

Propaganda

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To: Letters <letters@dailyitem.com>
Subject: Islamo-Fascism

Sir:

The use of the phrase 'Islamofascism', recently heard in the mouths of members of the Bush administration and our own Senator Santorum in Lewisburg Sunday, is a fine example of the art of the propagandist: the misuse of words to promote false and emotionally misleading impressions and assumptions.

Fascism, Mussolini said "should be properly called corporatism, since it is the merger of state and corporate power". Surely that description far better fits 21st century America, with her wholehearted endorsement of Eisenhower's military-industrial complex, than it does any economic or political entity in Middle East. But the use of 'Fascism' in this context is intended to arouse the anger and resentment of survivors and veterans of WWII, our war on 'Fascism' appropriately defined, not accurately to characterize any of the fundamentalist Islamic states or organizations presently emergent. It is an attempt to engender enmity toward the latter by a false and inappropriate allusion to our former enemies.

What about the 'Islamofascism'? The attempt is to connect Islam with Fascism. Is Fascism by any other religion less odious? What about Christian-Fascism? Germany and Italy were after all nominally Christian states in the 1930s-40s. What about Judeo-Fascism? Is it any more admirable than the other kinds? Is there a Confucian-Fascism? How about secular-Fascism?

Think about those who use such a phrase to try to engender enmity and hate in the place of thoughtful and considered reflection on the true nature of those states and organizations that presently challenge America's world domination. Is not rational response vastly more likely to be effective than knee-jerk reactions to emotional appeals based on bigotry and prejudice?

John N. Cooper