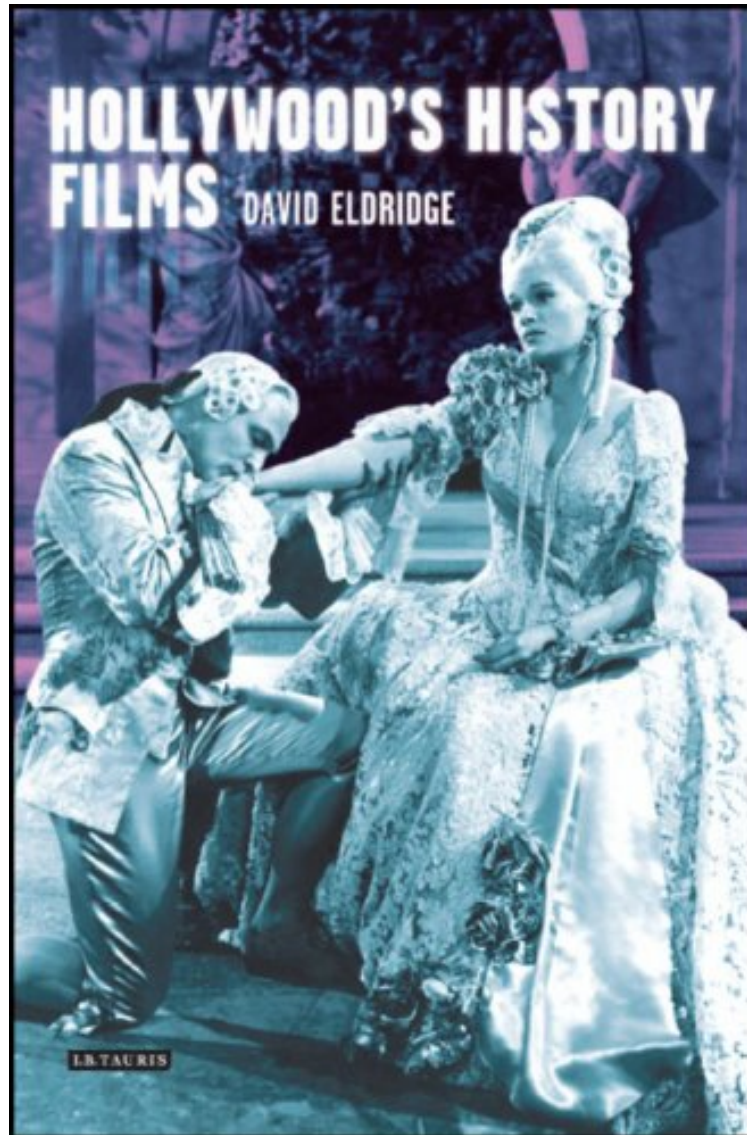


(Download) Hollywood's History Films (Cinema and Society)

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David Eldridge

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David Eldridge : Hollywood's History Films (Cinema and Society) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Hollywood's History Films (Cinema and Society):

Hollywood's History Films is an innovative and detailed analysis of the film industry's use of history in the 1950s, when 'classical' Hollywood's interest in the past was at its peak. Using original sources, David Eldridge analyses the

making of period films as diverse in seriousness and quality as *Calamity Jane*, *The Ten Commandments* and *The House of Wax*, and dissects the 'culture of production' which shaped thinking about history. Eldridge explores the overlapping anxieties that encouraged an unprecedented turn to history, from the ever-present nuclear threat of the Cold War, to the industry's own fears about the failing box-office and the allegations of Communist influence in the movies. Revealing the tensions inherent in shaping the past for entertainment under such circumstances, he argues that filmmakers were not ignorant of the facts, nor simply exercising 'dramatic license'. Studying inside and outside interference from those with a personal stake in particular versions of the past, he uncovers the different - and limited - ways in which producers, directors and screenwriters were exposed to historical debates and concepts, and investigates why many filmmakers came to see their work as superior to that of professional historians.

'Exhaustively researched, highly readable exploration of a subject overlooked by both historians and cinema buffs - how some 1200 Hollywood historical films shaped America's collective memory in the 1950s.' -David Culbert, John L. Loos Professor of History, Louisiana State University; and Editor, *Historical Journal of Film, Radio and Television*. About the Author David Eldridge is a Lecturer in American Studies at the University of Hull.