

## War

Helmut Herzfeld changed his name to John Heartfield in 1916, in protest at anti-English propaganda during the First World War. Right up to his death, Heartfield remained a passionate opponent of war. For his photomontages, he gathered war images from all over the world, including pictures of atrocities and press photographs from both world wars, as well as documentary images from the Vietnam and Algerian wars. The deconstruction of these images (he would cut them out and fragment, deform and recombine them) was a symbolic response to the destruction of civilian society by war. Heartfield combined an unconventional form of expression, radicalised by the dada movement, with his absolute determination to make his views clear.