not to discover the real individual, nor to attack or defend their reputations, rather it is an exploration of how both men have been depicted since their deaths and to consider what this tells us about the nature and meaning of First World War commemoration. While Haig's representation was more contested before the Second World War than was Kitchener's, with several constituencies trying to fashion and use Haig's memory - the Government, the British Legion, ex-servicemen themselves, and bereaved families - it was probably less contested, but overwhelmingly more negative, than Kitchener's after the Second World War. The book sheds light on the notion of 'heroic' masculinity - questioning, in particular, the degree to which the image of the common soldier replaced that of the high commander in the popular imagination - and explores how the military heritage in the twentieth century came into collision with the culture of modernity. It also contributes to ongoing debates in British historiography and to the larger debates over the social construction of memory, the problematic relation between what is considered 'heritage' and 'history', and the need for historians to be sensitive and attentive to the interconnections between heritage and history and their contexts.

british first world war posters: *World War I and Propaganda* , 2014-01-23 *World War I and Propaganda* offers a new look at a familiar subject. The contributions to this volume demonstrate that the traditional view of propaganda as top-down manipulation is no longer plausible. Drawing from a variety of sources, scholars examine the complex negotiations involved in propaganda within the British Empire, in occupied territories, in neutral nations, and how war should be conducted. Propaganda was tailored to meet local circumstances and integrated into a larger narrative in which the war was not always the most important issue. Issues centering on local politics, national identity, preservation of tradition, or hopes of a brighter future all played a role in different forms of propaganda. Contributors are Christopher Barthel, Donata Blobaum, Robert Blobaum, Mourad Djebabla, Christopher Fischer, Andrew T. Jarboe, Elli Lemonidou, David Monger, Javier Pounce, Catriona Pennell, Anne Samson, Richard Smith, Kenneth Andrew Steuer, María Inés Tato, and Lisa Todd.

british first world war posters: *British Film Posters* Sim Branaghan, 2019-07-25 The first complete history of illustrated film posters in the UK covers every aspect of design, printing and display from the Victorian era to the arrival of Desktop Publishing in the 1980s. *British Film Posters* examines the contribution 'vintage' film posters have made to British popular art of the 20th century.

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