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propaganda

Save Word

pro-pa-gan-da | \ ˌprə-pə-gan-də \

Definition of propaganda

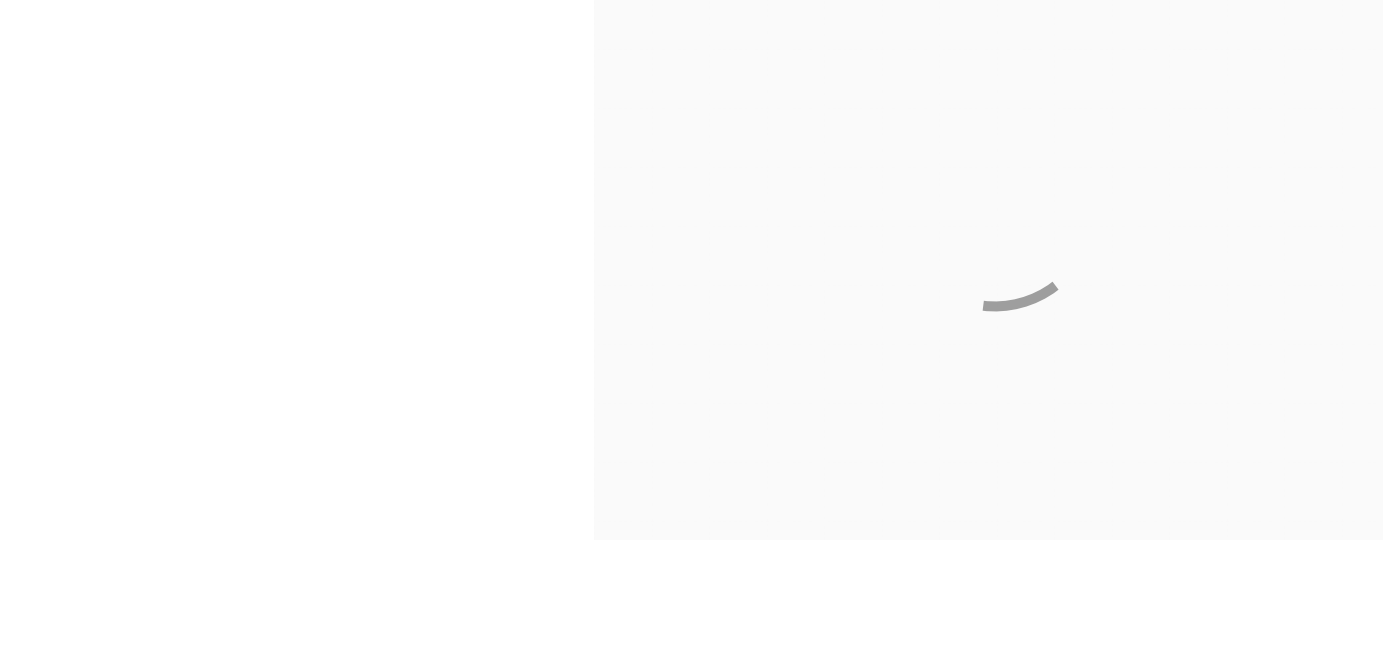
- 1 **capitalized**: a congregation of the Roman curia having jurisdiction over missionary territories and related institutions
- 2 : the spreading of ideas, information, or rumor for the purpose of helping or injuring an institution, a cause, or a person
- 3 : ideas, facts, or allegations spread deliberately to further one's cause or to damage an opposing cause
 - also**: a public action having such an effect

The History of Propaganda

Example Sentences

Phrases Containing propaganda

Learn More About propaganda



The History of Propaganda

Propaganda is today most often used in reference to political statements, but the word comes to our language through its use in a religious context. The **Congregatio de propaganda fide** ("Congregation for propagating the faith") was an organization established in 1622 by Pope Gregory XV as a means of furthering Catholic missionary activity. The word **propaganda** is from the ablative singular feminine of **propagandus**, which is the gerundive of the Latin **propagare**, meaning "to propagate." The first use of the word **propaganda** (without the rest of the Latin title) in English was in reference to this Catholic organization. It was not until the beginning of the 19th century that it began to be used as a term denoting ideas or information that are of questionable accuracy as a means of advancing a cause.

Examples of propaganda in a Sentence

// She didn't buy into the **propaganda** of her day that women had to be soft and submissive.

— Maria Shriver, *Time*, 26 Oct. 2009

// They see all clear thinking, all sense of reality, and all fineness of living, threatened on every side by **propaganda**, by advertisement, by film and television.

— C. S. Lewis, *An Experiment in Criticism*, (1961) 2009

// We've so bought into the mass delusion, the nutty **propaganda**, that now the ideal American family is one that's on steroids ...

— Anna Quindlen, *Newsweek*, 27 Apr. 2009

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Recent Examples on the Web

// Many Russians call Kyiv the mother of Russian cities; in its **propaganda** justifying the invasion of Ukraine, the Kremlin claims Ukraine is not a real country but a historical part of Russia.

— Veronika Melkozerova, *The Atlantic*, 24 Mar. 2022

// Observers attribute those results to the Kremlin's massive **propaganda** campaign and crackdown on dissent.

— *chicagotribune.com*, 24 Mar. 2022

// Islamist extremists, are tailoring the tumult of the war to fit their own **propaganda**.

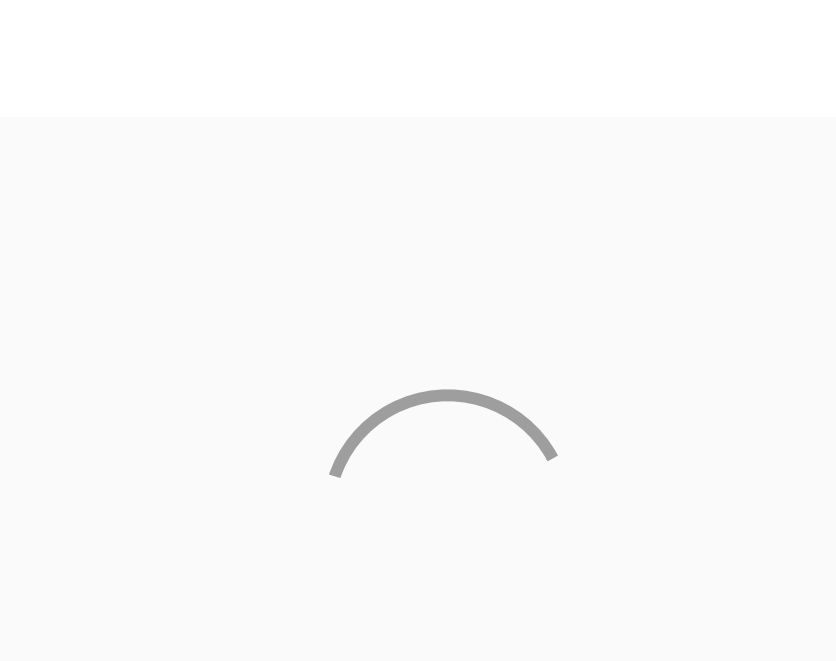
— *Washington Post*, 18 Mar. 2022

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These example sentences are selected automatically from various online news sources to reflect current usage of the word 'propaganda.' Views expressed in the examples do not represent the opinion of Merriam-Webster or its editors. [Send us feedback.](#)

Phrases Containing propaganda

counter-propaganda propaganda machine



First Known Use of propaganda

1668, in the meaning defined at sense 1

History and Etymology for propaganda

New Latin, from **Congregatio de propaganda fide** Congregation for propagating the faith, organization established by Pope Gregory XV 11623

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Time Traveler for propaganda

The first known use of **propaganda** was in 1668

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alt 5b3e45342552e	'Brainwashing': A History The word was only sometimes literal.
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propaganda

pro-pa-gan-da | \ ˌprə-pə-gan-də \

Kids Definition of propaganda

: an organized spreading of often false ideas or the ideas spread in such a way

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Nglish: Translation of **propaganda** for Spanish Speakers

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