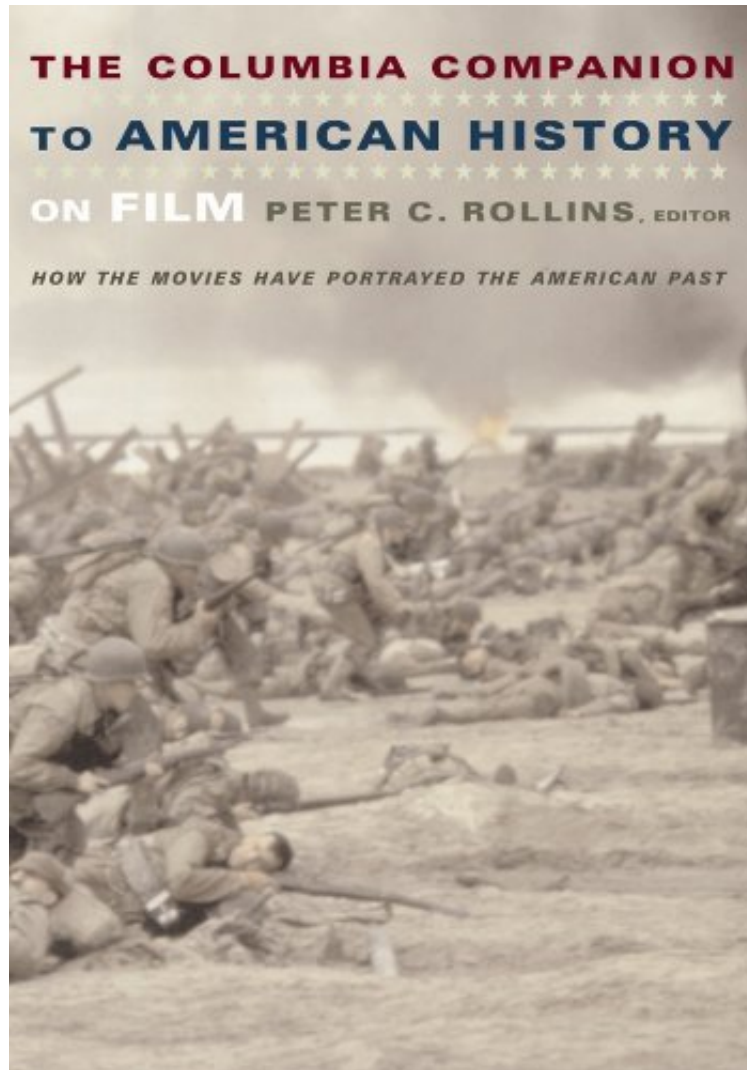


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The Columbia Companion to American History on Film: How the Movies Have Portrayed the American Past

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From Columbia University Press : The Columbia Companion to American History on Film: How the Movies Have Portrayed the American Past 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: How the Movies Have Portrayed the American Past:

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following review helpful. Covers a huge range of subject. By John Matlock Above all else the movies have to entertain. When they make movies about historical events, sometimes the movies are able to do an adequate, truthful story about what happened. At other times the story gets so 'Hollywooded' that any representation to the original event is purely coincidental. Sometimes there's a meeting point in between that you'd never guess. Example: in 'The Flying Tigers,' there's a love story intermixed with the fighting. A nurse that was with them was asked if there was any truth to this at all. She replied, well, I was over there, there was this very good looking pilot. Why shouldn't there be relationships between young adults in between the fighting. Another good example is the difference between the two 'Memphis Belle' movies. The 1944 documentary was dramatic as well as exciting. The 1990 version was so 'Hollywood' as to be silly. This book breaks down American history into subject areas such as Eras, Wars, Notable People, Crime and the Mafia, Baseball, and many more. In each of these sections the book discusses the major films that apply.

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?

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) About the Author Peter C. Rollins is Regents Professor of English and American Film Studies at Oklahoma State University and editor in chief of the scholarly journal, *Film History: An Interdisciplinary Journal of Film and Television Studies* (www.filmandhistory.org). Peter C. Rollins is Regents Professor of English and American Film Studies at Oklahoma State University and editor in chief of the magazine *Film History* (www.filmandhistory.org).