



# Movies and American Society

By Steven J. Ross

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The second edition of *Movies and American Society* is a comprehensive collection of essays and primary documents that explore the ways in which movies have changed—and been changed by—American society from 1905 to the present.

- Each chapter includes an introduction, discussion questions, an essay examining the issues of the period, primary documents, and a list of further reading and screenings
- Includes a new chapter on “American Film in the Age of Terror” and new essays for Chapter 9 (“Race, Violence, and Film”) and Chapter 13 (“Hollywood Goes Global”), as well as updated Reading and Screenings sections
- Discusses all the major periods in American film history from the first nickelodeons to the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and the globalization of Hollywood
- Demonstrates the unique influence of movies on all aspects of American culture, from ideology, politics, and gender to class, war, and race relations
- Engaging and accessible for students, with jargon-free essays and primary documents that show social practices and controversies as well as the fun and cultural influence of movies and movie-going

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## Editorial Review

### Review

“*Movies and American Society* shows us why movies matter—and gives us the tools we need to understand them. This is the perfect volume for teaching 20th century American history through film.”

—Beth Bailey, *Temple University*

“*Movies and American Society* is a triumph. It effectively introduces students to the use of movies as primary sources in history and analyzes not only the ideas broadcast in movies but also the movie-going experience as part and parcel of American civic life.”

—Robyn Leigh Muncy, *University of Maryland, College Park*

“Steven Ross brings together a compelling mix of essays and contemporaneous documents, which provide essential insights into the collective power of the movies from the late nineteenth to the early twenty-first centuries.”

—Charles Musser, *Yale University*

### From the Back Cover

Movies are more than just an evening's entertainment. As historical documents, they reflect how Americans see and think about their world. *Movies and American Society* is a comprehensive collection of thirteen essays and supporting primary documents that explore how films have changed—and been changed by—American society from 1905 to the present.

Each chapter contains an introduction by the editor, an essay that explores how movies made during a specific period dealt with problems of the time, discussion questions, primary documents, and suggestions for further reading and film screenings. The second edition includes a new chapter on “American Film in the Age of Terror,” as well as new essays for the chapters on “Race, Violence, and Film” and “Hollywood Goes Global” and fully updated “Readings and Screenings” sections. The book provides sustained discussion and insight into each period while examining a broad range of topics, from ideology, politics, and gender to class, war, and race relations. The jargon-free essays are engaging and accessible for students and the documents explore not only social practices and controversies but also the fun and cultural influence of movies and movie-going.

Bringing together the best scholarship and many never-before-collected documents, this is an essential resource for those wishing to understand the social and cultural impact of film on 20<sup>th</sup>- and 21<sup>st</sup>-century American life.

### About the Author

**Steven J. Ross** is Professor of History at the University of Southern California. He is co-director of the Los Angeles Institute for the Humanities and author of *Workers On the Edge: Work, Leisure, and Politics in*

*Industrializing Cincinnati, 1788-1890* (1985), *Working-Class Hollywood: Silent Film and the Shaping of Class in America* (1998), and *Hollywood Left and Right: How Movie Stars Shaped American Politics* (2011). Ross is the recipient of the Theater Library Association Book Award and a Film Scholars Award from the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences.

## **Users Review**

### **From reader reviews:**

#### **Anthony Harrison:**

This Movies and American Society book is not really ordinary book, you have after that it the world is in your hands. The benefit you have by reading this book is actually information inside this guide incredible fresh, you will get info which is getting deeper you read a lot of information you will get. This Movies and American Society without we know teach the one who reading through it become critical in contemplating and analyzing. Don't be worry Movies and American Society can bring if you are and not make your case space or bookshelves' turn out to be full because you can have it in the lovely laptop even cellphone. This Movies and American Society having fine arrangement in word in addition to layout, so you will not feel uninterested in reading.

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maybe unfamiliar for but surely will become your mind friends. Imaging every single word written in a guide then become one web form conclusion and explanation that will maybe you never get just before. The Movies and American Society giving you one more experience more than blown away your thoughts but also giving you useful data for your better life in this era. So now let us present to you the relaxing pattern this is your body and mind will probably be pleased when you are finished reading it, like winning a game. Do you want to try this extraordinary shelling out spare time activity?

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