

Annotated Film Bibliography

Political Science 121 – Introduction to US Government

Raymont, P. (Producer). (2017). *All governments lie: Truth, deception, and the spirit of I.F. Stone*. [Documentary]. Canada: White Pine Pictures.

Independent journalists Jeremy Scahill, Glenn Greenwald, and Michael Moore expose government lies and corporate deception, inspired by the legendary investigative journalist I.F. Stone. All Governments Lie: Truth, Deception, and the Spirit of I.F. Stone is a theatrical documentary created by a team of Emmy Award-winning filmmakers, who subscribed to I. F. Stone's newsletter in their teens. "I. F. Stone's Weekly" inspired us then, and compels us now to tell the story of a new wave of independent, investigative, adversarial journalists following in Stone's footsteps. We hope this film will inspire the next generation of independent journalists, many of whom are now in college, to carry on I.F. Stone's legacy of speaking truth to power. This film will change the way you look at the mainstream media or "MSM". Giant media conglomerates are increasingly reluctant to investigate or criticize government policies – particularly on defense, security and intelligence issues. They are ceding responsibility for holding governments and corporations accountable to the independent journalists and filmmakers who risk their careers, their freedom and their lives in war zones – to expose the truth. With government deception rampant, and intrusion of state surveillance into private life never more egregious, independent voices like Glenn Greenwald, Jeremy Scahill, and Amy Goodman are crucially important. All three are inspired by the iconoclastic rebel journalist named I. F. Stone, whose fearless, independent reporting from 1953 to 1971 filled a tiny 4-page newsletter which he wrote, published, and carried to the mailbox every week. Stone is little known today, but All Governments Lie will reveal the profound influence he's had on contemporary independent journalists like Greenwald, Scahill, Goodman and others.

Shockley, J. (Producer and Director). (2009). *Golden rule: The investment theory of politics*. [Documentary]. United States: Available at:

<http://goldenruledocumentary.blogspot.com/>

This film is based on Thomas Ferguson's book Golden Rule: The Investment Theory of Party Competition and the Logic of Money-Driven Political Systems. Many people appear in it, but it is based primarily on a 5 hour interview I conducted with Ferguson (with the help of 2 fellow youtubers), and on numerous appearances & interviews with Noam Chomsky. The film offers an in depth look at the influence of money in politics--analyzing social forces and events that the mainstream media and scholarship have largely distorted or kept hidden. It also analyzes the meaning of democracy.

Kaplowitz, D. (Director). (2002). *In whose interest?* [Documentary]. United States: Bullfrog Films.

Filmmaker David Kaplowitz leads us on an eye opening journey, questioning the effects of U.S. foreign policy over the past 50 years. Revealing a pattern of intervention, the film focuses on Guatemala, Vietnam, East Timor, El Salvador, and Palestine/Israel. Archival footage, photographs and media tidbits are dynamically interwoven with personal eye-witness accounts and commentary from academics – such as Noam Chomsky – religious leaders and politicians. In

Whose Interest? *is informative and disturbingly honest, yet upbeat, with twists of irony and humor.*

Talbot, S. & Kaplan S. (Producers). (1999). *Justice for sale (Frontline)*. [Television broadcast]. New York: Public Broadcasting Service.

Campaign financing is a serious issue in the executive and legislative branches. But has the judicial branch fallen prey to the mad scramble for money too? Bill Moyers investigates the problem of campaign cash in the branch which can probably least afford to be bought and paid for by special interests.

Cowan, S. (Producer and Director). (2011). *Priceless*. [Documentary]. United States: Habitat Media.

PRICELESS: Q: *Why did the politician cross the road? (see answer below)*

Is American democracy suffering from a wobble, and can it be fixed? Join us as we follow the money, from big industry campaign coffers to K Street and Capitol Hill, through two major American policies (farm & energy) and right back into the pockets of the same industries we began with! It'll be fun. Along the way we'll meet citizens who've felt the impact of these policies, and those who've decided to do something about it.

A: *To get to a fundraising office and plead for bucks.*

Montgomery, P. (Writer and Director). (2012). *Regeneration*. [Documentary].

United States: Virgil Films.

The award-winning documentary film, #ReGENERATION, explores the galvanizing forces behind the Occupy Movement and the state of social activism in our society. The film takes an uncompromising look at the challenges facing today's youth and young adults as they attempt to engage on a myriad of social and political issues. Focused on how our education, parenting, and media can influence us, the film follows three separate walks of life representing today's generation. Each brings their own unique perspective – from an inspired collective of musicians working outside the corporate system, to a twenty-something conservative family about to welcome the birth of their second child, and a group of five high-school students from the suburbs looking for their place in society. Their stories are interspersed with the knowledge, wisdom, and personal reflections of some of the country's leading scholars, social activists, and media personalities, including Noam Chomsky, the late Howard Zinn, Adbusters' Kalle Lasn, Andrew Bacevich, Talib Kweli, and many others. Narrated by Ryan Gosling and featuring a riveting soundtrack from STS9, the film explores how today's generation approaches activism, how it is impacted by technology, our disconnection with nature and history, our consumer culture, and the economic factors holding many of us back from becoming more active participants in our communities. Through a diverse and intelligent series of stories, interviews and insights, we come to a deeper understanding of the influences shaping our society. We have entered uncharted territory, economically, environmentally, and intellectually—and we must look honestly at ourselves to create a sustainable future.

Hutchison, P., Nykes, K., Scott, J. (Producers and Directors). (2016). *Requiem for the American dream*. United States: Naked City Films.

REQUIEM FOR THE AMERICAN DREAM is the definitive discourse with Noam Chomsky, widely regarded as the most important intellectual alive, on the defining characteristic of our time - the deliberate concentration of wealth and power in the hands of a select few. Through interviews filmed over four years, Chomsky unpacks the principles that have brought us to the crossroads of historically unprecedented inequality - tracing a half century of policies designed to favor the most wealthy at the expense of the majority - while also looking back on his own life of activism and political participation. Profoundly personal and thought provoking, Chomsky provides penetrating insight into what may well be the lasting legacy of our time - the death of the middle class, and swan song of functioning democracy. A potent reminder that power ultimately rests in the hands of the governed, REQUIEM is required viewing for all who maintain hope in a shared stake in the future.

Jhally, S. (Producer). (2017). *The great white hoax*. {Documentary}. United States: Media Education Foundation.

The Great White Hoax, featuring acclaimed anti-racist educator and author Tim Wise, explores how American political leaders of both parties have been tapping into white anxiety, stoking white grievance, and scapegoating people of color for decades to divide and conquer working class voters and shore up political support. The film's primary focus is Donald Trump's race-baiting 2016 campaign for the presidency. But it also widens its scope to show how Trump's charged rhetoric about African-Americans, Latinos, and Muslims fits within a longstanding historical pattern, offering a stunning survey of how racism and racial scapegoating have shaped American politics for centuries. The Great White Hoax is an ideal resource for courses that look at race relations, white privilege, the intersectionality of race, class, and gender identities, presidential politics, and political propaganda.

Martinez, R. (Producer and Director). (2013). *The lottery of birth*. [Documentary]. United States: Mangusta Productions.

From directors Raoul Martinez and Joshua van Praag comes the first installment in the "Creating Freedom" series. Offering a torrent of mind-expanding ideas, The Lottery of Birth is going to make you think again about what it means to be free. With a stellar cast bringing together leading activists, journalists, and the best minds in psychology, history and philosophy, it explores a simple idea: the more we understand the limits on our freedom, the better placed we are to transcend them. From birth onwards, our minds are a battleground of competing forces. The outcome of this battle determines the society we create. The Lottery of Birth looks at the cultural, educational and commercial forces that shape our identities, often in ways that limit both our personal and political freedom.

Burns, M. (Producer and Director). (2003). *Third party: Political alternatives in the age of duopoly*. [Documentary]. United States: The Cinema Guild.

Third Party is a documentary film that makes a comprehensive survey of today's major United States third party efforts. Interviews with leaders in the Libertarian, Green, Reform, Labor, Communist, Socialist, Working Families, and Workers World parties are interspliced with

commentary from activists and academics including Ronnie Dugger, Francis Fox Piven, Howard Zinn, Jeremy Brecher, Noam Chomsky and others. The film looks carefully at what motivates and inspires parties vying for a foothold in a country so dominated politically by the Democrats and Republicans. This feature length film explores their strategies, their issues, and their thoughts on the obstacles they face. Not merely an academic exercise, the film weaves in the story of the third party candidacy of Mike DeRosa, one of the thousands of everyday Americans who run for office each year under a third party banner. DeRosa's story, as a member of the Green Party of Connecticut running for State Senate in 2002, illustrates what it's like to run as a political alternative in a system and culture design for two. An educational and inspiring mosaic of the lesser-known political visionaries fighting to bring serious change to an actual democracy in danger of slipping into a virtual one.

Huchon, T. (Director). (2017). *Trumping democracy*. [Documentary]. United

States: Cinema Libre Studios.

Donald Trump became the 45th President of the United States by winning three key states, a victory engineered by an ultra-conservative faction that quietly mapped its way to power using fake news, lies and psychometrics. This explosive documentary follows the money to the reclusive multi-billionaire Robert Mercer who bought Breitbart News and funded the effort, while inserting Steve Bannon into the presidential campaign as its manager. Using data of millions of Americans acquired from Facebook, Google, banks, credit companies, social security and more, another Mercer company, Cambridge Analytica, used tactics honed during the UK's Brexit campaign to identify voters deemed "most neurotic or worried," whom they believed could swing for Trump. In the days before the election, using a little-known Facebook feature, "dark posts", they deployed highly manipulative and personalized messages, that could be seen only by the user before disappearing. In the darkness of the web, democracy was trumped by data. This explosive documentary follows the money to the elusive multi-billionaire Robert Mercer who bought Breitbart News and funded the effort, while inserting Steve Bannon into the presidential campaign as its manager. Using data of millions of Americans acquired from Facebook, Google, banks, credit companies, social security and more, another Mercer company, Cambridge Analytica, used tactics honed during the UK's Brexit campaign to identify voters deemed "most neurotic or worried," whom they believed could swing for Trump. In the days before the election, using a little-known Facebook feature, "dark posts", they deployed highly manipulative and personalized messages, that could be seen only by the user before disappearing. In the darkness of the web, democracy was trumped by data.

Kirk, M. (Producer). (2017). *Trump's road to the White House*. [Documentary].

United States: PBS Frontline.

Depending on your political leanings, you may be asking yourself one of two questions right about now: How did Donald Trump get elected? or How could Donald Trump not get elected? The PBS FRONTLINE one-hour documentary, Donald Trump's Road to the White House, answers both of those. It's from the same impressive team behind the recent PBS FRONTLINE documentary The Divided States of America and last fall's profiles of candidates Trump and Hillary Clinton, The Choice. If you're feeling exhausted from watching the 2016 presidential campaign and thinking there's nothing more to know, I encourage you to watch this PBS FRONTLINE program. It's filled with unseen interviews with Trump and Clinton campaign advisers, political journalists and pollsters explaining how it all went down and how Trump defied the odds, Washington and the media.