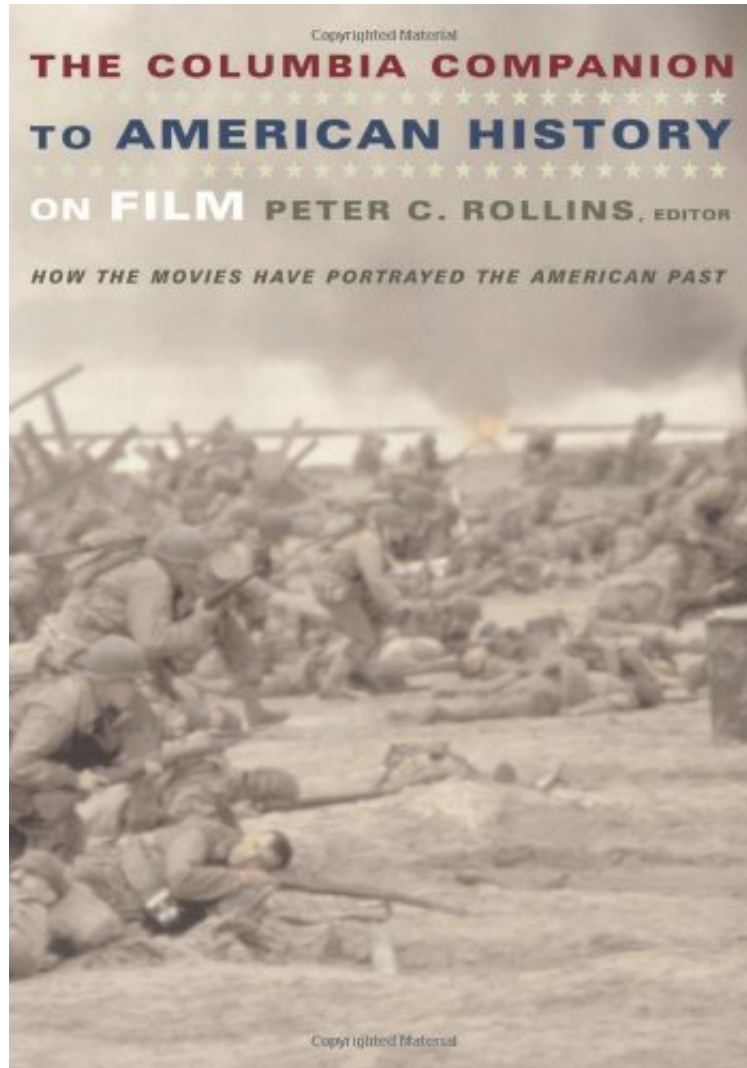


The Columbia Companion to American History on Film

From Columbia University Press
audiobook | *ebooks | Download PDF | ePub | DOC



 Download

 Read Online

#1985665 in Books 2004-03-24Ingredients: Example IngredientsOriginal language:EnglishPDF # 1 10.38 x 1.68 x 7.38l, 2.99 #File Name: 023111222X696 pages | File size: 18.Mb

From Columbia University Press : The Columbia Companion to American History on Film before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Columbia Companion to American History on Film:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Real History vs Reel HistoryBy Frederick JeeThis is a great series of essays about how Hollywood interprets history for its dramatic/cinematographic needs over the facts of real history. It gives a perspective that is needed when one disusses the real vs reel story offered to the public.

American history has always been an irresistible source of inspiration for filmmakers, and today, for good or ill, most

Americans' sense of the past likely comes more from Hollywood than from the works of historians. In important films such as *The Birth of a Nation* (1915), *Roots* (1977), *Apocalypse Now* (1979), and *Saving Private Ryan* (1998), how much is entertainment and how much is rooted in historical fact? In *The Columbia Companion to American History on Film*, more than seventy scholars consider the gap between history and Hollywood. They examine how filmmakers have presented and interpreted the most important events, topics, eras, and figures in the American past, often comparing the film versions of events with the interpretations of the best historians who have explored the topic. Divided into eight broad categories—Eras; Wars and Other Major Events; Notable People; Groups; Institutions and Movements; Places; Themes and Topics; and Myths and Heroes—the volume features extensive cross-references, a filmography (of discussed and relevant films), notes, and a bibliography of selected historical works on each subject. *The Columbia Companion to American History on Film* is also an important resource for teachers, with extensive information for research or for course development appropriate for both high school and college students. Though each essay reflects the unique body of film and print works covering the subject at hand, every essay addresses several fundamental questions: What are the key films on this topic? What sources did the filmmaker use, and how did the film deviate (or remain true to) its sources? How have film interpretations of a particular historical topic changed, and what sorts of factors—technological, social, political, historiographical—have affected their evolution? Have filmmakers altered the historical record with a view to enhancing drama or to enhance the "truth" of their putative message?

From *Publishers Weekly*: The average person in the industrial world will spend nine years watching film and television, says Rollins, an American film studies professor at Oklahoma University and editor in chief of *Film History*. He claims the sense of "popular memory" people get from watching movies provides a skewed sense of history, but what film and documentaries do illustrate, he says, are the attitudes of the director and the society at the time of production. Rollins organizes his book into eight chapters, on historical eras, famous personalities, movements, places and other prisms through which we can view history. He charges his contributors (scholars of history, communications, politics and other disciplines) with finding the messages behind the medium, be it the legend of Abraham Lincoln or John Kennedy or the mythology of small towns. All reveal the social expectations embedded in pop culture. Concise historical summaries precede examples of films to illustrate the shifting views of women, politics, race, etc. Although the book is structured by themes, the index allows readers to explore particular films from different perspectives: e.g., *Hester Street* is not only about Jewish immigration and assimilation, but its heroine may also be seen as an archetype of the modern woman. Rollins's reference allows readers to appreciate films in context, enhancing the experience. Film buffs will find the mix of history and cinematic analysis captivating, while historians will be intrigued by the book's analysis of popular culture. Photos. Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

From *School Library Journal* (Adult/High School): This scholarly work focuses on how Hollywood films have dealt with historical figures, places, and events from the silent era to the present day. Each section is filled with filmographies, lists of pertinent films, discussions by noted film critics, cross-references, and bibliographies of relevant materials in both print and nonprint formats. Each section also tries to ascertain what the key films on the topic are; if filmmakers have altered the facts to enhance the story; and if social, political, or technical factors have influenced the production. This work flows well and would make a wonderful addition to any YA collection. It would benefit students interested in film production, history, or political science. For film aficionados, it's just plain fun to thumb through, analyzing films that they've seen or building a list of must-sees. John Kiefman, Fairfax County Public Library, VA Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. This handy collection of 79 essays... should be most helpful as a reference guide for newcomers to film studies, but advanced scholars will also benefit from the historical analyses and interpretations of film texts. Highly recommended. (Choice)

Rollins's reference allows readers to appreciate films in context, enhancing the experience. Film buffs will find the mix of history and cinematic analysis captivating, while historians will be intrigued by the book's analysis of popular culture. *Publishers Weekly* (*Publishers Weekly*) This work flows well and would make a wonderful addition to any YA collection. It would benefit students interested in film production, history, or political science...it's just plain fun to thumb through. (John Keifman *School Library Journal*) It provides a solid introduction to many of the major themes of American history on film, and students will undoubtedly find it a very useful source. (Michael Paris *Screening the Past*) This is an excellent print source. This *Columbia Companion* that Rollins has crafted is highly recommended. (Jim Agee *American Reference Books Annual*) Rollins' book truly deserves to be called a standard work.... Not only is *The Columbia Companion to American History on Film* a must-read for students and scholars of film studies but also in other fields like history, English, or American studies. (*Literatur in Wissenschaft und Unterricht*) *The Columbia Companion to American History on Film* is yet another impressive volume on film and history edited by Peter C. Rollins. (Leen Engelen *Historical Journal of Film, Radio, and Television*) [Rollins] is to be praised for his splendid accomplishment, and each reader of the essays will congratulate himself or herself for having found the collection. *Journal of American Culture* (Ray B. Browne *Journal of American Culture*) Offers a wealth of significant material that is extremely informative and entertaining for film scholars, teachers, and film buffs alike. (Carol E. Mitchell *Journal of Popular Culture*) The useful background information will greatly enhance one's view of

historical movies. (Paul Milner FGS Forum)