



Reel Power: Hollywood Cinema and American Supremacy

Matthew Alford

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Hollywood is often characterised as a stronghold of left-liberal ideals. In *Reel Power*, Matthew Alford shows that it is in fact deeply complicit in serving the interests of the most regressive US corporate and political forces.

Films like *Transformers*, *Terminator: Salvation* and *Black Hawk Down* are constructed with Defence Department assistance as explicit cheerleaders for the US military, but Matthew Alford also emphasises how so-called 'radical' films like *Three Kings*, *Hotel Rwanda* and *Avatar* present watered-down alternative visions of American politics that serve a similar function.

Reel Power is the first book to examine the internal workings of contemporary Hollywood as a politicised industry as well as scores of films across all genres. No matter what the progressive impulses of some celebrities and artists, Alford shows how they are part of a system that is hard-wired to encourage American global supremacy and frequently the use of state violence.

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