



# Popular Cinema as Political Theory: Idealism and Realism in Epics, Noirs, and Satires

*John S. Nelson*

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Cinema, literature, and television shape our collective political understanding. Their dramas enact and test political ideas, especially when they use the political myths widely available in popular forms such as epics, noirs, and satires. *Popular Cinema as Political Theory* explores mythmaking in popular genres, demonstrating how to see political arguments in the conventional characters, deeds, and settings that enable movies to entertain us. Analyzing favorites such as *The Prestige*, *L.A. Confidential*, *Star Trek Into Darkness*, *No Country for Old Men*, and *O Brother, Where Art Thou?*, John Nelson provides a provocative and original account of political lessons from summer blockbusters and cinematic masterpieces alike.

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