



# **Film Nation: Hollywood Looks at U.S. History, Revised Edition**

*Robert Burgoyne*

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Events of the past decade have dramatically rewritten the American national narrative, bringing to light an alternate history of nation, marked since the country's origins by competing geopolitical interests, by mobility and migration, and by contending ethnic and racial groups.

In this revised and expanded edition of *Film Nation*, Robert Burgoyne analyzes films that give shape to the counternarrative that has emerged since 9/11—one that challenges the traditional myths of the American nation-state. The films examined here, Burgoyne argues, reveal the hidden underlayers of nation, from the first interaction between Europeans and Native Americans (*The New World*), to the clash of ethnic groups in nineteenth-century New York (*Gangs of New York*), to the haunting persistence of war in the national imagination (*Flags of Our Fathers* and *Letters from Iwo Jima*) and the impact of the events of 9/11 on American identity (*United 93* and *World Trade Center*).

*Film Nation* provides innovative readings of attempts by such directors as Martin Scorsese, Clint Eastwood, and Oliver Stone to visualize historical events that have acquired a mythical aura in order to open up the past to the contemporary moment.

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