



This course takes as a starting point the aesthetics of what has more often than not been characterized as “propaganda.” Linked to the promotion of a specific political agenda and suggestive of a biased point of view, propaganda has figured keenly in Asian art, particularly in the so-termed “Cold War era” (1949-1991). This class considers the various politics and dynamics which bring such productions “into being.” From the Soviet Union to the Democratic Republic of Vietnam, from Europe to Asia, and from state-authorized exhibitions to individual artist depictions, this course will examine the currency of socialist realism across multiple geographic spaces and geopolitical imaginaries. We will use literature, film, and images from around the world to animate the visual cultures of global war.

