

RESOURCE GUIDE

Racism and Anti-Racism: Analysis

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Film's Exploring the African American Experience

Roots: Distributed by All Major Video Stores

From the moment the young Kunta Kinte (LeVar Burton) is stolen from his life and ancestral home in 18th-century Africa and brought under inhumane conditions to be auctioned as a slave in America, a line is begun that leads from this most shameful chapter in U.S. history to the 20th-century author Alex Haley, a Kinte descendant. The late Haley's acclaimed book Roots was adapted into this six-volume television miniseries, which was a widely watched phenomenon in 1977.

Malcolm X: Distributed by All Major Video Stores

Just as Do the Right Thing was the capstone of Spike Lee's earlier career, Malcolm X marked the next milestone in the filmmaker's artistic maturity. It seemed everything Lee had done up to that point was to prepare him for this epic biography of America's fiery civil-rights leader. Denzel Washington does a superb job in his portrayal of the slain civil rights leader. Lee careens from the hedonistic ebullience of Malcolm's early days to the stark despair of prison, from his life-changing conversion to Islam to his emergence as a dynamic political leader--all with an epic sweep and vitality that illuminates personal details as well as political ideology.

A Lesson Before Dying: Distributed by All Major Video Stores

Don Cheadle, Mekhi Phifer and Cicely Tyson star in this drama set in the 1940's about a black man sentenced to death for a crime he did not commit and teacher who is to counsel him as he awaits execution. Based on a novel by Ernest J. Gaines.

Once Upon a Time...When We Were Colored: Distributed by All Major Video Stores

This wonderfully wrought drama offers a view of Southern African American culture not often depicted in films. With no drugs and little violence, it presents a rich portrait of a family living in a close community and makes the point that sometimes the most unsung of heroes can have as much influence on people as their better known counterparts.

Black Is...Black Ain't: Distributed by California Newsreel

For centuries, American culture has imposed hurtful stereotypes on black Americans. Equally painful, however, have been the definitions of blackness that African-Americans have imposed on one another. Throughout his acclaimed career, filmmaker Marlon Riggs challenged both racism and homophobia. In this, his last video before dying of AIDS, Riggs conducts what he calls a personal journey through black identity.

Eyes on the Prize: Distributed by PBS Video and Blackside, Inc.

In the 1950s and 1960s, America fought a second revolution to secure "inalienable rights" and equal treatment under the law -- a second revolution to make "liberty and justice for all" a reality for black Americans as well as white. The fight was waged by blacks and whites in the streets and the churches, the courts and the schools of the American South. It was a struggle for racial integration and equal rights that changed the fabric of American life, a struggle whose reverberations continue to be felt. Through contemporary interviews and historical footage -- much of it never before broadcast -- Eyes on the Prize traces the civil rights movement from early acts of individual courage through the flowering of a mass movement and its eventual split into factions. Eyes on the Prize chronicles the civil rights years through the individual stories of people compelled by a meeting of conscience and circumstance to play a role in history. These are the stories of blacks and whites, of civil rights organizers from the South and the North, of government officials at all levels, of Southerners who fought to maintain a way of life they had cherished since Reconstruction and of blacks who were determined to make America live up to its promise of equality. Some played their parts and faded back into obscurity; others became household names in the America of the time and permanent figures on the pages of history.

Eyes on the Prize II: America at the Racial Crossroads 1965-mid 1980's: Distributed by PBS Video and Blackside, Inc.

Through historical footage and contemporary interviews, the films examine the triumphs and failures of individuals and communities eager to give flesh to the movement's hard-won gains. The series also probes the transition to a more challenging time in this country's social history. The civil rights movement changed America forever, rewriting its laws, reinvigorating its Constitution, inscribing a new

legion of heroes and heroines in its history books. As the nature of that movement changed from a broad-based coalition to sometimes competing groups, a variety of local grassroots crusades took the movement's forward momentum and pressed on. Many, like Emma Darnell, an official in Atlanta mayor Maynard Jackson's administration, never forgot those who came before. "We were, for all practical purposes, engaged in a revolution. . . . It was still the civil rights revolution. Those persons during the 1960s laid down their lives and died to put us into these positions of power," she says. The series takes viewers from the streets of Malcolm X's Harlem to Oakland and the birth of the Black Panthers; from the frustration of rioters in Detroit and Miami to the victory celebration for Harold Washington, Chicago's first black mayor; from ringside with Muhammad Ali to the "Mountain Top" speech of Martin Luther King on the eve of his assassination.

This Far by Faith: Distributed by Blackside, Inc.

THIS FAR BY FAITH presents a history of the African-American religious experience. It is a dramatic story of a people and a society being changed and transformed, a history filled with characters of amazing courage and commitment. These are spiritual and moral superstars, people who care deeply about their fellow citizens, people who become the instruments of their own destinies. They are role models not only for the black community but also for everyone: corporate leaders, educators, community workers, churchgoers and non-churchgoers. Their work, some say, can and should be seen as a gift to the American soul, a deep probing into the heart and mind of this nation's being. THIS FAR BY FAITH promises to be one of Blackside's most dynamic series, as viewers witness two centuries of women and men engaged in struggles on behalf of and emerging out of their faith.

I'll Make Me a World: Distributed by PBS Video and Blackside, Inc.

This documentary celebrates the extraordinary achievements of 20th-century African-American writers, dancers, painters, actors, filmmakers, musicians, and other artists who changed forever who we are as a nation and a culture. Six primetime hours engage viewers in compelling stories of struggle and creativity, featuring the sounds of jazz, blues, soul, and rap that the entire world identifies as America's music; poetry and fiction that challenge our ideas of race and our ideals of democracy; images that capture our conflicts and our commonalities; and dance, theater, and films that have thrilled and inspired a century of audiences.

Mississippi, America: Distributed by PBS Video

Narrated by actors Ossie Davis and Ruby Dee, this powerful documentary chronicles a vital chapter in the history of America's civil rights movement. Using historic footage and on-camera interviews, the film focuses on the pivotal 1964 Freedom Summer when a coalition of civil rights activists broke through racial barriers to bring Mississippi's African-Americans to the voting booth. Citizens and the lawyers, who volunteered to help them, confront life-threatening violence in a struggle that played a key role in the passage of the 1965 Voting Rights Act.

In Remembrance of Martin: Distributed by PBS Video

Personal comments from family members, friends, former classmates and advisors are chronicled in this moving documentary honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Coretta Scott King is joined by Rev. Ralph Abernathy, Julian Bond, former President Jimmy Carter, Bill Cosby, Bishop Desmond Tutu and others, who remember highlights in Dr. King's career. Dramatic footage traces King's leadership in the Civil Rights movement, including the Montgomery Bus Boycott, his "I Have A Dream" speech at the Lincoln Memorial, his acceptance of the Nobel Peace Prize, and more.

Against the Odds: The Artists of the Harlem Renaissance: Distributed by PBS Video

Harlem in the 1920s and 1930s was the scene of a passionate outburst of creativity by African-American visual artists. This documentary tells how black artists triumphed over the prejudice and segregation that kept their work out of mainstream galleries and exhibitions, and recalls the vibrancy of Harlem in the roaring twenties. You'll view over 130 paintings, prints, photographs and sculptures, along with rare archival footage of artists at work.

Glory: Distributed by All Major Video Stores.

One of the finest films ever made about the American Civil War, *Glory* also has the honor of being the first major Hollywood film to acknowledge the vital contribution of African American soldiers to the country's historic struggle. Based on the books *Lay This Laurel*, by Lincoln Kirstein, and *One Gallant Rush*, by Peter Burchard, and the wartime letters of Robert Gould Shaw, the film tells the story of the 54th Regiment of the Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry, an all-black unit comprising Northern freemen and escaped slaves. Under the command of Shaw (played by Matthew

Broderick), the 54th served admirably in battle until they made their ultimate demonstration of bravery during the almost suicidal assault on the Confederate Fort Wagner in Charleston, South Carolina, on July 18, 1863. Glory achieves its powerful impact by meticulously setting up the terrible conditions under which these neglected soldiers fought, and by illuminating the tenacity of the human spirit from the oppression of slavery to the hard-won recognition of battlefield heroism.

Mississippi Burning: Distributed by All Major Video Stores.

Gene Hackman and Willem Dafoe star in this well-intentioned and largely successful civil rights-era thriller. *Mississippi Burning*, using the real-life 1964 disappearance of three civil rights workers as its inspiration, tells the story of two FBI men who come in to try to solve the crime. Hackman is a former small-town Mississippi sheriff himself, while Dafoe is a by-the-numbers young hotshot. Yes, there is some tension between the two. The movie has an interesting fatalism, as all the FBI's best efforts incite more and more violence, which becomes disturbing--the film's message, perhaps inadvertently, seems to be that vigilantism is the only real way to get things done.

The American Experience: *Scottsboro: An American Tragedy*. Distributed by PBS Video

In March 1931, two white women stepped from a box car in Paint Rock, Alabama, to make a shocking accusation: they had been raped by nine black teenagers on the train. So began one of the most significant legal fights of the 20th century. The trial of the nine falsely accused teens would draw North and South into their sharpest conflict since the Civil War, yield two momentous Supreme Court decisions and give birth to the civil rights movement. In addition to its historical significance, the Scottsboro story is a riveting drama about the struggles of nine innocent young men for their lives and a cautionary tale about using human beings as fodder for political causes.

Resources from the Asian American and Pacific Islander Experience

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Resources for Children

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Film's Exploring the Asian American and Pacific Islander Experience

American Sons: Distributed by National Asian American Telecommunications Association

Against a stark black backdrop, a group of actors present evocative monologues based on a series of interviews with Asian-American men. Their candid, often-angry stories reveal childhood collisions with racial insensitivity, family tragedies stemming from racial discrimination and ongoing struggles to assert their ethnic identity.

Bontoc Eulogy: Distributed by the Cinema Guild

This documentary fuses fact and fantasy in an intricate contemplation of race, exploitation, and the Filipino-American identity. The narrator, a first-generation Filipino-American immigrant, tells the poignant story of his grandfather, Markod, brought from the Philippines to be exhibited as an Igorot Bontoc warrior at the 1904 St. Louis World's Fair.

Act of War – The Overthrow of the Hawaiian Nation: Distributed by Na Maka o ka' Aina

Incorporating stylized reenactments, archival photographs and scholarly commentary, this provocative documentary chronicles the events that culminated in the American annexation of Hawaii in 1898.

The Color of Honor: Distributed by National Asian American Telecommunications Association
Interviews, dramatic reenactments, archival footage and photographs recount the discrimination and hardship endured by Japanese Americans in the wake of the bombing of Pearl Harbor and honor the contributions of the Nisei (second-generation Japanese American) soldiers in World War II.

Days of Waiting: Distributed by National Asian American Telecommunications Association
Estelle Ishigo was one of the few Caucasians to be interned with 100,000 Japanese Americans in 1942. Based on Estelle Ishigo's personal papers and novel entitled *Lone Heart Mountain*, this moving biographical portrait traces her early life and 1929 marriage to Arthur Ishigo, a Japanese American.

Who Killed Vincent Chin?: Distributed by Filmmakers Library
This documentary, a stark confrontation of racism in working-class America, examines the brutal death in 1982 of a 27-year-old Chinese-American man named Vincent Chin. The film includes interviews with people involved in the case, as well as newspaper and television coverage.

Come See the Paradise: Distributed by All Major Video Stores
Executive Order 9066, written and implemented by President Roosevelt's World War II government has had chilling overtones in the 21st century. This film reflects one of the darkest moments of 20th century America: the internment of people solely on the basis of their race and ethnicity.

Farewell to Manzanar: Distributed by All Major Video Stores
This film recounts a dark chapter in American history from the point of view of those most closely affected by it. This made-for-TV movie concentrates on the Wakatsukis, a Japanese-American family living in Santa Monica, California in the early 1940s. After the attack on Pearl Harbor, the family's father is accused of selling fuel to Japanese submarines and is thrown in jail. His wife and children are shipped off to the internment camp of Manzanar in California, along with thousands of other American citizens of Japanese descent. Based on the autobiographical book co-written by Jeanne Wakatsuki and her husband James D. Houston.

Rabbit on the Moon: Distributed by PBS Video
Appearing first at the Sundance Film Festival in 1999, this documentary dispels commonly held ideas regarding the Japanese-Americans who were forced to live in isolated internment camps during World War II. Some Americans still believe that Japanese-Americans were there of their own accord. Unable to keep silent any longer, former residents speak out in this film and discuss the long-term psychological effects of the camps. The film covers the generational conflict within the camps, as well as the deaths of two Japanese-Americans killed by the U.S. Army at the Manzanar Relocation Center.

Hawaii's Last Queen: Distributed by PBS Video
She was Lili'uokalani, who on a January evening in 1893, was forced at gunpoint to surrender her throne to the U.S. government. Follow the life of this charismatic leader, her embattled reign under the onslaught of epidemics and alcoholism that decimated her people and the missionary fervor that nearly destroyed their culture. This powerful documentary reveals the plotting and the events that led to her ultimate betrayal and the loss of her kingdom.

Resources from Latino/Hispanic Experience

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Resources for Children

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Film's Exploring the Hispanic/Latino Experience

Lone Star: Distributed by All Major Video Stores

This complex and rich film by John Sayles stars Chris Cooper as the contemporary sheriff of a Texas border town still under the sway of his late, legendary lawman father (Matthew McConaughey, seen in flashbacks). The discovery of a skeleton and crusted-over badge--buried some 40 years--initiates an investigation into an old crime no one wants to talk about but which will determine for Cooper's character, once and for all, various truths about his father's life. Sayles ingeniously sets this mystery against the backdrop of a developing, multicultural community losing its economic base while haggling over a history of racism. The overall effect is of a complicated American tragedy mitigated by the possibility of personal redemption. A terrific experience.

My Family: Distributed by All Major Video Stores

The film, directed by Gregory Nava ("Selena") is an honorable, beautiful, and tragic masterpiece that captures the essence of what it is to be Latino in Southern California. Using realism and incorporating local and Mexican slang, Nava, along with writer Olmos provide the viewers with closeness. Whether it is dealing with intercultural marriages, street gang violence, or the everyday fears many illegal immigrants face each day with deportation lurking around the corner in some cases, "My Family" is an excellent portrait of how important culture and family are among Latino households. This is a must see film for anyone interested in Latino Studies. An excellent film and an eternal classic, "My Family" is a stunning film that should be watched by all who want to understand the history, legacy, and contributions of America's fastest growing minority group and yet a distant relationship with the family.

The Milagro Beanfield War: Distributed by All Major Video Stores

Robert Redford's underrated directorial follow-up to his Academy Award-winning Ordinary People, The Milagro Beanfield War is a loose and whimsical fable about community pride and social activism in the face of modern progress. Sonia Braga (Kiss of the Spider Woman) plays a local mechanic in a small New Mexico town who takes up the challenge of rallying support for a local farmer who uses water owned by a real estate developer to grow beans in his field. Everything escalates to a showdown between the townspeople and the developers, with unexpected results. The strongest aspect of the film is the way it doesn't take itself too seriously, with Redford adopting a leisurely tone and allowing his fine cast (including Ruben Blades as the pragmatic town sheriff and Christopher Walken as a nasty state police officer) to deliver finely nuanced performances that touch on themes of faith and perseverance without seeming heavy-handed. The Milagro Beanfield War is an overlooked gem.

Americanos: Latino Life in the United States: Distributed by Home Box Office

From art to music to politics to education to religion, the history of Latinos is as rich and diverse as any group in America. AMERICANOS: LATINO LIFE IN THE UNITED STATES celebrates this remarkable heritage, telling the diverse personal stories of Latino-Americans from around the country. Conceived and co-produced by actor and activist Edward James Olmos, and directed by the Oscar®-nominated team of Andy Young and Susan Todd ("Lives in Hazard"), AMERICANOS: LATINO LIFE IN THE UNITED STATES features three- to six-minute profiles filmed in Los Angeles, San Diego, New Mexico, Illinois, Miami, New York and other locations, focusing on Latino-American individuals or groups and the unique ways they express their culture and individuality. Latinos, who will soon be the largest group of minorities in the United States, are not one nationality or one culture, but many. This documentary highlights the contributions made by Latinos to our country, emphasizing that we are a nation of diverse backgrounds.

The American Experience: The Zoot Suit Riots: Distributed by PBS Video

Named for the clothes they wore, 17 young Mexicans were tried for murder in Los Angeles in 1942. Their convictions on scanty evidence made them Latino martyrs, provoking riots between servicemen and local residents. Did official prejudice and spectacular media coverage inflame a bad situation and thwart justice, as a citizen's committee later claimed? You be the judge.

The Fight in the Fields: Cesar Chavez and the Farmworkers' Struggle: Distributed by the Cinema Guild

This film joins social history of the agricultural labor movement with a biographical portrait of Cesar Chavez. Chavez and the United Farmworkers inspired Chicano activism of the 1960s and 1970s and in the process touched the consciences of millions of Americans.

¡Viva la Causa! 500 Years of Chicano History. Distributed by Oyate

Based on the book, *500 Años del Pueblo Chicano/500 Years of Chicano History in Pictures*, this is a compelling introduction to the history of the Mexican-American people, in whom Indian roots run deep. Archival footage, narration, and music ranging from corridos to rap have been added to the photos.

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Films Exploring the Indigenous People's Experience

Smoke Signals: Distributed by All Major Video Stores

This dramatic feature was written, directed, and co-produced by Native Americans. Native American writer [Sherman Alexie](#) scripted this adaptation of his 1993 short story collection *The Lone Ranger and Tonto Fistfight in Heaven*. In 1976, an infant survives a fire that kills his parents. In a flash forward to the present day, the infant has grown up to become the skinny, nerdy adult Thomas. At Idaho's desolate Coeur d'Alene Indian reservation, the overeager youth is mostly ignored by others, including stoic athletic Victor Joseph, even though it was Victor's father, alcoholic Arnold Joseph, who saved the infant Thomas' life in the fire. A drunken Arnold later abandoned his family, and Victor hasn't seen his father in a decade. When Victor learns of Arnold's death in Phoenix, Thomas offers to pay for the trip to Phoenix if he can accompany Victor.

Incident at Oglala: The Leonard Peltier Story: Distributed by All Major Video Stores

Michael Apted's documentary examines the 1975 slaying of two FBI agents in Oglala, SD, which resulted in the arrest and conviction of Native American activist Leonard Peltier for the murders. Making a case for a retrial, Apted chronicles the tensions extant between the U.S. government and the Oglala people since their occupation of Wounded Knee in 1973 and examines the questionable circumstances surrounding the investigation and subsequent trial of Peltier. The film is a companion to Apted's own *Thunderheart*, which offers a fictionalized account of the same case.

Powwow Highway: Distributed by All Major Video Stores

The road movie gets a smart update with this seriocomic tale of two Cheyenne men traveling from their reservation in Montana to New Mexico. For one of them, Buddy Red Bow (A Martinez), a quick-tempered activist, the journey is a practical one; his sister has been arrested and he is the only family member who can help her out. Buddy has no transportation, so he's forced to ride with Philbert Bono (Gary Farmer), a phlegmatic hulk of a man who is using his 1964 Buick as a vehicle for a spiritual journey of his own. Philbert's easy-going ways and insistence on frequent stops to meditate prove irritating at first to Buddy, but the men reach an accommodation as the trip wears on. Buddy comes to see that blaming the white man and what he sees as system rigged against Native Americans is distracting him from his true mission: to better understand himself and his place in the world.

In Whose Honor? American Indian Mascots in Sports: Distributed by New Day Films

Logos featuring grotesque Indian caricatures and packed stadiums of fans singing war chants and pantomiming tomahawk chops are popular images associated with such professional sports teams as the Washington Redskins, Cleveland Indians and Atlanta Braves. While other symbols of racial stereotyping have waned, Native American ones remain, especially in the sports arena. This documentary focuses on Charlene Teters, a Spokane Indian, who waged a campaign against Chief Illiniwek, the University of Illinois' beloved mascot.

Lakota Woman – Siege at Wounded Knee: Distributed by All Major Video Stores

This film is based on the unique autobiography, Lakota Woman. The film relates the experiences of a Native American woman who grew up on a reservation and joined in the revolution for native American rights during the 1960s and 1970s. It is a deeply moving account of a woman's triumphant struggle to survive in a hostile world

Dance Me Outside: Distributed by All Major Video Stores

This Canadian drama based on a book by [W.P. Kinsella](#), examines the tension between Indians and Anglos in Canada from an Indian perspective. Silas Crow, who lives on a Northern Ontario reserve, wants to take a mechanic's course in Toronto with his friend Frank Fencepost. However, before he can enroll, the teen must write a short narrative describing his home. The film is a series of vignette's from Crow's narrative. The vignette's are alternately funny and poignant.

Frontline: The Spirit of Crazy Horse: Distributed by PBS Video

Narrated by Milo Yellow Hair, a full-blooded Oglala Sioux, this film is an eye-opening vision of the quest of the Sioux to reclaim their ancestral land in the Black Hills of South Dakota. Witness the militant confrontations of the 1960s and '70s - the explosive results of 100 years of reservation confinement. Follow the struggle that rages on to this day, in a moving program filled with the enduring hopes and aspirations of a dispossessed people.

Columbus Didn't Discover Us: Distributed by Oyate

In July 1990, some 300 Native people participated in the First Continental Conference of Indigenous Peoples in the highlands of Ecuador. This documentary is testimony to the legacy of Columbus on the lives of indigenous peoples of this hemisphere, as they speak about their struggle for tierra, paz, y libertad—land, peace, and liberty.

Films on Race Relations

Remember the Titans: Distributed by All Major Video Stores

Set in Alexandria, Virginia, in 1971, the fact-based story begins with the integration of black and white students at T. C. Williams High School. This effort to improve race relations is most keenly felt on the school's football team, the Titans, and bigoted tempers flare when a black head coach (Washington) is appointed and his victorious predecessor (Will Patton) reluctantly stays on as his assistant. It's affirmative action at its most potentially volatile, complicated by the mandate that the coach will be fired if he loses a single game in the Titans' 13-game season. The players represent a hotbed of racial tension, but as the team struggles toward unity and gridiron glory, *Remember the Titans* builds on several subplots and character dynamics to become an inspirational drama of Rocky-like proportions.

Do the Right Thing: Distributed by All Major Video Stores

Director [Spike Lee](#) dives head-first into a maelstrom of racial and social ills, using as his springboard the hottest day of the year on one block in Brooklyn, NY.

School Daze: Distributed by All Major Video Stores

Fraternity and sorority members clash with the other students at a historically black university in this politically charged musical, which marked the sophomore feature from director Spike Lee. Dap (Laurence Fishburne) is a politically conscious brother, who leads anti-apartheid demonstrations and eschews the social climbing of the Greek system. But Half-Pint (Lee), his craven young cousin, is willing to endure any humiliation to join the manly Gamma fraternity. As Half-Pint tries unsuccessfully to impress the Gammas with his inept womanizing, Dap engages in philosophical debates with Rachel (Kyme), his girlfriend. Meanwhile, the light-skinned, straight-haired sisters of the Gamma Ray sorority battle it out in a beauty parlor with their darker-skinned, Afro-headed fellow co-eds. Eventually, Half-Pint gets the chance to join the frat, but only after a degrading episode with Jane (Tisha Campbell), the soon-to-be ex-girlfriend of his house president, causes Dap to lose all respect for him.

Guess Who's Coming to Dinner: Distributed by All Major Video Stores

Old-line liberals Matt and Christina Drayton have raised their daughter Joey to think for herself and not blindly conform to the conventional. Still, they aren't prepared for the shock when she returns home from a vacation with a new fiancé: African-American doctor John Prentice While they come to grips with whatever prejudices they might still harbor, the younger folks must also contend with John's parents (Roy Glenn Sr. and [Beah Richards](#)), who are dead-set against the union.

Skin Deep: Distributed by California Newsreel

Filmmaker Frances Reid follows a diverse group of students from the University of Massachusetts, Texas A & M, Chico State and U.C. Berkeley as they participate in an intensive three-day racial awareness workshop in northern California. In the documentary the students interact in group sessions that challenge deeply held attitudes about race.

The Way Home: Distributed by New Day Films

This documentary features the voices of 64 women who come together to talk about race, gender, and class in the U.S. The result is a collection of stories that presents a picture of women moving beyond stereotypes.

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ABOUT Films and Documentaries

Professor Lewis Rambo suggests that “films are useful tools to lead us in an exploration of what we might fear, what we might be afraid to talk about.” He also says that “film has a very profound effect on our thinking about other people and the categories we use to define them.” Movies when discussed and debriefed intentionally can be a good avenue for bringing the subject of racism into conversation.

Questions to consider while watching these films¹:

Phenomenology of Film

- Describe your experience of the film.
- What, if anything, moved you deeply in the film?
- What thoughts or ideas did the film generate?
- What ethical or moral issues did the film foster?
- What religious and/or spiritual issues did the film raise?

Cultural Assessment

- How are racial and ethnic perspectives constructed in the film?
- How are various racial ethnic groups represented in this film?
- What value systems are assumed and/or challenged by the film?
- Does this film provide you with a window with into the world of another culture?
- What internal issues or problems is this film addressing?
- What are/was the political, economic, and cultural implications of this film – in its place of origin and/or in this context?
- Is this film attempting to legitimize the status quo or is it a form of resistance or subversion of the status quo?

Theological Assessment

- What is the role of the divine or the sacred in this film?
- Is there specific religious/theological content in the film?
- Is there implicit religious/theological content in the film?
- Is a particular religious orientation portrayed or advocated?
- How is fundamental human nature portrayed in this film?

¹ Questions developed by Dr. Lewis Rambo from the San Francisco Theological Seminary in San Anselmo, CA