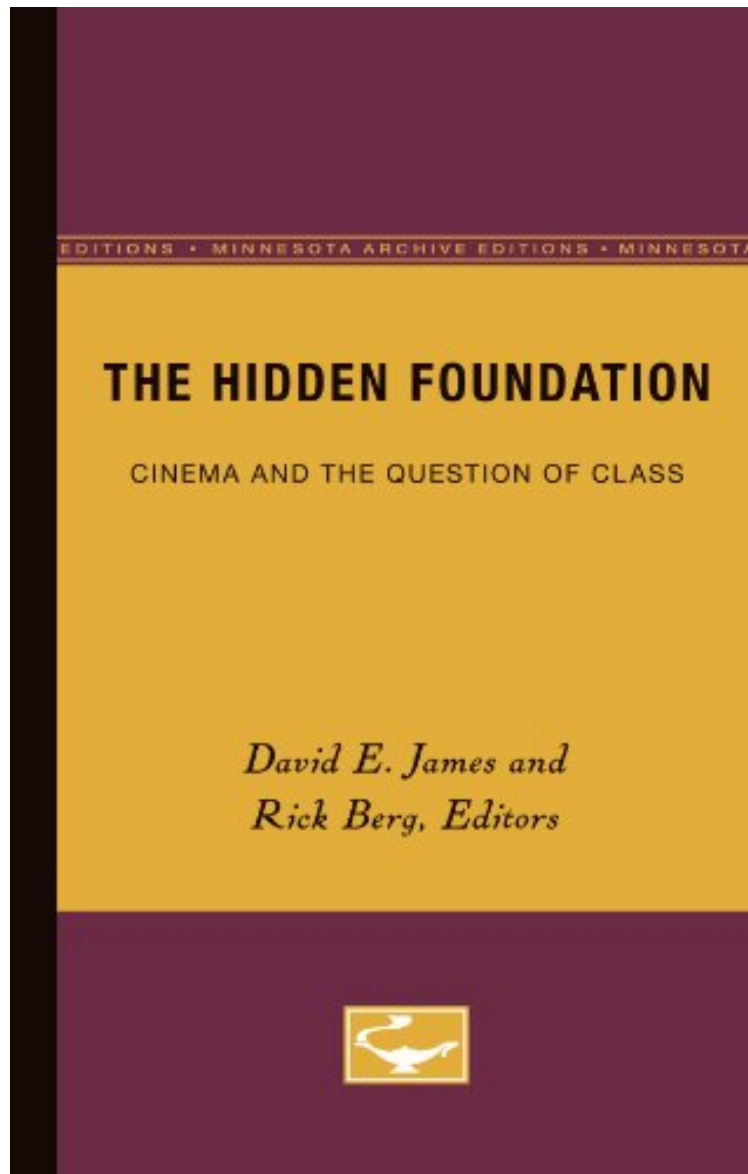


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## The Hidden Foundation: Cinema and the Question of Class

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**From Brand: Univ Of Minnesota Press : The Hidden Foundation: Cinema and the Question of Class** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Hidden Foundation: Cinema and the Question of Class:

The Hidden Foundation was first published in 1996. Ranging from the earliest days of the cinema to the present, The Hidden Foundation reestablishes class as a fundamental aspect of film history. Featuring prominent film scholars and historians acting to inaugurate a new type of film studies, this volume is unique in its international scope, diversity of perspectives and methodologies, and the cultural, political, and historical sweep of its analysis. The Hidden Foundation begins with a review of the history of class in social and political thought, going on to chronicle its disappearance from film and cultural studies. Avoiding dogma through a diversity of perspectives and political positions, subsequent essays employ a variety of conceptions of class. The topics considered here range from American and Soviet silent film through Chinese and American film in the fifties, to the restructuring of the working class that was a feature of films of the 1980s in both the United States and Britain. A particular strength of the collection is its treatment of race and gender in films about working-class women of color, including *Imitation of Life*, *Salt of the Earth*, and *The White-Haired Girl*. Representing a commitment to revitalize the study of class as an essential aspect of film, The Hidden Foundation will be of interest to film buffs, historians, and anyone interested in issues of class in the United States and abroad. Contributors: Paul Arthur, Montclair State U; Jane Collings, UCLA; Marianne Conroy, McGill U; Jane Gaines, Duke U; Douglas Kellner, U of Texas, Austin; Chuck Kleinhans, Northwestern U; Bill Nichols, San Francisco State U; Lillian S. Robinson, East Carolina U; Steven J. Ross, U of Southern California; Esther C. M. Yau, Occidental College. David E. James is professor of critical studies in the School of Cinema-Television at the University of Southern California. Rick Berg teaches at Occidental College.

From the Back Cover The present collection of essays was occasioned by specific institutional events. At the 1989 meeting of the Society for Cinema Studies, the professional organization of film and television scholars in the United States, one of its several internal interest groups, the Task Force on Race and Class, voted to dissolve and reconstitute itself as the Task Force on Race. The decision to sever institutional consideration of class from that of race and to jettison the former occurred at a moment when demands for increasing the presence of people with color in higher education and for increasing attention to ethnically oriented film practices were regaining some of the momentum lost in the previous decade and a half. - from the Introduction on Chapter One. About the Author David E. James is professor of critical studies in the School of Cinematic Arts at the University of Southern California.