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**Hollywood History & Mythology**

by Joe Escobar - Saturday, January 24, 2015, 12:12 PM

This forum thread is for Hollywood History & Mythology posts and replies.

After studying the required materials, address the various questions. For purposes of encouraging discussion, you may decide to separate your responses into SEPARATE posts. To make your POSTS, click the reply link in this, MY post. To reply to another student's post, be sure to click the reply link within in THEIR post.

IMPORTANT - SUBJECT LINES

BE SURE to use an informative subject line for your post. Do NOT simply leave it
RE:Hollywood History & Mythology

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[Edit](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)**Re: Hollywood History & Mythology**

by Brody Wasson - Monday, January 26, 2015, 12:42 PM

seeing all of these examples of how hollywood changes our view of how we see and interperate the truth of about the slaves and the trading of slaves in the colonial times. In the movie trailer It showed how violent the blacks could be and how they acted if they were attached. they almost resembled the animals depicted in the political cartoons. It looked as though they had no control in how they acted in the movies trailer It showed one black man picking up a sword with a mad look in his eyes also the other slaves crawling up from the lower decks of the ship wanting fight and kill just because the government and taken control of the ship and everything on board.

Sum of ratings:1 (1) 1

[Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)**Understanding your thoughts.**

by Timothy Vigil - Thursday, January 29, 2015, 7:39 PM

I don't really understand your interpretation of the trailer what so ever. You seem to be saying that the movie is trying to say that all the blacks were like they were on the ship all the time. I for one thought that the way they revolted on the ship seems to be one of the more accurate aspects of the whole trailer. You have to think about the context of their lot. They have been stolen from their home and forced onto a ship against their will. They now have a chance to survive, and perhaps return to freedom. They would do anything for this, so their would likely be some level of desperation and anger in their eyes. They didn't want to kill purely because the government had taken the ship, they wanted to kill because it was their only chance to secure their freedom. As for their control, they had complete control of themselves, if they didn't the certainly

wouldn't have succeeded in taking control of the ship, even if that was short lived.

Sum of ratings: 1 (1)

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Re: Hollywood History & Mythology

by [Benjamin Bross](#) - Monday, January 26, 2015, 8:49 PM

There can be good and bad which comes from historical films such as *Amistad*. While it is alright to try to learn some of the major points from movies such as this often time the minor details in the film are often fictive. In *Amistad* the slaves were depicted in a far more violent and animalistic way than they actual were at the time. As Foner points out an issue that I as well took with this movie is the main characters are white not black. In a movie so much about slavery I feel like more black actors should have a big role. As someone who has actually seen the film, the film should be more about slavery than just the moral and character development of the white characters. Also, as Foner points out, *Amistad* flat out lies about the Supreme Court was being convinced by Adams' which essentially leads to abolition. That is not the case in actual history. While it is okay to look at historical movies such as this to learn some history, it needs to all be taken with a grain of salt. Often times stories are fabricated in film for the sake of the narrative.

Sum of ratings: 3 (1)

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My opinion on Amistad

by [Maggie Van Wey-Wells](#) - Wednesday, January 28, 2015, 9:29 PM

I don't have a very passionate opinion on the fact that the movie has flaws of its historical facts. I thought the flaws Foner did find in the movie seemed not very problematic to the overall meaning of the movie. I suppose I don't really know what I'm talking about though. I do agree with the fact that they could have put 75 million dollars into public libraries instead of the movie but then again it was a movie industry who wanted to produce films so I don't really see what their harm was.

Sum of ratings: 1 (1)

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Re: Hollywood History & Mythology

by [Brody Wasson](#) - Thursday, January 29, 2015, 6:29 PM

most historical hollywood films are not very accurate, Amistad was great from an entertainment perspective but from historical stand point there were some details that here that were left out or rewritten to expand the story line so the film would seem more interesting. for instance in the film Amistad the scene between the black man and the white man never happened it was completely irrelevant and untrue. Another problem was that the slaves were depicted in a violent and unreal acting way.

Sum of ratings: 1 (1)

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Amistad a major problem?

by [Timothy Vigil](#) - Thursday, January 29, 2015, 7:28 PM

In the trailer for the movie Amistad you are instantly introduced to this idea that the core issue in the trial of these men is American slavery. Dr. Foner responds to this by telling us that the issue had nothing to with slavery in the United States. The issue of the trial was in fact the International issue of the slave trade on the Atlantic. This blatant oversight by the makers of the movie might make the film more desirable to a modern day American audience, but it causes major concern to that same audience. Perhaps some would consider the difference between Domestic and International Slavery laws an insignificant thing. I on the other hand see this as a major issue. It teaches us to shine a much different light on American history. Rather than look at the ugly truth of what American "Liberty" was really like in the early to mid 1800's, we portray the people of the day as

great heroes. The problem with this creation of an American mythology of an "abolitionist culture" is that we soon miss out on the historical truths that we could gather from the real story. We could, rather than trying to make the characters in this movie look like freedom fighters, tell the true story. The problem however is that Americans today don't want the true story. For the most part Americans seem to be ashamed of our past and the level to which slavery was held as an institution. Therefore we will accept this account as the true one, because we would rather hear the comfortable lie than the hard truth. This is why a movie like Amistad is a major problem, due to this movie a large portion of the population of this country will accept this as the historically true events.

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The underground railroad

by [Maggie Van Wey-Wells](#) - Thursday, January 29, 2015, 7:37 PM

I don't feel as though I have been manipulated when being taught about the underground railroad in school. I haven't learned much about it in all honesty. Last night I asked my mom what the underground railroad was (to see what she thought it was) and she said that it was places people of color, mainly slaves, could go for refuge. Is this not true? It may have been exaggerated in the sense that there wasn't as many refuges as we may have been taught but overall I am confused how it's considered as mythology.

Sum of ratings: (1)

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The Mythology of the Underground Railroad

by [Timothy Vigil](#) - Thursday, January 29, 2015, 9:22 PM

Well I believe what the video was getting at in calling the Underground Railroad a "mythology", was that we exaggerate both the organization and effectiveness of the system. There is no denying that the Underground Railroad is an important staple in United States history, but how much did it really do. He points out a couple things that can help us to understand why it has become mythological. He points out that most of the underground railroad was run by free northern blacks. This is quite contrary to what I remember being taught in elementary school in regard to the underground railroad. I remember being specifically instructed that white Quakers from Pennsylvania were the largest group of Underground railroad developers. The second thing he points out that is mythological element of the Underground Railroad, was that it was very organized. Again when in Elementary school i remember being taught that it was this long network that worked together cohesively to free as many blacks as they could. The video tells it very differently, stating that, It was very disorganized and much more ragtag than is taught in a modern history lesson. The last thing he points out that makes it a mythology is the fact that thousands of places now claim to have been part of the Underground Railroad, and that this doesn't mathematically compute. When you combine all of these factors the truth is much different from the story portrayed to the average Elementary student. The stories as they are told and taught portray an active abolitionist north that was united fully and effectively against slavery. But we now know that this simply wasn't the case and that the white abolitionists involved in the Underground Railroad were a very small minority. We also know that the north was not united and very few people in the north considered blacks equal.

Sum of ratings: 3 (1)

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Re: The underground railroad

by [Aulani Aviles](#) - Saturday, January 31, 2015, 6:42 PM

I kind of feel the same as you do. I don't remember much about learning about the underground railroad as a child and I feel that we didn't learn much about it. I believe we should be learning about it a lot more in schools, especially in high school where we really get into learning about our history. I agree when you say that it may have

been exaggerated but at least we were exposed to it at least once during our school careers.

Sum of ratings: (1) 0

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Re: Hollywood History & Mythology

by [Carson Raz](#) - Saturday, January 31, 2015, 4:33 PM

There's clearly some pros and cons to this historical movie. It's good in a sense they try to shed light on a topic that is somewhat hidden from society. At the same time it's a hollywood movie so you should expect some BS. *Amistad* does a bad job at portraying the historical significance of the relationship between the American judiciary and slavery. The film gives us an impression that the Supreme Court was convinced by Adams' claims to refuse slavery in favor of the basic human rights of all men, thus taking a major step on the road to abolition. Long story short the movie should not substitute school textbooks as a way to teach this subject. I don't think any hollywood movie is a good representation of history because it's always over exaggerated.

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My opinion on Amistad

by [Aulani Aviles](#) - Saturday, January 31, 2015, 6:33 PM

When it comes to the movie Amistad, I believe the media forms changes to "historically based" movies for certain reasons. Ultimately, they need as many viewers as they can; therefore, they need to make part of the story fiction to make it more compelling for the viewers. It's difficult to make a Hollywood movie by solely using true facts. I believe there are positives and negatives to this. I believe that these "historically based" movies are a pathway for viewers to acknowledge our history, at least the true facts. I believe the negative would be that viewers are getting access to false facts about our history. It's a little concerning when historical truth is kept from us at times because we're putting false facts in our heads and it's unfortunate that we're not acknowledging some of our true history.

Sum of ratings:1 (1) 1

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Awakening of Every People's Natural Rights

by [Dichen Wu](#) - Saturday, January 31, 2015, 6:49 PM

The film trailer was showing an environment, in which the voice towards abolitionism arose as the United States developed further. As known to all, the United States was based on slavery at the beginning and abandoned exploiting "niggers" legally until Civil War ended. However, Lincoln's time did not stand for the whole period when abolitionists struggle. And Hollywood History & Mythology happened to help expose the fact to the public. The African black men's rebellion in Amistad, in essence, was caused by slave trade. In some measure, there were no true laws for defending victims and then people have no rights of criticizing Cinque and his fellowship because their natural rights as a human were violated firstly. Moving sight to the following court, it was a ethical debate rather than a lawful. The core of the debate was not the rebellion's rationality, but the reason leading to such a rebellion. Now that slave trade was neither reasonable nor legal in the U.S., it was sure that Cinque and other black Africans should be acquitted. In fact, the content of the Hollywood film stood for an ideological trend in the 1840's. Though, slavery still existed in this country in laws, persons with far sight started realizing that this system should be repealed. That was why there was a court debate at the end of the film. Some people wanted to abandon slavery, and Southern conservatives needed to maintain it. Regarding the event as an origin, Lincoln campaign would come one day. Hollywood expected that Americans would not only remember President Lincoln, but also people who once struggle for slaves' natural rights before.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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hollywood historians.

by [Alec Schauer](#) - Saturday, January 31, 2015, 8:24 PM

When I first watched the trailer I understood the basis of the story of slaves revolting against the ship crew and their experience with the us supreme court. From just watching the trailer, the story seems accurate and interesting which has been something I've gone through in the majority of my education. Many classes I've taken when it comes to historical events we eventually end up watching a movie relating to the time or the topic to further illustrate what we are learning about. Unfortunately many times these movies we watch are filled with historical flaws which in my case doesn't help me learn because I would think I would learn more from the movie I'm watching. For instance learning about events revolving around native,Americans I watched "dances with wolves" or the mmovie" glory" when learning about the civil war. And mentioned by foner many of these movies are filled with errors which is a bad call on the teachers part. I won't gain proper knowledge from faulty historical movies. This in my opinion upsets me because doesn't give me confidence in future conversations about history based off knowledge that could be potentially wrong,from learning false facts from,movies like amistad.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Re: Hollywood History & Mythology

by [Benjamin Bross](#) - Saturday, January 31, 2015, 10:10 PM

I think an interesting trend that occurs in historical movies is the lack of true research that needs to be done. The majority of critics and people paying to see the movie would rather have a film with no historical value but a great story than a historically correct film with a sub-par narrative. This is seen with the critical panning that *The Alamo* received.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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