

Sorlin, P 1980: *The Film in History*. Oxford: Basil Blackwell.

No course in historical methodology would be complete without taking notice of this publication. Sorlin aptly warns "Historians must take an interest in the audiovisual world, if they are not to become schizophrenics, rejected by society as the representatives of an outmoded erudition". (p5).

Sorlin underlines the fact that a historical film or newsreel is a piece of subjective evidence made by more than one person with a specific audience in mind which increases the possibility of bias tremendously. It is a well documented publication. He continues to explain and expose where necessary, the methods and pitfalls in the film as a historical source.

In the second section Sorlin discusses contemporary films of the French Revolution, the American Civil War and the Italian Risorgimento.

In his third section the book is really illuminating when contemporary history since World War I is under discussion. The French Film *La Grande Illusion*, two films on the Russian Revolution and a film on Italian resistance against the Nazis are discussed in a scholarly fashion.

Indeed these films are scrutinized and reevaluated in a way that fascinates the reader. The film as a more than useful source for the historian is progressively established. The possibilities of the cinema as historical source are numerous, the danger and possible misuse as abundant. All in all a fascinating and relevant publication equally useful for the creative teacher and the academic scholar. A must for all university and school libraries.

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