Worksheet 8.4

Propaganda

Please read this translation of a famous speech by Joseph Goebbels, the Nazi propaganda minister. Made on 18 February 1943, the speech was delivered shortly after the German defeat at Stalingrad.

Questions

1. What type of threats, external and internal, does Goebbels identify as facing Germany?

2. How does Goebbels describe the requirements of total war? What effect does he see total war having on German society?

3. What are the value and limitations of this speech for an historian studying the German war effort of 1943–45? From your own research, was there a significant change in how Germany fought the war from 1943?