Justifying War

When: Fri 21 Jun 2013, 18.30-20.00
Where: Conference Centre, British Library 
Price: £7.50 / £5 concessions

Book now for 21 Jun 2013, 18.30-20.00

Dynamic communication with the general population is essential in the lead up to, and during, periods of conflict. Effective propaganda rallies the public to a cause, bolsters military support and can be employed with devastating effect against the enemy.

This panel discussion will feature Martin Bell, renowned war correspondent and former MP and David Welch, Director of the Centre for the Study of Propaganda, University of Kent. Tim Luckhurst, Professor of Journalism, University of Kent will chair the debate and help explore the packaging and selling of conflict.

Martin Bell is one of the most distinguished foreign affairs reporters of his generation. He stole the show in the 1997 election campaign with his anti-sleaze battle against MP Neil Hamilton. Bell joined the BBC in 1962, reporting from 83 countries and covering 11 conflicts. He twice won him the Royal Television Society’s Reporter of the Year award. In 1997 he made the surprise announcement that he was leaving the BBC to enter politics to fight for the safe Conservative seat at Tatton, on an independent, anti-corruption ticket. He won the seat with an 11,000 majority. Describing himself as an ‘accidental MP’, Martin Bell retired from politics in 2001. He now acts as an ambassador for UNICEF, and as an outspoken critic of the state of journalism today.


Tim Luckhurst (chair) is Professor of Journalism at the University of Kent and a former editor of The Scotsman. He began his career as a journalist on BBC Radio 4’s Today Programme and covered the Romanian Revolution and the Gulf War for BBC Radio.

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