

Legacy of the Dirty War: Political Cartoon Study of Pope Francis

In 2013, Pope Francis, the former Jorge Mario Bergoglio, archbishop of Buenos Aires, began his papacy under the dark cloud of the Dirty War. Questions arose about the archbishop not doing all he could to help kidnapped Jesuit priests. What was the role of the church during this Process of National Reorganization? Was the clergy passive because of close ties between the church and the military? In this activity, artist Milt Priggee illustrates how we can use political cartoons to learn about the past.

Objectives

Students will:

- study techniques political cartoonists use to express their most important social and political views
- analyze a political cartoon featuring Pope Francis and the shadow of the Dirty War
- research articles that support Priggee's point of view
- research articles that discuss the opposing point of view
- create his/her own political cartoon about the Dirty War

Materials

- A. Anderson, Jon Lee. *Pope Francis and the Dirty War*. 14 Mar 2013.
<http://www.newyorker.com/news/daily-comment/pope-francis-and-the-dirty-war>.
- B. *It's No Laughing Matter*. Library of Congress.
<http://www.loc.gov/teachers/classroommaterials/presentationsandactivities/activities/political-cartoon/>.
- C. Resources for teaching with political cartoons
 - a. Kirchgassner, Stephanie and Uki Goñi. "Pope's South American tour recalls a divided church – and a dirty war." *The Guardian*. 8 July 2015
<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/jul/08/pope-francis-south-america-argentina-dirty-war-dictatorship>
 - b. *Teaching with Primary Sources. Teacher's Guides and Analysis Tool*. Library of Congress.
[Http://www.loc.gov/teachers/usingprimarysources/guides.html](http://www.loc.gov/teachers/usingprimarysources/guides.html)Cartoon Analysis Guide.
<http://www.loc.gov/teachers/classroommaterials/presentationsandactivities/activities/political-cartoon/>.
 - c. Priggee, Milt. Editorial Cartoonist, *The Seattle Times*. <http://miltpriggee.com>
- D. Romero, Simon and William Neuman. *Starting a Papacy, Amid Echoes of a 'Dirty War'*. 17 Mar. 2013.
http://www.nytimes.com/2013/03/18/world/americas/francis-begins-reign-as-pope-amid-echoes-of-argentinias-dirty-war.html?pagewanted=all&_r=0

Instructions

Step 1

Review the events of the Dirty War and its legacy with students.

Step 2

Initiate a discussion about political cartoons, where to locate them, their purpose etc. Use the Cartoon Analysis Guide to review techniques used by political cartoonist to persuade the reader.

Step 3

Direct students to analyze Milt Priggee's political cartoon and complete the organizer.

Cartoonists' Persuasive Techniques

Symbolism	<p>Cartoonists use simple objects, or symbols, to stand for larger concepts or ideas.</p> <p>After you identify the symbols in a cartoon, think about what the cartoonist means each symbol to stand for.</p>
Exaggeration	<p>Sometimes cartoonists overdo, or exaggerate, the physical characteristics of people or things in order to make a point.</p> <p>When you study a cartoon, look for any characteristics that seem overdone or overblown. (Facial characteristics and clothing are some of the most commonly exaggerated characteristics.) Then, try to decide what point the cartoonist was trying to make by exaggerating them.</p>
Labeling	<p>Cartoonists often label objects or people to make it clear exactly what they stand for.</p> <p>Watch out for the different labels that appear in a cartoon, and ask yourself why the cartoonist chose to label that particular person or object. Does the label make the meaning of the object clearer?</p>
Analogy	<p>An analogy is a comparison between two unlike things. By comparing a complex issue or situation with a more familiar one, cartoonists can help their readers see it in a different light.</p> <p>After you've studied a cartoon for a while, try to decide what the cartoon's main analogy is. What two situations does the cartoon compare? Once you understand the main analogy, decide if this comparison makes the cartoonist's point more clear to you.</p>
Irony	<p>Irony is the difference between the ways things are and the way things should be, or the way things are expected to be. Cartoonists often use irony to express their opinion on an issue.</p> <p>When you look at a cartoon, see if you can find any irony in the situation the cartoon depicts. If you can, think about what point the irony might be intended to emphasize. Does the irony help the cartoonist express his or her opinion more effectively?</p>

(Library of Congress, <http://www.loc.gov/teachers/classroommaterials/presentationsandactivities/activities/political-cartoon/cag.html>)

Unit 6 Memory is a Verb

Lesson III D Political Cartoon Study

Essential Questions

- *How can we use political cartoons to learn about the past?*
- *How do artists express their most important social and political views?*
- *How can art help us connect to the past?*
- *How does art both challenge and reflect cultural and historical perspectives?*
- *How can our history shape us in the present?*

A. Study the attached political cartoon by Milt Priggee and note your ideas in the spaces below.

1. What do you see in the picture at first glance? (1 min.)

5. What action is taking place in the cartoon?

2. What details do you notice? (2-3 min.) Who is the main figure in the drawing? What details indicate who this person is?

6. Identify the persuasive techniques used by artist Milt Priggee in this political cartoon. Review the Cartoonists' Persuasive Techniques sheet for descriptions about symbolism, exaggeration, labeling, analogy and irony.

3. What other object(s) appear in the picture?

7. What is the cartoonist's message?

4. What words appear in the cartoon? Do they help clarify the relationship of the two figures? Or, do they raise questions about the figures? Explain.

8. What questions do you have about the theme of this cartoon?

B. Search online for information about the cartoon theme and note your ideas below.

1. List the author, article title, source and date. Write notes about the most important ideas conveyed in the reading that pertain to the cartoon.

4. Locate an article of the opposing viewpoint. List the author, article title, source and date. Write notes about the most important ideas conveyed in the reading.

2. After reading the article, look at the cartoon again. Do you think Mild Priggee's cartoon is persuasive? Explain.

5. What persuasive cartoon techniques would you use to convey the message of this opposing viewpoint? Explain.



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Personal Political Cartoon

C. Create your own political cartoon that reflects what you have learned about the Dirty War.