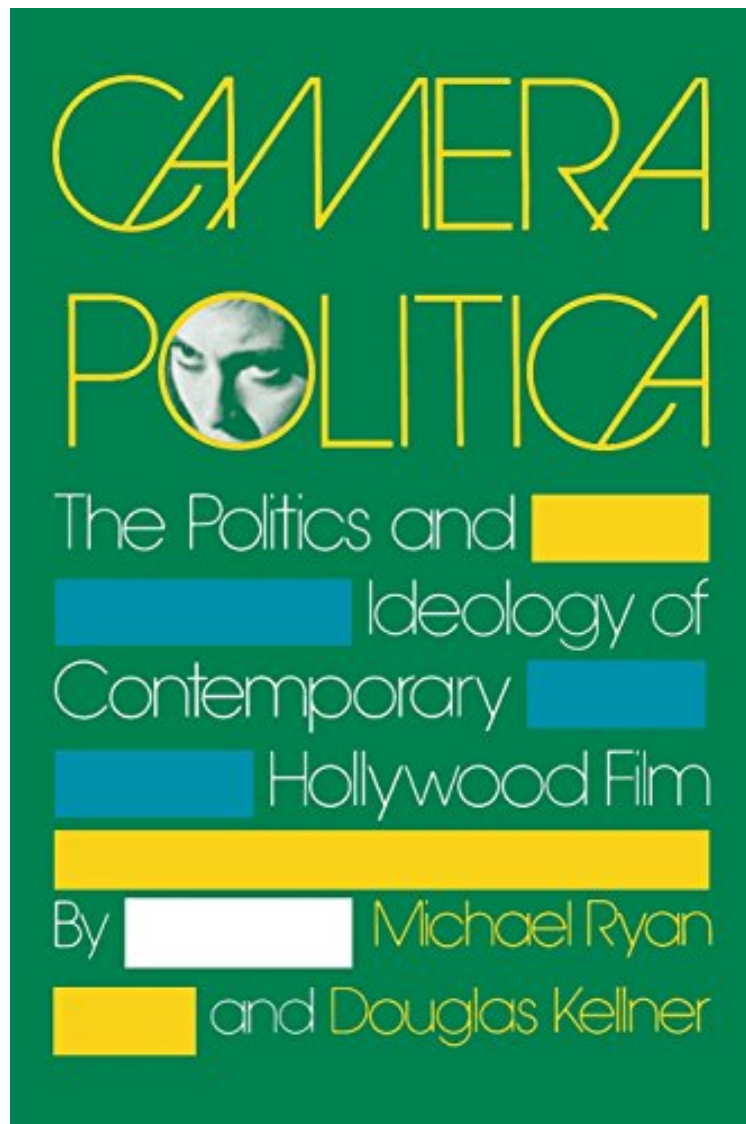


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## Camera Politica: The Politics and Ideology of Contemporary Hollywood Film (A Midland Book)

*Michael Ryan, Douglas Kellner*  
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#1434050 in Books Michael Ryan 1988-06-22 1988-06-22 Original language: English PDF # 1 9.25 x 1.20 x 6.00l, 1.29 #File Name: 0253206049352 pages Camera Politica The Politics and Ideology of Contemporary Hollywood Film | File size: 22.Mb

**Michael Ryan, Douglas Kellner : Camera Politica: The Politics and Ideology of Contemporary Hollywood Film (A Midland Book)** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Camera Politica: The Politics and Ideology of Contemporary Hollywood Film (A Midland Book):

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Periodizing the 80sBy Lost LacanianCamera Politica is a must for all who are interested in studying the development of film studies. In this book, Michael Ryan and Douglas Kellner offer a plethora of studies of films from the late 60s to the 80s in order to make a larger argument about that period of history. Their basic premise is that these films are in a dialectical relationship to the rise of conservative politics in the 80s. Meaning, the growing sentiment of conservatism informs films like Dirty Harry and Rambo, but at the same time, the development of a full fledged conservative popular culture, in which these films are involved, creates a social milieu in which conservative politics appears attractive and the remedy to growing economic and social disturbances. They also criticize liberals for feeding into conservative filmic representations, often identifying the same ills as conservatives in their own attempts at cultural production. But, more significantly, liberal critics did not offer counter-representations that would do the same culture work that the conservative films of the late 70s and 80s did. Thus, they call for a new radical cinema. They are Marxist in orientation (though they are clearly aligned with feminisms, radical race theorists, and student radicals), and so they are suggesting that a Marxian culture and a Marxist cinema must come into being. This cinematic culture must diagnose problems but it also must offer remedies that speak to the large majority of people. Perhaps, most provocatively (especially for the time this book was written), Ryan and Kellner claim that this new Marxian cinema can take the form of the popular Hollywood film, and in fact it must if it wants to reach mainstream society. Though this book is a periodization of films, it also offers new theoretical devices. The first is the notion of transcoding: a film transcodes social attitudes. The second is ideology: the ideological work of Hollywood cinema is to try and offer remedies for social ills, but in so doing, it must admit ills do in fact exist. Thus ideology is double-edged. The third is diagnostic critique: the method of reading films that excavate both the ideological containment and the problem being identified. At this point in history, Camera Politica might appear a bit dated. But if anyone is interested in doing a historical periodization of American culture, this book is simply a MUST. If anyone is new to the area of visual and film culture and wants a book that might offer some theoretical methods as well as demonstrations of readings, then, they might want to pick this book up. This book is a bit of an overlooked classic, and it should be considered a staple in film studies.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Pistola PicturesBy Joseph A. MoncayoCamera Politica is a book that I first read in college and have managed to keep a copy handy ever since. I would recommend this book for film buffs, political junkies, artists and auteurs alike. Although limited in scope ( it could have covered more films from earlier eras ), the book does shed light on the films of Hollywood and their cultural impact on society. My favorite chapters deal mainly with films of the tumultuous 60's and 70's.[...]1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Fantastic Film Theory BookBy MThis was one of the first books that truly sparked any notion of academic interest in me towards not only film, but also literature and history. Just read the first few paragraphs in the introduction. If you like what you see, then you will not be disappointed with the rest of the book. It is a fascinating read of history through the ideologies created by film narrative and aesthetic.

a modern mythography, a study of contemporary Hollywood films based on the tools offered by feminism, psychoanalysis, Marxist cultural theory, and deconstruction." Village VoiceSolidly thought-out observation of the films of the 70's and 80's that comment on the system." Audience... intelligent, open advocacy. Its responsible arrangement of carefully described cultural materials will challenge students and instructors alike." Teaching PhilosophyCamera Politica is a comprehensive study of Hollywood film during a period of tremendous change in American history, a period that witnessed the end of the American empire, crises in the economy, a failure of political leadership, loss at war, and the rise of the Right.