

# Shaping the American Consensus Through Film Propaganda: The Notion of Mythic Past

Film propaganda has been a powerful tool in shaping the American consensus and promoting a sense of national identity. By presenting a romanticized and idealized version of the past, films have helped to create a shared sense of history and purpose among Americans. This process has been particularly effective in shaping the American worldview and reinforcing the dominant cultural hegemony.



## Shaping the American Consensus Through Film Propaganda & the Notion of a "Mythic Past": A Study of Public Opinion in the World War Two Era by Dede Feldman

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## The Power of Film Propaganda

Film propaganda is a form of communication that uses moving images to promote a particular point of view or ideology. It is often used by governments and other organizations to influence public opinion and shape

public policy. Film propaganda can be very effective in achieving its goals, as it can reach a large audience and create a powerful emotional impact.

One of the most common uses of film propaganda is to promote a sense of national identity and unity. This is often done by presenting a romanticized and idealized version of the past. Films that depict the American Revolution, the Civil War, and other key moments in American history often portray these events in a way that makes them seem more heroic and inspiring than they actually were. This can help to create a sense of shared history and purpose among Americans and reinforce the dominant cultural hegemony.

### **The Myth of the Mythic Past**

The mythic past is a concept that refers to the idealized and romanticized version of the past that is often presented in film propaganda. This version of the past is often inaccurate and incomplete, but it can be very effective in shaping public opinion and reinforcing the dominant cultural hegemony.

The myth of the mythic past is based on the idea that America was founded by a group of heroic and virtuous individuals who fought for freedom and justice. This myth is often used to justify American imperialism and interventionism, as it presents America as a force for good in the world. However, the reality is that America has often been involved in unjust wars and has committed human rights abuses.

### **The Impact of Film Propaganda**

Film propaganda has had a significant impact on American society. It has helped to shape the American worldview, reinforce the dominant cultural hegemony, and promote a sense of national identity and unity. However, it

is important to be aware of the ways in which film propaganda can be used to manipulate public opinion and promote false or misleading information.

By understanding the power of film propaganda, we can be more critical of the messages that we are presented with and more resistant to its influence.



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