

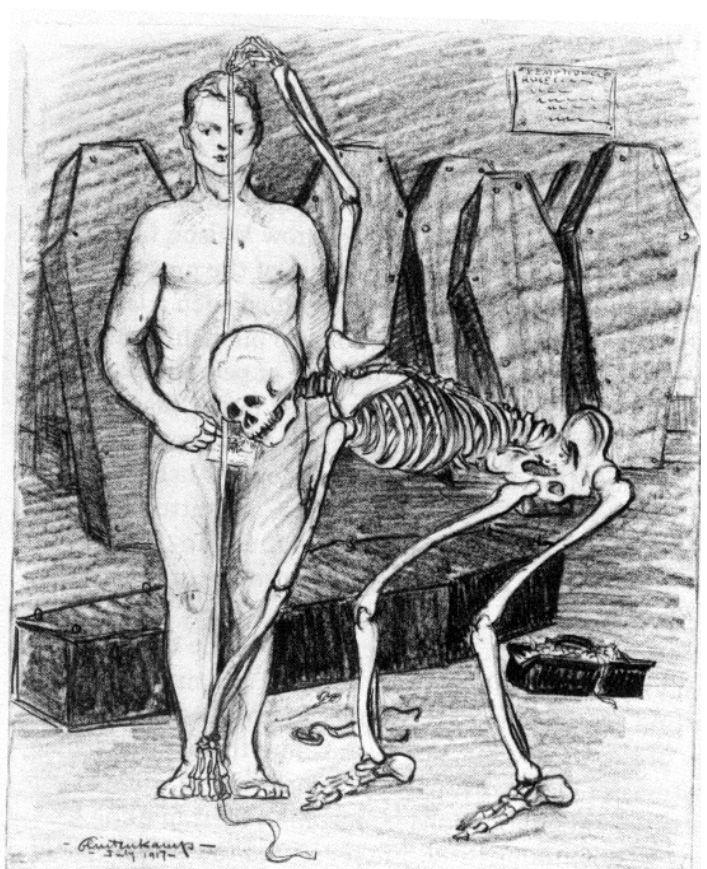
# Cartoons for the Classroom

Presented in cooperation with the Association of American Editorial Cartoonists (AAEC)



## Censorship: Silencing an anti-war voice

The cartoons on this page were cited as examples of seditious material in a trial of *The Masses*, a magazine that protested U.S. participation in World War I. The government put the magazine on trial in 1917 for violating the Espionage Act. Part of that new law empowered the Post Office to withhold from the mail any material promoting "treason, insurrection or forcible resistance to any law of the United States." Since *The Masses* could not afford to keep publishing without access to the mails, the magazine went out of business. *The Masses* fell victim to wartime censorship.



**Physically Fit:** The drawing refers to a newspaper report announcing the Army's plans to place bulk orders for coffins.

Henry Glintenkamp / *The Masses*, October 1917

### Talking points

What lesson does the fate of *The Masses* hold for today's political cartoonists and publishers as they criticize U.S. involvement in Iraq? Does wartime censorship still exist? Should it? How are things different in wartime that would necessitate censorship? Does the long-term war on terrorism require censorship?

### Get out your newspaper

Gather a week's worth of political cartoons from your newspaper. Using the Cartoon Evaluation Worksheet (available online at the NIE Website) analyze each cartoon and explain the message. Which might be considered at risk if the government started censoring opinions that questioned its policies?

### Additional resources

Association of American Editorial Cartoonists (AAEC)  
<http://editorialcartoonists.com/>



**Conscription:** Death surrounds a cannon in this protest of the draft that was proposed in preparation for World War I.

Henry Glintenkamp / *The Masses*, August 1917