

whole. Rather, every chapter stands well on its own and is only minimally, one might say by coincidence, connected to one or more of the others. The lack of a clear and explicit overarching train of thought underscores the fragmented nature and complexity of the topic, but it might also leave a less academically inclined reader puzzled as to the book's message.

In a similar vein, the term 'total war' in the title appears to be little more than a catchphrase. The book could have achieved the same goals and reached the same conclusions by exploring the wars of the twentieth century – most of which involved the civilians of the combatant countries, which is the loose definition of the concept that the book employs – in more general terms. The emotional acts and responses, as well as the source material that the authors use to support their arguments, could arguably be found in many of the civil wars or the wars of decolonization, for example, of the twentieth century, or in the war on terror of the twenty-first. With the concept of total war not discussed in any of the chapters, its use in the title, while not diminishing the value of the book, distracts from its real focus, that is, emotional responses to war(s). Another limitation of the volume is its focus on mostly European themes. With the First and Second World Wars being fought globally, and the theme of emotional responses to war being applicable (and traceable) across humanity, writing other places and non-White people into the book would have given it not merely more breadth but also more relevance in an increasingly interconnected and diverse world. That said, *Total War: An Emotional History* provides us with a new lens to explore war. It writes the human responses of civilians and 'militarized men' (Noakes uses this apt term) into the history of war and helps us better understand, and perhaps relate to, how ordinary people lived in and through war. With its academic rigour and theoretical thoroughness, the book will certainly help scholars delve deeper into this important topic.

Simon Eliot and Marc Wiggam (eds.), *Allied Communication to the Public during the Second World War*. London: Bloomsbury, 2020; xii + 236 pp. £81.00 boards. ISBN: 9781350105126.

Reviewed by: Marta García Cabrera, *University of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria*

The Second World War was an armed conflict of ideological components that not only mobilized strategic and technological considerations, but also developed propaganda and information as new weapons of war. Influencing public opinion became a prominent objective of the warring powers, who devoted special attention to the development of multiple and diverse propaganda campaigns. The allied nations mobilized a multitude of organizations, departments and sections that had the objective of controlling communication, guiding the thinking of the audiences and favouring the cause of the United Nations. *Allied Communication to the Public during the Second World War* – edited by Simon Eliot and Marc Wiggam – is an excellent contribution to existing historiography, analysing the use of Allied communication, censorship and propaganda in different theatres of war from the Home Front, allied countries and enemy territories, to neutral states, the Empire and the Middle East.

The volume has its origins in a conference held by the 'Publishing and Communication History of the Ministry of Information 1939-46' research project – funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council and undertaken by the Institute of English Studies at the University of London. It is made up of 12 contributions that analyse the role of Allied communication through multiple agencies and channels, such as war bulletins, films, broadcasts, rumours and journalistic articles. The prestigious historian David Welch provides the foreword to the publication, giving an excellent description of the role of propaganda in history. The editors offer a powerful introduction that emphasizes the importance of wartime communication, the role played by the British Ministry of Information (MoI) in particular, and the various propaganda channels employed during the Second World War. Henry Irving (Leeds Beckett University) opens the chapters with a description of MoI operations within the British government, revising the restructuring of the MoI under the direction of Brendan Bracken from July 1941. Victoria Carolan (University of Greenwich) describes the role played by the National Savings Committee (NSC), through a novel contribution that reveals how the British government appealed to the public to invest in the war through a sense of duty. Stephen Thompson (University of London) analyses a different and a lesser-known organization, the Army Bureau of Current Affairs (ABCA), which had the objective of explaining to British soldiers what they were fighting for and keeping up their morale. Alice Byrne (Aix-Marseille University) explores the characteristics, components and themes of the war bulletins *Britain To-Day*, *Bulletins from Britain* and *Britain*. Joseph Clark (Simon Fraser University) considers race as a prominent element of the Allied films *Negro soldier* and *Teamwork*, revealing an idealized projection of African American soldiers in the U.S. armed forces.

Richard Fine (Virginia Commonwealth University) explores the official censorship campaigns implemented by the United States and Britain, revealing the fight of Allied war correspondents to achieve journalistic freedom in political matters. James Wald (Hampshire College) analyses the news coverage and censorship campaigns surrounding an episode of anti-Semitism amongst Polish forces based in Britain. Wald examines how this incident reflected not just different views on the issue but also fundamentally different attitudes towards wartime information and public debate. Stephanie Seul (University of Bremen) and Emily Oliver (University of Warwick) examine the role played by BBC broadcasts during the war. While Seul reflects on how the BBC referenced the Holocaust, Oliver reveals how the British broadcasts used satire to convince the Germans that Britain had their best interests at heart despite the bombings. Christopher Bannister (University of Manchester) gives an overview of the difficulties, themes and printed channels of British propaganda in Iberia, especially considering the importance of Catholicism and anti-communism in Spain. Stefanie Wichhart (Niagara University) and Chandrika Kaul (University of St Andrews) reveal the role of Allied communications in lesser-known war scenarios. Wichhart examines the work of the travel writer Freya Stark in developing the Brotherhood of Freedom, a MoI-sponsored organization that aimed to implement oral propaganda campaigns in Egypt, Iraq and the Palestine Mandate; while Kaul analyses British imperial broadcasting, considering the BBC service to India and the impact of Allied communication on the Indian political scene.

The volume offers an excellent review of the impact and dimensions of Allied communication during the Second World War, considering different propaganda agencies,

multiple campaigns, varied war scenarios, and diverse propaganda channels. *Allied Communication to the Public during the Second World War* analyses the role played by wartime censorship, the impact of racism and anti-Semitism on mass media, the politicization of radio, cinema, and press, as well as the instrumentalization of printed bulletins and rumours.

Maria Ryan, *Full Spectrum Dominance: Irregular Warfare and the War on Terror*. Palo Alto, CA: Stanford University Press, 2019; 313 pp. £52.00 (Hardback). ISBN: 978-1503609990.

Reviewed by: Christian Tripodi, *King's College, London*

The recrudescence of counterinsurgency warfare during the U.S.-led campaigns in Afghanistan and Iraq is a familiar tale. The attempted transformation of conventional military might into the sort of sophisticated politico-military instrument that could deal with the complex challenge of armed political rebellion in both of those conflicts has since preoccupied countless scholars and military practitioners interested in the subject of irregular warfare. But if it is a familiar tale, it is also a well-worn one and an artificially narrow one at that. Distracted by these two major conflicts we have allowed the narratives of Iraq and Afghanistan to elide our understanding of the ways in which, at the hands of U.S. policymakers and their military and international collaborators, irregular warfare in *all* its multifarious guises came to characterize the American way of war across much of the globe in the two decades following the September 11 attacks.

Full Spectrum Dominance corrects this lacuna, and to impressive effect. Ryan has refocused attention away from the quagmires of Afghanistan and Iraq and turned our eyes instead to the Southern Philippines archipelago, the empty quarters of Mali and Niger, the Horn of Africa, the Arabian Peninsula and the Caspian basin. In so doing, she illustrates how the events of 9/11 turbocharged the Bush regime's aspiration to supplement America's dominance in its conventional and nuclear capabilities by achieving 'full-spectrum dominance' in all forms of warfare. By perceiving the defining strategic challenge of the era to be the threat of Islamic terrorism, by choosing to perceive that threat as being fostered and nourished by a succession of failing states and 'ungoverned spaces' across the developing world, and furthermore by spying the opportunity to simultaneously address ancillary concerns over matters of energy security in many of those same regions, the scene was set for U.S. policymakers to forge their country's irregular warfare capabilities into a defining component of U.S. grand strategy for the duration of the Bush and Obama administrations.

Ryan illustrates how from late 2001 U.S. Special Operations Forces (SOF) flooded into a range of locations on the so-called 'periphery', their targeting of the global jihadist insurgency aided and abetted by local regimes spying the opportunity to extract valuable financial and military assistance from Washington for their own ends. The scene was now set for America's irregular warfare practitioners to put their skills to the test. Advisory roles, train and assist missions, propaganda and information campaigns, counterterrorism and counterinsurgency operations, drone assassinations; the full gamut of irregular warfare capabilities was unveiled in a variety of shadowy backwaters as 'operators'