

The Military & Children

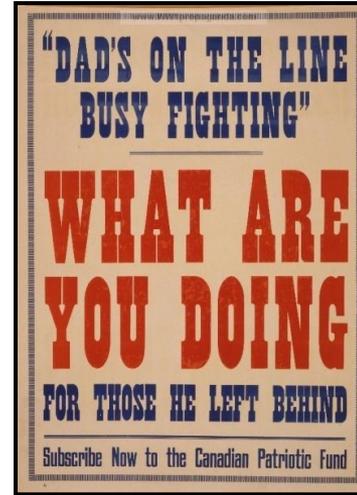
World War I – Present



How can we speak for peace in a world that is organized for war?

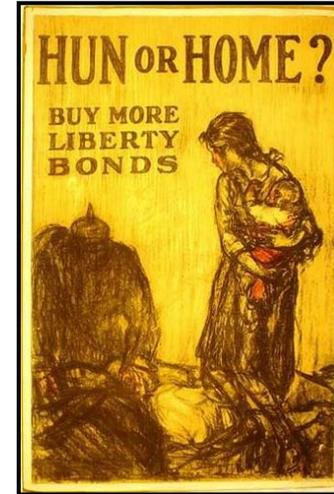
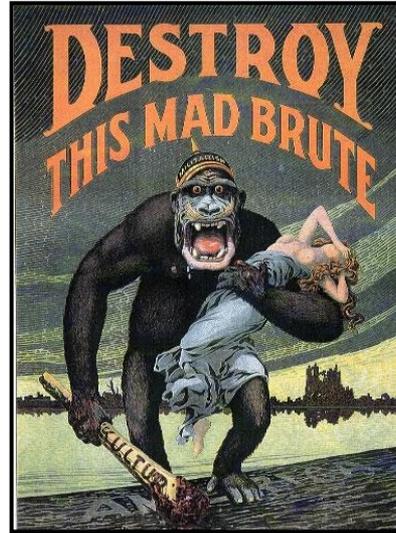
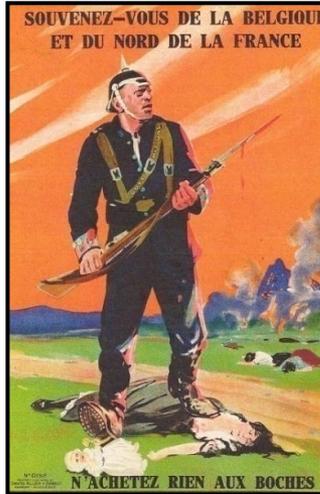
This presentation looks back over the past hundred years,
examining the development of militarism
and its impact on young people's lives.

The Beginning: World War I



World War I was a total war. Everyone was involved.

War filled children's lives, occupying their waking hours and perhaps their dreams.



Children were told:

This war is necessary.

The enemy are crazy, dangerous people.

If we don't fight, they ("the Hun") will destroy us.



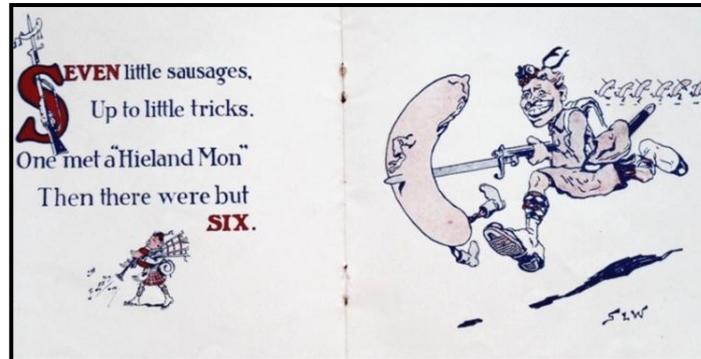
This Is A Lit-tle Girl.
She Sings And Dan-ces.
Why Does She Sing And
Dance?
Be-cause She Lives In
Am-er-i-ca And Has A
Moth-er And A Nice Warm
House And Nice Warm
Clothes And Plen-ty To Eat
And Can Go To School And
Play Ring-A-Round-A-
Ros-y And Pick But-ter-cups
And Have Birth-day Par-ties
And Ev-e-ry-Thing.



This Is An Am-er-i-can
Sold-ier.
What Is He Fight-ing For?
He is Fight-ing For Liber-ty.
The Ger-man Sold-ier
Fights So That He Can
Re-main A Slave, The
Am-er-i-can Sold-ier Fights
So That He Can Re-main
Free.
And There is The
Dif-fer-ence In A Nut-shell.

Children were told:

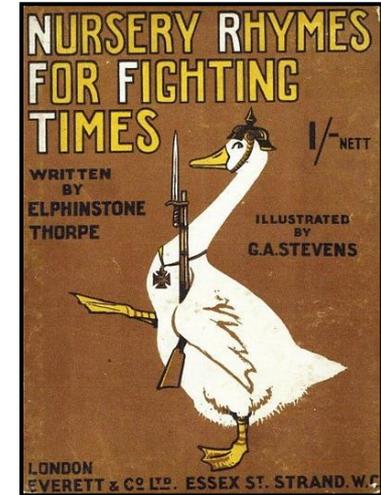
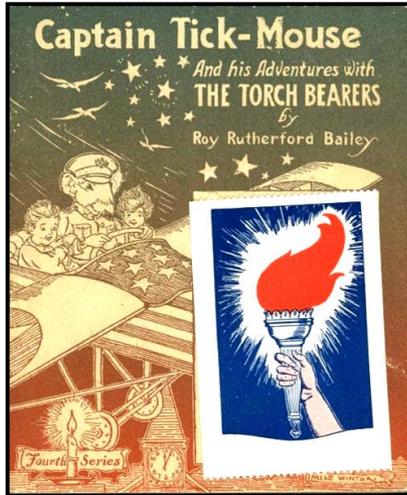
We are fighting to protect you and
our way of life.



How was war explained to children?

Children were told that war was a great adventure, a chance for men to show their strength and courage.

The Allied Forces were superior: defeating the enemy was child's play. Why even children could "lick" the Germans.



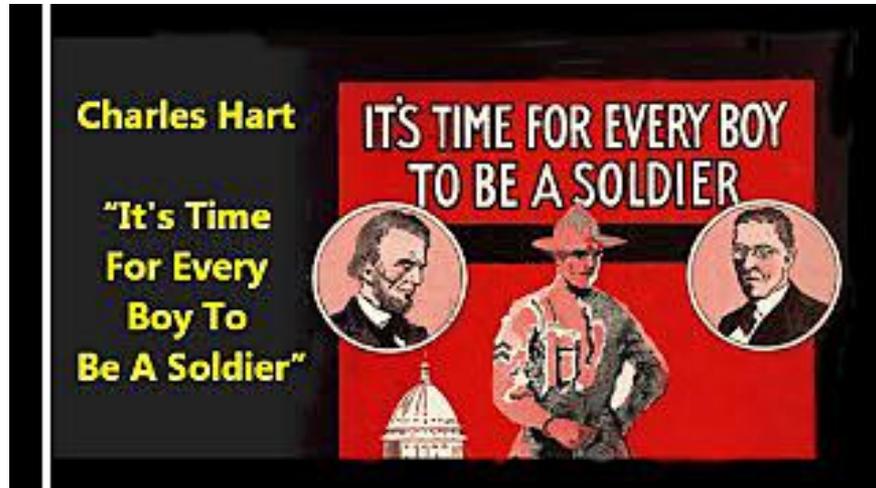
Children flew on bullets; ducks marched with guns.



" American Boys Attention! I'm ready for Action. I am Big Dick. I never miss fire. I shoot 36 wooden bullets as fast as you can turn the firing crank. I shoot true as your aim.

For indoor war play I have no equal and will give you and your friends exciting fun. If you are a real live American Boy you will want me."

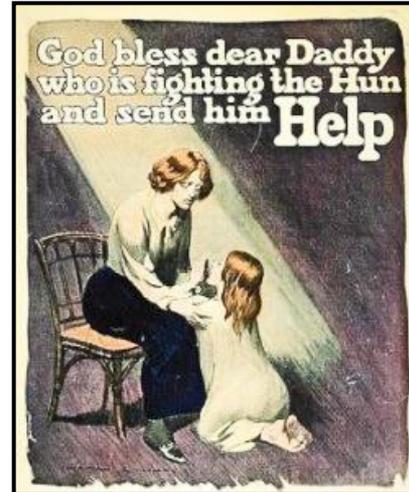
Children's toys, particularly toys for boys, celebrated military action. They often included miniature versions of weapons of war.



War required everyone to do their bit.

No "shirkers" or sissies were allowed.

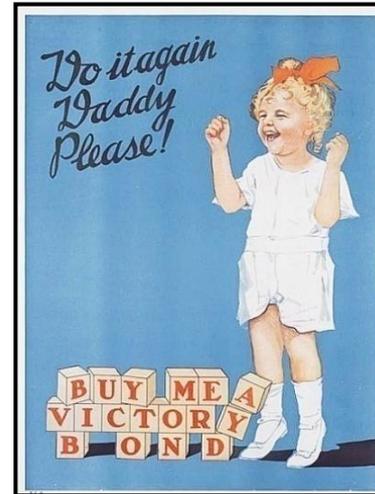
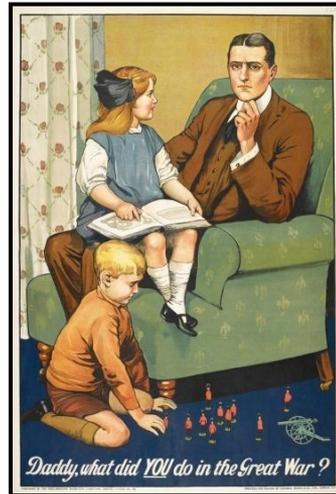
Children were expected to step up and work hard to ensure victory.



Jobs For Children: Maintaining the Home Front

The war was fought on two levels: the battlefield and the home front.

Children's role was to maintain the home front alongside their mothers. Boys had a special role in looking after their mothers.



What did boys and girls do?

They helped raise support for the war effort.

In the war's early days fundraising and recruitment were easy. But as the war continued and injuries were reported, men were less enthusiastic about joining up and funds were harder to secure.

Children were an important resource for this work. They were featured in campaigns which called on adults to meet their obligations. These ads usually showed connections between children and war activities. For example, in these pictures the boy is playing with his toy soldiers and the girl is asking her dad to buy her a victory bond.

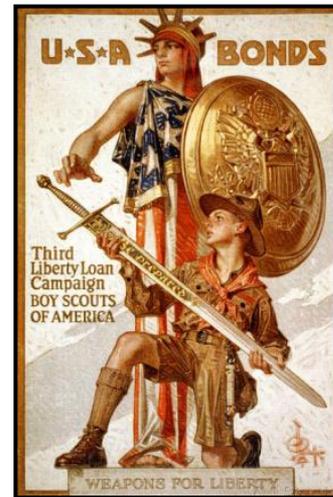
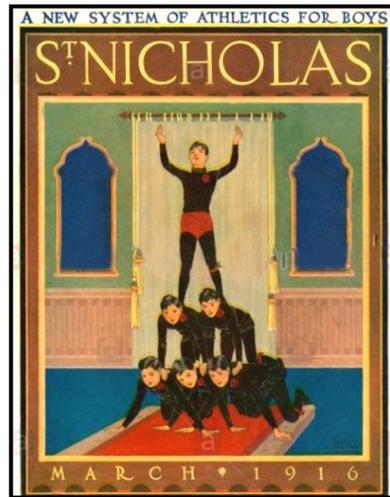


How did they help the fighting men?

They worked in gardens and conserved food.

Children's work in food production and conservation was seen as an important part of the war effort.

Connections to the war were made through military uniforms for volunteers and salutes by young children at the breakfast table. After SOS volunteers had completed their work they were "honourably discharged".



What special roles did boys have?

Preparing to be future soldiers

"Boy Scouts are not merely to give you fun and adventure but that you will be fitting yourself to help your country and to be of service to other people...That is what the best men are out to do."

Robert Baden-Powell, Founder of the Boy Scouts Movement

"One thing each of you must do, and that is to keep physically fit. Make ready for the day when your country may need you on the firing line."

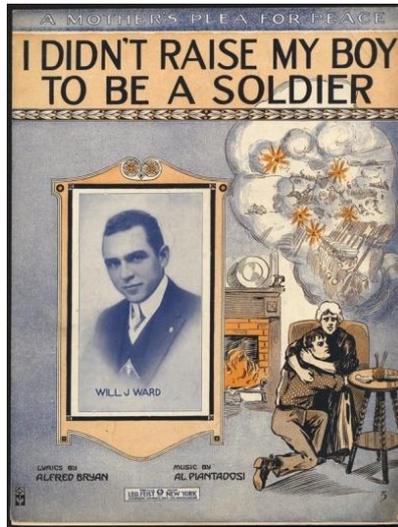
St. Nicholas Magazine



**How about girls?
They knit socks.**

Girls had several roles as helpmates. They wrote letters, wrapped bandages and raised funds.

Knitting socks was a very popular activity for girls and women during the war. In Australia 1.3 million pairs of socks were sent overseas to the troops. These wool socks were much needed by men suffering in the cold, wet trenches in northern Europe.



Was the war worth it?

This question began to be asked as the war wore on. Thousands of young men were dying horrible deaths from trench warfare. Others came home both physically and emotionally damaged.

The video below includes *And the Band Played Waltzing Matilda* accompanied by images of trench warfare.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VktJNNKm3B0>



1918: World War I ends.

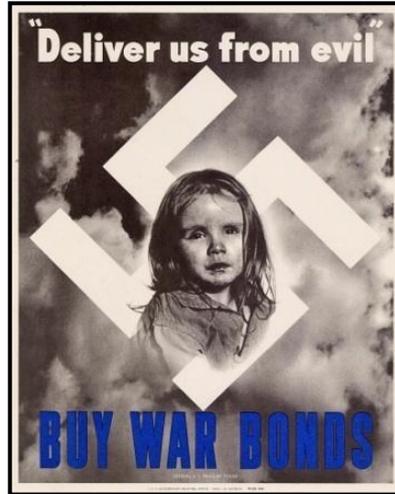
World War II: 1939 – 1945



This was the “The Good War”. The Allied Forces (which included Canada) were fighting against the evils of Hitler and Nazi Germany.

WWII brought war close to children’s lives. In many countries the home and battlefield were the same place. British cities were bombed; Jewish children were sent to concentration camps.

All Europe was under siege.



Children: Forces for Good or Evil?

Allied Forces' World War II propaganda emphasized the danger Nazi Germany posed to children's "hearts and minds". Advertisements spoke of the threat of Nazi brainwashing, that children might pass over to the "dark side".

This was a new view. Prior to this children were usually portrayed as innocents.



Youth Roles in WWII

As in WWI, young people were eager to be part of the war effort.

In the Allied countries (those against Germany) youth involvement was officially limited to the civilian world.

In Nazi Germany, however, young people were an important part of Hitler's plans for world domination.



Adolf Hitler's Vision

Adolf Hitler wanted to restore Germany to its former glory.

Youth, the next generation, were central to Hitler's plans for German expansion and military conquests. This required youth who were strong, fearless and committed to the establishment of a "master race".



Preparing Nazi Germany's Youth

"My program for educating youth is hard ... weakness must be hammered away. In my castles of the Teutonic Order, a new youth will grow up, before which the world will tremble.

I want a brutal, domineering, fearless and cruel youth. Youth must be all that. It must bear pain. There must be nothing weak and gentle about it. The free, splendid beast of prey must once again flash from its eyes...That is how I will create the New Order."

Adolf Hitler



Education of Boys and Girls in Nazi Germany

The education of children in Nazi Germany included physical training and indoctrination. All those over 10 years of age were expected to join *Hitler Jugend* (Hitler Youth). In 1936, it had four million members.

Boys' training was oriented to military service. For girls, training was centred on their future functions as mothers.

By the end of the war German male youth were often on the front lines, fighting with and against adults. Girls were also there, providing support for injured soldiers.

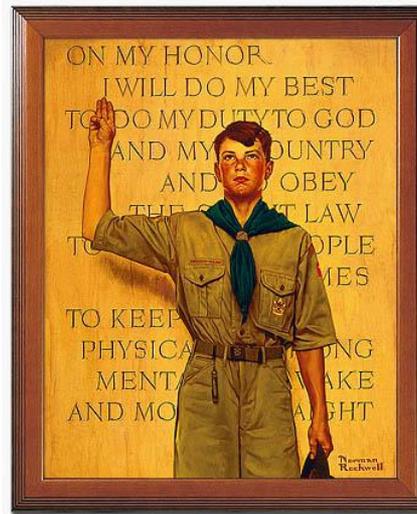


Allied Forces: If you want peace, prepare for war

When World War II broke out, American authorities claimed that the peace movement were one of the causes of WWII:

"I wish you to know that maybe if you and a lot of others like you had not preached pacifist doctrines for so many years at the high school, there might not have been a war and we might have had a trained army and an adequate air force."

Letter from Army officer to teacher



“Be Prepared”: The Boy Scouts

The Boy Scout Movement was first established by Robert Baden-Powell in 1908. Almost immediately it became popular. By World War II 30% of America’s boys had signed up. With its motto “Be prepared” the Boy Scouts trained youth in fitness, responsible citizenship and character development.

In 1942 President Roosevelt made the Boy Scouts “Official Dispatch Bearers” for the Office of War Information (OWI).



Home Front Action

As in WWI, young people were called into action on the Home Front. They provided many of the same services as in WWI.

However, the way that these jobs were portrayed was different, as shown on the next pages.



World War I



World War II



World War I



World War II



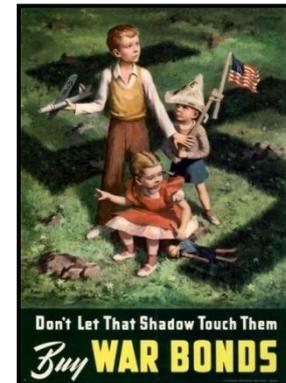
World War I



World War II



World War I



World War II



Donald Duck Fights the Bad Guys

Film was a new and important tool for WWII propaganda. Walt Disney produced cartoons in which Donald Duck or Mickey Mouse took on military duties. These cartoons provided children with information on Nazi evil and the importance of the war effort. The value of military discipline was a core message.

To access videos click on links below:

Commando Duck (7 mins):

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IWaf3dQxAfQ>

Donald Duck in the Army: (41 mins):

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aa3DDPrWw8I>

Donald Duck Home Defence (7 mins):

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pjZcKsRdEOA>

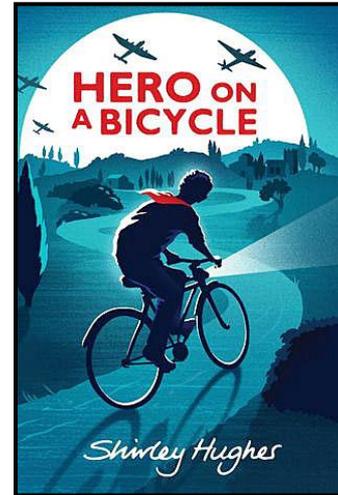
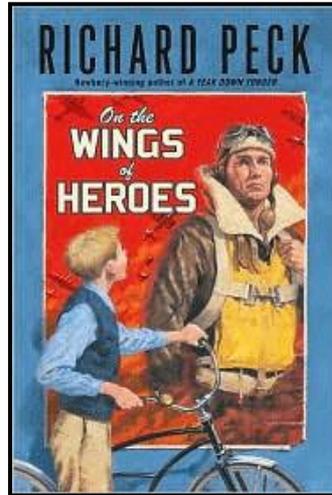
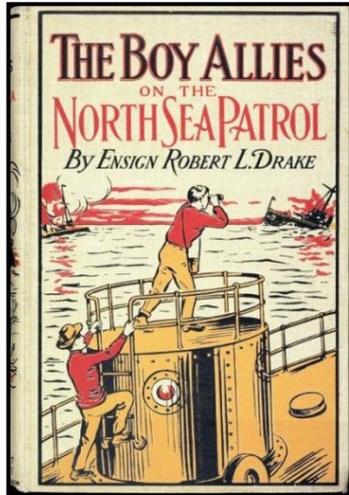
Donald Duck der Nazi (7 mins):

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kzH1iaKVsbM>



An important message was that it was "Us against them".

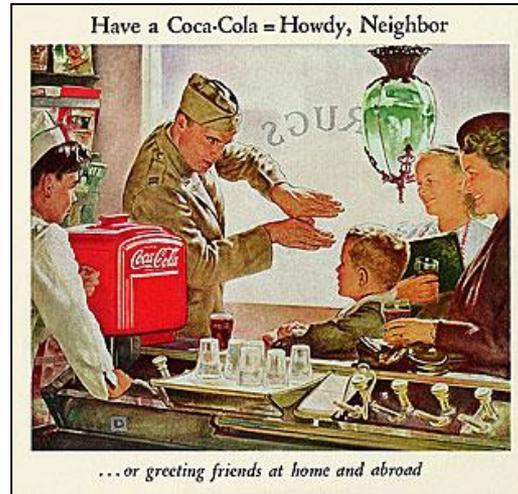
But there were also protests against this attitude, as shown in this Dr. Seuss cartoon.



Heroes on Bicycles

WWII children's books were filled with stories of the danger and thrills of war. Youth were up to the challenge.

Girls and boys were portrayed as spies, messengers and super sleuths who outfoxed the enemy and provided adult soldiers with valuable assistance. In many stories youth were the heroes who saved the day.

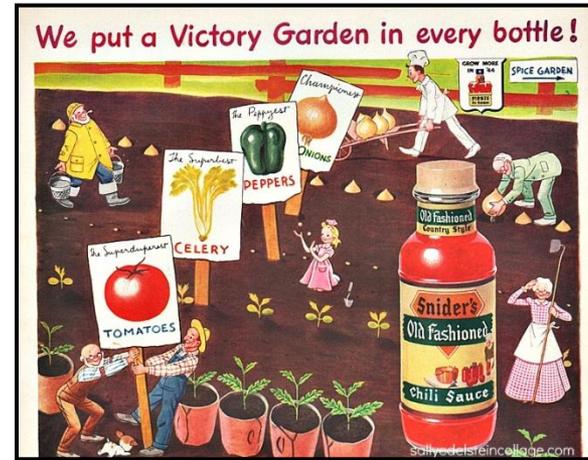
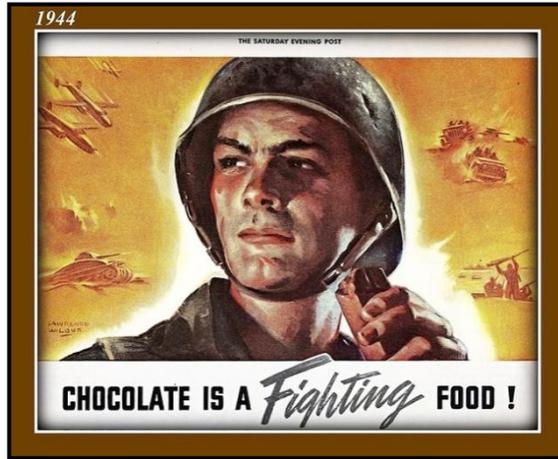


Winning the War – with a Coke

Magazines were very popular and with this came advertisements. These ads often made links, sometimes ridiculous ones, between their products and the war effort.

Coca Cola marketed coke as a patriotic drink. In many advertisements boys were shown listening in awed respect to war stories.

The next page shows some popular advertisements during this era.



WORLD WAR II VICTORY

World War II ends in 1945.

V Day, May 8, 1945, marked the formal surrender of Nazi Germany to the Allied forces.

On August 14, 1945, Japan surrendered to the Allies. This occurred after the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

The fear of the power of the atomic bomb, combined with the developing the Cold War tensions between the United States and the Soviet Union, brought the possibility of war closer to home and children's lives.



Cold War Era: 1947 – 1991

This was a war with a difference. No shots were exchanged. But the threat of mutual annihilation hung in the air. Both sides possessed massive arsenals of atomic and nuclear weapons and thus the power to destroy the other.

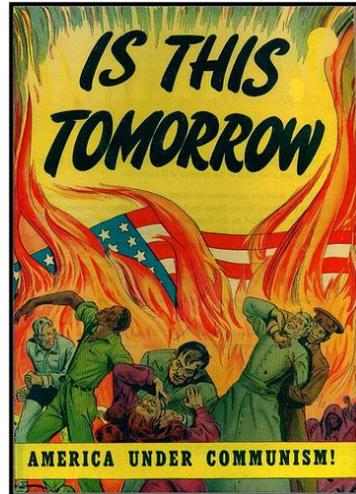
The Cold War was a contest between two political and economic systems: capitalism and communism. Both were fighting for world supremacy. The education and indoctrination of children were important aspects of this contest.



The Berlin Wall

The Berlin Wall was constructed in 1961 by the East German forces to stop the flood of refugees to the West. It became an important symbol of the Cold War and the suppression of freedom.

The Berlin Wall was demolished in 1989.



The Enemy is at the Gate!

The 1950s were supposed to be a happy time. But in the West people lived with the fear of the "Red Menace" and the possibility of a nuclear war.

How to protect children from these threats? Military authorities called for two main strategies: protection and education.



Strategy #1: Protection: Duck and Cover

In the 1950s Duck and Cover drills were a regular part of children's school days.

Authorities maintained that, with proper measures, people could be protected from the light, heat, glass explosions and radiation of a nuclear explosion.

Bert the Turtle provided guidance on protection techniques as shown on his video and song.

To view the Duck and Cover 1951 Civil Defence Song click this link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IKqXu-5jw60>



Protect Yourself: Fallout Shelters

With government encouragement, families built fallout shelters in their backyards. This was to protect children and their parents in the event of a nuclear explosion.

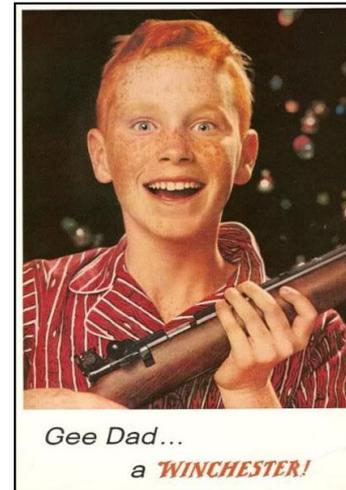
Thousands of these shelters were built, making a tight link between the home and military strategies. Some have compared these shelters to WWI trenches.



Strategy #2: Education in the American Way of Life

The American way of life was pictured as a healthy, happy way of life, one in great contrast to life in the Soviet Union. TV sitcoms portrayed families with caring mothers, happy dads and mischievous children, all protected from the evils of the communist menace.

Politics had no place in this world. Political decisions were the job of experts who took care of all who behaved properly.



Gun Culture

Post-war America was a time to buy a car and start the perfect family. Advertisers portrayed gun ownership for boys as an important part of that new life.

The pleasure of having a gun as well as the protection it provided were central messages in these ads. In a 1950s ad for a Winchester 22 rifle, fathers were asked, "Remember when you lifted your first Winchester out of the box and put it together with excited, hurrying hands?"

Gun ownership continues to be a strong tradition in the United States. More than 30% of Americans say they or someone in their household owns a gun.



Life in the Soviet Union Under Josef Stalin:

**"Thank You, Dear Comrade Stalin
for a Happy Childhood!"**

In the Soviet Union children were trained as loyal socialists of the state and the future. Joseph Stalin was portrayed as the 'little father' raising the next generation of new Soviet men and women.



Long Live Young Pioneers

Children in the Soviet Union held a special place in the Communist Party of the 1950s. They represented the innocence of youth and the promise of the socialist future. They were treated well, so long as they conformed to expectations. Youth organizations such as the Young Pioneers played an important role in children's education.

Communist education compared "true" Communist children and everyone else. Soviet children were taught to prioritize Communism above all; the family was seen as second in importance.



Stalin's Gulag: Forced Labour Camps

Millions of Russians were sent to forced labour camps for real or perceived threats to Stalin's rule. Children usually went with them. Life in these camps was terrible.

Children over 12 years could be sentenced as adults and interned in the Gulags. This law was used to round up children whose parents had already been arrested for political crimes. Even young children were considered a threat.

By some estimates, Stalin was responsible for the deaths of 20 million people.



Youth Anti-War Movement

In the 1960s a massive youth movement protested against the Vietnam War but also the military system.

This movement had an enormous impact, forcing people to confront issues that they had ignored or left to authorities.

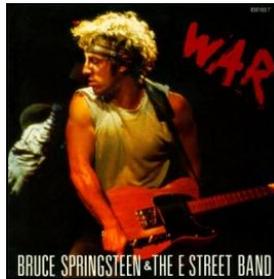
Protest Music

Popular music was an important part of youth protest against the military mindset and the distrust between the East and West. Many questioned the use of violence to solve the world's problems. Click the links under the images to view these videos.



Eve of Destruction

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ntLsElbW9Xo>



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mn91L9goKfQ>



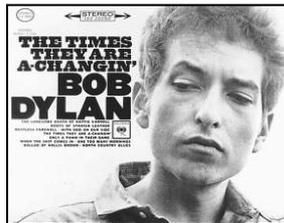
We didn't start the fire

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eFTLKWw542g>



Universal Soldier

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VGWsGyNsw00>



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e7qQ6_RV4VQ



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BGLGzRXY5Bw>



David Bowie & The Berlin Concert of 1987

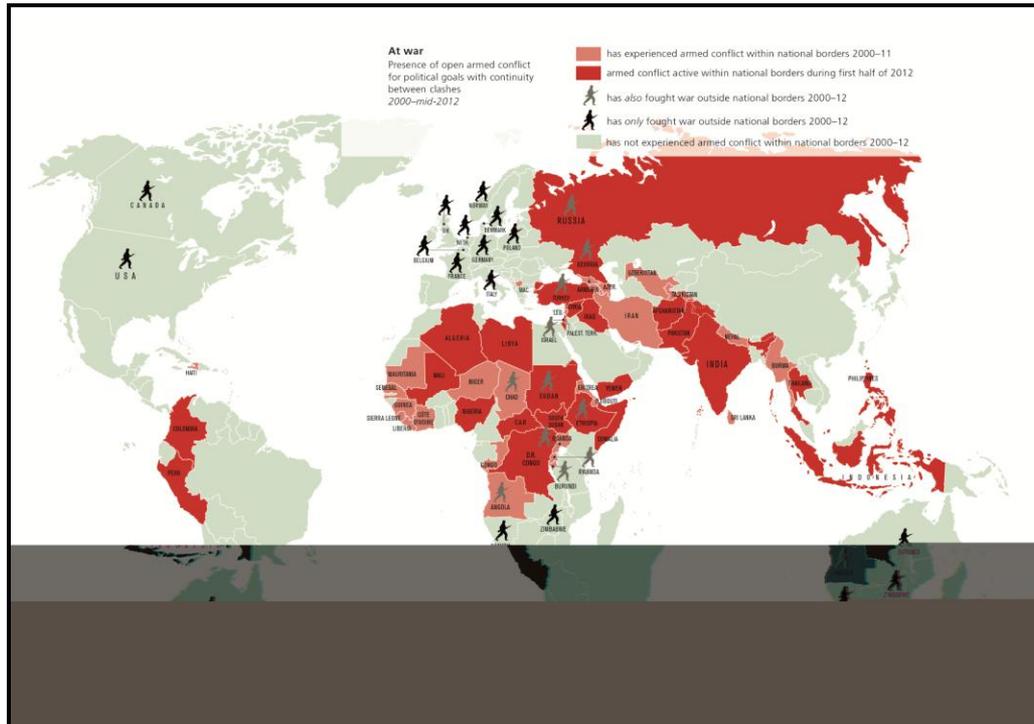
David Bowie sang *Heroes*, his song that honours youth who lost their lives trying to scale the Berlin wall.

"I can remember
Standing by the wall
And the guns shot above our heads
And we kissed, as though nothing could fall".

The Berlin Wall was destroyed in 1989, signalling the end of the Cold War.



Our World Today: The Issues



War is Everywhere

Since World War II there have been 248 armed conflicts in 153 countries. This chart shows the wars since 2000.



The majority of today's wars are civil wars

Today's wars are fought in the streets, schools and play areas where children come and go each day.

In 2015 it was estimated that 30 million children were displaced by war.



The War At Home: Fighting Terrorism

Since the bombing of the World Trade Centre in 2001, the reality and threat of terrorist attacks are major fears.

Security measures are a way of life. Male youth, particularly Muslims, are often treated with suspicion.



Geared For War

Over 21 million people are serving in the world's armed forces.

- China has the world's largest: 2.4 million.
- The United States is second with 1.4 million.



Child Soldiers

It is estimated that there are over 250,000 children serving in armed groups.

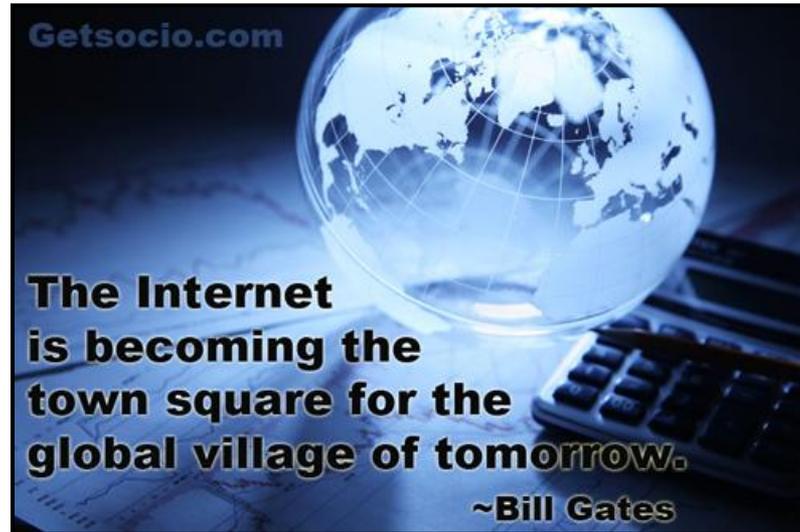
This includes girls and boys, with some under 10 years of age.

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The World's Military: Big Business

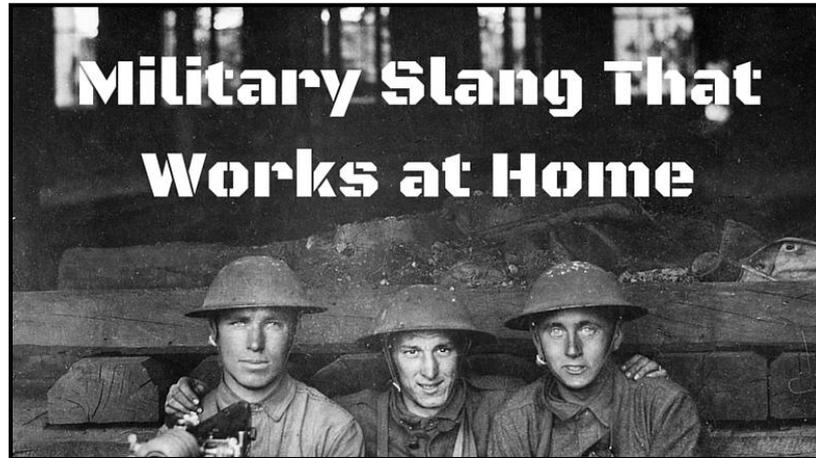
The United States accounts for 40% of the world's total military spending.



The Merging of Worlds

Young people have easy access to events around the world, including wars and terrorist acts.

You can be walking down a street in Toronto while hearing about attacks in Syria.



Our language is filled with military expressions

Meltdown

Blockbuster

Critical mass

Facing the music

A loose canon

Your name is mud

Deadline

Fallout



**Military clothing is not just for war.
It is a fashion statement.**



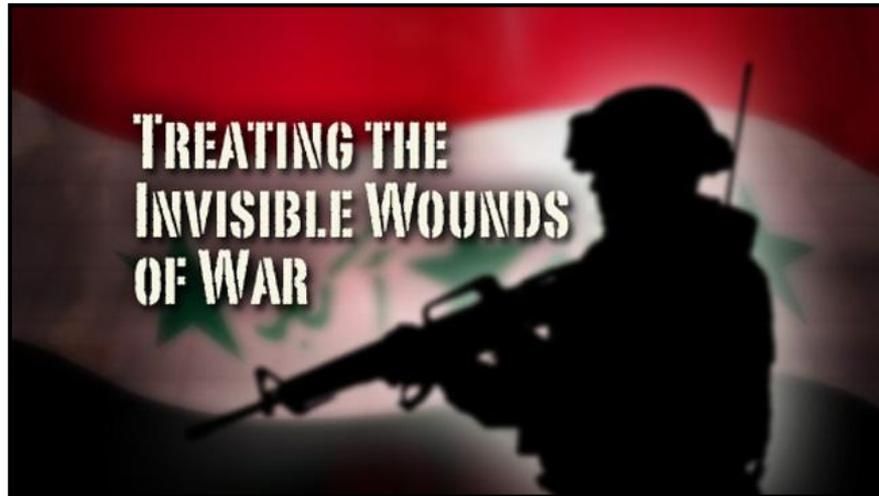
Drones & Modern War Technology

Drones (“unmanned vehicles”) are increasingly used in modern warfare for everything from intelligence surveillance to targeted bombings.

Drones change the rules of the game. It is now possible for a soldier sitting in the United States to direct and detonate a weapon thousands of miles away.



Asking Questions



What about the impact of war on soldiers?

In World War I thousands of soldiers returned home, broken in their bodies and minds. But they were not allowed to openly speak about this pain.

Today, things are beginning to change. Sons and daughters of military personnel have an important voice in these discussions.

Asking Questions/Poking Fun At the Military Approach



James Oliver: Drones

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K4NRJoCNHIs>



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ToKcmnrE5oY&list=RDTokcmnrE5oY#t=0>



**Monty Python:
Marching**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=imhrDrE4-mI>



The Nuclear Button

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IKQIQIQ6_pk

Click on the links to view these comedy clips.



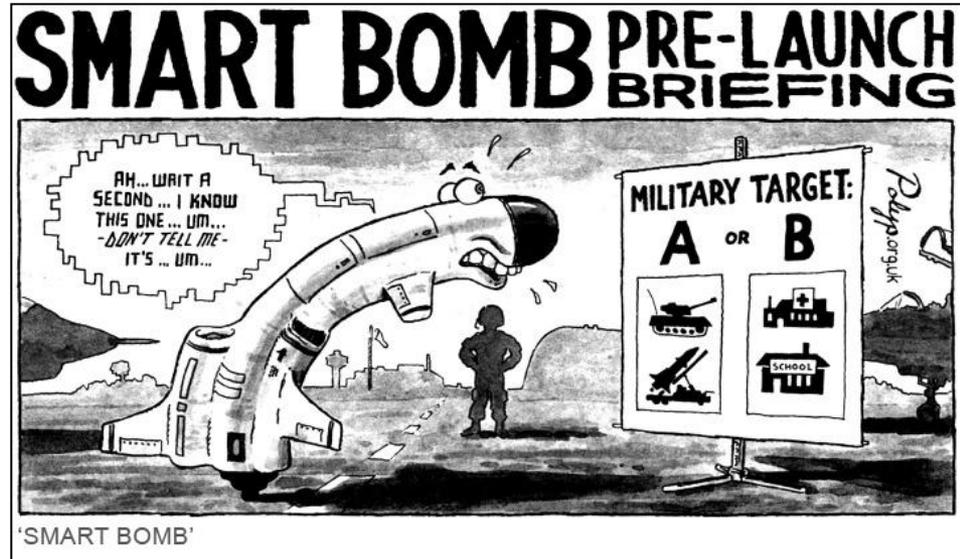
Is there such a thing as an ethical war?

PLEASE, PLEASE, I DONT WANT TO GO TO IRAQ !!!

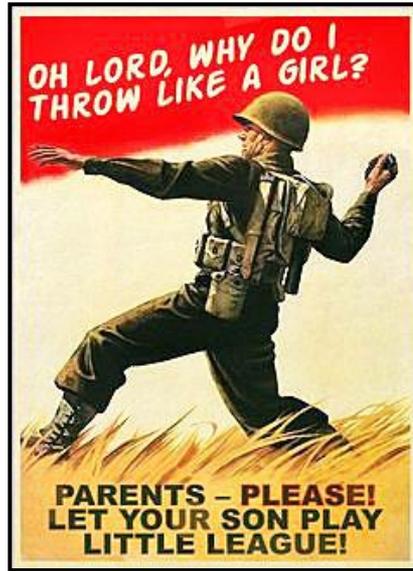


911REVIEW.ORG/HUMOR

Should we just accept military authority, as youth were expected to do in the past?



Is dependence on war technology a good strategy for peace?



**Is a military approach
the only solution to the
world's problems?**



**How can young people be
a voice for peace?**