

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.

Kennebeck, S. (Director and Producer). (2016). *National bird*. [Documentary].

United States: Ten Forward Films.

National Bird follows the dramatic journey of three whistleblowers who are determined to break the silence around one of the most controversial current affairs issues of our time: the secret U.S. drone war. At the center of the film are three U.S. military veterans. Plagued by guilt over participating in the killing of faceless people in foreign countries, they decide to speak out publicly, despite the possible consequences. Their stories take dramatic turns, leading one of the protagonists to Afghanistan where she learns about a horrendous incident. But her journey also gives hope for peace and redemption. National Bird gives rare insight into the U.S. drone program through the eyes of veterans and survivors, connecting their stories as never seen before in a documentary. Its images haunt the audience and bring a faraway issue close to home.

Ennis, J. W. (Producer, Writer, Director). (2014). *Pay to play: Democracy's high stakes*. [Documentary]. United States: Shoot First Inc.

If our political system is like a game of Monopoly, how can outsiders have a voice when only money speaks? John Ennis documents comical corruption, follows political newcomers, and uncovers intrigue in this colorful journey that connects the dots of Big Money in our ever-challenging election process.

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.

Jarecki, E. (Writer and Director). (2013). *The house I live in*. [Documentary]. United States: Virgil Films.

40 Years, \$1 Trillion, 45 Million Arrests: This is the War on Drugs. Forty years ago, President Nixon called a press conference to tell the American people that their "public enemy #1" was drug abuse. He then proceeded to declare an all-out war on drug users and sellers, with resounding repercussions on criminal justice policy and on vast numbers of Americans. Subsequent presidents, drug czars, and local politicians have followed Nixon's lead, fueling an unprecedented boom in the country's prison population and waging an ever-escalating campaign against what many consider to be nothing more than a public health problem. The war on drugs has been a

failure practically, morally, and economically. The result of this law enforcement approach are stark: today, there are more than 500,000 people incarcerated for drug offenses; billions of dollars are spent annually on narcotics enforcement; treatment is still out of reach for millions of people; and drugs are more available and cheaper than ever before. But there is also a growing recognition that the course of the past 40 years must change, and there is increasing momentum for drug policy reform from all levels of government and civil society.

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 interspersed 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 designed 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.

Earnhardt, D. (Producer, Director, Writer). (2007). *Uncounted: The new math of American elections*. [Documentary]. United States: Earnhardt / Pirkle, Inc.

UNCOUNTED is an explosive new documentary that shows how the election fraud that changed the outcome of the 2004 election led to even greater fraud in 2006 - and now looms as an unbridled threat to the outcome of all elections. This controversial feature length film by Emmy award-winning director David Earnhardt examines in factual, logical, and yet startling terms how easy it is to change election outcomes and undermine election integrity across the U.S. Noted computer programmers, statisticians, journalists, and experienced election officials provide the irrefutable proof. UNCOUNTED shares well documented stories about the spine-chilling disregard for the right to vote in America. In Florida, computer programmer Clint Curtis is directed by his

boss to create software that will “flip” votes from one candidate to another. In Utah, County Clerk Bruce Funk is locked out of his office for raising questions about security flaws in electronic voting machines. Californian Steve Heller gets convicted of a felony after he leaks secret documents detailing illegal activities committed by a major voting machine company. And Tennessee entrepreneur, Athan Gibbs, finds verifiable voting a hard sell in America and dies before his dream of honest elections can be realized. UNCOUNTEED is a wakeup call to all Americans. Beyond increasing the public’s awareness, the film inspires greater citizen involvement in fixing a broken electoral system. As we approach the decisive election of 2012, UNCOUNTEED will change how you feel about the way votes are counted in America.