

National History Day Topic: The Role of Political Cartoons in Challenging Propaganda and Highlighting Controversial Issues.

Developed by: Debbie Domingues-Murphy

Date: Nov. 6, 2013

Primary Source #1



Image Title: The Bostonian's paying the excise-man, or tarring & feathering
Persistent URL: <http://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/2004673302/>

Introduction:


TOPIC: The role of political cartoons in challenging propaganda and highlighting controversial issues.

The first amendment is held as a sacred right that many in other countries do not enjoy. Political cartoons have a storied history going back to the founding of our country to challenge controversial government policies. This image shows American colonists tarring and feathering a tax man. Later, the newly founded U.S. Government would deploy Federal troops to Western Pennsylvania when a tax man is tarred and feathered during the Whiskey Rebellion. Given the public forum most political cartoonists enjoy, it could be argued that they have a responsibility to champion unpopular or unknown issues.

Guiding Historical Question

How have political cartoons and illustrations supported controversial issues and challenged government propaganda?

Additional Primary Sources

Thumbnail Image	Title Date Collection	Persistent URL
	<p>Title: Famous Whiskey Insurrection in Pennsylvania Date Created/Published: 1794. Summary: Large mob with tarred-and-feathered tax collector riding on rail. 1794. Collections: Miscellaneous Items in High Demand Note – Image is copyright protected but can be used for educational purposes. Only the thumbnail may be published on websites. You may link to a larger image for use in classroom at the New York Public Library. http://digitalgallery.nypl.org/nypldigital/dgkeysearchdetail.cfm?trg=1&strucID=701641&imageid=808857&total=1&e=w</p>	<p>http://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/2002697745/</p>



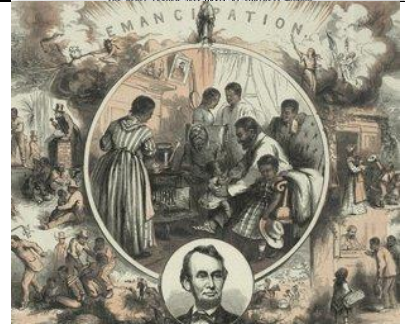
Title: Road to Philadelphia
Date Created/Published: Around 1830 CE - 1831 CE
Summary: This circa 1830 print by Edward Williams Clay (1799–1857) caricatures the pretentiousness and prejudice of early 19th-century Philadelphia Quakers toward people they regarded as their social inferiors, but it also mocks those seeking to imitate the Quaker elite.
Collections: Philadelphia on Stone
 The Library Company of Philadelphia

<http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.wdl/ppl.9258>



Title: Union soldiers in Andersonville prison / The rebel leader, Jeff Davis, at Fortress Monroe / Th. Nast.
Creator(s): [Nast, Thomas, 1840-1902.](#)
Date Created/Published: Philadelphia: Published by King & Baird, Printers, 1865.
Collections: [Cartoon Prints, American Civil War](#)

<http://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/2008661832/>



Title: Emancipation
Date Created/Published: 1865
Summary: This engraving by the American political cartoonist Thomas Nast (1840–1902) celebrates the emancipation of Southern slaves with the end of the Civil War. Nast paints an optimistic picture of the future of free blacks in the United States.
Collections: LOC
[Cartoon Prints, American Popular Graphic Arts](#)

<http://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/2004665360/>

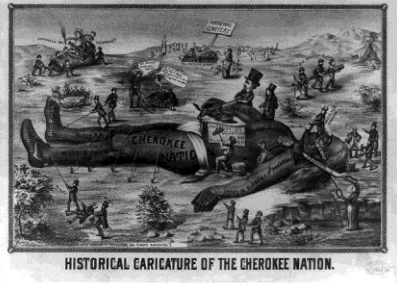


Title: Democratic reformers in search of a head
Creator(s): [Currier & Ives.](#),
Date Created/Published: New York: Published by Currier & Ives, c1876.

Summary: A mild parody on the strife and corruption within the New York Democratic party. In 1876 Tammany leader "Honest John" Kelly used his power over rank-and-file Democrats to oppose New York governor Samuel Tilden's bid for the party's presidential nomination at its national convention in St. Louis.

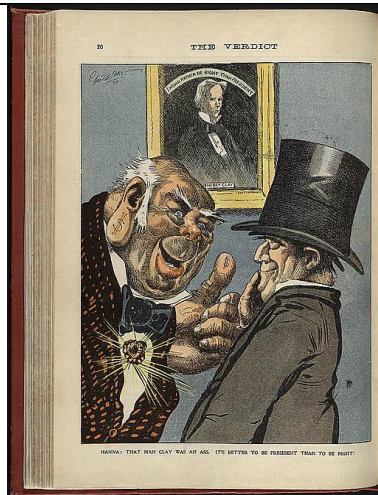
Collections:
[Cartoon Prints, American Popular Graphic Arts](#)

<http://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/91795207/>



Title: Historical caricature of the Cherokee nation
Date Created/Published: 1886.
Collections:
[Cartoon Prints, American](#)

<http://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/2008661841/>



Title: "That man Clay was an ass. It's better to be President than to be right!",
Creator(s): George Luks
Date Created/Published: lithograph, 1899
 Published in The Verdict, March 13, 1899

Summary: Plays on Henry Clay's old adage that "it is better to be right than president" (through several unsuccessful election campaigns, Clay may have been right, but he was never president). Luks portrays the infamous Republican Party boss "Dollar" Mark Hanna sneering to McKinley, "That Man Clay Was an Ass. It's Better to be President than to be Right!"

Collections:
 Prints and Photographs Division
 Note – Image is copyright protected but can be used for educational purposes. Only the thumbnail may be published on websites. Link to larger image for use in classroom
<http://www.loc.gov/rr/print/swann/craws/images/01660r.jpg>

<http://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/95522843/>

Secondary Sources

The Art of Controversy: Political Cartoons and Their Enduring Power
by Victor S Navasky

Tom Nast: The Father of Modern Political Cartoons
By Fiona Deans Halloran

Graphic Organizers:

Use Library of Congress Primary Source Analysis Tool to begin the exploration of the topic then advance to the use of Padlet with SCIM-C for deeper understanding.