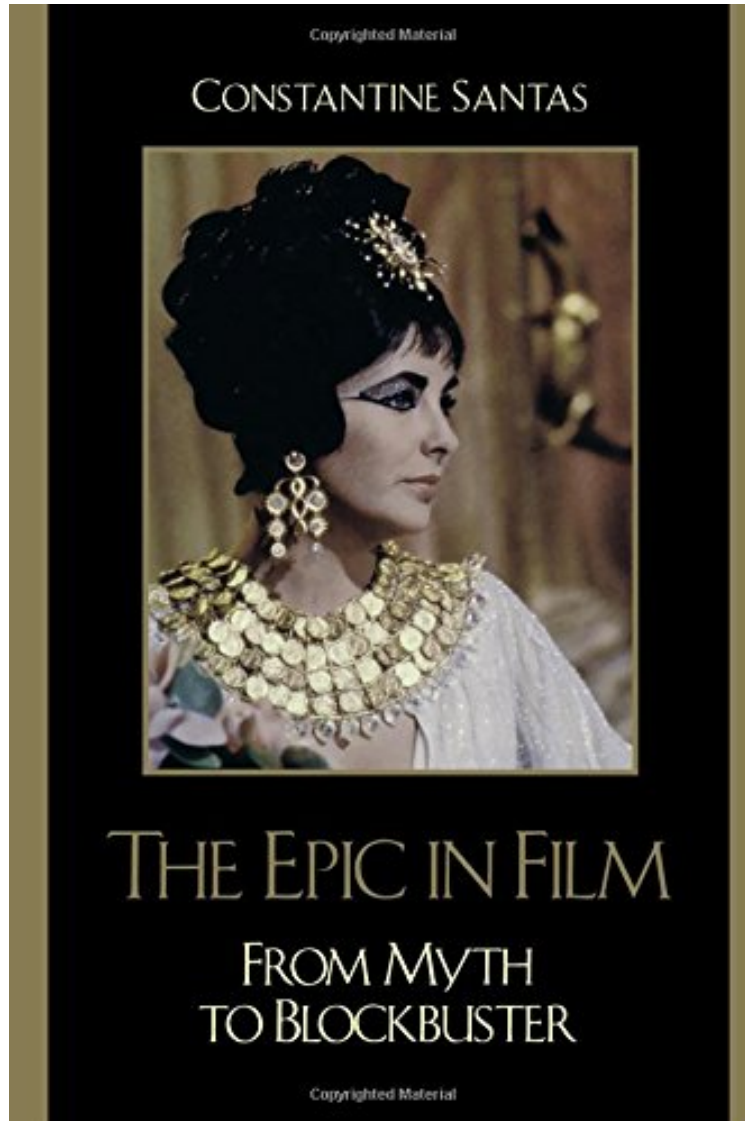


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The Epic in Film: From Myth to Blockbuster

Constantine Santas

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Constantine Santas : The Epic in Film: From Myth to Blockbuster before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Epic in Film: From Myth to Blockbuster:

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sources . Written by a seasoned scholar, Dr. Santas outlines significant elements that reveal the common thread weaving epic across media and generations proving the lasting significance of the epic form through time. A must read for scholars and students alike. 4 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Pointless and Poorly Written By Brandi Bair When reading this book it is obvious that the author put little time or effort into finding research to back up his claims. The views and opinions expressed in this book are over-simplified, and trivial at best. Even briefly skimming this book is likely to anger fans of any epic at the injustice it does the film genre.

Constantine Santas encourages us to wonder why film critics have so routinely dismissed the epic film. In *The Epic in Film*, he argues that 'blockbuster' and 'artistic' are not mutually exclusive terms, and, perhaps more importantly, epic film is an inherently profound genre in its ability to tap into a nation's, and sometimes humanity's, dreams and fears. Why do we see dozens and dozens of films based on the King Arthur legend? Why would a presidential-hopeful borrow a phrase, 'Read my lips,' from Clint Eastwood's *Dirty Harry*? Why do war epics proliferate in times of war or national crisis? Why are epics as a whole the most popular movie genre? Start with an individual quest of some kind undertaken by an attractive hero or heroine, add the weight of a nation, and perhaps humanity, into that character's struggle, sprinkle some awe-inspiring special effects and a general sense of largesse, and don't forget the happy ending; and there you have a recipe for a film that can contain the deepest emotions—fear, hope, insecurity, pride—of a nation, and, sometimes, a world. Whether you love *Gone with the Wind* and hate *Troy*; find Akira Kurosawa's films brilliant; or marvel over the depth of the *Matrix* trilogy, film buffs will want to read this first book-length treatment of the epic, a wildly popular, infinitely fascinating, and critically underappreciated genre.

This book is useful for scholars looking for a discussion of epic using classic films. (*Journal Of Popular Culture*) In this new, ambitious examination of epic films, Constantine Santas artfully argues for the viability and surprising longevity of this narrative form. . . . Santas whole-heartedly studies the epic in all its components, values, history and modernizations to educate film-buffs and academics, alike. . . . Santas argues with penetrating details. (*Film And History*) About the Author Constantine Santas is professor emeritus and former chair in the Department of English at Flagler College, Florida. He is the author of *Responding to Film* and has translated several works from Greek to English.