

# DOWNLOAD PDF THE ANTI-TOM NOVEL AND THE FIRST GREAT WAR: THOMAS DIXON JR. AND D.W. GRIFFITH

## Chapter 1 : Thomas Dixon Jr. | Revolv

*D.W. Griffith Middle School in Los Angeles is named after Griffith. Because of the association of Griffith and the racist nature of The Birth of a Nation, attempts have been made to rename the % minority-enrolled school.*

Save Thomas Frederick Dixon Jr. Griffith adapted The Clansman for the screen in The Birth of a Nation , which stimulated the formation of the 20th-century version of the Klan. Dixon senior, was a slave-owner, landowner and Baptist minister of English and Scottish descent. The government confiscation of farmland, coupled with what Dixon saw as the corruption of local politicians, the particular vengefulness of Union troops, and the general lawlessness embittered the young Dixon, who became staunchly opposed to reform. Education In , Dixon entered the Shelby Academy, where he earned a diploma in only two years. In September Dixon enrolled at Wake Forest University , where he studied history and political science. As a student, Dixon performed remarkably well. His record at Wake Forest was outstanding, and he earned the distinction of achieving the highest student honors ever awarded at the university until then. There he met and befriended future President Woodrow Wilson. One producer remarked that because of his appearance, he would not succeed as an actor, but Dixon was complimented for his intelligence and attention to detail. The producer recommended Dixon to put his love for the stage into scriptwriting. Upon his return to Shelby, Dixon quickly realized that he was in the wrong place to begin to cultivate his playwriting skills. After his initial disappointment from his rejection, Dixon, with the encouragement of his father, enrolled in the Greensboro Law School in Greensboro, North Carolina. An excellent student, Dixon received his law degree in He said that he was disgusted by the corruption and the backdoor deals of the lawmakers, and he is quoted as referring to politicians as "the prostitutes of the masses. Ministry and lecturing Dixon was ordained as a Baptist minister on October 6, , with his first practice in Greensboro, where he had attended law school. Already a lawyer and fresh out of Wake Forest Seminary, life in Goldsboro must not have been what young Dixon had been expecting for a first preaching assignment. His popularity rose quickly, and before long, he was offered a position at the Dudley Street Church in Boston, Massachusetts. As his popularity on the pulpit grew, so did his demand as a lecturer. Additionally, he was offered a possible honorary doctorate from the university. Dixon himself rejected the offer, but he sang high praises about a then-unknown man Dixon believed deserved the honor, his old friend Woodrow Wilson. In , Dixon resigned from the Baptist ministry, and started preaching at a nondenominational church. He continued preaching there until , when he began to lecture fulltime. Dixon enjoyed lecturing and was often hailed as the best lecturer in the nation. They glorify a antebellum American South white supremacist viewpoint. Dixon claimed to oppose slavery , but he espoused racial segregation and vehemently opposed universal suffrage and miscegenation. Their prejudice and bigotry appealed to a readership that feared losing its privileged legacy of brutal oppression and exploitation. Griffith in his film adaptation of the novel, The Birth of a Nation was a case in point. Dixon wrote a stage adaptation of The Clansman in A Story of Modern Utopia , Comrades: A Story of Social Adventure in California , and The Root of Evil , which also discusses some of the problems involved in modern industrial capitalism. The book Comrades was made into a motion picture entitled Bolshevism on Trial released in In the play, The Sins of the Father, which was produced in "â€", Dixon himself took the leading role. Dixon authored 22 novels and he wrote many plays, sermons, and works of nonfiction. His writing mostly centered on three major themes: The crimes are almost always avenged through the course of the story, the source of which might stem from a belief of Dixon that his mother had been sexually abused as a child. He denounced antisemitism as "idiocy", but only on the grounds that the mother of Jesus was Jewish. While lauding the "loyalty and good citizenship" of Catholics , he claimed it was the "duty of whites to lift up and help" the supposedly "weaker races. After a career of major ups and downs that saw Dixon earn and lose millions, he ended his career as a court clerk in Raleigh, North Carolina. His gravestone reads, "Thomas Dixon Jr.

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### Chapter 2 : Thomas Dixon Jr. « UNREMEMBERED

*Uncle Tom's cabin: the invisible masterpiece --Uncle Tom as white mother --The anti-Tom novel and the first great war: Thomas Dixon Jr. and D.W. Griffith --The anti-Tom novel and the Great Depression: Margaret Mitchell's Gone with the wind --Anti-anti-Tom novels and the decline of the American empire: Alex Haley's Roots.*

August 17, By Ken Zurski On Feb 18 , the first screening of a major motion picture took place inside the walls of the White House. Wilson was familiar with the book and its subject matter. Wilson was flattered, responding: In asking, Dixon was disingenuous at best: In addition, the President had recently lost his beloved wife to illness. He was in no mood to go " or be seen " in a public theater. So the film came to him. Dixon set it all up. He along with a projection crew steamed by rail from California to Washington D. A magazine writer claimed Wilson liked the film enough to contribute an ambiguous quote: My only regret is that it is all terribly true. In retrospect, what likely happened is this: It was late, the film was long, and Wilson stepped out to retire to bed. Just screening the controversial movie in the White House was awkward enough. When the sharp protests began, Wilson was stuck. He tried to remain indifferent, but that was impossible. Wilson wrote a few letters, eventually disowned any words attributed to him, and left it at that. He had other matters to attend to. Wilson was too busy to care. In April , Wilson declared the U. Join other followers.

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### Chapter 3 : Thomas Dixon Jr. - WikiVisually

*The screenplay is adapted from the novel and play, *The Clansman*, both by Thomas Dixon, Jr. Griffith co-wrote the screenplay and co-produced the film. Over two hours long, the film was originally presented in two parts separated by an intermission; it was the first reel film in America.*

His father was a Baptist minister and, by inheritance, a slave-owner. As a young boy Dixon helped out on the farms the family owned; although he would later say he detested farm labor, he admitted that it helped him to better understand the life of the working class Southerner after the Civil War. He came to despise what he saw as the collaboration among corrupt local politicians, occupying Union troops and an oppressive federal government that worked to keep down the defeated South. While still a young boy he became aware of the Ku Klux Klan when a local Confederate widow had accused a freed slave of raping her daughter. The Klan found the accused rapist and dragged him to the town square, where they hanged and shot him. However, they saw the Klan eventually turn into the kind of corrupt and brutal gang it was supposed to be protecting people against, and they soon left it. Young Dixon entered the Shelby Academy in , getting his diploma two years later, at which time he enrolled in Wake Forest University. An excellent student, it took him just four years to earn his masters degree in history and political science. After graduation he received a scholarship to Johns Hopkins University, where he befriended another student who went on to great success--future US President Woodrow Wilson I. In Dixon left Johns Hopkins for New York City, where he intended to have a career as a journalist and also act on the Broadway stage. His acting career was a bust, however, and he soon returned to North Carolina. He then became involved in local politics, and was elected to the North Carolina legislature. However, he declined to run for re-election when his term was up, saying he was shocked and disgusted by the corruption and shady dealings he saw. He then became an advocate for the rights of Confederate veterans, and that gained him a following all through the South. After a short time practicing law, Dixon left the profession to become a minister. In he took a position at a church in New York City. It was there that he ran into the "big time", associating with such well-known figures as John D. However, Dixon eventually tired of what he saw as the corruption of the church, business and politics, and in he resigned from the Baptist ministry altogether, preferring to preach at nondenominational churches. He began preaching and lecturing all over the country, gaining an even bigger following, especially in the South. If there is one thing Dixon is famous for, however, it is his novel "The Clansman", a heavily romanticized fictional accounting of life in the post-Civil War South, in the period known as Reconstruction. It portrayed the Ku Klux Klan as the protectors of Southern womanhood against the ravages of newly freed black slaves and a force for law and order, instead of the murderous terrorist gang they actually were. The book was turned into a film by famed director D. Griffith I --the controversial *The Birth of a Nation* Jordan, Louise, and Thomas.

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## Chapter 4 : Thomas Jr. Dixon Criticism - Essay - [www.nxgvision.com](http://www.nxgvision.com)

*\*The birth of Thomas Dixon is marked on this date in He was a White American novelist, segregationist and minister. Born in Shelby, North Carolina, He was raised in the aftermath of the American Civil War, and one of his earliest childhood memories was of the Ku Klux Klan lynching a black man who had been accused of raping the widow of a Confederate soldier.*

Raleigh is known as the City of Oaks for its oak trees. The city covers a area of Census Bureau estimated the population as , as of July 1, It is also one of the cities in the country. The Triangle nickname originated after the creation of the Research Triangle Park, located in Durham and Wake Counties, partway between the three cities and their universities. The Research Triangle region encompasses the U. Raleigh is an example in the United States of a planned city. It was chosen as the site of the capital in Raleigh is home to cultural, educational, and historic sites. Bath, the oldest town in North Carolina, was the first nominal capital from until , the colony had no permanent institutions of government until the establishment at the new capital New Bern in It is the worlds largest Baptist denomination and the largest Protestant body in the United States and this also makes it the second-largest Christian body in the United States, after the Catholic Church. After the American Civil War, another split occurred when most freedmen set up independent congregations, others joined new African-American denominations, chiefly the African Methodist Episcopal Church. Since the s, the SBC has moved away from some of its regional and historical identification, especially since the late twentieth century, the SBC has sought new members among minority groups and become much more diverse. In addition, while still heavily concentrated in the Southern US and it should be noted that some State convention comprise more than one State - for example the New England Baptist Convention is comprise of the six New England states. Each president is elected by Messengers sent by local church at the SBC annual meeting. Since Luter ran unopposed, per the by-laws of the convention, because of the historic nature of the vote, the assembly was asked to rise in support of the vote, which the messengers did enthusiastically. Luter was re-elected president for a term at the meeting. The current president in is Steve Gaines, Southern Baptists emphasize the significance of the individual conversion experience which is affirmed by the person having complete immersion in water for a believers baptism. As a result, they reject the practice of infant baptism, SBC churches are evangelical in doctrine and practice. Specific beliefs based on biblical interpretation can vary due to their congregational polity which allows autonomy to each individual local church. Most early Baptists in the British colonies came from England in the 17th century, the oldest Baptist church in the South, First Baptist Church of Charleston, South Carolina, was organized in under the leadership of William Screven. A Baptist church was formed in Virginia in through the preaching of Robert Norden, the Baptists operated independently of the state-established Anglican churches in the South, at a time when non-Anglicans were prohibited from holding political office. By , there were about eight Baptist churches in the colonies of Virginia, North Carolina, as a result, black congregations and churches were founded in Virginia, South Carolina, and Georgia before the American Revolution. Some black congregations kept their independence even after whites tried to exercise more authority after the Nat Turner slave rebellion of 3. Ku Klux Klan

Historically the KKK used terrorism, both physical assault and murder, against groups or individuals whom they opposed. All three movements have called for the purification of American society, and all are considered right-wing extremist organizations, the first Klan flourished in the Southern United States in the late s, then died out by the early s. It sought to overthrow the Republican state governments in the South during the Reconstruction Era, with numerous chapters across the South, it was suppressed around , through federal law enforcement. Members made their own, often colorful, costumes, robes, masks, and conical hats, designed to be terrifying, the second group was founded in , and it flourished nationwide in the early and mids, particularly in urban areas of the Midwest and West. This second organization adopted a white costume and used code words which were similar to those used by the first Klan, while adding cross burnings. The third

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and current manifestation of the KKK emerged after , in the form of small, local and they have focused on opposition to the Civil Rights Movement, often using violence and murder to suppress activists. It is classified as a group by the Anti-Defamation League. As of , the Anti-Defamation League puts total Klan membership nationwide at around 3,, the second and third incarnations of the Ku Klux Klan made frequent references to Americas Anglo-Saxon blood, hearkening back to 19th-century nativism. Although there was little organizational structure above the level, similar groups rose across the South and adopted the same name. Klan groups spread throughout the South as an insurgent movement promoting resistance, for example, Confederate veteran John W. Morton founded a chapter in Nashville, Tennessee. As a secret vigilante group, the Klan targeted freedmen and their allies, it sought to restore white supremacy by threats and violence, including murder, against black and white Republicans. In and , the government passed the Enforcement Acts. The first Klan had mixed results in terms of achieving its objectives and it seriously weakened the black political establishment through its use of assassinations and threats of violence, it drove some people out of politics. Rable argues that the Klan was a failure and therefore was discarded by the Democratic leaders of the South. He says, the Klan declined in strength in part because of weaknesses, its lack of central organization. More fundamentally, it declined because it failed to achieve its central objective “the overthrow of Republican state governments in the South, for instance, the Red Shirts are credited with helping elect Wade Hampton as governor in South Carolina 4. Reconstruction Era “Johnson followed a lenient policy toward ex-Confederates. Lincolns last speeches show that he was leaning toward supporting the enfranchisement of all freedmen, whereas Johnson was opposed to this. A Republican coalition came to power in all the southern states and set out to transform the society by setting up a free labor economy, using the U. The Bureau protected the rights of freedmen, negotiated labor contracts. Thousands of Northerners came South as missionaries, teachers, businessmen, rebuilding the rundown railroad system was a major strategy, but it collapsed when a nationwide depression struck the economy. The Radicals in the House of Representatives, frustrated by Johnsons opposition to Congressional Reconstruction, filed impeachment charges, in early , Congress passed the Freedmens Bureau and Civil Rights Bills and sent them to Johnson for his signature. Meanwhile, self-styled Conservatives strongly opposed reconstruction and they alleged widespread corruption by the Carpetbaggers, excessive state spending and ruinous taxes. Southern democrats and conservatives violently counterattacked and had regained power in each redeemed Southern state by , meanwhile, public support for Reconstruction policies, requiring continued supervision of the South, faded in the North, as voters decided that the Civil War and years of conflict should stop. Reconstruction was a significant chapter in the history of civil rights in the United States, in the different states Reconstruction began and ended at different times, federal Reconstruction ended with the Compromise of In recent decades most historians follow Foner in dating the Reconstruction of the south as starting in rather than , Reconstruction policies were debated in the North when the war began, and commenced in earnest after Lincolns Emancipation Proclamation, issued on January 1, As Confederate states came back under control of the US Army, President Abraham Lincoln set up reconstructed governments in Tennessee, Arkansas and he experimented by giving land to blacks in South Carolina. By fall , the new President Andrew Johnson declared the war goals of national unity, Republicans in Congress, refusing to accept Johnsons lenient terms, rejected new members of Congress, some of whom had been high-ranking Confederate officials a few months before. Johnson broke with the Republicans after vetoing two key bills that supported the Freedmens Bureau and provided federal civil rights to the freedmen and that same year, Congress removed civilian governments in the South, and placed the former Confederacy under the rule of the U. In ten states, coalitions of freedmen, recent black and white arrivals from the North, Conservative opponents called the Republican regimes corrupt and instigated violence toward freedmen and whites who supported Reconstruction. Most of the violence was carried out by members of the Ku Klux Klan, Klan members attacked and intimidated blacks seeking to exercise their new civil rights, as well as Republican politicians in the south favoring those civil rights. One such politician murdered by the Klan on the eve of the presidential election was Republican Congressman James M. Hinds of Arkansas, widespread violence in the

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south led to federal intervention by President Ulysses S. Grant in , which suppressed the Klan. Nevertheless, white Democrats, calling themselves Redeemers, regained control of the state by state, sometimes using fraud. The end of Reconstruction was a process, and the period of Republican control ended at different times in different states 5. Griffith â€” David Wark D. Griffith was an American director, writer, and producer who pioneered modern filmmaking techniques. Griffith is best remembered for *The Birth of a Nation* and *Intolerance*, the *Birth of a Nation* made use of advanced camera and narrative techniques, and its popularity set the stage for the dominance of the feature-length film in the United States. Today, it is noted for its radical technique and condemned for its inherently racist philosophy. The film was subject to boycotts by the NAACP and, after screenings of the film had caused riots at several theaters, *Intolerance*, his next film, was, in part, an answer to his critics. By the time of his feature, *The Struggle*, he had made roughly films. Griffith is one of the founders of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences and he is credited with popularizing the use of the close-up shot. He attended a one-room schoolhouse where he was taught by his older sister, after his father died when he was ten, the family struggled with poverty. When Griffith was 14, his mother abandoned the farm and moved the family to Louisville, Griffith then left high school to help support the family, taking a job in a dry goods store and later in a bookstore. Griffith began his career as an actor in touring companies. Meanwhile, he was learning how to become a playwright, but had little successâ€”only one of his plays was accepted for a performance, Griffith then decided to become an actor, and appeared in many films as an extra. Griffith began making films in , and released his first feature film, *Judith of Bethulia*. A few years earlier, in , Griffith, still struggling as a playwright, Porter rejected Griffiths script, but gave him an acting part in *Rescued from an Eagles Nest* instead. Finding this attractive, Griffith began to explore a career as an actor in the picture business. At Biograph, Griffiths career in the industry would change forever. As a result, Biograph co-founder, Henry Harry Marvin, decided to give Griffith the position, Griffith would end up directing forty-eight shorts for the company that year. His short *In Old California* was the first film shot in Hollywood, four years later he produced and directed his first feature film *Judith of Bethulia*, one of the earliest to be produced in the United States 6. The Union faced secessionists in eleven Southern states grouped together as the Confederate States of America, the Union won the war, which remains the bloodiest in U. Among the 34 U. The Confederacy grew to eleven states, it claimed two more states, the Indian Territory, and the southern portions of the western territories of Arizona. The Confederacy was never recognized by the United States government nor by any foreign country. The states that remained loyal, including border states where slavery was legal, were known as the Union or the North, the war ended with the surrender of all the Confederate armies and the dissolution of the Confederate government in the spring of The war had its origin in the issue of slavery. The Confederacy collapsed and 4 million slaves were freed, but before his inauguration, seven slave states with cotton-based economies formed the Confederacy. Eight remaining slave states continued to reject calls for secession, outgoing Democratic President James Buchanan and the incoming Republicans rejected secession as illegal. Lincolns March 4, inaugural address declared that his administration would not initiate a civil war, speaking directly to the Southern States, he reaffirmed, I have no purpose, directly or indirectly to interfere with the institution of slavery in the United States where it exists. I believe I have no right to do so, and I have no inclination to do so. After Confederate forces seized numerous federal forts within territory claimed by the Confederacy, efforts at compromise failed, the Confederates assumed that European countries were so dependent on King Cotton that they would intervene, but none did, and none recognized the new Confederate States of America. Hostilities began on April 12,, when Confederate forces fired upon Fort Sumter, while in the Western Theater the Union made significant permanent gains, in the Eastern Theater, the battle was inconclusive in â€” The autumn Confederate campaigns into Maryland and Kentucky failed, dissuading British intervention, Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation, which made ending slavery a war goal. To the west, by summer the Union destroyed the Confederate river navy, then much of their western armies, the Union siege of Vicksburg split the Confederacy in two at the Mississippi River. In , Robert E. Grants command of all Union armies in 7. Confederate States of America â€” The Confederate States, officially the

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Confederate States of America, commonly referred to as the Confederacy, was a breakaway country of 11 secessionist slave states existing from 1862 to 1865. It was never recognized as an Independent country, although it achieved belligerent status by Britain. A new Confederate government was established in February before Lincoln took office in March, after the Civil War began in April, four slave states of the Upper South – Virginia, Arkansas, Tennessee, and North Carolina – also declared their secession and joined the Confederacy. In spring 1865, after four years of fighting which led to an estimated 620,000 military deaths, all the Confederate forces surrendered. Jefferson Davis later lamented that the Confederacy had disappeared in 1865, Missouri and Kentucky were represented by partisan factions from those states, while the legitimate governments of those two states retained formal adherence to the Union.

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### Chapter 5 : The Birth of a Nation - Wikipedia

*The Fall of a Nation is a American silent drama film directed by Thomas Dixon, Jr., and is a sequel to the film The Birth of a Nation, directed by D. W. Griffith. Dixon, Jr. attempted to cash in on the success of the controversial first film.*

In , Thomas Dixon Jr. Griffith believed that a passage from *The Clansman* where Klansmen ride "to the rescue of persecuted white Southerners" could be adapted into a great cinematic sequence. It was originally to have been shot in Kinemacolor , but D. Dixon reluctantly agreed, and the unprecedented success of the film made him rich. Although *The Birth of a Nation* is commonly regarded as a landmark for its dramatic and visual innovations, its use of music was arguably no less revolutionary. It includes preview images from the film. Jane Addams , an American social worker and social reformer, and the founder of Hull House , voiced her reaction to the film in an interview published by the *New York Post* on March 13, , just ten days after the film was released. Even then it does not tell the whole truth. It is claimed that the play is historical: Washington wrote a newspaper column asking readers to boycott the film. On April 24, , the *Chicago American* reported that a white man murdered a black teenager in Lafayette, Indiana , after seeing the film, although there has been some controversy as to whether the murderer had actually seen *The Birth of a Nation*. Additionally, they organized a mass demonstration when the film was screened in Boston, and it was banned in three states and several cities. He also added that the man who wrote the editorial was "damaging my reputation as a producer" and "a liar and a coward". Dixon arranged a screening of *The Birth of a Nation* at the White House for Wilson, members of his cabinet, and their families, in one of the first ever screenings at the White House. Wilson was falsely reported to have said of the film, "It is like writing history with lightning. And my only regret is that it is all so terribly true". After controversy over the film had grown, Wilson wrote that he disapproved of the "unfortunate production". Dixon was clearly rattled and upset by criticism by African-Americans that the film version of his books was projecting hatred against them, and wanted the endorsement of many powerful men as possible to offset such criticism. Tumulty, the press secretary to President Wilson, Dixon wrote: Every man who comes out of the theater is a Southern partisan for life! There will never be an issue of your segregation policy". In New York there were Klan-themed balls, and in Chicago that Halloween, thousands of college students dressed in robes for a massive Klan-themed party. Here were the sinister men the South scorned and the noble men the South revered. And through it all the Klan rode. All around me people sighed and shivered, and now and then shouted or wept, in their intensity. Griffith made a film in , called *Intolerance* , partly in response to the criticism that *The Birth of a Nation* received. It was the first sequel in film history. Despite its success in the foreign market, the film was not a success among American audiences,[71] and is now a lost film. The film remains controversial due to its interpretation of American history. University of Houston historian Steven Mintz summarizes its message as follows: Reconstruction was a disaster, blacks could never be integrated into white society as equals, and the violent actions of the Ku Klux Klan were justified to reestablish honest government. The first overt mentioning of the war is the scene in which Abraham Lincoln signs the call for the first 75, volunteers. However, the first aggression in the Civil War, made when the Confederate troops fired on Fort Sumter in , is not mentioned in the film. This reflects the so-called Dunning School of historiography. With the war, however, both families are split apart, and their losses culminate in the end of the war with the defense of white supremacy. One of the intertitles clearly sums up the message of unity: In his book *The Tragic Era: Rape was the foul daughter of Reconstruction!* Today, the Dunning School position is largely seen as a product of anti-black racism of the early 20th century, by which many Americans held that black Americans were unequal as citizens. Coulter in *The South During Reconstruction*, which again treated *The Birth of a Nation* as historically correct, and painted a vivid picture of "black beasts" running amok, encouraged by alcohol-sodden, corrupt and vengeful black Republican politicians. Veteran film reviewer Roger Ebert wrote: Thaddeus Stevens of Pennsylvania , Rep. Stevens did not have the family members described and did not move to South Carolina during Reconstruction. He died in Washington, D.

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The assassination of Lincoln leads to the effective transition between the war and reconstruction, both of which are represented by the two acts of the film. In response, the Southern-dominated Democratic Party and its affiliated white militias had used extensive terrorism, intimidation and outright assassinations to suppress African-American leaders and voting in the s and to regain power. According to the film historian Kevin Brownlow , the film was "astounding in its time" and initiated "so many advances in film-making technique that it was rendered obsolete within a few years". Film critic Roger Ebert writes: Certainly *The Birth of a Nation* presents a challenge for modern audiences. Unaccustomed to silent films and uninterested in film history, they find it quaint and not to their taste. Those evolved enough to understand what they are looking at find the early and wartime scenes brilliant, but cringe during the postwar and Reconstruction scenes, which are racist in the ham-handed way of an old minstrel show or a vile comic pamphlet. Despite its controversial story, the film has been praised by film critics such as Ebert, who said: To understand how it does so is to learn a great deal about film, and even something about evil. The worst thing about *The Birth of a Nation* is how good it is. The merits of its grand and enduring aesthetic make it impossible to ignore and, despite its disgusting content, also make it hard not to love. More than anyone else—more than all others combined—he invented the film art. He brought it to fruition in *The Birth of a Nation*. The Civil War scenes, which consume only 30 minutes of the extravaganza, emphasize not the national glory but the human cost of combat. Griffith introduced the use of dramatic close-ups, tracking shots, and other expressive camera movements; parallel action sequences, crosscutting, and other editing techniques". He added that "the fact that *The Birth of a Nation* remains respected and studied to this day—despite its subject matter—reveals its lasting importance. The added titles read: We do not fear censorship, for we have no wish to offend with improprieties or obscenities, but we do demand, as a right, the liberty to show the dark side of wrong, that we may illuminate the bright side of virtue — the same liberty that is conceded to the art of the written word — that art to which we owe the Bible and the works of Shakespeare and If in this work we have conveyed to the mind the ravages of war to the end that war may be held in abhorrence, this effort will not have been in vain. Various film historians have expressed a range of views about these titles. This stemmed from several factors, one of which was the fact that Griffith and others had frequently reworked the film, leaving no definitive version. According to the silent film website Brenton Film, many home media releases of the film consisted of "poor quality DVDs with different edits, scores, running speeds and usually in definitely unoriginal black and white". It was also given a full orchestral recording of the original Breil score. These included several Civil War shorts also directed by D. They added some material from the Library of Congress and gave it a new compilation score. The restoration was released on a 2-Blu-ray set by the BFI, alongside a host of extras, including many other newly restored Civil War-related films from the period.

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### Chapter 6 : The Birth of a Nation | Revolvvy

*Thomas Dixon, a politically active southerner all his life, is remembered today mostly for his racist novel *The Clansman* (1905), which was the basis for D. W. Griffith's film *The Birth of a Nation* (1915).*

Charles Henry Parkhurst defended the film from charges of racism. In New York there were Klan-themed balls, and in Chicago that Halloween, thousands of college students dressed in robes for a massive Klan-themed party. Here were the sinister men the South scorned and the noble men the South revered. And through it all the Klan rode. All around me people sighed and shivered, and now and then shouted or wept, in their intensity. Griffith made a film in 1915, called *Intolerance*, partly in response to the criticism that *The Birth of a Nation* received. It was the first sequel in film history. Despite its success in the foreign market, the film was not a success among American audiences, [71] and is now a lost film. The film remains controversial due to its interpretation of American history. University of Houston historian Steven Mintz summarizes its message as follows: Reconstruction was a disaster, blacks could never be integrated into white society as equals, and the violent actions of the Ku Klux Klan were justified to reestablish honest government. The first overt mentioning of the war is the scene in which Abraham Lincoln signs the call for the first 75,000 volunteers. However, the first aggression in the Civil War, made when the Confederate troops fired on Fort Sumter in 1861, is not mentioned in the film. This reflects the so-called Dunning School of historiography. With the war, however, both families are split apart, and their losses culminate in the end of the war with the defense of white supremacy. One of the intertitles clearly sums up the message of unity: In his book *The Tragic Era: Rape was the foul daughter of Reconstruction!* Today, the Dunning School position is largely seen as a product of anti-black racism of the early 20th century, by which many Americans held that black Americans were unequal as citizens. Coulter in *The South During Reconstruction*, which again treated *The Birth of a Nation* as historically correct, and painted a vivid picture of "black beasts" running amok, encouraged by alcohol-sodden, corrupt and vengeful black Republican politicians. Veteran film reviewer Roger Ebert wrote: Thaddeus Stevens of Pennsylvania, Rep. Stevens did not have the family members described and did not move to South Carolina during Reconstruction. He died in Washington, D. C. The assassination of Lincoln leads to the effective transition between the war and reconstruction, both of which are represented by the two acts of the film. In response, the Southern-dominated Democratic Party and its affiliated white militias had used extensive terrorism, intimidation and outright assassinations to suppress African-American leaders and voting in the 1870s and to regain power. According to the film historian Kevin Brownlow, the film was "astounding in its time" and initiated "so many advances in film-making technique that it was rendered obsolete within a few years". Film critic Roger Ebert writes: Certainly *The Birth of a Nation* presents a challenge for modern audiences. Unaccustomed to silent films and uninterested in film history, they find it quaint and not to their taste. Those evolved enough to understand what they are looking at find the early and wartime scenes brilliant, but cringe during the postwar and Reconstruction scenes, which are racist in the ham-handed way of an old minstrel show or a vile comic pamphlet. Despite its controversial story, the film has been praised by film critics such as Ebert, who said: To understand how it does so is to learn a great deal about film, and even something about evil. The worst thing about *The Birth of a Nation* is how good it is. The merits of its grand and enduring aesthetic make it impossible to ignore and, despite its disgusting content, also make it hard not to love. More than anyone else—more than all others combined—he invented the film art. He brought it to fruition in *The Birth of a Nation*. The Civil War scenes, which consume only 30 minutes of the extravaganza, emphasize not the national glory but the human cost of combat. Griffith introduced the use of dramatic close-ups, tracking shots, and other expressive camera movements; parallel action sequences, crosscutting, and other editing techniques". He added that "the fact that *The Birth of a Nation* remains respected and studied to this day—despite its subject matter—reveals its lasting importance. The added titles read: We do not fear censorship, for we have no wish to offend with improprieties or obscenities, but we do demand, as a right, the

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liberty to show the dark side of wrong, that we may illuminate the bright side of virtue” the same liberty that is conceded to the art of the written word” that art to which we owe the Bible and the works of Shakespeare and.

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### Chapter 7 : The Birth of a Nation () - Decent Films

*Dixon's book had just become a film version, retitled "The Birth of a Nation." and directed by D.W. Griffith. Wilson was familiar with the book and its subject matter. Thomas Dixon Jr.*

The story of plantation life in the American South, and its depiction of the brutalities of slavery, struck a nerve with readers across the country. In England, some 1. Between and , over twenty-five such Anti-Tom novels were published. Slaves in the Anti-Tom works are generally the happy, singing, childlike stereotypes that Stowe herself helped to cement. The vision that these novels promote is of a South in which slaves and masters enjoy a mutually supportive, familial bond that is only severed by the ignorant or greedy machinations of abolitionists. Joshua David Bellin , writing in *Legacy: The virtues of slavery are discussed and pointedly contrasted with the drudgery of life for free blacks and laboring-class whites in the North. I have no wish to uphold slavery. I would that every human being that God has made were free, were it in accordance with His will. Neither do I desire to deny the evils of slavery, any more than I would deny the evils of the factory system in England, or the factory and apprenticeship system in our own country. I only assert the necessity of the existence of slavery at present in our Southern States, and that, as a general thing, the slaves are comfortable and contented, and their owners humane and kind Eastman , p. Southern reviewers of the time praised the novel. Truth never yet could hold a candle to falsehood where the medium of both was invention" April , p. Thornton Randolph," contrasts the exploitation of Northern free workers with the more humane system of slavery in the South. The novel tells of a plantation family fallen on hard times. When the family patriarch dies, leaving behind debts, the Courtenay family must sell their plantation. The son, Horace, goes to the North to work as a shop clerk while the daughter teaches school. The harsh labor conditions of the North, and the ruthless quest for profit, are dramatized in the story of Horace. Not paid his wages because he has not sold enough goods, Horace is unable to afford a doctor when he falls dangerously ill. A Tale , by Baynard Hall " Freeman is an ironically named slave who, coaxed by Northern abolitionists into running away to freedom, finds only economic uncertainty in the North. When he is offered an opportunity to move to Liberia, the free black state created in Africa for former slaves, Frank jumps at the chance. A Southern man wants to marry a Northern woman, but their fathers object. But when the Northern father sees firsthand life in the South, discovering that planters are humane and their slaves happy, he consents to the wedding. With this symbolic merging of the nation, Criswell hoped to help alleviate the growing division between North and South. As he explained in a preface: The Author in laying this work before the public has but one motive in view, which is to contribute his mite in endeavoring to allay the great agitation on the Slavery Question between the North and South, which threatens to dissolve our glorious Union; and as that talented authoress, Mrs. If the book proves to be one drop of oil cast upon the tempestuous sea of agitation, his wishes will be accomplished Criswell , Preface. Born in Massachusetts, Hentz had married and settled in North Carolina , where her husband was a university professor. The family later lived in several other cities in the South. Based on her own experiences with Southern slavery, Hentz felt she was better qualified to discuss the topic than was Stowe. In her novel, Hentz tells of Eulalia, a Northern daughter of a strong abolitionist who marries a Southern plantation owner she meets when he is visiting New England. Although she has been raised to despise slavery, Eulalia finds herself the mistress of a plantation, where she grows to realize the benefits of slavery. Hentz contrasts the plight of Northern workers, prone to being tossed out of their jobs without compensation, with the relative stability of workers in Southern society. Plantation owners clothe, feed, and house their slaves, whereas Northern factory owners have no concern for their workers. When there is a slave revolt, caused by a Northern abolitionist preacher who stirs up discontent, the novel becomes "less a defense of slavery than a frantic plea to the North to curtail abolitionist meddling with Southern life before it initiates a bloodbath" , p. A Guide to Novels by and about Women in America, " Depictions of plantation life as genteel and courtly, and of slaves as docile, contented servants, were also found in many later American*

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novels. By the early twentieth century, Thomas Dixon " had written several white supremacist novels, including *The Clansman* , which utilized these themes. Griffith " as the classic movie *Birth of a Nation*, many of these ideas gained a widespread legitimacy they had never had before. University of Illinois Press, *A Journal of American Women Writers* 17, no. Southern Methodist University Press, *Black and White Women of the Old South: The Peculiar Sisterhood in American Literature*. University of Tennessee Press, Vanderbilt University Press, *Nineteenth-Century Prescriptions for an Ideal Life. One Reply to Uncle Tom*. *A Journal of the Arts in the South* 33, no. Or, *Southern Womanhood in Antebellum Literature*. Carolyn Perry and Mary Louise Weaks. Louisiana State University Press, *An Interdisciplinary Journal of the South* 3, ns Winter Thomas Wiloch Pick a style below, and copy the text for your bibliography. Retrieved November 13, from Encyclopedia. Then, copy and paste the text into your bibliography or works cited list. Because each style has its own formatting nuances that evolve over time and not all information is available for every reference entry or article, Encyclopedia.

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### Chapter 8 : D. W. Griffith - Wikipedia

*Like the director of *The Birth of a Nation*, D.W. Griffith, Thomas Dixon was a proud son of the South, who learned of its history from his father. Griffith heard of the great Civil War battles from his parent, while Dixon was told by his father and his.*

As a spectacle it is stupendous. It lasts three hours, represents a staggering investment of time and money, reproduces entire battle scenes and complex historic events, amazes even when it wearies by its attempt to encompass the Civil War. But since history does bear on social behavior, *The Birth of a Nation* cannot be reviewed simply as a spectacle. It is more than a spectacle. It is an interpretation, the Rev. Thomas Dixon a representative white Southerner, no one could criticize him for giving his own version of the Civil War and the Reconstruction period that followed. If he possessed the typical Southern attitude, the paternalistic, it would be futile to read a lecture on it. Seen from afar, such an attitude might be deemed reactionary, but at any rate it is usually genial and humane and protective, and because it has experience back of it, it has to be met with some respect. But the attitude which Mr. Dixon possesses and the one for which he forges corroboration in history is a perversion due largely to his personal temperament. So far as I can judge from this film, as well as from my recollection of Mr. Dixon. Sometimes in the clinical laboratory the doctors are reputed to perform an operation on a dog so that he loses the power to restrain certain motor activities. If he is started running in a cage, the legend goes, he keeps on running incessantly, and nothing can stop him but to hit him on the head with a club. There is a quality about everything Mr. Dixon has done that reminds me of this abnormal dog. At a remote period of his existence it is possible that he possessed a rudimentary faculty of self-analysis. But before that faculty developed he crystallized in his prejudices, and forever it was stunted. Since that time, whenever he has been stimulated by any of the ordinary emotions, by religion or by patriotism or by sex, he has responded with a frantic intensity. Energetic by nature, the forces that impel him are doubly violent because of this lack of inhibition. Aware as a clergyman that such violence is excessive, he has learned in all his melodramas to give them a highly moral twang. If one of his heroes is about to do something peculiarly loathsome, Mr. Dixon thrusts a crucifix in his hand and has him roll his eyes to heaven. In this way the very basest impulses are given the sanction of The entire section is 1, words. Dixon study guide and get instant access to the following:

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### Chapter 9 : Thomas Jr. Dixon Critical Essays - [www.nxgvision.com](http://www.nxgvision.com)

*Newspaper publisher and editor who served as Secretary of the Navy under Wilson during World War I; also served as Ambassador to Mexico from Clarence Darrow*

Early life[ edit ] Griffith c. Griffith was raised a Methodist , [8] and he attended a one-room schoolhouse where he was taught by his older sister Mattie. His father died when he was ten, and the family struggled with poverty. When Griffith was 14, his mother abandoned the farm and moved the family to Louisville, Kentucky , where she opened a boarding house. It failed shortly after. Griffith then left high school to help support the family, taking a job in a dry goods store and later in a bookstore. He began his creative career as an actor in touring companies. Meanwhile, he was learning how to become a playwright, but had little success—only one of his plays was accepted for a performance. Walthall and others In , Griffith accepted a role as a stage extra in *Professional Jealousy* for the American Mutoscope and Biograph Company , where he met cameraman Billy Bitzer , and his career in the film industry changed forever. He directed a total of 48 shorts for the company that year. Four years later, he produced and directed his first feature film *Judith of Bethulia* , one of the earliest to be produced in the US. Biograph believed that longer features were not viable at that point. Griffith left Biograph because of company resistance to his goals and his cost overruns on the film. He took his company of actors with him and joined the Mutual Film Corporation. *Birth of a Nation* , perhaps the most famous silent movie directed by Griffith and considered a landmark by film historians; adapted for the screen by Griffith and Frank E. Woods , based on the novel and play *The Clansman*: Griffith directed and produced *The Clansman* through Reliance-Majestic Studios in , which became known as *The Birth of a Nation* and is considered one of the first feature length American films. It was based on Thomas Dixon, Jr. This view of the era was popular at the time and was endorsed for decades by historians of the Dunning School , although it met with strong criticism from the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People NAACP and other groups. They were successful in some cities, but it was shown widely and became the most successful box office attraction of its time. It is considered among the first "blockbuster" motion pictures and broke all box office records that had been established until then. Fairbanks, Pickford, Chaplin, and Griffith Play media *Intolerance* , the second most famous silent movie directed by Griffith who co-wrote the screenplay with Frank E. *Intolerance* was not a financial success, although it had good box office turn-outs; it did not bring in enough profits to cover the lavish road show that accompanied it. He continued to make films, but he never achieved box office grosses as high as either *The Birth of a Nation* or *Intolerance*. While some of his later films did well at the box office, commercial success often eluded him. Of these, the first three were successes at the box office. United Artists founders, Griffith, Pickford , Chaplin , and Fairbanks sign their contract for the cameras He made a part-talkie, *Lady of the Pavements* , and only two full-sound films, *Abraham Lincoln* and *The Struggle* Neither was successful, and after *The Struggle* he never made another film. He wrote to Griffith: This would make the film the final production in which Griffith was actively involved. When Roach advertised the film in late with Griffith listed as producer, Griffith asked that his name be removed. In , he made an impromptu visit to the film location of *David O.* While the two were filming their scenes, Griffith hid behind set scenery. He died of a cerebral hemorrhage at 3: Please help improve this article by adding citations to reliable sources. Unsourced material may be challenged and removed.