

Mr. Smith Goes to Tokyo: Japanese Cinema Under the American Occupation, 1945-1952

Kyoko Hirano

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before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Mr. Smith Goes to Tokyo: Japanese Cinema Under the American Occupation, 1945-1952:

1 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Important Study. Good Read.By YukioYou think someone has a good original idea and writes it as a story or a book, and then because it has the right qualities someone adapts it into a screenplay. Then, a genius director turns it into a film - A work of art. OK so far, but think again. The PTB might not like the ideas you hear in that film. Snip Snip, Scribble Scribble. They even have the power to lock up the film in a deep cavern and pretend it never existed. How would you know? Best thing for you is to be aware that you're seeing films that have been carefully studied, regulated, controlled - Before you get to see them. This book explains how the US Occupation did that in Japan. You can assume they didn't stop their work after Japan was re-born as a US model of righteousness. You can also assume that all people are different, but all governments are the same. The author knows her subject and she can write. So read, learn.

From Library Journal
The U.S. occupational government exercised considerable control over postwar Japan, even exercising systematic review and censorship of Japanese films. Themes prohibited by the government's Civil Information and Education Section included militarism, suicide, revenge, nationalism, and racial and religious discrimination, and films condoning the exploitation of children, the degradation of women, or anything at variance with the Potsdam Declaration were also banned. Among the valuable sources consulted by the author, who is the director of the Japan Society's Film Center in New York, were declassified occupation government documents from Washington and Tokyo. This fascinating scholarly study is highly recommended for cinema and history collections.-
Richard W. Grefrath, Univ. of Nevada Lib., Reno
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