The Changing Face of Women

Propaganda and Popular Opinion from WWII

Compare these two images from 1943 of a woman war worker. The one on the left was painted by Norman Rockwell and appeared on the cover of the popular weekly magazine *Saturday Evening Post*. Graphic artist J. Howard Miller for the Westinghouse Corporation produced the one on the right.





Rockwell's woman has a big, muscular body and a dirty face. She holds her rivet gun and her lunch box with the name *Rosie* in her lap. Her feet are resting on a copy of Hitler's *Mein Kampf*. The woman in Miller's image has fingernail polish, lipstick, rouge, plucked eyebrows and mascara. She is wearing a bandanna and a work shirt and her company's identification button.

Propaganda

Propaganda is the widespread, systematic promotion of particular ideas, doctrines, or practices. All governments used propaganda to educate, inspire, and encourage their citizens to support the war effort. The U.S. government produced posters, pamphlets, newsreels, radio shows, even comic books to rally the country's spirit and resolve.