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Planet of the Apes as American Myth: Race and Politics in the Films and Television Series

Eric Greene

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Planet of the Apes as American Myth: Race and Politics in the Films and Television Series

Eric Greene

Planet of the Apes as American Myth: Race and Politics in the Films and Television Series Eric Greene How do political conflicts shape popular culture? This book explores that question by analyzing how the *Planet of the Apes* films functioned both as entertaining adventures and as apocalyptic political commentary. Informative and thought provoking, the book demonstrates how this enormously popular series of secular myths used images of racial and ecological crisis to respond to events like the Cold War, the race riots of the 1960s, the Civil Rights movement, the Black Power movement, and the Vietnam War. The work utilizes interviews with key filmmakers and close readings of the five *Apes* films and two television series to trace the development of the series theme of racial conflict in the context of the shifting ideologies of race during the sixties and seventies. The book also observes that today, amid growing concerns over race relations, the resurgent popularity of *Apes* and Twentieth Century Fox s upcoming film may again make *Planet of the Apes* a pop culture phenomenon that asks who we are and where we are going."

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