Handout 2: Construction of National Identity

Essay Instructions

Directions: You and a partner will work together to write a three-paragraph, one-page description and analysis of one of the images that has been the focus of this lesson. Your essay should follow the format described below.

Paragraph 1: This is a descriptive paragraph of exactly what you see in the image. For example: Describe objects, people, colors, spatial arrangement, placement, and numbers or quantities of items.

Paragraph 2: Write an analytical paragraph assessing how the image models elements of key concepts, such as heroism, mythology, propaganda, and nationalism. Explain, citing evidence from the image, one of the concepts we have investigated. Support your analysis with specific references to the image.

Paragraph 3: Write a personal response to the woodblock image, discussing mood, tone, and emotive qualities, or cross-cultural connections with other art, literature, or events from world history. Think about other world or political leaders you have studied in the past, making connections regarding portrayal similarities.