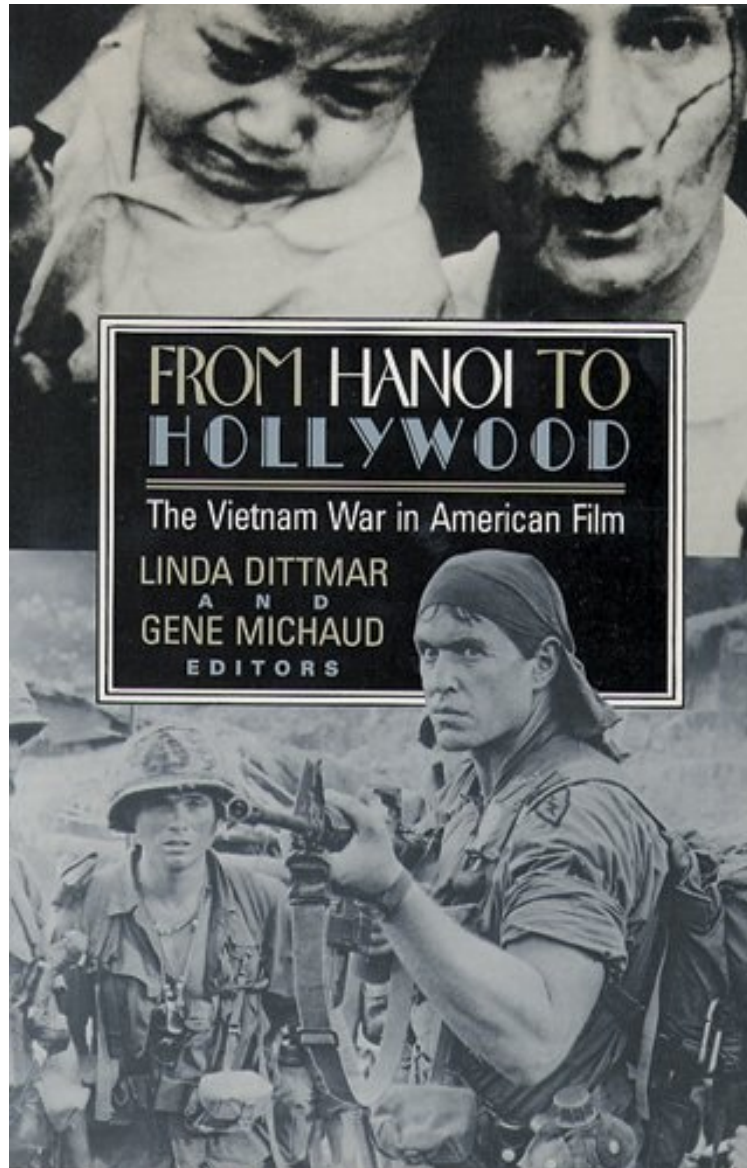


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## From Hanoi to Hollywood: The Vietnam War in American Film

*From Brand: Rutgers University Press*

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**From Brand: Rutgers University Press : From Hanoi to Hollywood: The Vietnam War in American Film** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised From Hanoi to Hollywood: The Vietnam War in American Film:

4 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Vietnam on Film By Sarah Sammis These film essays look at documentary filmmaking and news reporting on the Vietnam War. I read this book as part of a film class at in college.

This book is best for a person interested in the representation of war, especially this particularly divisive war will be moved by reading this book. 4 of 7 people found the following review helpful. Sleepless in Heaven! By A Customer This book was amazing! It was very insightful and deep. I learned more about this era from this book than I ever did in high school!

This volume is about power. It is about the power to make war and to destroy lives. It is also about another kind of power—the power to make images that may distort, displace, and destroy knowledge of the times in which those lives were lived. Many of the nineteen essays gathered in this volume are about the interrelationships between these two types of power. They demonstrate, as well, yet another type of power, the power of critical thinking to challenge dangerous myths and to confront prevailing ideologies. The title of this anthology calls attention to the process whereby aspects of the Vietnam War have been appropriated by the American cultural industry. Probing the large body of emotion-laden, controversial films, *From Hanoi to Hollywood* is concerned with the retelling of history and the retrospection that such a process involves. In this anthology, an awareness of film as a cultural artifact that molds beliefs and guides action is emphasized, an awareness that the contributors bring to a variety of films. Their essays span over one hundred documentary and fiction films, and include in-depth analyses of major commercial films, ranging from *Apocalypse Now* to *Platoon*, *Rambo: First Blood Part II*, and *Full Metal Jacket*, and documentaries from *In the Year of the Pig* to *Dear America: Letters Home from Vietnam*. The essays in this volume deal with representations of the Vietnam war in documentary film and television reporting, examining the ways the power of film is used to deliver political messages. There are surprises here, new readings, and important insights on the ways we as a society have attempted to come to terms with the experiences of the Vietnam era. The book also contains two appendixes—a detailed chronology charting the relationship between major historical events and the release of American war films from 1954 through 1988, and a filmography listing information on over four hundred American and foreign films about the Vietnam War.

From *Library Journal* Mass media representations of the Vietnam War both reflect and impact upon public perceptions and assessments of U.S. history. Editors Dittmar (English, Univ. of Massachusetts) and Michaud (media coordinator, Univ. of Massachusetts) have assembled an important group of essays which examine the meaning of Hollywood's depiction of the conflict in Southeast Asia and at home. Commercial filmmakers and studios may not feel responsible for the messages their works disseminate "as long as they make money," but the writers represented here feel a responsibility to discuss the perceptions that these films present to the public. The level of inquiry is high and the revelations telling. Special attention is paid to the portrayal of soldiers and veterans, and issues of race and class. Significantly, non-Hollywood films are also considered. This is an important addition to any American history collection and essential for those libraries with collections on media, movies, Vietnam, veterans, or associated areas. —Robert Rayher, Sch. of the Art Inst. of Chicago Copyright 1991 Reed Business Information, Inc. From the Back Cover The essays in this volume deal with representations of the Vietnam war in documentary film and television reporting, examining the ways the power of film is used to deliver political messages.