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Book Review: Horizons West: Directing the Western from John Ford to Clint Eastwood

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First published in 1969, Horizons West was one of the early structuralist treatments of a Hollywood genre and a pivotal text in American writing on the Western. Borrowing from anthropological studies of myth, Kitses outlined a series of binary oppositions between the individual and the community, nature and culture, the West and the East, and wedded this thematic outline to a stylistic explora-
updated and elaborated on his initial premises. Readers new to Western genre criticism should see the work as an important strand in a broad range of critical discourses that now includes, among others, studies of gender in Westerns by Lee Clark Mitchell and Jane Tompkins, materialist, industry-based analyses by Peter Stanfield, Peter Lehman's extensive readings and re-readings of John Ford's *The Searchers*, deconstructive approaches to representations of Native Americans by Armando José Prats, and archival work on silent Westerns by Scott Simmons. For those who wish to understand the formative contributions of structuralism in genre studies, *Horizons West* is essential reading.

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