

## RECOGNIZING PROPAGANDA TODAY

Statistics from a recent poll put out last month, May 2015, by Pew Research Center.

<http://www.pewforum.org/2015/05/12/americas-changing-religious-landscape/>

Americans who identify themselves as Christians dropped from 78.4% in 2007 to 70.6 in 2014.

22.8% say they are unaffiliated with any faith (Agnostics and Atheists).

The millennial generation leads the decline in religious affiliation, though adults of all ages and across all demographic groups are steering away from Christianity.

About 36% of Americans between the ages of 18 and 24 claim to be religiously unaffiliated, along with 34% of Americans between 24 and 33.

To summarize, fewer Americans are calling themselves Christians and more are claiming no faith at all.

We must learn from history or we will make the same mistakes other have made before us.

Looking at the holocaust in the 1940's, how was Germany, which was considered a Christian nation at the time, swayed into putting someone such as Hitler into power?

It doesn't happen overnight, there is a long period of indoctrination using propaganda.

Propaganda is information that is especially of a biased or misleading nature used to promote or publicize a particular political cause or point of view.

The Merriam-Webster definition for Propaganda: ideas or statements that are often false or exaggerated and that are spread in order to help a cause, a political leader, a government, etc.

Joseph Goebbels was the Reich Minister of Propaganda in Nazi Germany from 1933-1945 and was one of Adolf Hitler's closest associates and most devoted followers.

In 1927 at the Nuremberg Rally, Joseph Goebbels spoke about the Nazi Party's propaganda.

He wanted to lay out principles and show how propaganda can be transformed into a political organization.

The idea becomes a world view on it's way to governmental power.

There is power in an idea.

Everything a person does in life is affected by their world view.

If an idea becomes a world view, it changes the world.

If an organization becomes the bearer of a world view, it's ultimate goal is the government, which is the bearer of the whole nation.

According to Goebbels, the essential characteristic of propaganda is effectiveness.

It is good if I persuade 3 million people to believe in a political theory, but it is even better if those 3 million are ready to give their lives for the idea.

Little by little propaganda changes the minds of people.

Revolutions have never been made by millions but rather only by small minorities.

Propaganda does not need to be intellectual, it must be effective, understandable to the masses.

The Nazis used propaganda against the Jews very effectively, drastically affecting people's perceptions of them, even convincing people that the Jews must be eliminated like bacteria.

The non-jews were told that whatever a Jew says, the opposite must certainly be true.

The non-jews were convinced that the more a Jew fights back the more proof that is that non-jews were in the right.

Even the German Christians believed most of the propaganda.

By the time Christians realized the reality of what was going on, Hitler was already in power, it was too late to reverse.

2 Chronicles 32:6-8 are encouragement.

2 Chronicles 32:9-19 are propaganda.

There is great power in words, for good or for evil, for encouragement or discouragement.

Words are even more powerful today because there are so many ways to communicate them; cell phones, text, email, internet, etc.

Most Germans believed the lies or propaganda of the Nazis.

Will you believe the lies or propaganda being spread today?

**A list of lies or propaganda commonly being said today:**

1. The Word of God is full of errors.
2. The world evolved from nothing.
3. Some people are born homosexual and cannot refrain from acting that out.
4. You can change your sex from a man to a woman if you believe you should.
5. The fetus inside a woman's womb is not a person until it is born.
6. Live life to the fullest because after you die there is nothing.
7. Spanking is abuse.
8. All Americans deserve free stuff.
9. Police are all corrupt.

## SCRIPTURE LIST

2 Chronicles 32:1-23

Proverbs 18:21

John 8:44

Hebrews 4:12

Genesis 1:1

Romans 1:18-20

Romans 1:24-27

Psalm 139:13-14

Hebrews 9:27

Proverbs 23:13-14

2 Thessalonians 3:10

Romans 13:4

John 8:31-32