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Sense of Control

Narratives are either spoken or written accounts of connected events—a type of story. People around the world use different narratives to tell their story whether it be a traumatic account or a great memory. Narratives can be either fictional or nonfictional. When it comes to personal narratives, people tend to tell stories of actual events that have occurred to them. After World War II many European Jewish survivors shared their horrifying experience of being sent to concentration camps and being beaten whenever the Nazis desired. Their stories were narratives of WWII. Their narratives will always be remembered for the terrifying event that they went through, the mistreatment, and the loss of their loved ones. War narratives are typically horrifying because of all the innocent lives that are lost during the war. The agony that people faced during the War was so heartbreaking that no one would ever want that to ever occur. The fact that war is so devastating to both sides is a reason why the public needs to be aware, of the situation at hand. If no one is conscious of war, then they will continue to let it happen, and many lives will be lost. Narratives about war should be uncensored and multi-faceted to the degree that the public should be conscious of what is happening around them.

In George Orwell 1984, the slogan for their tyrant government is “War Is Peace” which is a contradiction because war is not peace and George Orwell’s audience knows that. In this sense, their government is trying to say that being in war is a sense of peace when in fact their tactic is a sense of mind control. The people of this government are being manipulated to think that war is a positive thing as opposed to being a negative thing. Therefore, said if our government were to hide war from us and prevent graphic photos of war to be leaked, what makes them different

from the tyrant government that uses the slogan "War Is Peace"? People in that book are accustomed to war; they love it to the point that they even have parades of their army going around their city to show how much the public praises and appreciates what the soldiers do for them when in reality war causes the deaths of either innocent citizens. People have to know what is going on around them. They should not and cannot be manipulated by what is only displayed to them. People have open minds and should be free to think, say, and believe whatever they desire.

People have the right to know what is happening around them whether it is negative or positive, because in one way or another, it does affect them. Graphic images of war should be released for the public's eye because they should be conscious of what their country is involved. Many or some people know that during war things are messy; nothing having to do with war is ever peaceful or beautiful. War is ugly, and it hurts the environment and people in that environment. For example, in Sarah Stillman's "Hiroshima and the Inheritance of Trauma," Shoji, a survivor of the bombing, explains that since the bombing, she felt like she was less than everyone else around her because of the after effects of the bomb. She was considered, hibakusha which meant "explosion affected person" (444). Shoji was just one victim of the bomb she, just one person who is telling her war story when there are plenty more out there. She tells or explains since the bomb hit, her life changed dramatically because of the way people perceived her, the way her body functioned, and the way her mentality was. A simple loud noise will terrify her because of her experience of war, and this one story should bring awareness to the after effects of war. Not one person should be perceived differently because of what they went through. As a matter of fact, Shoji should be viewed as an empowering person because she did not let the after effects of the bomb tear her down. If Shoji's narrative would have been

published at the time that the war was occurring people around the world would help to end this war and would do what they could to help those who were hurt. Referring to the slogan “War is Peace,” if people were unaware of the outcomes of war they will come to believe that the tragedy these people faced were good instead of bad. People will think of the war of Hiroshima as having a good end product when in fact it left various innocent people with internal and physical damage. War stories should be put out to the public so they could have the knowledge of what is going on around them.

If people have a nuanced understanding of the war, they will know what decisions to make. America is a democracy which means that people vote to make things happen. If images of war were never to be posted, then people will blindly make decisions. When talking about war one always thinks about countries or nation going into other country and fighting them but that is not the only war there is. Going deeper looking into a state and looking into their cities the city has gang violence. This gang violence being a type of war to them. Violence in a war is a type of war for these people because they are fighting to get their point out. Back in 2007 my family and I were celebrating my nephew’s birthday. My sister sent me to get her laptop and when I returned she told me to run to the backyard, I listened. As I turned the corner, I heard a loud bang. Two guys who were in a gang had shot at my house, and unfortunately, my sister was shot in the head. Luckily the bullet did not hit anything important, and my sister survived. The narrative provided is not like a typical war narrative, this war narrative is a war within the community within different groups in a community. Not once were the dangers that were happening in my community published. Not once did I ever know that my town was dangerous. If I were to search up on the internet to see all the violent crimes committed in my city, I would not find anything, and that is such a shame. People are blind to their surroundings because the

media fails to announce something that should have been announced. Being a citizen of this country, it was my right to know what was happening around me. If my family knew what was going on around the neighborhood, then maybe they could have started a neighborhood watch, and if worst came to worst, then we could have moved to somewhere else where it is safe. If the public was aware of the condition of the city then they could have taken precautions to make sure to setup a curfew to avoid any unwanted interactions. The act of people being aware will give them the benefit of taking care of their loved ones and making sure they are well protected just like the war forces protects the country mothers, fathers and all adults will protect their love ones.

We have to know what is happening around us because we have to be emotionally stable to deal with the trauma of war. Because of what happened to my sister, I was so afraid to be around my backyard gate. The trauma caused me to be aware of my surroundings and made me become paranoid at any loud bang. Deghett concludes that images of “bloodshed and trauma,” although it may “dull emotional understanding,” are necessary precisely for our emotional understanding (82). Deghett states that “[p]hotos like Jarecke’s not only show that bombs drop on real people; they also make the public feel accountable” (82). The photo Deghett is talking about is of a man who is killed during combat. The image was extremely graphic that many people felt sorrow for the war and wanted to put a stop to it. Those who fight at war have to have some type of strength to deal with killing innocent people. Those who shoot innocent people or those who shoot a bomb because it was an order also have psychological damage to them, and they too will need to be helped. War goes both ways; both sides need to publicize what is going on because when the war is over the public will be the ones to pick up the pieces. People that go to war may come back a different person, may come back missing a body part, or may even

come back in a body bag. These are the outcomes of war and people at times need a reminder that lives are being lost.