

HST 202: US History W20 (Escobar)

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Hollywood History & Mythology

by [Joe Escobar](#) - Friday, January 24, 2020, 9:38 PM

This thread is for discussions on the Hollywood History & Mythology topic.

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Historical Falsehoods and Why I Disagree With Them.

by [Eric Shoaf](#) - Sunday, January 26, 2020, 11:05 PM

I really dislike the idea of exaggerating historical truth, especially when it is presented as historical fact. Movies like Amistad are acceptable to me, as long as the creators are up front about the fact that they are exaggerating the truth. But when these exaggerated stories are presented as the truth, and as an actual history lesson, that bothers me. I feel that the best way for Americans to move past our troubled history is to be fully aware of what happened, so we can learn from our mistake and grow. These kinds of falsehoods soften the blow of our dark past, but they shouldn't. It should be out in the light for everyone to see and learn from.

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**Re: Historical Falsehoods and Why I Disagree With Them.**by [Kelvin Johnson](#) - Saturday, February 1, 2020, 8:53 AM

Hello Eric,

As you have said, "exaggerating history truth" is not to be misplaced with the real truth. As for me I also think that if they were to manipulate the history, then they should not allow their version of history, to be called truth. They can change things, but than it should be called fiction. Our history teacher, Mr. Escobar, has stated, "although the Alamo, Amistad, and the 12 years a slave, all but one really focused on the facts and not the human desire for an entertainer. The "Alamo", and "12 years a slave" stick close to the facts while the "Amistad" has facts in it but really goes away from the historical facts." This having been said, our new history book has taken the movie "Amistad" out, and the "12 years a slave" in.

Sum of ratings:[0 \(1\)](#) [Permalink](#)[Show parent](#)[Edit](#)[Split](#)[Delete](#)[Reply](#)**Amistad**by [Kaleah Holmes](#) - Monday, January 27, 2020, 3:05 PM

"Most seriously, Amistad presents a highly misleading account of the case's historical significance, in the process sugarcoating the relationship between the American judiciary and slavery." (Amistad review by Eric Foner). I find it very concerning when Media chooses to lie/ exaggerate history. A lot of people are not educated on history so they'll believe the inaccurate stories that the Media chooses to tell. This is scary because when we don't know our history, what are we supposed to learn from? I believe Escobar when he says that history does not repeat itself, but human nature does. History will not repeat but it can be very similar, especially when people are uneducated. We need smarter people making movies, not just for entertainment but for increasing the public's knowledge too.

Sum of ratings:[1 \(1\)](#) [Permalink](#)[Show parent](#)[Edit](#)[Split](#)[Delete](#)[Reply](#)**Re: Amistad**by [Eric Shoaf](#) - Thursday, January 30, 2020, 3:51 AM

Either smarter movies or another idea is making it more clear that the events in those movies aren't 100% accurate.

Sum of ratings:[0 \(1\)](#) [Permalink](#)[Show parent](#)[Edit](#)[Split](#)[Delete](#)[Reply](#)**True History**by [Kelvin Johnson](#) - Thursday, January 30, 2020, 9:39 PM

As a history book, it contains what the authors of the book think, should be included in it's content. Never the less, I personally hope that the authors of the history book would include the most that they could, but should this change their thought prosses, no, it should be that they would include all that they can. All that is historically correct. Although we do not know the reasoning/purpose if the authors did keep, manipulate, or just give us bogus info, but it would be misleading if they kept certain parts from us. I can liken a quote from Professor David Blight "Into understanding of that's slavery, sometimes gently, and sometimes more silvery, then it is to look at slavery itself."(time 3:36) If the authors do change the content of history, we would not be getting the direct view of history.

From the luxuries newspapers, libraries and even your phone can receive, contain true history. (Maybe not some websites on the internet are true) All I have to say is that a new Hollywood movie that you really like, should not dictate what true history is.

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The Underground Railroad Issue

by [Thomas Lemelin](#) - Thursday, January 30, 2020, 11:50 PM

I personally have been exposed to the idea that the way history is and has been taught in America isn't always completely accurate, so this notion isn't of complete surprise to me. My high school history teacher, in fact, taught us the very same thing about the Underground Railroad and condemned the textbooks for not covering this accurately. I am, however, extremely frustrated with the fact that these kinds of notions and claims are still being made in this country. To be a part of the Underground Railroad meant that you risked the lives of yourself and your family to help another person in need at a chance to survive. It is an honor to be among those who took that chance, and the idea that some people make that claim of their hometown or their family members when it's not true in some attempt to clear their collective conscience sickens me. I understand that this type of claim (if still present today) is probably based on stories being passed down from within household and family members, and that an argument those people might use to defend themselves could be "our connection to the railroad just wasn't recorded. It was a large note work of various different people and was meant to be secretive", but like David Blight said in the video "if there were as many people connected in the Underground Railroad as people claim there are, slavery wouldn't have lasted as long as it did." I wouldn't go as far to say that I don't necessarily trust a town or city that makes these false claims; I would just refer to them as morally ignorant. If this glimpse of emotional upstanding and compassion for slaves didn't really exist, then these towns might feel like they can't be as proud of their heritage as they'd like to, and if you've gone your entire life believing this story, then I wouldn't blame you for not wanting to change it. I will just silently judge and be on my way. The only instance I'd have a real issue with this (more than just judgement and possibly starting a discussion about it with a townspeople) would be if they were in any way monetizing these "slave houses" or other harboring grounds to create a stream of revenue for the town. I don't care how poor your city is; there is no justification for monetarily benefiting from something that's a fabrication. Especially when you weren't actually involved.

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