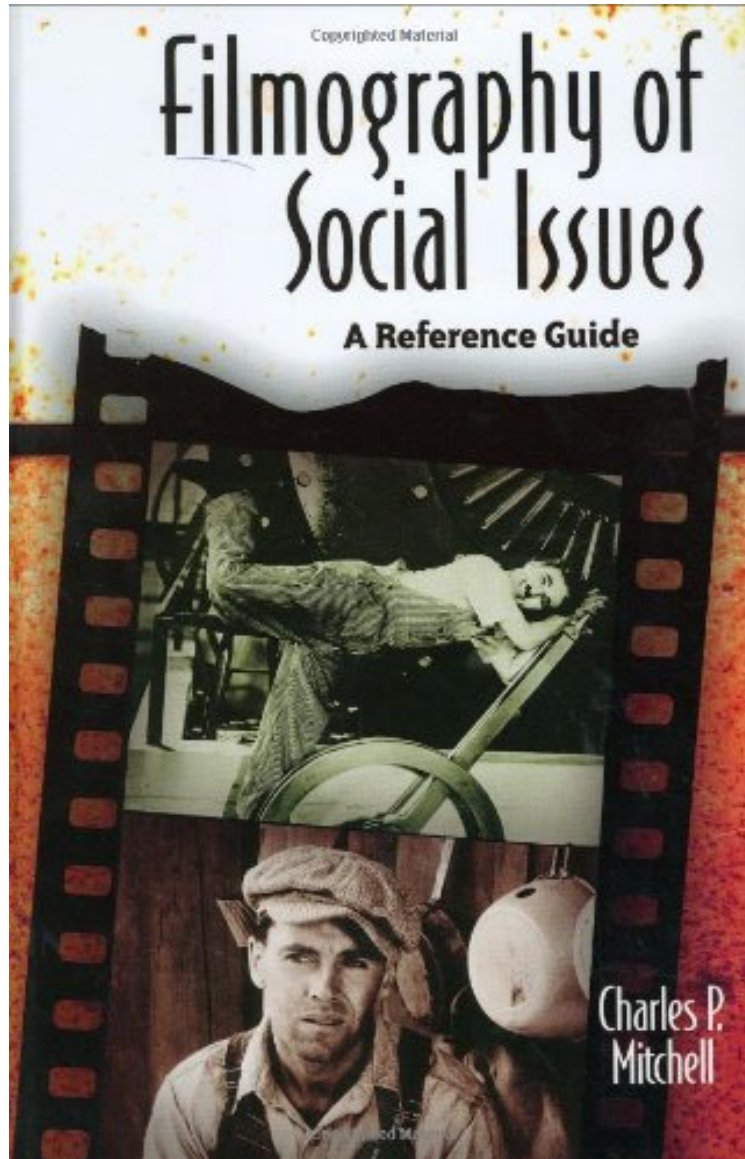


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## Filmography of Social Issues: A Reference Guide

*Charles P. Mitchell*

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**Charles P. Mitchell : Filmography of Social Issues: A Reference Guide** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Filmography of Social Issues: A Reference Guide:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Social Problems in Films--from Silents to the PresentBy Dr. Ronald SchwartzCharles P. Mitchell has written a very perceptive volume, commenting on over 100 films (organized alphabetically)and the social issues contained within them as framed by an extensive Introduction (also organized

alphabetically) beginning with "abortion" and ending with "women's rights." Each film discussed identifies the social problem under consideration with an overview, synopsis and critique of each film. It is Mitchell's critical overview, acute perception and sense of humor where applicable that makes each entry in this volume a valuable and wonderful piece of film criticism. Especially good is Mitchell's critique of various film noirs and neo-noirs scattered throughout the volume, since he was a specialist in this area of criticism---although he has published widely on other themes such as film music, detective films (Charlie Chan), the horror film, science fiction and even the literary roots of films based on the novels of H.P. Lovecraft. There is also a huge index and truthfully, this is one of Mitchell's best film books. I would recommend it to fans of cinema as well as all library collections. Dedication It is unfortunate to note that FILMOGRAPHY OF SOCIAL ISSUES is Charles P. Mitchell's last critical volume. He passed away suddenly in Millinocket, Maine at age 55. Besides writing, Mr. Mitchell was a contributor to CLASSIC IMAGES and was a specialist on film noir (and neo-noir), often tracking down difficult-to-find VHS tapes in this arena, operating a mail-order business called DARKER IMAGES VIDEO in his hometown. He leaves his loving wife Roberta as caretaker of his estate who also intends to continue their video business in Millinocket. Charlie's acute critical perceptions and sense of humor will always be missed personally and in his writings.

Since the early days of silent film, some of the most memorable movies made have been those that have confronted and explored such challenging social issues as poverty or racism. Librarians and educators as well as cultural historians, students and cinemaphiles will find this book a valuable resource for examining films and how they reflect and comment on the major issues of our time. This specialized filmography first identifies and discusses twenty important social issues that have recurred in films over the years. In addition to the films critiqued here, other related titles are listed under each topic. The 100 films discussed in this volume, presented alphabetically in standard reference format, cover a wide spectrum of film perspectives and genres. Many of the films are American made, others are European, all are English language. Each film entry identifies the prominent social theme or themes and presents full credit information, including the major actors involved. The Overview section, which briefly describes why the film was selected, is followed by a concise plot synopsis. Finally the critique gives pertinent background information, commentary, analysis and evaluation. This filmography should be valuable both as reference tool for library film study collections and for video collection development. Educators will find it useful for incorporating film into the language arts and social curriculum, particularly for teaching thematic units and integrated studies. The volume is well organized, the entries expertly written in clear yet lively language, and the critiques interesting and insightful.

About the Author CHARLES P. MITCHELL has served as Director of three Maine libraries and also as Chairman of the Southern Maine Library District. He has taught film appreciation courses and been a regular columnist and reviewer of books and film for numerous periodicals. He is the author of several film books including A Guide to Charlie Chan Films (Greenwood 1999), A Guide to Apocalyptic Cinema (Greenwood 2001) and The Complete H.P. Lovecraft Filmography (Greenwood 2002).