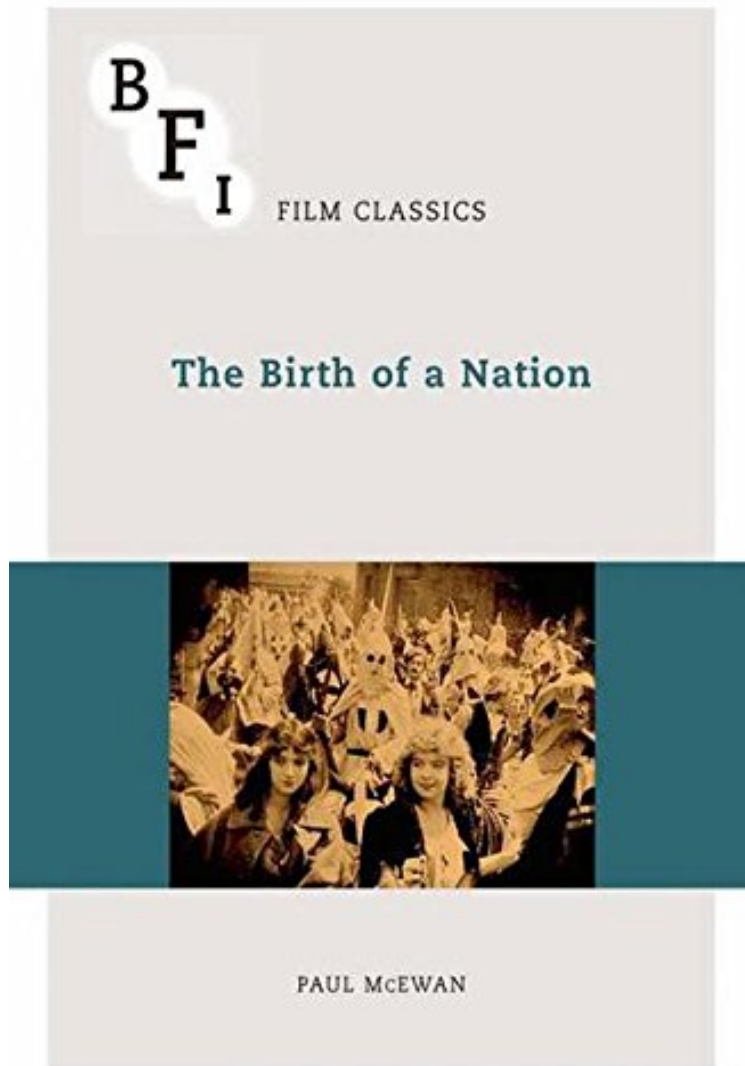


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The Birth of a Nation (BFI Film Classics)

Paul McEwan

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Paul McEwan : The Birth of a Nation (BFI Film Classics) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Birth of a Nation (BFI Film Classics):

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. ExcellentBy SHPThis jaw-dropping film is given a full examination by Paul McEwan. It is a fine analysis of the film, covering what it's about, its innovations and the controversies. Very well illustrated with stills. The best version of the film itself is the new BFI blu-ray. It looks amazing.0 of 8 people found the following review helpful. Intense RageBy bookwormToo painful to read

Portraying the Ku Klux Klan as heroic underdogs, silent epic *The Birth of a Nation* (1915) is widely considered to be the most controversial film of all time. At once one of US culture's greatest artistic achievements and one of its most abhorrently racist artefacts, it becomes more shocking with every passing year. Comprising a decade of archival research and published on the 100th anniversary of the film's release, this richly detailed study considers both the film's afterlife and the artistic, industrial and moral surroundings in which it was created. Drawing on an unbroken century of production and reception history, Paul McEwan recounts the film's origins and development, Griffith's unique editing and cinematography and the construction of racial identity and fear in the film. Assessing its contribution as an art form, while directly grappling with the complexity of the art-or-racism debate, Paul McEwan shows how *The Birth of a Nation* has had a central role in the development of film and Film Studies worldwide.

Paul McEwan's well-written book is a compendium of the film's creation, intentions, meaning, and effects.' - All Classical Portland 'Indisputably a classic, but undoubtedly in need of context and interpretation, *The Birth of a Nation* is a prime candidate for the BFI Film Classics treatment. While it's a surprise that D.W. Griffith's 1915 landmark film hasn't already been featured in the series, Paul McEwan's monograph proves to be worth the wait.' - Pamela Hutchinson, *Sight Sound*, October 2015 issue

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