



Maroto de las Heras, Jesus. *Guerra de la independencia: Imágenes en cine y televisión*. Cacitel, 2007.

In his book, *Guerra de la independencia: Imágenes en cine y televisión*, Jesus Maroto de las Heras thoroughly catalogues approximately every movie or television series that discusses or presents the Spanish Civil

War. Although the vice-president of the Asociación para el Estudio de la Guerra de la Independencia (A.E.G.I) admits to the difficulty of finding a number of the earlier films that may have been produced in Spain or other countries, he manages to compile an impressive number of texts from Spain and around the world. The book is divided into twelve chapters, each representing a decade. He begins with early films before the 1930's and continues throughout the years leading up to 2006.

Maroto de las Heras, in his introductory chapter, after offering a disclaimer on the difficulty of assigning each movie to a particular and definite genre, offers a list of genres and places each movie in the most appropriate category. In order to place the movies and television series in a historical context, the first chapter also supplies a brief but useful chronological description of the social and political trends in which these texts were produced. This chapter also includes a list of recurring themes and events seen in many of the movies, and a list of historical characters that also appear in a number of the films. Finally, the initial chapter offers a chart that shows the movies that are adaptations along with their source material.

After the introductory chapter the book continues as stated before, listing the films in a chronological manner while offering an ample amount of information within the listing. After presenting the director, actors, and running time of each movie, the author then includes a plot summary, followed by a section titled "Consideraciones" in which he offers facts on the film production or reception. A section titled "La historia en realidad" gives detailed factual information on the themes and information that has been presented in the movie while the last section, "El director," gives information on the director. When the film is an adaptation, the listing also includes a section titled "Referencia literaria."

The value of this book lies in the vast amount of information offered by the author. He goes into great detail, for example, when describing the plot summary of big-budget films like *Aventuras de Juan Lucas* (1949), and *The Pride and the Passion* (1957). After describing the plot, the author presents detailed historical facts that are specific to each film or series. These facts, whether they agree or not with their representation in the film, take up a large number of topics including particular battles, characters, factions, and sociological and political views. In the section "Referencia

literaria" the author gives information on the source material and discusses the differences and similarities between the two texts while the other two sections, "Consideraciones" and "El director," offer information on the making of the film, the historical and social context in which it was produced, other movies made by the director, and even motivations for the making of the movies.

There are a number of typographical errors throughout the book, though these do not cause the information to be misleading. Maroto de las Heras does not seem to be as concerned with offering history or film theory as he is with giving as much information as possible on the movies and the topics that are represented.

The book is an exceptional tool that may attract any student or researcher interested in fields regarding history, film, literature or adaptation.

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