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Gilroy: worksheet

Key concept two: postcolonial melancholia and Albion



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LAWS IS BOGUS OF OUR BORDERS

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A free Press is the unsleeping guardian of every other right that free men prize; it is the most dangerous foe of tyranny. Where men have the habit of liberty, the Press will continue to be the vigilant guardian of the rights of the ordinary citizen





Media Theory for A Level

4. For what reasons does the media routinely refer to World War Two according to Gilroy?

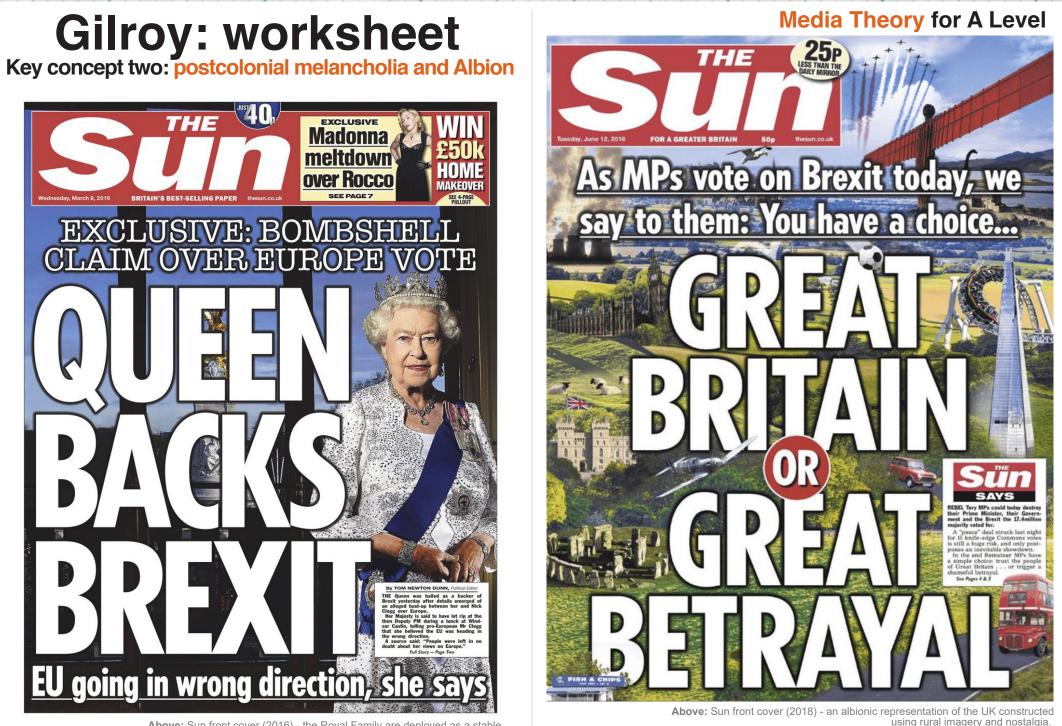
5. For what reasons does Gilroy suggest that the recurring references to WW2 by the media are odd?

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6. Gilroy also argues that the media manufactures an Albionic representation of Britain by constructing a mythic view of a long-lost rural England.

a. What role do representations of the Royal family play in the construction of Albionic England?

b. How do television dramas use settings and locations to construct an Albionic view of the UK? What examples of TV shows are given that construct Albionic Englishness?



Above: Sun front cover (2016) - the Royal Family are deployed as a stable symbol that represents a mythic traditional England.

Media Theory for A Level

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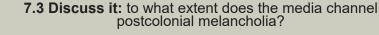
7. Using the Sun front cover on the previous page answer the following:

A. What famous locations or icons can you recognise that have been included in the front page collage?

B. Which other visual icons reference a nostalgic view of the UK?

C. In what ways does the headline construct a reductive or overly simplified message?

D. What effect does the headline's labelling of the UK as 'Great Britain' create?



- What evidence could you present to support or contradict the idea that the media is obsessed with nostalgia and the past?
- Why are British newspapers so obsessed with the Royal family? Do they represent order in a chaotic modern world? Do they represent British tradition?
- Does the media construct an Albionic representation of Britain a largely white, rural version of England that is celebratory? What products have you seen that construct this imagined version of England?
- Why do you think the media constructs these idealised representations?

Your thoughts:



Above: The hit ITV show and film, Downton Abbey. Albionic representations are often critiqued because they don't reflect the real world ethnic diversity of contemporary Britain.

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