



# Teaching History with Film: Strategies for Secondary Social Studies

*Alan S. Marcus, Scott Alan Metzger, Richard J. Paxton, Jeremy D. Stoddard*

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Visit any school in the United States and chances are that you will find at least one of the social studies teachers showing a film about history. Along with the textbook, movies are one of the most prominent teaching aids in the history classroom. Yet, when middle and high school history teachers look for models of the effective use of motion pictures in history classrooms, the cupboard is surprisingly bare. *Teaching History with Film* provides a fresh, engaging, and clear overview of teaching with film to effectively enhance social studies instruction. Using cases of experienced teachers to illustrate accomplished history teaching through the use of movies, this text provides pre- and in-service teachers with ideas for implementing film-based lessons in their own classrooms and offers a deeper understanding of the thorny issues involved in using film to teach history.

Each section of the book focuses on how teachers can effectively support the development of students' historical film literacy through topics such as using film to develop historical empathy, to develop interpretive skills, and to explore controversial issues. By developing the skills students need to think critically about the past or what they think they know about history, the lessons in this book illustrate how to harness the pedagogical power of film to provide the tools necessary for rigorous inquiry and democratic citizenship.

Special features include:

- "Reflection on the Case," following each chapter, analyzing and discussing the strengths and limitations of the teacher's approach as well as providing strategies for using and choosing films specific to the educational outcome
- Sample unit outlines, descriptions of class texts and films, worksheets, essay questions, viewer guides, and exercises for the classroom throughout
- Discussion of the practical considerations facing classroom teachers, including juggling time restraints, issues of parental permission, and meeting standards

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