

Colonial White Women and their Imperial Enterprise

(Extract from a Media Essay by a masters student in Film and Television)

Introduction

Since ~~the~~1980s, there ~~are~~have been a considerable number of films produced in ~~the~~ First World ~~countryies~~ that nostalgically and retrospectively representing and introspecti~~ngve~~ view of ~~the~~ colonial history. With a backdrop of the zeitgeist of feminist criticism, an exploration of the image and voice of ~~the~~ colonial white women, who ~~are~~were essentially ignored in previous colonialist cinema, is one of the conspicuous characteristics of these films.

A Passage to India (1984) is a British film, set in ~~the~~ 1920s, that depicts an entanglement between the British colonizers and local colonized Indians as a consequence of ~~an~~ accusation by a young British girl, Adela, of ~~her attempted rape of~~by an Indian man, Aziz. *Out of Africa* (1985) is an American film that focuses on the ~~experiences and~~ liveslife of a Danish woman, Karen, in Africa before and after the First World War. *Indochine* (1992) is a French film that portrays a melodrama regarding a French white woman, Eliane, and her adopted Vietnamese daughter set during the Vietnamese national conflict ~~in~~of the 1930s.

This essay, ~~which~~ is organized in three parts, will analyze and discuss the protagonists in these films—colonial white women and their imperial enterprise. Firstly, ~~in this essay~~ the complex situation of colonial white women is briefly investigated and presented. Secondly, ~~in this essay~~ the three protagonists Adela, Karen and Eliane are each analyzed to determine how they implemented their imperial enterprises and simultaneously confronts ~~the~~ complicated conditions experienced by colonial white females ~~in a~~ patriarchal context. Finally, I will ~~discuss~~ the assumption concerning the phenomenon of rewriting historical colonialism in terms of a female pathology.

Comment [a1]: As “1980s” (plural) is stated, “the” is needed. “The” is not needed if only “1980” (singular) was used. A “” is needed for good punctuation after “1980s”.

Comment [a2]: As “produced” (past tense) is used later in the sentence, “have been a” is used to match the tense.

Comment [a3]: Plural

Comment [a4]: Harvard referencing!

Although the title of the film is in italics, you should also include the release date as well. So you should have:

A Passage to India (1984) is a British film...

In the full Reference List, you should also include the name of the director, media type, place of distribution, and distribution company.

A Passage to India (1984) Directed by David Lean [Film].UK, Thorn EMI Screen Entertainment.

Comment [a5]: “of” here implies that Adela raped Aziz!

“by” implies that Aziz raped Adela.

Comment [a6]: Assuming Karen has only 1 life. In this context, as experiences and life are similar, you could just say “...focuses on the experiences of a Danish...”

Comment [a7]: Punctuation

Comment [a8]: Already stated “this essay” at the beginning of the paragraph. It is assumed from then on that you are talking about this essay.

Comment [a9]: As comment A8, no need to repeat “this essay”.

Comment [a10]: You’ve changed to writing in the 1st person! You could use instead, “Finally, the assumption concerning the phenomenon of rewriting...”