

E-book Ciak-EU!

A.A. 2022-2023

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serie n.8

Media on the frontline: how wars shaped and transformed mass communication






LONDON, SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 1840

To the GOVERNORS of the ST. GEORGE'S and ST. JAMES'S DISPENSARY.
 My Lords, Ladies, and Gentlemen,
I BEG to thank you most sincerely for the honour you have this day conferred upon me in electing me as Surgeon to your valuable Institution.
 The very kind and cordial support I have received on the present occasion I shall long gratefully remember.
 It will be my earnest endeavour to prove my sense of the obligation, and my desire to promote the objects of the Charity by a zealous discharge of the duties of the office.
 I have the honour to remain, my Lords, Ladies and Gentlemen,
 With great respect, your obliged and faithful servant,
HENRY T. CHAPMAN.
 3, Argyll-street, Thursday, Nov. 19, 1840.

WANTED, a PERSON, either male or female, who understands painting in water colours. Apply to Mr. P. H. B. at No. 1, Argyll-street.

WANTED, a SET OF CHAMBERS, in the neighbourhood of Chancery-lane, Lincoln, or the Temple; consisting of four rooms. Apply to Mr. P. H. B. at No. 1, Argyll-street.

WANTED, a young man as JUNIOR and COLLECTOR. He will board and receive pocket-money for six months. Apply to Mr. P. H. B. at No. 1, Argyll-street.

WANTED, an active SERVANT for a family residing out of town. Apply to Mr. P. H. B. at No. 1, Argyll-street.



Photojournalism and Communications



William Howard Russell Irish reporter, Crimea correspondent for 'The Times'

Roger Fenton British photographer, noted as one of the first war photographers





THE
BRITISH EXPEDITION
TO THE
CRIMEA.

BY W. H. RUSSELL, LL.D.
THE "TIMES" SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.

A Revised Edition,
WITH NUMEROUS EMENDATIONS AND ADDITIONS.

Illustrated with Plans, Woodcuts, &c.

LONDON:
G. ROUTLEDGE & CO., FARRINGTON STREET.
NEW YORK: 18, BEEKMAN STREET.
1858.

[The Author reserves the right of translation.]

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WILL.

And ever weaker grows thro' acted crime,
Or seeming-genial venial fault,
Recurring and suggesting still!
He seems as one whose footsteps halt,
Toiling in immeasurable sand,
And o'er a weary sultry land,
Far beneath a blazing vault,
Sown in a wrinkle of the monstrous hill,
The city sparkles like a grain of salt.

THE

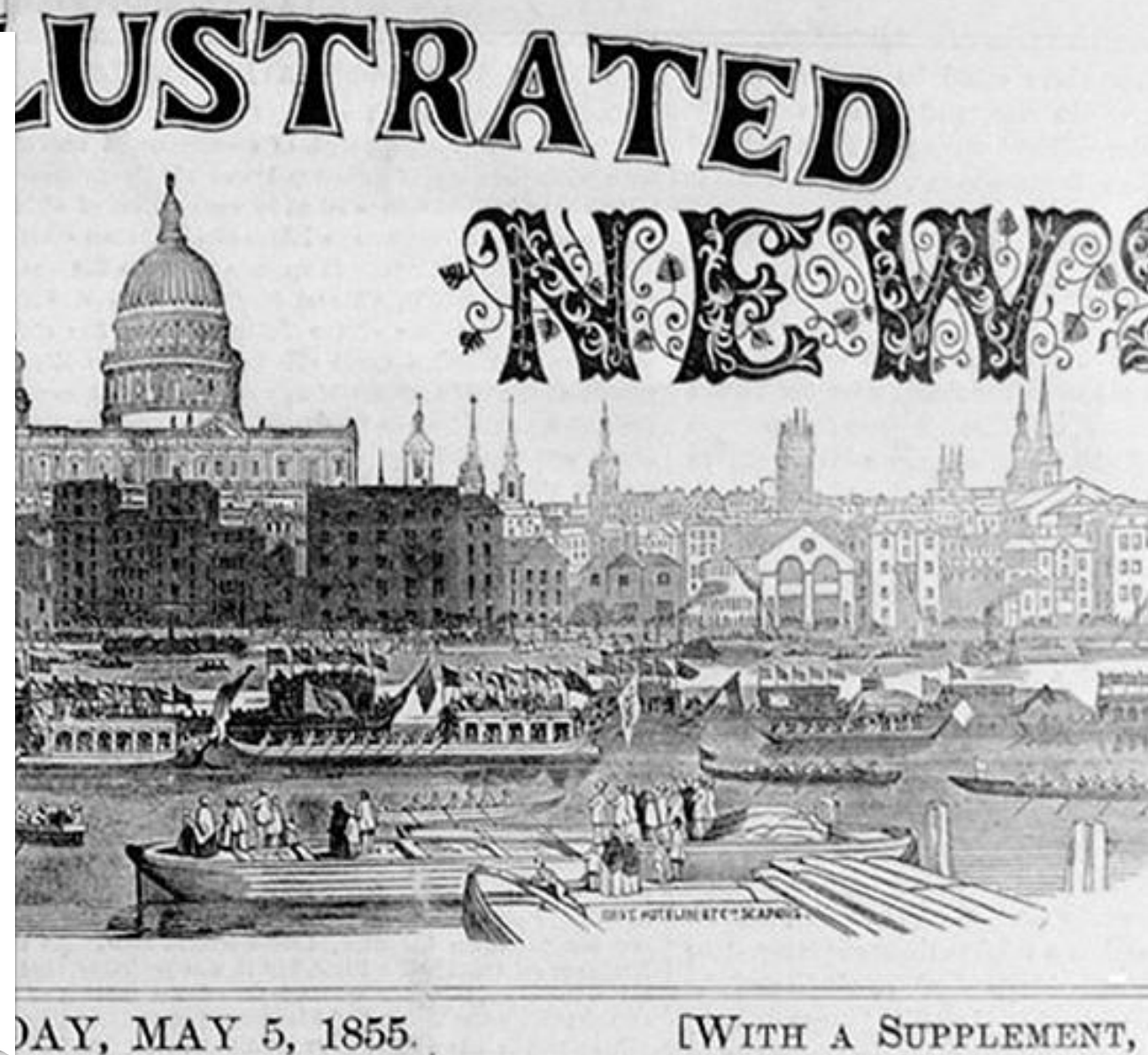
CHARGE OF THE LIGHT BRIGADE.

1.

HALF a league, half a league,
Half a league onward,
All in the valley of Death
Rode the six hundred.
"Charge," was the captain's cry;
Their's not to reason why,
Their's not to make reply,
Their's but to do and die,
Into the valley of Death
Rode the six hundred.

Illustrated newspapers

- 'The Illustrated London News' was the world's first illustrated newspaper
- The expansion of the British Empire meant that these illustrated newspapers were also read by soldiers deployed across the globe



No. 741.—VOL. XXVI.]

SATURDAY, MAY 5, 1855.

[WITH A SUPPLEMENT,

EXTENSION OF THE WAR.

THE rupture of the Conferences at Vienna has not taken the world

boat. How is it possible for any one to doubt, after this, that Russia wants Constantinople, and is determined to obtain it?

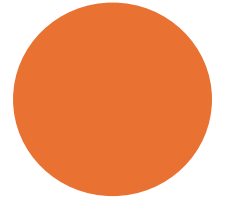
Austria, which long ago adhered to the Western alliance by the

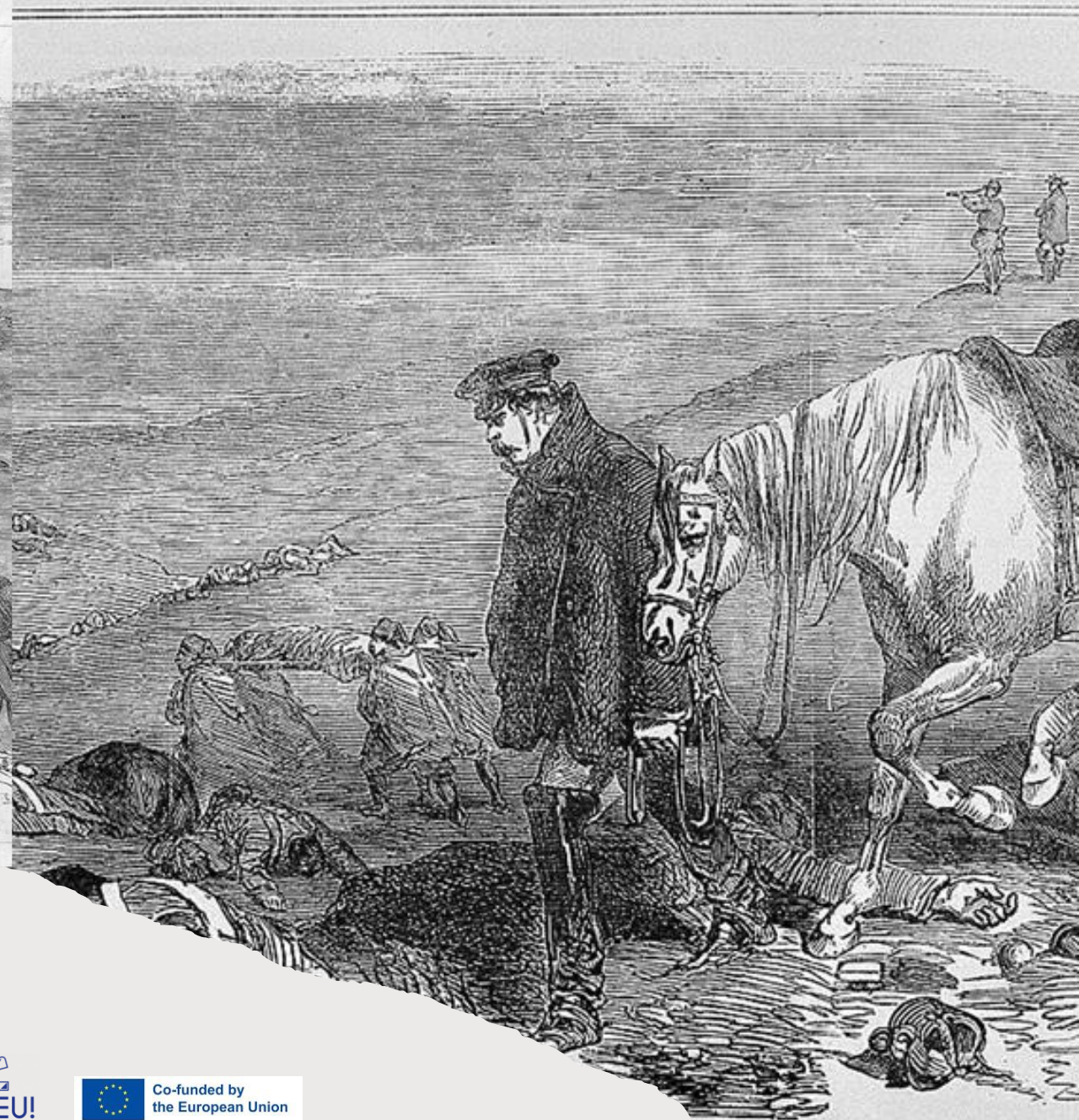
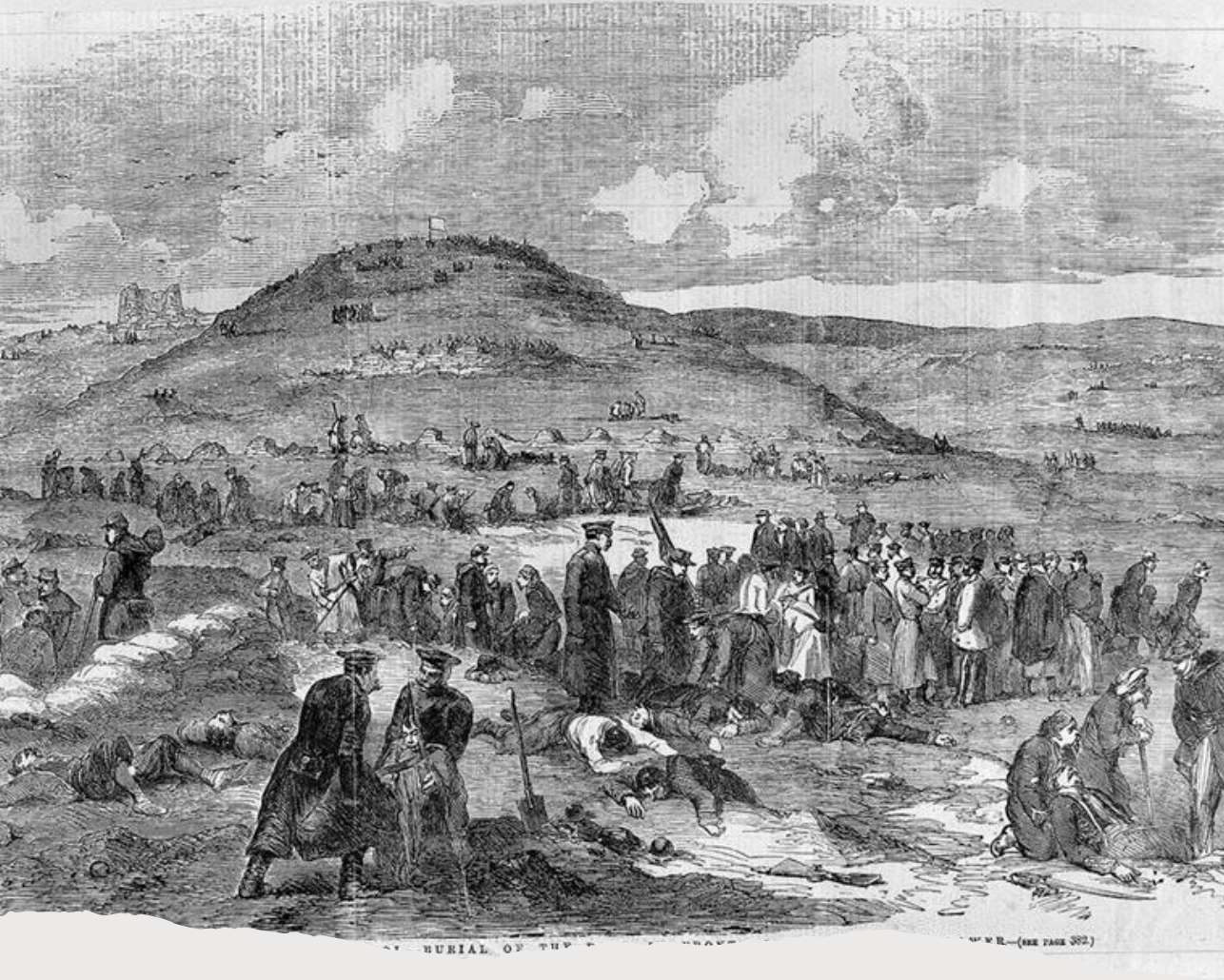


st... but to... form a... of life and... that... time... abstain from inflicting upon their foe will be

From fantasy to reality

- Before the outbreak of the Crimean War, the illustrated press employed artists, such as Gustave Doré
- Doré's drawings contrasted with the more realistic images submitted by the special correspondents from the battlefield





War illustrators

Beyond Crimea

- After the Crimean War, printing processes improved so the number of drawn illustrations in the illustrated press declined in favour of photographs
- By the outbreak of the **Boer War** (1899-1902), some illustrated papers used glossy, heavier paper, better suited to reproducing photography

The Boer War

- The bodies of dead British soldiers lay strewn on the ground following the Battle of Spion Kop in South Africa on 23 and 24 January 1900
- General Piet Cronje's 94-pounder Creusot 'Long Tom' gun fires at British forces during the siege of Mafeking which lasted from October 1899 to May 1900

War footage:

<https://youtu.be/D17UQ4BhkmQ?feature=shared>



The Changing Nature of War Reporting

- By the time the Crimean War ended in 1856, both the **technological advancements** in communication and the **work of correspondents** changed the way wars were reported
- Press as key actor in shaping public opinion
- Electric telegraph
- Railways

The telegraph...

- immediately became a vital tool for the transmission of news
- Western Union telegraph line:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iOICsjn1JjU>
- **Thomas Edison** patented a quadraplex telegraph system in 1874 that permitted the simultaneous transmission of two signals in each direction on a single line



...and the US Civil War

- telegraph as a military strategic means of communication
- General Sherman, *Memoirs*: “There was perfect concert of action between the armies in Virginia and Georgia in all 1864; hardly a day intervened when General Grant did not know the exact state of facts with me, more than fifteen hundred miles off, as the wires ran... In order to oversee the whole and be in close communication with all parts of the army, I had a space cleared on top of a hill and had the telegraph wires laid to it”





Cryptography

- Both the North and the South needed to use **cryptologic methods** to secure their communications.
- Aerial Telegraphy
- Signalmen
- Cipher disk
- Vigenere Square
- Civil War telegraph system:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iOICsn1JjU>

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z	A
C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z	A	B
D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z	A	B	C
E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z	A	B	C	D
F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z	A	B	C	D	E
G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z	A	B	C	D	E	F
H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
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K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J
L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K
M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L
N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M
O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N
P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O
Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P
R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q
S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R
T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S
U	V	W	X	Y	Z	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T
V	W	X	Y	Z	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U
W	X	Y	Z	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V
X	Y	Z	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W
Y	Z	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X
Z	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y

WW1

- For the first time, much of the world was using electricity, and this new source of power was utilized for communication in the form of telegraphs, telephones, signal lamps, and radio
- Non-electrical systems of communication were used alongside and sometime interchangeably with modern communication systems

The Zimmermann Telegram

<https://youtu.be/KKhgrCDkm0s?feature=shared>

CLASS OF SERVICE DESIRED

Fast Day Message	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Day Letter	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Night Message	<input type="checkbox"/>
Night Letter	<input type="checkbox"/>

Patrons should mark an X opposite the class of service desired; OTHERWISE THE TELEGRAM WILL BE TRANSMITTED AS A FAST DAY MESSAGE.

WESTERN UNION TELEGRAM

NEWCOMB CARLTON, PRESIDENT

Send the following telegram, subject to the terms on back hereof, which are hereby agreed to

GERMAN LEGATION
MEXICO CITY

via Galveston

JAN 19 1917

130	13042	13401	8501	115	3528	416	17214	6491	11310
18147	18222	21560	10247	11518	23677	13605	3494	14936	
98092	5905	11311	10392	10371	0302	21290	5161	39695	
23571	17504	11269	18276	18101	0317	0228	17694	4473	
22284	22200	19452	21589	67893	5569	13918	8958	12137	
1333	4725	4458	5905	17168	13851	4458	17149	14471	6706
13850	12224	6929	14991	7382	15857	67893	14218	36477	
5870	17553	67893	5870	5454	16102	15217	22801	17138	
21001	17388	7446	23638	18222	6719	14331	15021	23845	
3156	23552	22096	21604	4797	9497	22464	20855	4377	
23610	18140	22260	5905	13347	20420	39689	13732	20667	
6929	5275	18507	52262	1340	22049	13339	11265	22295	
10439	14814	4178	6992	8784	7632	7357	6926	52262	11267
21100	21272	9346	9559	22464	15874	18502	18500	15857	
2188	5376	7381	98092	16127	13486	9350	9220	76036	14219
5144	2831	17920	11347	17142	11264	7667	7762	15099	9110
10482	97556	3569	3670						

BEPNSTOPFF.

Charge German Embassy.

Telephone

- The first patent for the telephone was given to Alexander Graham Bell in 1876
- The U.S. Army Signal Corps constructed 2,000 miles of telegraph and telephone pole lines using 28,000 miles of wire
- despite the risk of interception the speed of telephone and telegraph communication meant they were the most commonly used telecommunications systems



Radio

- often used by ships transmitting messages
- advances in radio technology made reliable voice communication possible



22720. Receiving set for trench radio, with simplifier, receiving message. Signal School 1st Division, France.

Resources

Imperial Wars Museum, Boer War pictures: <https://www.iwm.org.uk/>

Library of Congress, Roger Fenton's pictures: <https://www.loc.gov/collections/fenton-crimean-war-photographs/about-this-collection/>

Mitch, D. F. (1992). *The Rise of Popular Literacy in Victorian England: The Influence of Private Choice and Public Policy*. University of Pennsylvania Press. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/j.ctv5134p1>

National Army Museum (London), Crimean War infos: <https://www.nam.ac.uk/explore/illustrated-press>

Royal Collection Trust, The British Expedition to Crimea by W.H. Russel: <https://www.rct.uk/collection/exhibitions/roger-fentons-photographs-of-the-crimea/the-queens-gallery-palace-of/writing-about-the-war>

WILHELM, P. (1999). THE TELEGRAPH: A STRATEGIC MEANS OF COMMUNICATION DURING THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR. *Revista de Historia de América*, 124, 81–98. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/23800946>

WINKLER, J. R. (2015). Telecommunications in World War I. *Proceedings of the American Philosophical Society*, 159(2), 162–168. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/24640213>



The interplay between cinema, radio, and political movements in the early 20th century Europe

PRODUCTION _____

DIRECTOR _____

CAMERA _____

SCENE _____

TAKE _____

Cinema propaganda in wartime

Cinema became a crucial tool for political propaganda during World War I

Governments, especially in countries like Britain, Germany, and France, used cinema to promote national unity and a sense of patriotism

British wartime propaganda: "The Battle of the Somme" (1916), a documentary-style film about the battles of WWI, were used to show the heroism of soldiers and the sacrifice of the nation, as well as to promote the idea of unity and national strength

https://youtu.be/xQ_OZfaiUlc?feature=shared

While the film was marketed as a documentary, its purpose was undeniably linked to propaganda goals:

- Promotion of heroism and sacrifice
- Unifying the nation
- Glorifying the war effort
- Justifying the war



Post-ww1 cinema, radio and political movements

- After the war, cinema became even more entwined with political ideologies
- The Russian Revolution of 1917 and the rise of Soviet cinema became a prime example of how films were used to shape ideological narratives
☾ Eisenstein's "Battleship Potemkin" (1925)
<https://youtu.be/K1Vx3AOpVDo?feature=shared>
- In Germany, the Expressionist movement used film to critique modern society and political chaos, films like "Metropolis" (1927) explored themes of class struggle and the dehumanizing effects of industrialization ☾ <https://youtu.be/X-S5v4UwhAE?feature=shared>
- Benito Mussolini's Fascist government in Italy saw the potential of radio as a tool for fascist propaganda. Mussolini's speeches were regularly broadcast ☾ https://youtu.be/staFoIE_Ya0?feature=shared



Fascist Italy

- In Italy the production of films with an explicitly propagandistic intent began right in the 20s ☾
film Vita Nova dates back to 1925
<https://patrimonio.archivioluce.com/luce-web/detail/IL3000052187/1/vita-nova.html>
- from 1927, a series of short films celebrating the achievements of the fascist regime each year were produced on an annual basis: the films were titled Year V, Year VI, Year VII, Year VIII, Year IX
☾ <https://patrimonio.archivioluce.com/luce-web/detail/IL3000052714/1/-1932.html>
- decree law of 3 April 1926, “Provisions for propaganda by means of cinematography”, all cinema owners were obliged to include the viewing of such films
- “traveling cinemas”





Nazi Germany

- **Joseph Goebbels**, the Minister of Propaganda, saw radio as a powerful tool to spread Nazi ideology
- The Nazi regime used radio broadcasts to spread their messages of anti-Semitism, militarism, and loyalty to the Führer ☾ <https://youtu.be/7u2dc5SsFtA?feature=shared>
- The Nazis also developed the Volksempfänger (people's receiver): cheap radio set
- Films also played a significant role in Nazi propaganda:
 - Promotion of Nazi ideology, Anti-Semitic Themes ☾ *The Eternal Jew*, 1940, (<https://youtu.be/udfJCm6Khvc?feature=shared>)
 - Glorifying Adolf Hitler ☾ *Triumph of the Will*, 1935, directed by Leni Riefenstahl (https://youtu.be/9PClcUxNc_M?feature=shared)
 - Constructing the Myth of the "Volksgemeinschaft" (People's Community) ☾ *Hitlerjunge Quex* (1933)
 - Promotion of war effort ☾ *Kolberg* (1945) <https://youtu.be/zxx9VpHYmlc?feature=shared>
 - Censorship and control of cinema

Leni Riefenstahl

- Helene Bertha Amalie Riefenstahl (August 22, 1902, Berlin - September 8, 2003, Pöcking, Germany aged 101)
- pioneering German filmmaker, dancer, and actress, best known for her controversial work in Nazi propaganda cinema
- fame with her film *Triumph of the Will* (1935) € 1934 Nuremberg Rally
- *Olympia* (1938) € 1936 Berlin Olympics
- Despite her technical brilliance, her close ties to the Nazi regime has made her a controversial figure
- <https://youtu.be/zgUCdzc3Qe8?feature=shared>



Discussion

Art vs morality:

- To what extent can Leni Riefenstahl be separated from the political context of her work?
- Can her technical innovations in filmmaking be appreciated without considering the propaganda purpose behind them?

Riefenstahl's denial of Nazi ideology:

- Riefenstahl consistently denied being politically involved with the Nazis. Do you believe her claims of artistic neutrality, or does her role in making Nazi propaganda films suggest a deeper complicity?

**Il presente e-book raccoglie le lezioni svolte nel corso della
Cattedra Jean Monnet “EU-rope through films: History, Identity, and
Policies (Ciak-EU!)”, a.a. 2022-2023, a.a. 2023-2024, a.a. 2024-2025
(serie 8). L'e-book è a cura del prof. Filippo Maria Giordano e della
dott.ssa Bleona Shkullaku**

