

Hollywoods Cold War

Hollywoods Cold War Hollywoods cold war refers to the tense and often clandestine rivalry that unfolded behind the scenes of Hollywood during the Cold War era. This period, spanning roughly from the late 1940s to the early 1990s, was marked not only by geopolitical tensions between the United States and the Soviet Union but also by a cultural and ideological confrontation within the entertainment industry. Hollywood became a battleground for influence, propaganda, and public perception, with implications that shaped American cinema and global cultural narratives for decades. --- The Origins of Hollywood's Cold War The Post-War Context After World War II, the world was divided into two superpower blocs: the United States and the Soviet Union. The ideological clash between capitalism and communism permeated every aspect of society, including Hollywood. As the entertainment industry grew in influence, it was seen as a powerful tool for shaping public opinion and cultural values. The Rise of Anti-Communist Sentiment During the late 1940s and early 1950s, fears of communist infiltration led to a series of investigations and purges within Hollywood. The era's most infamous manifestation was the Hollywood Blacklist, which targeted individuals suspected of communist sympathies or affiliations. The House Un-American Activities Committee (HUAC) conducted hearings that tarnished reputations and led to self-censorship among filmmakers and actors. --- The Hollywood Blacklist and Its Impact What Was the Hollywood Blacklist? The Hollywood Blacklist was a list of entertainment professionals suspected of communist ties or sympathies. Those blacklisted faced professional ostracism, loss of employment, and public scrutiny. Many careers were effectively destroyed, while others sought refuge abroad or worked in less visible roles. Prominent Figures Affected Some of the most notable individuals blacklisted or affected include: Charlie Chaplin Luis Buñuel 2 Dalton Trumbo Edward Dmytryk Lee J. Cobb The blacklist reflected fears of communist influence but also raised questions about civil liberties and artistic freedom. Effects on Filmmaking The blacklist led to a chilling effect on creative expression. Filmmakers and writers avoided controversial topics and maintained a cautious approach to content, often self-censoring to avoid suspicion. --- Propaganda and Political Messaging in Hollywood Hollywood as a Tool for the Cold War During the Cold War, Hollywood films became a means of promoting American values and countering communist ideology. Movies often depicted the Soviet Union and communists as villains, reinforcing national security narratives. Notable Propaganda Films Some films explicitly served political purposes, such as: "Red Dawn" (1984) – depicting a Soviet invasion of the United States¹. "The Red Menace" (1949) –

portraying communist threats domestically². “Invasion of the Body Snatchers” (1956) – interpreted as an allegory for communist³. infiltration These films aimed to galvanize American patriotism and foster suspicion of foreign influence. Influence of Government Agencies The U.S. government actively collaborated with Hollywood through agencies like the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA). Projects such as “The Red Menace” received support, and some productions were designed to subtly promote anti-communist messages. --- The Role of Hollywood Celebrities and the Culture War Celebrity Involvement in Cold War Politics Many Hollywood stars became outspoken anti-communists, aligning with government 3 narratives. Conversely, some artists used their platform to advocate for civil liberties and peace. Notable Figures and Movements - John Wayne: Vocal supporter of anti-communist policies and conservative politics. - Marlon Brando: Advocated for civil rights and was critical of certain Cold War policies. - The Hollywood Ten: A group of writers and directors blacklisted for refusing to testify before HUAC, symbolizing resistance to political intimidation. Hollywood and Civil Rights The Cold War era also intersected with civil rights struggles. Hollywood films began addressing themes of racial equality, which sometimes clashed with conservative political sentiments, highlighting the complex cultural landscape of the time. --- Key Films and Artists That Defined the Cold War Era Iconic Films The Cold War influenced countless films, including: “Dr. Strangelove or: How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Bomb” (1964) – satirical take on nuclear tensions “Fail Safe” (1964) – depicting the dangers of nuclear war “Rocky IV” (1985) – symbolizing US-Soviet rivalry through boxing “The Manchurian Candidate” (1962) – exploring themes of mind control and espionage Influential Artists - Stanley Kubrick: Known for films critiquing war and political paranoia. - Alfred Hitchcock: Master of suspense, whose films often reflected Cold War anxieties. - Frank Capra: Created patriotic films promoting American ideals. --- End of the Cold War and Its Aftermath in Hollywood Shift in Political Climate With the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989 and the dissolution of the Soviet Union in 1991, the explicit ideological conflict diminished. Hollywood’s focus shifted from anti-communist themes to broader social issues and entertainment. 4 Legacy of the Cold War in Cinema While the intense political scrutiny waned, Cold War themes persisted in films that explored espionage, nuclear fears, and ideological conflicts. The era’s influence is evident in spy thrillers, action movies, and political dramas. Lessons Learned The Hollywood Cold War era serves as a reminder of the power of cinema in shaping public perception, the importance of artistic freedom, and the dangers of ideological repression. - -- Conclusion Hollywood’s Cold War was a complex interplay of politics, culture, and entertainment. It reflected broader societal fears and tensions, while also influencing the ways stories were told and consumed. Understanding this period offers valuable insights into the relationship between media, politics, and society during one of the most turbulent times in modern history. As Hollywood continues to evolve, its Cold War legacy remains a

testament to the enduring power of film as both a reflection and a shaper of cultural and political realities. **Question** What is the focus of the documentary 'Hollywood's Cold War'? The documentary explores how Hollywood films during the Cold War era reflected and influenced American attitudes towards communism, espionage, and national security. **Answer** Which notable Hollywood figures are featured in 'Hollywood's Cold War'? The documentary highlights figures such as John Wayne, Ronald Reagan, and Hollywood studios like Warner Bros, illustrating their roles in shaping Cold War narratives. How did Hollywood films during the Cold War era portray communism? They often depicted communism as a villainous threat, emphasizing themes of espionage, infiltration, and the need for American vigilance and patriotism. What impact did the Hollywood blacklist have on film production during the Cold War? The blacklist led to the censorship and banning of filmmakers and writers suspected of communist ties, influencing the themes and narratives of Hollywood films during that period. Are there any famous Cold War- era films discussed in 'Hollywood's Cold War'? Yes, films like 'Red Dawn', 'The Hunt for Red October', and 'Invasion of the Body Snatchers' are analyzed for their Cold War themes and cultural significance. How did Hollywood's portrayal of the Cold War influence American public opinion? Hollywood films often reinforced anti-communist sentiments, fostering fear, suspicion, and patriotism among American audiences during the Cold War. **5** What role did government agencies play in shaping Hollywood content during the Cold War? Agencies like the CIA collaborated with filmmakers and provided input or funding to produce films that aligned with American strategic interests and propaganda efforts. Has 'Hollywood's Cold War' uncovered any lesser-known stories or controversies? Yes, the documentary reveals hidden stories of censorship, the influence of political pressure on film content, and covert government involvement in Hollywood productions. Why is 'Hollywood's Cold War' relevant today? It offers insights into how media shapes political narratives and public perception, lessons that remain pertinent in understanding modern propaganda and cultural diplomacy. **Hollywood's Cold War: An In-Depth Examination of Cinema's Role in Geopolitical Narratives** The phrase Hollywood's Cold War encapsulates a complex and multifaceted phenomenon—how the film industry not only reflected but actively shaped perceptions of the geopolitical tension between the United States and the Soviet Union from the late 1940s through the 1980s. This era, marked by ideological conflict, espionage, and nuclear anxieties, found a potent expression on the silver screen. Hollywood's Cold War was not merely about entertainment; it was a battleground for cultural influence, propaganda, and national identity. This article explores the historical context, thematic evolution, key films and figures, and the lasting impact of Hollywood's engagement with Cold War politics. --- **Historical Context: The Birth of Hollywood's Cold War** The Cold War era was characterized by ideological opposition, nuclear arms race, and espionage. The Hollywood film industry, situated within the cultural heart of the United States, did not

operate in isolation. It responded dynamically to the political climate, often aligning with government narratives or subtly challenging them. The Post-War Atmosphere and the Rise of Anti-Communism Following World War II, the global balance of power shifted dramatically. The Soviet Union emerged as a superpower rival, and fears of communism infiltrating American society intensified. The House Un-American Activities Committee (HUAC) and the Hollywood Blacklist (late 1940s-1950s) exemplify how the industry itself became embroiled in anti-communist sentiment. During this period, Hollywood's response was a mixture of cautious compliance and subtle critique. While many studios upheld a patriotic stance, others used the platform to explore themes of suspicion, betrayal, and the threat of totalitarianism.

The Role of Government and Censorship The U.S. government actively engaged with Hollywood, recognizing the power of film as a Hollywoods Cold War 6 tool for shaping public opinion. Initiatives like the Hollywood Blacklist and the production of propaganda films underscored this relationship. The Motion Picture Alliance for the Preservation of American Ideals, founded in 1944, exemplified industry figures committed to combating communism through media.

--- Thematic Evolution in Cold War Cinema Hollywood's Cold War films evolved over decades, reflecting shifting political climates, technological advancements, and cultural attitudes. They can be broadly categorized into several thematic phases.

Early Cold War Anxiety: Espionage and Subversion In the late 1940s and early 1950s, films centered around espionage, paranoia, and infiltration. Key Features: - Portrayal of spies as sinister, often untrustworthy villains. - Themes of suspicion, betrayal, and the loss of innocence. - Fear of communist subversion within American institutions. Notable Films: - *The Spy Who Came in from the Cold* (1965) — Though British, it captures Cold War espionage's moral ambiguities. - *The House on Haunted Hill* (1959) — A metaphorical exploration of paranoia. - *Invasion of the Body Snatchers* (1956) — Allegorical fears of losing individuality to communist conformity.

McCarthy Era and the Red Scare: Propaganda and Censorship During the early 1950s, Hollywood became a battleground for ideological purity. Notable Aspects: - Films that depicted communists as dangerous and subversive. - Self-censorship to avoid controversy. - Blacklisted writers and directors producing work that aligned with government narratives. Films and Figures: - *The Red Menace* (1949) — Explicitly anti-communist. - The works of director John Ford, whose patriotic films reinforced American values.

The 1960s and 1970s: Reflection and Critique As the Cold War deepened and then waned, Hollywood's approach shifted from outright propaganda to nuanced reflection and critique. Themes: - The absurdity of nuclear arms race (*Dr. Strangelove*). - Skepticism about government motives (*All the President's Men*). - The moral ambiguity of espionage (*Three Days of the Condor*). Impactful Films: - *Fail Safe* (1964) and *Dr. Strangelove* (1964) — contrasting perspectives on nuclear threat. - *The Parallax View* (1974) — skepticism about conspiracy and government control.

The Late Cold War and the End of an Era By the late 1970s and early 1980s, Hollywood grappled with a

more complex view of the superpower rivalry. Notable Films: - Rocky IV (1985) — The quintessential Cold War Hollywoods Cold War 7 blockbuster with clear ideological battles. - Red Dawn (1984) — An aggressive portrayal of a Soviet invasion of the U.S. - The Hunt for Red October (1990) — A more nuanced depiction of Soviet-American relations. --- Hollywood Icons and Cold War Narratives Many actors, directors, and writers became symbols of Cold War cinema, their careers intertwined with the political narratives they helped craft. Actors and Characters - John Wayne: Embodied American patriotism, starring in films like The Green Berets (1968) that supported U.S. military efforts. - Clint Eastwood: Portrayed complex characters navigating Cold War tensions, especially in the Dirty Harry series. - Sean Connery and James Bond: The British spy franchise became a symbol of Western ingenuity and resilience. Directors and Screenwriters - Stanley Kubrick: Dr. Strangelove offered a satirical critique of nuclear policies. - John Frankenheimer: Known for The Manchurian Candidate (1962), exploring mind control and political manipulation. - Oliver Stone: Later films critiqued American military actions and intelligence operations. --- Hollywood's Cold War as Propaganda or Reflection? A central debate persists: Was Hollywood complicit in Cold War propaganda, or was it a mirror reflecting societal fears? The Propaganda Argument Proponents argue that many films served as tools for ideological reinforcement, emphasizing American virtues and demonizing the USSR and communism. Supporting Evidence: - Films like Red Dawn and The Green Berets explicitly promote American patriotism. - The industry's alignment with government initiatives during the 1950s. The Reflection and Critique Perspective Others contend that Hollywood also provided space for critique and reflection, offering nuanced portrayals and exposing contradictions. Supporting Evidence: - Films like Dr. Strangelove and Fail Safe question nuclear policies. - The emergence of anti-war and anti- military films during the Vietnam era. --- Hollywoods Cold War 8 The Lasting Legacy of Hollywood's Cold War The Cold War left an indelible mark on Hollywood, shaping genres, storytelling techniques, and cultural narratives. Genre Development - The spy thriller became a staple, exemplified by the James Bond franchise. - Action films often incorporate Cold War themes, emphasizing heroism and nationalism. - Science fiction became a platform for allegory and critique (The Terminator, The Matrix). Cultural Impact and Public Perception - Films contributed to shaping American identity and perceptions of the enemy. - They influenced public attitudes toward military intervention, nuclear policy, and espionage. - The genre's tropes and narratives continue to influence modern filmmaking. Post-Cold War Reconfigurations With the Cold War's end in 1991, Hollywood's narratives shifted, sometimes revisiting Cold War themes with nostalgia or irony, as seen in films like GoldenEye (1995) and Skyfall (2012). -- - Conclusion: Hollywood's Cold War as a Cultural Mirror Hollywood's engagement with Cold War themes exemplifies the industry's dual role—as a propagandist and as a mirror to societal anxieties. Its films served not only to entertain but to inform, reinforce, critique,

and challenge the prevailing narratives of the era. The legacy of this period persists, influencing contemporary cinema and cultural discourse. Understanding Hollywood's Cold War offers insight into the broader interplay between politics and culture, revealing how art reflects and shapes the fears, hopes, and identities of a society under the shadow of global conflict. Whether as a tool of propaganda or a space for reflection, Hollywood's Cold War remains a vital chapter in both film history and Cold War studies. --- References and Further Reading: - Diarmuid Jeffreys, *The Hollywood Blacklist: A History of Studio Censorship and Political Repression*. - William M. Drew and David A. Gerstner, *The Hollywood Studio System*. - Peter C. Rollins, *Hollywood's Cold War*. - Mark Harris, *Pictures at a Revolution: Five Movies and the Birth of the New Hollywood*. - John C. Tibbetts, *The American Civil War in Film and Television* (for broader context on war cinema). --- This exploration underscores how Hollywood's Cold War was not a monolithic narrative but a dynamic, evolving dialogue between cinema, politics, and society—one that continues to resonate in the films we watch today. Hollywood Cold War, Hollywood espionage, McCarthyism in film, Hollywood blacklist, Red Hollywoods Cold War 9 Scare movies, Hollywood espionage films, Cold War cinema, Hollywood political paranoia, Hollywood and communism, Cold War propaganda films

Hollywood's Cold War Hollywood and the End of the Cold War Cold War II Blacklisted! The Screen Is Red Screen is Red: Hollywood Communism & the Cold War Cinematic Cold War J. Edgar Hoover Goes to the Movies Film Criticism, the Cold War, and the Blacklist Lookout America! Producer of Controversy Hollywood Exiles in Europe The Suppression of Salt of the Earth The Suppression of Salt of the Earth Cold War Femme The Cold War on Film British Cinema and the Cold War The Big Tomorrow Cold War, Cool Medium Hollywood's Blacklists Tony Shaw Bryn Upton Tatiana Prorokova-Konrad Larry Dane Brimner Bernard F. Dick Bernard F. Dick Tony Shaw John Sbardellati Jeff Smith Kevin Hamilton Jennifer Frost Rebecca Prime James J. Lorence James J. Lorence Robert J. Corber Paul Frazier Tony Shaw Lary May Thomas Doherty Reynold Humphries

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from the late 1940s until the early 1990s the cold war was perhaps the most critical and defining aspect of american culture influencing television music and movies among other forms of popular entertainment films in particular were at the center of the battle for the hearts and minds of the american public throughout this period the cold war influenced what movies got produced how such movies were made and how audiences understood the films they watched in the post cold war era some genres of film suffered from the shift in our national narratives while others were quickly reimagined for an audience with different political and social fears in hollywood and the end of the cold war signs of cinematic change bryn upton compares films from the late cold war era with movies of similar themes from the post cold war era in this volume upton pays particular attention to shifts in narrative that reflect changes in american culture attitudes and ideas in exploring how the absence of the cold war has changed the way we understand and interpret film this volume seeks to answer several key questions such as has the end of the cold war altered how we tell our stories has it changed how we perceive ourselves in what ways has our popular culture been affected by the absence of this once dominant presence with its focus on themes that are central to the concerns of many historians including civil religion social fracture and the culture wars hollywood and the end of the cold war will serve as a useful tool for those seeking to integrate film into the classroom as well as for film scholars exploring representations of sociopolitical change on screen

contributions by thomas j cobb donna a gessell helena goscolo cyndy hendershot christian jimenez david larocca lori maguire tatiana prorokova konrad ian scott vesta silva lucian tion dan ward and jon wiebel in recent years hollywood cinema has forwarded a growing number of images of the cold war and entertained a return to memories of conflicts between the ussr and the us russians and americans and communism and capitalism cold war ii hollywood s renewed obsession with russia explores the reasons for this sudden reestablished interest in the cold war essayists examine such films as guy ritchie s the man from u n c l e steven spielberg s bridge of spies ethan coen and joel coen s hail caesar david leitch s atomic blonde guillermo del toro s the shape of water ryan coogler s black panther and francis lawrence s red sparrow among others as well as such television shows as comrade detective and the americans contributors to this collection interrogate the revival of the cold war movie genre from multiple angles and examine the issues of patriotism national identity otherness gender and corruption they consider cinematic aesthetics and the ethics of these representations they reveal how cold war imagery shapes audiences understanding of the period in general and of the relationship between the us and russia in particular the authors complicate traditional definitions of the cold war

film and invite readers to discover a new phase in the cold war movie genre cold war ii

a kirkus reviews best children s book new from 2018 sibert medalist larry dane brimner here is the story of 19 men from the film industry who were investigated for suspected communist ties during the cold war and the 10 known as the hollywood ten who were blacklisted for standing up for their first amendment rights and refusing to cooperate world war ii is over but tensions between the communist soviet union and the us are at an all time high in america communist threats are seen everywhere and a committee is formed in the nation s capital to investigate those threats larry dane brimner follows the story of 19 men all from the film industry who are summoned to appear before the house of representatives committee on un american activities all 19 believe that the committee s investigations into their political views and personal associations are a violation of their first amendment rights when the first 10 of these men refuse to give the committee the simple answers it wants they are cited for contempt of congress and blacklisted

the screen is red portrays hollywood s ambivalence toward the former soviet union before during and after the cold war in the 1930s communism combated its alter ego fascism yet both threatened to undermine the capitalist system the movie industry s foundational core value hollywood portrayed fascism as the greater threat and communism as an aberration embraced by young idealists unaware of its dark side in ninotchka all a female commissar needs is a trip to paris to convert her to capitalism and the luxuries it can offer the scenario changed when nazi germany invaded the soviet union in 1941 making russia a short lived ally the soviets were quickly glorified in such films as song of russia the north star mission to moscow days of glory and counter attack but once the iron curtain fell on eastern europe the scenario changed again america was now swarming with soviet agents attempting to steal some crucial piece of microfilm on screen the atomic detonations in the southwest produced mutations in ants locusts and spiders and revived long dead monsters from their watery tombs the movies did not blame the atom bomb specifically but showed what horrors might result in addition to the iconic mushroom cloud through the lens of hollywood a nuclear war might leave a handful of survivors five none on the beach dr strangelove or cities in ruins fail safe today the threat is no longer the soviet union but international terrorism author bernard f dick argues however that the soviet union has not lost its appeal as evident from the popular and critically acclaimed television series the americans more than eighty years later the screen is still red

the cold war was as much a battle of ideas as a series of military and diplomatic confrontations and movies were a prime battleground for this cultural combat as tony shaw and denise youngblood show hollywood sought to export american ideals in movies like rambo and the soviet film industry fought back by showcasing communist ideals in a

positive light primarily for their own citizens the two camps traded cinematic blows for more than four decades the first book length comparative survey of cinema s vital role in disseminating cold war ideologies shaw and youngblood s study focuses on ten films five american and five soviet that in both obvious and subtle ways provided a crucial outlet for the global debate between democratic and communist ideologies for each nation the authors outline industry leaders structure audiences politics and international reach and explore the varied relationships linking each film industry to its respective government they then present five comparative case studies each pairing an american with a soviet film *man on a tightrope* with *the meeting on the elbe* *roman holiday* with *spring on zarechnaya street* *fail safe* with *nine days in one year* *bananas* with *officers* *rambo* *first blood* part ii with *incident at map grid 36 80* shaw breathes new life into familiar american films by elia kazan and woody allen while youngblood helps readers comprehend soviet films most have never seen collectively their commentaries track the cold war in its entirety from its formative phase through periods of thaw and self doubt to the resurgence of mutual animosity during the reagan years and enable readers to identify competing core propaganda themes such as decadence versus morality technology versus humanity and freedom versus authority as the authors show such themes blurred notions regarding propaganda and entertainment terms that were often interchangeable and mutually reinforcing during the cold war featuring engaging commentary and evocative images from the films discussed cinematic cold war offers a shrewd analysis of how the silver screen functioned on both sides of the iron curtain as such it should have great appeal for anyone interested in the cold war or the cinematic arts

between 1942 and 1958 j edgar hoover s federal bureau of investigation conducted a sweeping and sustained investigation of the motion picture industry to expose hollywood s alleged subversion of the american way through its depiction of social problems class differences and alternative political ideologies fbi informants their names still redacted today reported to hoover s g men on screenplays and screenings of such films as frank capra s *it s a wonderful life* 1946 noting that this picture deliberately maligned the upper class attempting to show that people who had money were mean and despicable characters the fbi s anxiety over this film was not unique it extended to a wide range of popular and critical successes including *the grapes of wrath* 1940 *the best years of our lives* 1946 *crossfire* 1947 and *on the waterfront* 1954 in j edgar hoover goes to the movies john sbardellati provides a new consideration of hollywood s history and the post world war ii red scare in addition to governmental intrusion into the creative process he details the efforts of left wing filmmakers to use the medium to bring social problems to light and the campaigns of their colleagues on the political right through such organizations as the motion picture alliance for the preservation of american ideals to prevent dissemination of

un american ideas and beliefs sbardellati argues that the attack on hollywood drew its motivation from a sincerely held fear that film content endangered national security by fostering a culture that would be at best apathetic to the cold war struggle at best or at its worst conducive to communism at home those who took part in hollywood s cold war struggle whether on the left or right shared one common trait a belief that the movies could serve as engines for social change this strongly held assumption explains why the stakes were so high and ultimately why hollywood became one of the most important ideological battlegrounds of the cold war

film criticism the cold war and the blacklist examines the long term reception of several key american films released during the postwar period focusing on the two main critical lenses used in the interpretation of these films propaganda and allegory produced in response to the hearings held by the house committee on un american activities huac that resulted in the hollywood blacklist these films ideological message and rhetorical effectiveness was often muddled by the inherent difficulties in dramatizing villains defined by their thoughts and belief systems rather than their actions whereas anti communist propaganda films offered explicit political exhortation allegory was the preferred vehicle for veiled or hidden political comment in many police procedurals historical films westerns and science fiction films jeff smith examines the way that particular heuristics such as the mental availability of exemplars and the effects of framing have encouraged critics to match filmic elements to contemporaneous historical events persons and policies in charting the development of these particular readings film criticism the cold war and the blacklist features case studies of many canonical cold war titles including the red menace on the waterfront the robe high noon and invasion of the body snatchers

the story of the cold war era lookout mountain laboratory or the 1352nd photographic group of the united states air force which employed hundreds of hollywood studio veterans engages with issues of the cold war state and visual culture

with films ranging from high noon to guess who s coming to dinner stanley kramer 1913 2001 was one of the most successful and prolific director producers of his day but even as critics praised his courage in taking on such issues as nuclear war racism fascism and the battle between science and religion others condemned his work as emptily pretentious and hollow falsely sentimental overproduced whether kramer was one of the great filmmakers of all time kevin spacey at the golden globe awards or one of hollywood s worst directors preeminent film critic andrew sarris in the village voice he had a strong and undeniable influence on american culture during the cold war producer of controversy is the first book to take a close up look at kramer s career films and liberal politics in an effort to explain his contributions and historical significance kramer learned filmmaking within the old

studio system but over a career spanning forty years he did much to shape the independent moviemaking that emerged after world war ii jennifer frost pays particular attention to four of his key message movies the defiant ones on the beach inherit the wind and judgment at nuremberg to show how kramer s controversial films opened up public debate about the most important issues of his time among average filmgoers as well as professional critics political commentators and public figures in this context she for the first time fully documents the hollywood right s attacks on kramer in the 1950s details his resistance to the anticommunist red scare and the hollywood blacklist exposes his role as a cultural diplomat with the soviet union and reveals his important contribution to the liberal and radical politics of the 1960s her book is at once an absorbing work of cultural history and a thoroughgoing reassessment of stanley kramer s place in the pantheon of american filmmakers

rebecca prime documents the untold story of the american directors screenwriters and actors who exiled themselves to europe as a result of the hollywood blacklist during the 1950s and 1960s these hollywood émigrés directed wrote or starred in almost one hundred european productions their contributions ranging from crime film masterpieces like *du rififi chez les hommes* 1955 jules dassin director to international blockbusters like *the bridge on the river kwai* 1957 carl foreman and michael wilson screenwriters and acclaimed art films like *the servant* 1963 joseph losey director at once a lively portrait of a lesser known american lost generation and an examination of an important transitional moment in european cinema the book offers a compelling argument for the significance of the blacklisted émigrés to our understanding of postwar american and european cinema and cold war relations prime provides detailed accounts of the production and reception of their european films that clarify the ambivalence with which hollywood was regarded within postwar european culture drawing upon extensive archival research including previously classified material hollywood exiles in europe suggests the need to rethink our understanding of the hollywood blacklist as a purely domestic phenomenon by shedding new light on european cinema s changing relationship with hollywood the book illuminates the postwar shift from national to transnational cinema

examines the conception production distribution and suppression of the pioneering labor feminist film made during the virulently anti communist era of the cold war

interpretations of hollywood films of the 1950s and 1960s demonstrate how cold war homophobia focused on the femme as the lesbian who posed the greatest threat to the nation

the cold war on film illustrates how to use film as a teaching tool it stands on its own as an

account of both the war and the major films that have depicted it memories of the cold war have often been shaped by the popular films that depict it for example the manchurian candidate the hunt for red october and charlie wilson s war among others the cold war on film examines how the cold war has been portrayed through a selection of 10 iconic films that represent it through dramatization and storytelling as opposed to through documentary footage the book includes an introduction to the war s history and a timeline of events each of the 10 chapters that follow focuses on a specific cold war film chapters offer a uniquely detailed level of historical context for the films weighing their depiction of events against the historical record and evaluating how well or how poorly those films reflected the truth and shaped public memory and discourse over the war a comprehensive annotated bibliography of print and electronic sources aids students and teachers in further research

shaw analyses key films of the period including high treason which put a british mccarthyism on celluloid the fascinatingly ambiguous science fiction thriller the quatermass experiment the court room drama based on the trial of hungary s cardinal Mindszenty the prisoner the dystopic the damned made by one of hollywood s blacklisted directors joseph Losey and the cia funded animated version of george orwell s classic novel animal farm the result is a deeply probing study of how cold war issues were refracted through british films compared with their imported american and east european counterparts and how the british public received this war propaganda book jacket

in this daring reexamination of the connections between national politics and hollywood movies larry may offers a fresh interpretation of american culture from the new deal through the cold war one in which a populist egalitarian ethos found itself eventually supplanted by a far different view of the nation one of the best books ever written about the movies tom ryan the age the most exhilarating work of revisionist film history since pauline kael s citizen kane may s take on what movies once were energizing as opposed to enervating and hence can become again is enough to get you believing in them again as one of the regenerative forces america so sorely needs jay carr boston globe a startling revisionist history of hollywood s impact on politics and american culture a convincing and important addition to american cultural criticism publishers weekly a controversial overview of 30 years of american film history must reading for any serious student of the subject choice a provocative social history of hollywood s influence in american life from the 1930s to the 1950s may argues persuasively that movies in the period offered a good deal of tough criticism of economic and social conditions in u s society may challenges us to engage in some serious rethinking about hollywood s impact on american society in the middle of the twentieth century robert brent toplin american historical review

conventional wisdom holds that television was a co conspirator in the repressions of cold war america that it was a facilitator to the blacklist and handmaiden to mccarthyism but thomas doherty argues that through the influence of television america actually became a more open and tolerant place although many books have been written about this period cold war cool medium is the only one to examine it through the lens of television programming to the unjaded viewership of cold war america the television set was not a harbinger of intellectual degradation and moral decay but a thrilling new household appliance capable of bringing the wonders of the world directly into the home the cool medium permeated the lives of every american quickly becoming one of the most powerful cultural forces of the twentieth century while television has frequently been blamed for spurring the rise of senator joseph mccarthy it was also the national stage upon which america witnessed and ultimately welcomed his downfall in this provocative and nuanced cultural history doherty chronicles some of the most fascinating and ideologically charged episodes in television history the warm hearted jewish sitcom the goldbergs the subversive threat from i love lucy the sermons of fulton j sheen on life is worth living the anticommunist series i led 3 lives the legendary jousts between edward r murrow and joseph mccarthy on see it now and the hypnotic 188 hour political spectacle that was the army mccarthy hearings by rerunning the programs freezing the frames and reading between the lines cold war cool medium paints a picture of cold war america that belies many black and white clichés doherty not only details how the blacklist operated within the television industry but also how the shows themselves struggled to defy it arguing that television was preprogrammed to reinforce the very freedoms that mccarthyism attempted to curtail

are you now or have you ever been a member of the communist party that question was to be repeated endlessly during the anti communist investigations carried out by the house committee on un american activities huac in the early 1950s the refusal of ten members of the film industry to answer the question in 1947 led to the decision by studio bosses to fire them and never to hire known communists in the future the hearings led to scores of actors writers and directors being named as communists or sympathisers all were blacklisted and fired hollywood s blacklists is a history of the political and cultural factors relevant to understanding the why and the how of the various investigations of the alleged communist infiltration of hollywood what was huac what propaganda role did films play during world war ii and the cold war what values were at stake in the confrontation between left and right that saw the former so resoundingly defeated and expelled from hollywood answers to these and other questions are offered via analyses of the motives of the various players and of the tactics deployed by huac to reward collaboration and punish dissent

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