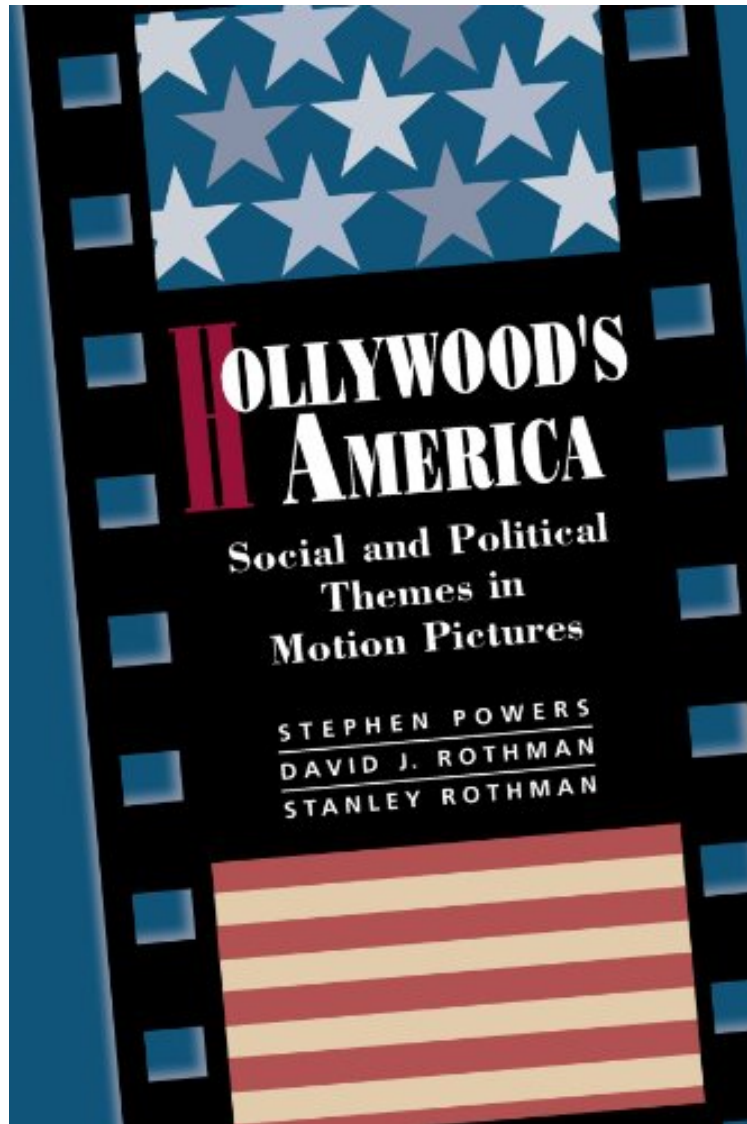


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Hollywood's America: Social And Political Themes In Motion Pictures

Stephen P Powers, David J Rothman, Stanley Rothman
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Stephen P Powers, David J Rothman, Stanley Rothman : Hollywood's America: Social And Political Themes In Motion Pictures before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Hollywood's America: Social And Political Themes In Motion Pictures:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Loved this bookBy Shannon SmitheyI used this book for my Politics Through Film class. It's the only book I know of that provides a real social science analysis of films. The authors do a

great job of comparing public opinion among various elites, including Hollywood producers, directors, etc, to other groups in society, and showing how those views are reflected in the films they make. It's much better at providing data than is typical of the humanist approach or the post-modern arguments that are more common in film studies.

American motion pictures still dominate the world market with an impact that is difficult to measure. Their role in American culture has been a powerful one since the 1930s and is a hallmark of our culture today. Though much has been written about the film industry, there has been very little systematic attention paid to the ideology of its creative elite. How does the outlook of that elite impact on the portrayals of America that appear on the screen? How do their views interact with the demands of the market and the structure of the industry to determine the product that is seen by mass audiences? *Hollywood's America* is a marvelously rich and careful discussion of these questions. It combines a meticulous systematic content analysis of fifty years of top-grossing films with a history of the changing structure of the industry. To that mixture it adds an in-depth survey of Hollywood's creative elite, comparing them to other leadership groups. The result is a balanced discussion of unique breadth and depth on a subject of national importance. Placing the film industry in the context of American society as a whole, the authors point out that Hollywood's creative leadership impacts the larger society even as it is influenced by that society. The creators of films cannot remove themselves too far from the values of the audiences that they serve. However, the fact that films are made by a relatively small number of people, who, as the authors demonstrate, tend to share a common outlook, means that, over time, motion pictures have had an undeniable impact on the beliefs, lifestyles, and action of Americans. This study contributes to the debate over the role and influence of those who create and distribute the products of mass culture in the United States. The book also contains a devastating critique of the poststructuralist theories that currently dominate academic film criticism, demonstrating how they fail in their attempt to explain the political significance of motion pictures.

From the Back Cover *Hollywood's America* is a balanced discussion of unique breadth and depth on a subject of national importance. About the Author Stephen Powers is a research associate at the Center for the Study of Social and Political Change at Smith College. David J. Rothman holds a Ph.D. in English with a concentration on Poetics from New York University. He teaches English at Western State College of Colorado, in Gunnison, and lives with his family in nearby Crested Butte. Stanley Rothman coauthor of *American Elites* (1996) among numerous books, is director of the Center for the Study of Social and Political Change and is Mary Huggins Gamble Professor of Government Emeritus at Smith College. Stephen Powers is a research associate at the Center for the Study of Social and Political Change at Smith College. David J. Rothman holds a Ph.D. in English with a concentration on Poetics from New York University. He teaches English at Western State College of Colorado, in Gunnison, and lives with his family in nearby Crested Butte. Stanley Rothman coauthor of *American Elites* (1996) among numerous books, is director of the Center for the Study of Social and Political Change and is Mary Huggins Gamble Professor of Government Emeritus at Smith College.