

POSTER PROJECT RUBRIC

Folks, here is the situation:

THE KINGDOM OF O'AHU, like the rest of the world, is plummeting into the worst economic depression in history...

Wracked by massive unemployment, desperate poverty and riots as a result, the Kingdom O'ahu is holding parliamentary elections. While all the industrial powers of the world are suffering because of the collapse of the worldwide banking system, the situation is particularly bad in O'ahu, because of the punitive provisions of the Treaty of Poke, imposed on the kingdom after its defeat in a war fifteen years ago.

O'ahuans are full of despair and fear, and are yearning for strong leadership. Who will lead the O'ahu people out of this terrible abyss? What solutions will this party offer?

The results of this election will determine the fate not just of Kingdom of O'ahu, but also of the whole world.

Your assignment is to produce a poster that will sell the ideas and policies of your party (your *platform*) to the voters. There are three parties vying for leadership: The Greens, which has been in power since the end of the war; the Reds; and the Purples.

Basic requirements:

- Your poster must be 11" by 17" ("tabloid size"), with a stiff, cardboard back, so that we can stand it up against a wall. If it doesn't have a stiff back and instead flops around because it's printed on a simple sheet of paper, your classmates won't be able to examine it on "poster day," and you will lose points.
- You can create the poster using a computer or magic markers, paints, whatever you wish.
- And, of course, your poster must be ready on "poster day."

Here are the grading criteria.

A poster that earns an “A”

- effectively communicates (sells) the party platform.
- demonstrates an understanding of what works in propaganda and/or political communication.
- exhibits quality craftsmanship.

A poster that earns a “B”

- *tries* to effectively communicate (sell) the party platform.
- conveys ideas about what works in propaganda and/or political communication. (Team members should all be able to explain the ideas they had in mind.)
- demonstrates a strong effort at craftsmanship.

A poster that earns a “C”

- meets the minimum requirements of the assignment, meaning that it is turned in on time, is produced on an 11” by 17” sheet with a stiff, cardboard back, and contains relevant content.

RED PARTY PLATFORM

RED PARTY OF O'AHU

Working men and women—unite and rise up! We have nothing to lose except the political and economic chains that bind us. We must destroy this so-called “democracy.” The Green Party system serves the interests of the ruling capitalist and land-owning classes that rob us of the fruits of our hard labor. Until we seize the means of production—the factories and the land—from the ruling classes, we will remain slaves and our children will continue to starve.

Don't let the Green Party fool you with their claims that they represent your interests. The Greens talk of economic democracy, but is quick to ally itself with the thuggish Purples against the progressive forces of revolution. In the early days of Green Party rule, its leaders called in the army to shoot down our brothers and sisters of our movement. They are not “social democrats,” they are “social fascists.” Inevitably, they and their capitalist-imperialist allies will be swept into the dustbin of history.

The Purples are not a political party. It is a gang of thugs financed by capitalist bosses who seek to remove even the illusion of democracy. The Purple Party must be fought at the ballot box just as we fight their hoodlums in the streets. We have no quarrel with the workers and unemployed who have been misled by slick Purple Party propaganda. They are our brothers.

The economic crisis that we face today is the unavoidable result of the rotten international capitalist-imperialist system. The day of world revolution is fast approaching. In the meantime, we must not allow the O'ahuan people to again become puppets of the generals and the politicians. Our country needs bread and butter for our children, not armored cruisers. Instead of looking with hostility toward our working class brothers in other countries, we should unite with them to lead the worldwide workers' movement. Our comrades in the nearby Kingdom of Orleans, where the Red Party and the workers rule after their recent revolution, will show us the path to the future. Forward workers. Together we will triumph.

Here is our nine-point party platform:

1. Replace the Green Party system with a workers' state governed by Red Party-led workers' councils.
2. Stop cuts in wages and benefits for workers.
3. Increase spending on welfare benefits for unemployed workers and social programs, such as low-cost housing, public transportation, and education.
4. Halt military spending.

5. Eliminate tariffs and other trade barriers to lower the cost of food and imported goods for workers.
6. Close church-run schools and eliminate state support for organized religion.
7. Lower taxes on workers while raising taxes on the wealthy.
8. Legalize abortion.
9. Cooperate spending closely with the Kingdom of Maui in spreading the communist revolution internationally.

GREEN PARTY PLATFORM

GREEN PARTY OF O'AHU

O'ahuan men and women—work with us as we seek to build a better, more just society. The labor unions and Green Party are one. Ten years ago, the Greens brought you the eight-hour day and social insurance to support your families when you were sick and unemployed. The Greens forced labor factory owners to sit down at the negotiating table and settle disputes with workers. The Greens saved our democracy from armed attacks by both the criminal, rioting Purples and the Reds.

Beware the insane rantings of the Reds. They would overturn the whole order, destroy everything and trigger civil war. We can work within the system to achieve true economic democracy. If you want to see what the Reds will deliver, look southward to the Kingdom of Maui, where King Humperdink has stripped workers of every right in the name of creating a worker's state. Look at City Hall, where the Reds and the Purples are working together to destroy our democracy.

The Purple Party is just as irresponsible as the Reds. They are being manipulated by reactionary elements in industry to reverse the tide of worker benefits and social legislation. By blaming O'ahu's problems on that small minority of people, the Nichollonians, as well as on the democrats and other scapegoats, the Purple Party is polluting our society with anger and hatred. Their leader, Abner Firebrain, would not bring O'ahu strength and honor, but violence and war.

To those of all religious and ethnic stripes, we call on you to join us. The social legislation that we have championed benefits everyone alike. We do not threaten your religious beliefs and practices. On the contrary, we drafted the language in the constitution that protects all religious faiths. We believe that everyone should be free to follow his or her conscience.

In foreign policy, we must not repeat the mistakes of the past. The Kingdom of O'ahu does not need a wasteful program of military expansion. We cannot allow our children to go hungry while we build new battleships. We will not permit a war that slaughters millions of working-class O'ahuans to satisfy the ambitions of the ruling class.

By proceeding cautiously, we will be able to overcome the unjust provisions of the Treaty of Poke while maintaining peace in the great Continent of Hawaii. We have already ensured that O'ahuan soil is free of foreign troops and that the Kingdom of O'ahu is treated as an equal in the United Nations. O'ahuan strength should be built on a healthy and just economy, not on dangerous militarism.

(See Eight-Point Platform on Next Page)

HERE IS OUR EIGHT-POINT PLATFORM:

1. Protect workers' rights and improve the standard of living for working people as part of the struggle to achieve economic democracy.
2. Hold down military spending
3. Negotiate with fellow Hawaiians to change the unjust provisions of the Treaty of Poke.
4. Ban religious instruction from public schools, and maintain the separation of church and state.
5. Impose limited tariffs on imported food to protect small farmers.
6. Maintain spending for workers' benefits and social programs.
7. Legalize abortion.
8. Re-establish the eight-hour work day.

PURPLE PARTY PLATFORM

PURPLE PARTY OF O'AHU

Men of O'ahuan blood—unite and fight with us to destroy the putrid Green Party system. The Kingdom of O'ahu needs a strong, vigorous leader, a *Firebrain*, not a bunch of squabbling corrupt politicians, to lead our fatherland out of crisis and on to the greatness that destiny offers. The Kingdom of O'ahu needs a new political system, in which one great national party, the Purple Party, will coordinate all aspects of O'ahuan government and society. Only by purging our society of the corrupting, non-pure-blooded O'ahuans who pollute our culture can the Kingdom be cleansed and our traditional values protected. Only by ensuring the purity of the O'ahuan race can we recover the courage, strength and greatness that is our blood heritage. The good of the O'ahuan people must stand above the selfish interests of the individuals. All pure-blooded O'ahuans must work together under the rule of our illustrious leader, Abner Firebrain, for the greatness of the O'ahuan people.

The criminals of the Green Party, who stabbed our valiant soldiers in the back at the end of the last war and accepted the obscene dictated peace of the Treaty of Poke, must be thrown out and punished. These traitors have conspired with the international bankers to inflict terrible hardships on the O'ahuan people. Those bankers are without exception of Manoan blood, that putrid race of outsiders that has infected our kingdom. The social programs of the Green Party and their allies have only sapped the morale of O'ahuan workers, and yet one-third of the work force is unemployed. Meanwhile the Green Party has opened the Kingdom of O'ahu to a flood of decadent foreign culture that has corrupted our youth and our women.

With the Kingdom of O'ahu weak and confused, the Red Party has grown bolder in its drive for power. These communists have taken to the streets in their efforts impose international communism upon the O'ahuan people. They are not true O'ahuans. Many of them are not even of pure O'ahuan blood. They are puppets of the leaders of the Manoans and the nearby Kingdom of Maui, who plan to spread communism worldwide. Only the Storm Troopers of the Purple Party stand between these godless hordes and their ambitions. We will protect all true-blooded O'ahuans from the diseased Manoans and the Reds. Pure O'ahuans have nothing to fear from our party.

The security of our fatherland requires that we reject the Treaty of Poke and insist upon rebuilding the O'ahuan army. The O'ahuan people need room to grow and we must acquire this room to live by all necessary means. The prosperity of our fatherland demands that we recover those O'ahuan territories now under Kingdom of Maui occupation. The honor of our fatherland requires that we united with our pure-blooded O'ahuan brothers in the Kingdom of Houma, and protect the O'ahuans of Big Island, Kauai, and elsewhere. Together we will build a Kingdom of O'ahu that is dependent on no other nation. One people—One Reich. One *Firebrain!*

Here is our eight-point platform:

1. Replace the Green Party system with a regime unified under the leadership of the *Firebrain* of the Purple Party
2. Reorganize society to harness the O'ahuan people to work together for the greater good of their nation.
3. Reject the Treaty of Poke and punish the politicians responsible for stabbing the Kingdom of O'ahu in the back at the end of the last war.
4. Rebuild the O'ahuan army, construct a fleet of battleships, and reassert military presence in the south of the Hawaii Continent.
5. Unify all O'ahuans and expand territorially, beginning with the kingdoms of Molokai and Maui, to provide the Kingdom of O'ahu with sufficient living space.
6. Purge O'ahuan society of corrupting, non-pure-blooded influences.
7. Impose high tariffs against foreign imports to promote industrial growth, encourage economic self-sufficiency, and protect O'ahuan farming.
8. Break the hold of international Manoaan capitalism over O'ahuan banks and other key financial institutions.

POSTER PROJECT VERSION 2:
With original historical references to Germany 1933

POSTER PROJECT RUBRIC

The year is 1933, and Germany, wracked by massive unemployment, desperate poverty and riots as a result of the Great Depression, is holding parliamentary elections. While all the industrial powers of the world are suffering because of the collapse of the worldwide banking system, the situation is particularly bad in Germany, because of the punitive provisions of the Treaty of Versailles, imposed on the country after its defeat in the First World War, fifteen years ago.

Germans are full of despair and fear, and are yearning for strong leadership. Who will lead the German people out of this terrible abyss? What solutions will this party offer?

The results of this election will determine the fate not just of Germany, but also of the whole world.

Your assignment is to produce a poster that will sell the ideas and policies of your party (your *platform*) to the voters, and submit by class time a one-page paper arguing why you think your poster design would be effective. There are three parties vying for leadership: The Social Democratic Party (SDP), which has been in power since the end of the war; the Communist Party (KDP); and the National Socialist (NSDP), also known as the Nazi Party.

Here are the grading criteria.

A poster that earns an “A”

- effectively communicates (sells) the party platform.
- demonstrates an understanding of what works in propaganda and/or political communication—**make sure you explain this in your one-page paper.**
- exhibits quality craftsmanship.

A poster that earns a “B”

- *tries* to effectively communicate (sell) the party platform.
- conveys ideas about what works in propaganda and/or political communication. (Team members should all be able to explain the ideas they had in mind.)
- demonstrates a strong effort at craftsmanship.

A poster that earns a “C”

- meets the minimum requirements of the assignment, meaning that it is turned in on time, is produced on an 11” by 17” sheet of paper (preferably stiff cardstock), and contains relevant content.

KPD (COMMUNIST PARTY OF GERMANY)

Working men and women — unite and rise up! We have nothing to lose except the political and economic chains that bind us. We must destroy this so-called "democracy." The Weimar system serves the interests of the ruling capitalist and landowning classes that rob us of the fruits of our hard labor. Until we seize the means of production — the factories and the land — from the ruling classes, we will remain slaves and our children will continue to starve.

Don't let the Social Democrats (SPD) fool you with their claims that they represent your interests. The SPD talks of economic democracy, but is quick to ally itself with the fascists against the progressive forces of revolution. In 1919, during the early days of the Weimar Republic, SPD leaders called in the army to shoot down our brothers and sisters in the Spartacist movement. They are not "social democrats," they are "social fascists." Inevitably, they and their capitalist-imperialist allies, will be swept into the dustbin of history.

The Center Party is nothing but a tool of reactionary organized religion — the bishops and popes who have sought for centuries to keep you ignorant and docile. The Center denies women the right to control their bodies by outlawing abortion. The Center tells you that those in power have been put there by God. But their God is not the god of laboring men and women.

The NSDAP is not a political party. It is a gang of thugs financed by capitalist bosses who seek to remove even the illusion of democracy. The NSDAP must be fought at the ballot box just as we fight the S.A. in the streets. We have no quarrel with the workers and the unemployed who have been misled by slick NSDAP propaganda. They are our brothers.

The economic crisis that we face today is the unavoidable result of the rotten international capitalist-imperialist system. The day of world revolution is fast approaching. In the meantime, we must not allow the German people to again become puppets of the gener-

als and the politicians. Our country needs bread and butter for our children, not armored cruisers. Instead of looking with hostility toward our working class brothers in other countries, we should unite with them to lead the worldwide workers' movement. Our comrades in the Soviet Union will show us the path to the future. Forward workers. Together we will triumph.

From *...*

THE KPD PRO

1. Replace the Weimar system with a workers' state governed by KPD-led workers' councils.
2. Stop cuts in wages and benefits for workers.
3. Increase spending on welfare benefits for unemployed workers and social programs, such as low-cost housing, public transportation, and education.
4. Halt military spending.
5. Eliminate tariffs and other trade barriers to lower the cost of food and imported goods for workers.
6. Close church-run schools and eliminate state support for organized religion.
7. Lower taxes on workers while raising taxes on the wealthy.
8. Legalize abortion under all circumstances.
9. Cooperate closely with the Soviet Union in spreading the communist revolution internationally.

Party Platform 2

SPD (SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF GERMANY)

German men and women — work with us as we seek to build a better, more just society. The labor unions and the SPD are one. Ten years ago, the SPD brought you the eight-hour day and social insurance to support your families when you were sick or unemployed. The SPD forced factory owners to sit down at the negotiating table and settle disputes with workers. The SPD saved our democracy from armed attacks by both the fascists and the communists.

Beware the insane rantings of the KPD. The communists would destroy everything and trigger civil war. We can work within the system to achieve true economic democracy. If you want to see what the KPD will deliver, look eastward to the Soviet Union, where Josef Stalin has stripped workers of

every right in the name of creating a workers' state. Look at the Reichstag, where the KPD and the NSDAP are working together to destroy our democracy.

The NSDAP is just as irresponsible as the communists. They are being manipulated by reactionary elements in industry to reverse the tide of worker benefits and social legislation. By blaming Germany's problems on Jews, democrats, and other scapegoats, the NSDAP is polluting our society with anger and hatred. Hitler would not bring Germany strength and honor, but violence and war.

From Broadsheets: Political Posters in Germany, 1900-1970.

To Catholic workers, we call on you to reject the efforts of the Center Party to set you against your non-Catholic working brothers and sisters. The social legislation that we have championed benefits Catholic and Protestant workers alike. We do not threaten your religious beliefs or practices. On the contrary, we drafted the language in the constitution that protects all religious faiths. We believe that everyone should be free to follow his or her conscience.

In foreign policy, we must not repeat the mistakes of the past. Germany does not need a wasteful program of military expansion. We cannot allow our children to go hungry while we build new battleships. We will not permit a war that slaughters millions of working-class Germans to satisfy the ambitions of the ruling class.

By proceeding cautiously, we will be able to overcome the unjust provisions of the Versailles Treaty while maintaining peace in Europe. We have already ensured that German soil is free of foreign troops and that Germany is treated as an equal in the League of Nations. German strength should be built on a healthy and just economy, not on dangerous militarism.

THE SPD PROGRAM

1. Protect workers' rights and improve the standard of living for working people as part of the struggle to achieve economic democracy.
2. Hold down military spending.
3. Negotiate with the Allies to change the unjust provisions of the Versailles Treaty.
4. Ban religious instruction from the public schools, and maintain the separation of church and state.
5. Impose limited tariffs on imported food to protect small farmers.
6. Maintain spending for workers' benefits and other social programs.
7. Legalize abortion under all circumstances.
8. Re-establish the eight-hour workday.

NSDAP (NATIONAL SOCIALIST GERMAN WORKERS' PARTY)

Men of German blood — unite and fight with us to destroy the putrid Weimar system. Germany needs a strong, vigorous leader, a *Fuehrer*, not a bunch of squabbling, corrupt politicians, to lead our fatherland out of crisis and on to the greatness that destiny offers. Germany needs a new political system, in which one great national party, the NSDAP, will coordinate all aspects of German government and society. Only by purging German society of the corrupting non-Aryan polluters of our culture can Germany be cleansed and our traditional values protected. Only by ensuring the purity of the German race can we recover the courage, strength, and greatness that is our blood heritage. The good of the German people must stand above the selfish interests of individuals. All Germans must work together for the greatness of the German people.

The criminals from the SPD and the Center, who stabbed our valiant soldiers in the back in November 1918 and accepted the obscene dictated peace of the Versailles Treaty, must be thrown out of office and punished. These traitors have conspired with the international bankers to inflict terrible hardships on the German people. The social programs of the SPD and their allies have only sapped the morale of German workers, and yet one-third of the work force is unemployed. Meanwhile, the SPD has opened Germany to a flood of decadent foreign culture that has corrupted our youth and our women.

With the German nation weak and confused, the KPD has grown bolder in its drive for power. The communists have taken to the streets in their efforts to impose international communism upon the German people. They are not true Germans. Many of them are not even of pure German blood. They are the puppets of the Soviet leaders in Moscow. Only the Storm Troopers (S.A.) of the NSDAP stand between these godless hordes and their ambitions. We will protect German Christianity from communist atheism. Catholics and Protestants alike have nothing to fear from our party.

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The security of our fatherland requires that we reject the Versailles settlement and insist upon rebuilding the German army. The German people need room to grow and we must acquire this room to live (*Lebensraum*) by all necessary means. The prosperity of our fatherland demands that we recover those German territories now under Polish occupation. The honor of our fatherland requires that we unite with our German brothers in Austria, and protect the Germans of Czechoslovakia and Poland. Together we will build a Germany that is dependent on no other nation. One People — One

Reich One Fuehrer!

THE NSDAP PROGRAM

From *Broadsheet: Political Platform of the NSDAP, 1920*

1. Replace the Weimar system with a regime unified under the leadership of the *Fuehrer* of the NSDAP.
2. Reorganize society to harness the German people to work together for the greater good of their nation.
3. Reject the Versailles Treaty and punish the politicians responsible for stabbing Germany in the back in November 1918.
4. Rebuild the German army, construct a fleet of battleships, and reassert our military presence in the Rhineland.
5. Unify all Germans and expand territorially toward the east, beginning with Poland, to provide the German nation with sufficient living space.
6. Purge German society of corrupting non-Aryan influences.
7. Impose high tariffs against foreign imports to promote industrial growth, encourage economic self-sufficiency, and protect German farming.
8. Break the hold of international Jewish capitalism over German banks and other key financial institutions.