

October 17- Movies in Society cont.

- * *Intolerance*-1916...3 Hours Long
 - Show evil in these movies
- * 1915, 1916: nationalism on the rise
- * Germany Kaiser Wilhelm wanted in on colonization. Couldn't get in on it; took away from others {The Great War/WWI}
 - Killed off young men; they went in for honor/glory which wasn't there
 - Altered people's perceptions
- * Post WWI: 1920s! (war ended 1919)
 - period of cynicism and breaking with traditions following the great upheavals in society caused by the war (turning against governments)
 - used sex and violence: got people in the seats
- * *Manslaughter*- 1922, orgy scene
- * *Battleship Potemkin*
 - } **OPPRESSION** (the oppressed worker.
- * *Metropolis*- 1927
- * Marx wants to give give give & take as little as possible
- * These movies essentially promoted Marxism
- * 1930s: Great Depression
 - Stock margin: Buy for 10 cents on the dollar
 - Margin call: the person who sold wants the other 90cents
 - Don't have=bankruptcy
 - People would go to movies to escape miserable life
 - Movies catered to their regulars (door prizes like dishes, singsongs, community announcements)
 - An evening of entertainment for 10 cents: cartoon, newsreel, short subject, movie(s)
 - Palaces of Entertainment
- * Movies as morale builders
 - upbeat/optimistic
 - musicals
- * *Wizard of Oz*- 1939
- * *Frankenstein*- 1931
 - Thrills and Chills

Movies and Society

- Society was local and parochial

- Society became more homogenous – movies reflected the makers’ society
- Early Days
 - Birth of a Nation – 1915
 - KKK in Washington DC - 1925
- Mutual Film Corporation c. Industrial Commission of Ohio – 236 U.S. 230
 - State of Ohio passed a law of forming a censorship board to review and approve all film
 - Supreme Court declared that movies were a business, not an art, and thus not protected by the 1st Amendment
 - Wrote “They may be used for evil”
- Intolerance – 1916
 - Showed evil, sex, also shown in color, but not so much history accuracy
- 1920s – Post WWI
 - A period of cynicism and breaking with traditions following the great upheavals in society caused by WWI
 - Cynical of the governments, rules, traditions, orders, etc who let this happen
 - Movies reflected this cynicism and aftermath of the war
 - Movies used more and more of what drew audiences into the theaters – sex and violence
 - Manslaughter – 1922 (orgy scenes)
 - Battleship Potemkin – 1925 (oppression)
 - Metropolis – 1927 (poor conditions of workers compared to elite, rising up of the working class)
- 1930 – The Great Depression
 - Movies created a sense of community
 - People would go to the movies on a regular basis, unusually once a week
 - Movies catered to their regulars
 - Door prizes like a set of dishes, sing-along, community announcements, etc
 - A full evening of entertainment
 - Cartoon, newsreel, short subject, like a travelogue or a comedy short, a movie, sometimes two
 - Palaces of Entertainment
 - Movies as morale builders
 - Upbeat and optimistic, musicals, etc.
 - Mr. Deeds Goes to Town – 1936
 - Wizard of Oz – 1939
 - Frankenstein – 1931
 - King Kong – 1933
 - Gone with the Wind – 1939
 - Backlash against the openness of the Roaring Twenties, many people in society insisted on censorship
 - The Hays Office

- Started in 1930
- Run by Will H. Hays
- Set standards for movies
 - Adopted from a list devised by Father Daniel Lord, a Jesuit priest
- Had no effective enforcement
- Hays' 3 Principles
 - No picture shall be produced that will lower the moral standards of those who see it. Hence the sympathy of the audience should never be thrown to the side of crime, wrongdoing, evil
 - Correct standards of life, subject only to the requirements of drama and entertainment, shall be presented
 - Law, natural or human, shall not be ridiculed, nor shall sympathy be created for its violation
 - Portrayals of miscegenation were forbidden
 - Scenes of Passion were not to be introduced when not essential to the plot
 - The flag of the US was to be treated respectfully, and the people and history of other nations were to be presented fairly
- 1940s
 - War Propaganda
 - Joseph Goebbels
 - Leni Riefenstahl – hired by Goebbels to make a documentary about how great Nazis were
 - Triumph of the Will
 - Der Ewige Jude – Goebbels turned Jews into the ultimate enemy of mankind in this movie, compared them to diseased rats
 - America also used war propaganda
 - Wake Island – 1942
 - Destination Tokyo
 - Casablanca – 1942
 - Mrs. Miniver – 1942
 - Since You Went Away – 1943
 - People also wanted to escape the war effort and forget about it when it was over
 - It's A Wonderful Life – 1946
 - Best Years of Our Lives - 1946

October 22- The 1950s

- Rebellion a central theme of movies. (Particularly young or teenage)
 - The Wild Ones- 1953
 - Rebel Without a Cause-1955
 - The Blackboard Jungle-1955
 - 12 Angry Men (Young Hispanic accused of murdering father)
 - Giant -1955 (Women shouldn't have own views, rebellious woman)
- Fear of atom bomb because WWII ended with it. Real threat