

“Red Army Soldier! Liberate Yourself!” (after 1941)

Abstract

After Operation Barbarossa was launched on June 22, 1941, the Germans tried to convince elements of the Soviet Armed Forces to turn on their own superiors, and to that end, the Wehrmacht deployed a range of propaganda pamphlets, posters and broadcasts. This leaflet calls for Red Army troops to recognize their own oppression and come over to the German side. It reads: “Red army soldier! Are you setting out to free other peoples? First free yourself from your oppressors!” The Red Army soldier is chained to the NKVD (Soviet secret police), then to Stalin, and in turn, to a Jew. This “chain” represented a common trope of German propaganda: the alleged Jewish conspiracy to enslave the world under Bolshevism.

Source



Source: Propaganda poster, n.d. Unknown artist. Courtesy of Arbeitsstelle für Kommunikationsgeschichte und angewandte Kulturwissenschaften, FU Berlin.

Recommended Citation: “Red Army Soldier! Liberate Yourself!” (after 1941), published in: German History in Documents and Images,

<<https://germanhistorydocs.org/en/nazi-germany-1933-1945/ghdi:image-5188>> [July 03, 2025].