

UFOs and Hollywood: A Look at U.S. Intel Influence

An Oregon MUFON Presentation

by

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Introduction

- UFOs have a rich history in Hollywood and independent movies made in America. But separating UFO fact from fiction in UFO movies is difficult.
- Two problems: (1) scifi aliens and UFO aliens and (2) U.S. intel disinformation/manipulation.
- Scifi aliens and UFO aliens are *not* the same!
- Popular science press and U.S. intel blurs the distinction.
- Result: movie producers sometimes mix the two and the public ends up disinformed, benefitting U.S. intel interests.
- This presentation helps you separate fact from fiction in UFO alien movies.

UFO Ideas and Subculture

- Where do UFO cultural ideas come from?
- UFO ideas come from four sources: (1) UFO researchers and percipients (factual), (2) general news media reports of UFO events or UFO subculture events (factual), (3) UFO enthusiasts (usually “fact challenged”), and (4) UFO disinformation from U.S. intel (mixture of fact and fiction).
- How do they spread? News media, books, lectures, word of mouth, Internet.
- Today, the ease of Internet communication spreads enthusiast info and disinformation especially fast. Result: UFO information is a complex mixture of fact and fiction.
- Movie producers since 1990s especially are influenced by this.

SciFi Ideas and Subculture

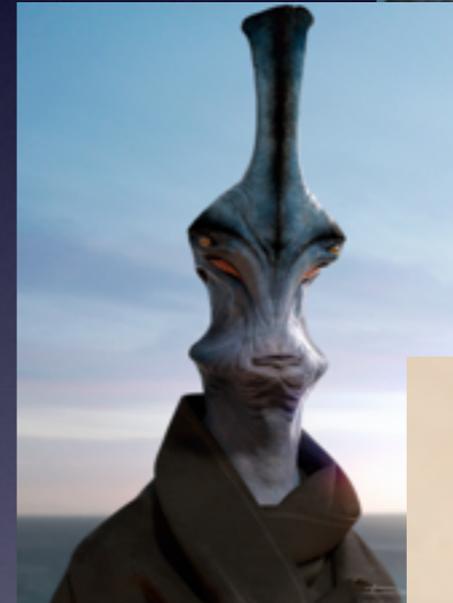
- Where do scifi cultural ideas come from?
- Scifi ideas come from three sources: (1) Scifi writers in books and stories, (2) scifi enthusiasts, and (3) the popular science media.
- How do scifi ideas spread? Books, lectures, conventions, and Internet author, organization, and enthusiast sites.
- Scifi is all fiction, so separating fact from fiction is not a problem. However, scifi helps define the limits of imagination for a human future.
- Movie producers have always considered scifi as a source of good movie ideas.

SciFi Movie Themes and Ideas

- Science fiction themes are very broad. They cover the breadth of human hopes, dreams, ideas, etc. Scifi authors extend human reality by extrapolating “reasonably” from known scientific facts and theories into a futuristic setting.
- Themes: How would humanity coexist with robots? How would humanity react to discovery of (science) aliens on other planets? How would humanity accept living in technology-driven authoritarian regimes? How would humanity behave if technology gave everyone telepathic abilities? How would galactic-based civilizations be organized, spread, and co-exist? Etc.
- Scifi aliens are closely modeled on academic ideas of human characteristics and values. We must relate to them for scifi stories to work and be satisfying.

SciFi Aliens

- Science fiction aliens are dreamed up by scifi writers beginning certainly with H.G.Wells. The 1930s was the heyday of pulp scifi magazines, lasting into the 1970s.
- Scifi writers' imaginations are conditioned by popular science and fantasy ideas. Scifi alien descriptions are "all over the map."
- Scifi alien intelligence runs the gamut from very human-like to monster-like, even unembodied.



Source: google image search

SciFi Movie Examples (I)

- The following movies have virtually no UFO or UFO alien content. They are all inspired by ordinary scifi imagination. Sometimes they were inspired by scifi books or stories. (UFOs only come on the scene in the late 1940s, of course!)
- 1900s-1920: *Metropolis*; *20,000 Leagues Under the Sea*; *Frankenstein*; *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*; *The Lost World*.
- 1930-1950: *King Kong*; *Things to Come*; *Lost Horizon*; *Flash Gordon*, *Buck Rogers*, *Buster Crabbe* series; *Invisible Man*; *Dr. Cyclops*; *Destination Moon*; *When Worlds Collide*; *This Island Earth*; *Forbidden Planet*; *Invasion of the Body Snatchers*; *On the Beach*; *The Blob*; *Them!*; *Journey to the Center of the Earth*; *It Came From Beneath the Sea*; *20 Million Miles to Earth*, etc.

SciFi Movie Examples (2)

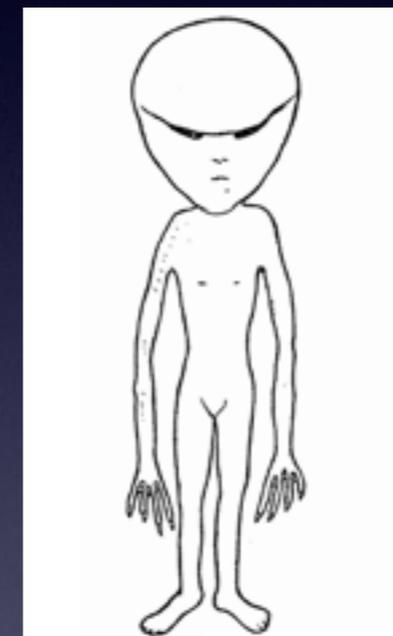
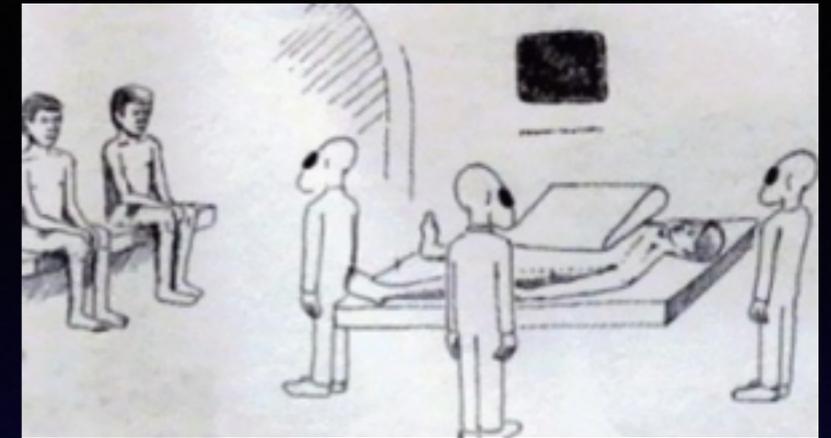
- 1960s: *2001: A Space Odyssey*; *Planet of the Apes*; *Fahrenheit 451*; *Barbarella*, etc.
- 1970s-1980s: *The Andromeda Strain*; *Silent Running*; *Soylent Green*; *Logan's Run*; *Dark Star*; *Star Wars*; *Star Trek: The Motion Picture*; *Honey, I Shrunk the Kids*; *The Empire Strikes Back*; *Return of the Jedi*; *Alien*; *Blade Runner*; *The Terminator*; *Back to the Future*; *Tron*; etc.
- 1990s-2000s: *Total Recall*; *The Matrix*; *Deep Impact*; *Jurassic Park*; *Gattaca*; *A.I. Artificial Intelligence*; *Minority Report*; *Avatar*; etc.
- 2010s: *Predators*; *Hot Tub Time Machine*; *Her*; *Monsters*; *The Martian*; *Arrival*; etc.

UFO Movie Themes and Ideas

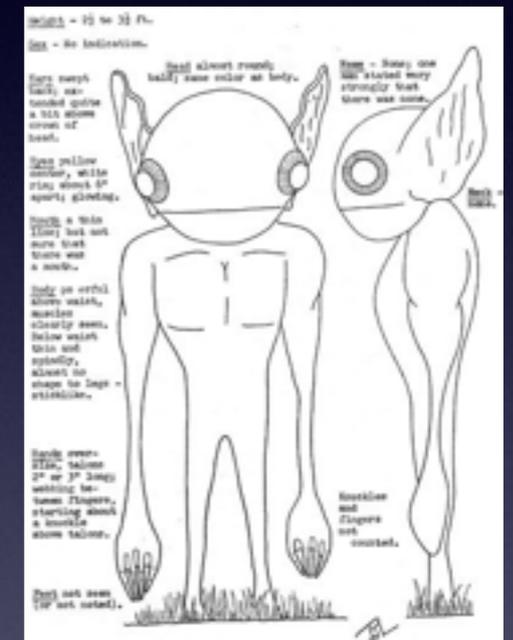
- UFO themes are limited in scope to the UFO literature as generated by UFO researchers, investigators, and percipients. The themes are “boring” and unimaginative. Themes are woven in and around the facts of UFOs and UFO aliens.
- Themes and ideas: confusion, excitement, mystery, alien motives, fright, “medical” experiments, paranormal events, public reaction, specialness of being an abductee/experiencer, spiritual education, special knowledge, preparation for future with UFO aliens on Earth, acceptance of UFO alien reality, “hybridization” of humans and UFO aliens, “super” technology of saucers, government secrecy, cattle mutilations, bigfoot, “crypto-animals,” etc.

UFO Aliens

- UFO aliens originate from UFO researcher's descriptions and UFO percipient's drawings.
- They are almost always humanoid; no blobs; no disembodied, abstract intelligences; no computers.
- They are very human-like, humanoid, simple insect-like, hairy dwarves, or simple robot-like.
- They display a real poverty of imagination compared to scifi aliens. Witnesses are not influenced by scifi. Vice versa is true, however.



1978 Leonard Stringfield composite drawing of long-armed, 4-fingered aliens autopsied at Wright-Patterson AFB, based on medical sources



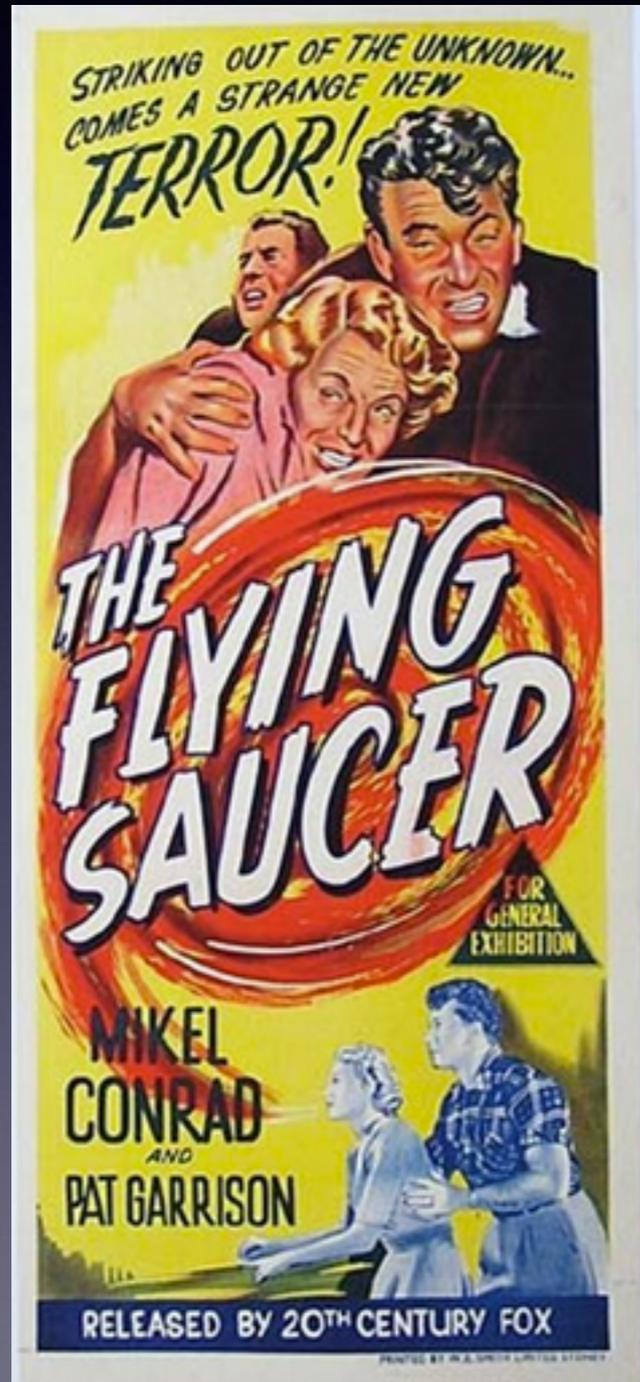
Source: google image search

U.S. Intel Establishment Goals

- Propaganda creation and dissemination is a major technique to control populations. Used on UFOs from beginning. Real goal: Keep society elites from knowing reality of UFOs.
- WWII's OSS and then CIA's Psychological Strategy Board created and spread UFO disinformation among American people. Example: PSB's Colonel Joseph Bryan III infiltrated, controlled, and shut down NICAP with other CIA operatives.
- CIA assets like Henry Luce, founder of Time magazine, routinely denigrated serious study and investigation of UFOs in his magazine.
- CIA operatives harassed UFO witnesses and probably encouraged UFO contactees to lecture and write books during 1950s.

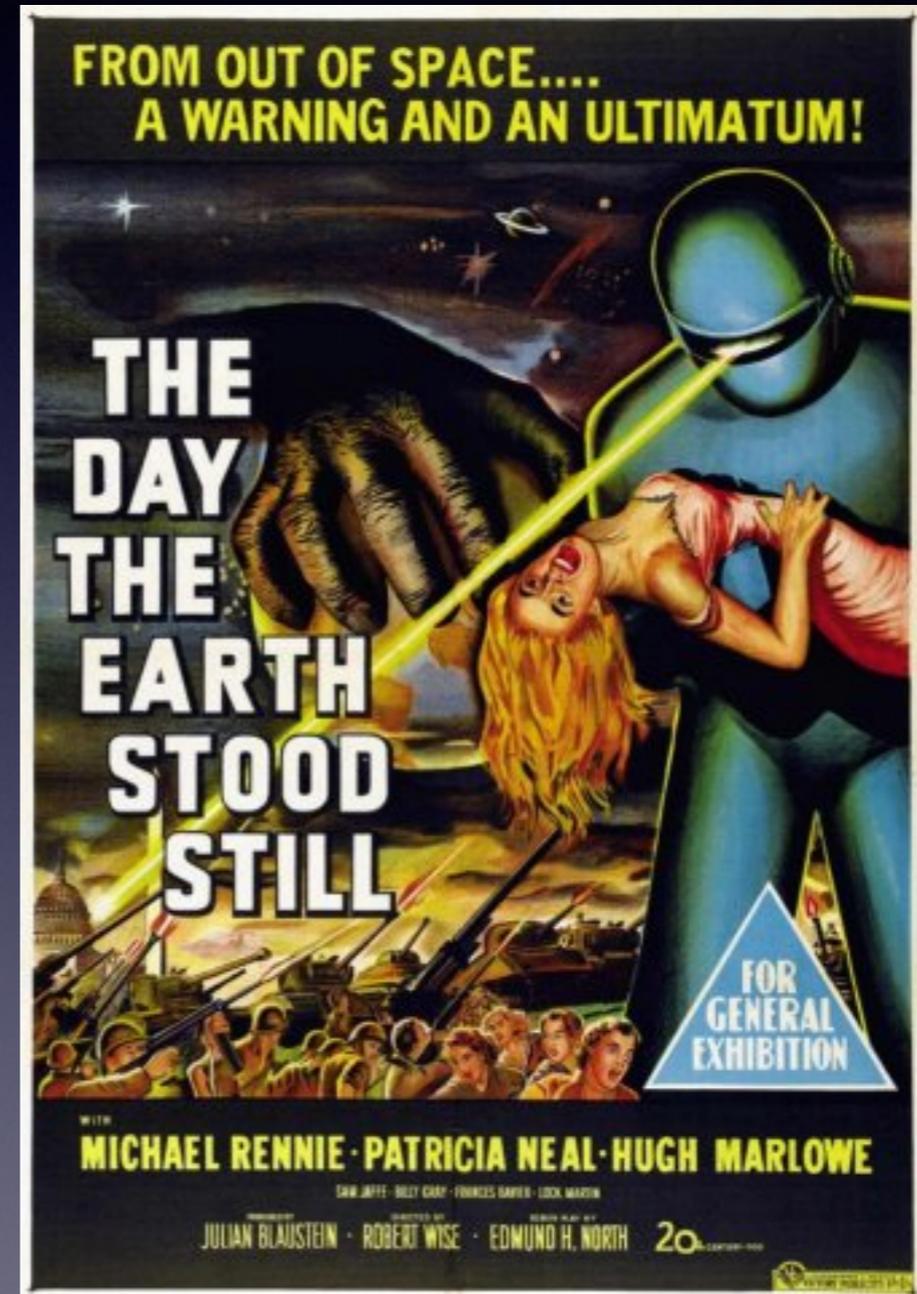
A Few U.S. Intel Influenced Movies (I)

The Flying Saucer (1950)



Source: fanpop.com

The Day the Earth Stood Still (1951)



Source: wikipedia

A Few U.S. Intel Influenced Movies (2)

The Thing From Another World (1951)



Source: BYU Library

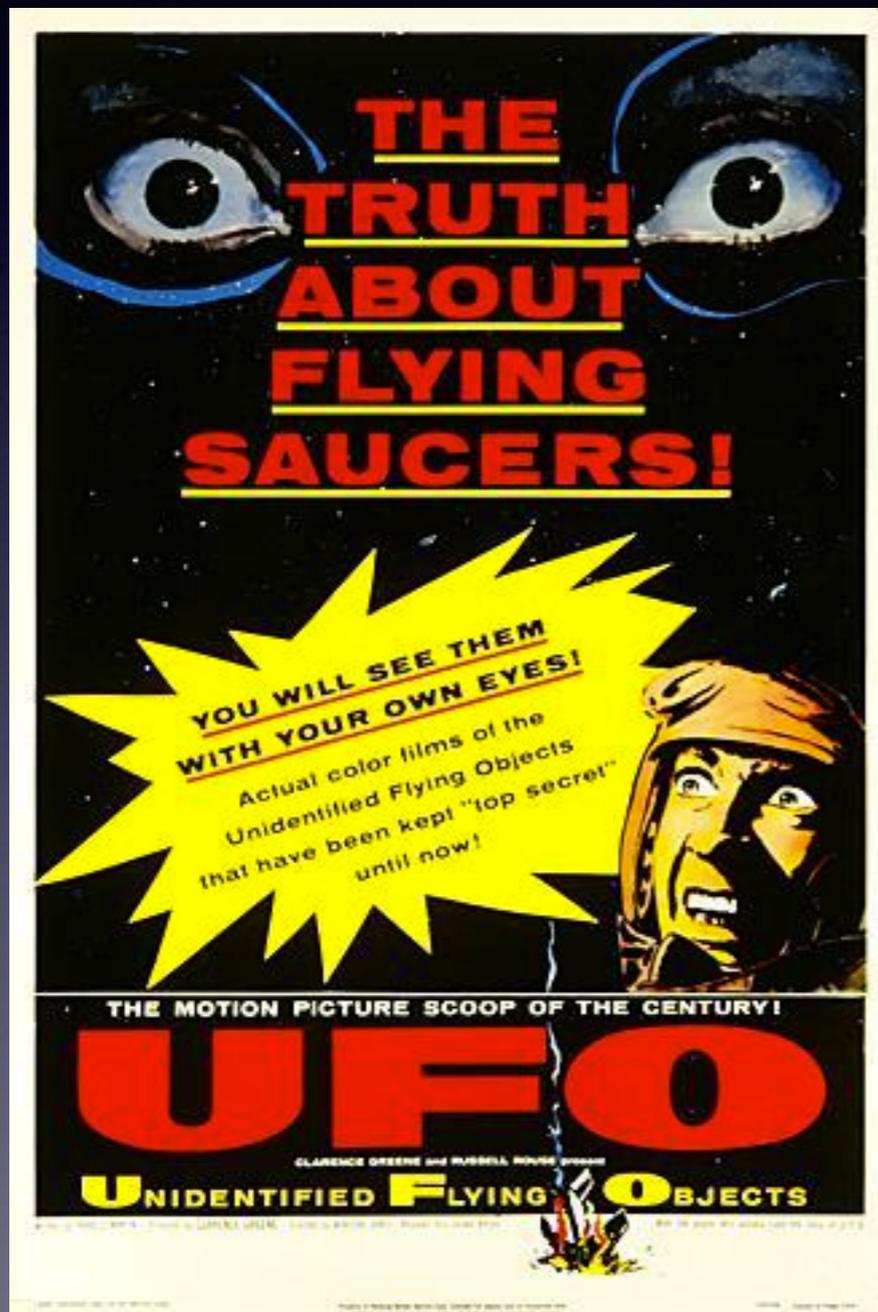
Invaders from Mars (1953)



Source: basementrejects

A Few U.S. Intel Influenced Movies (3)

Unidentified Flying Objects: The Truth About Flying Saucers (1956)



Source: IMDB

Earth vs. The Flying Saucers (1953)

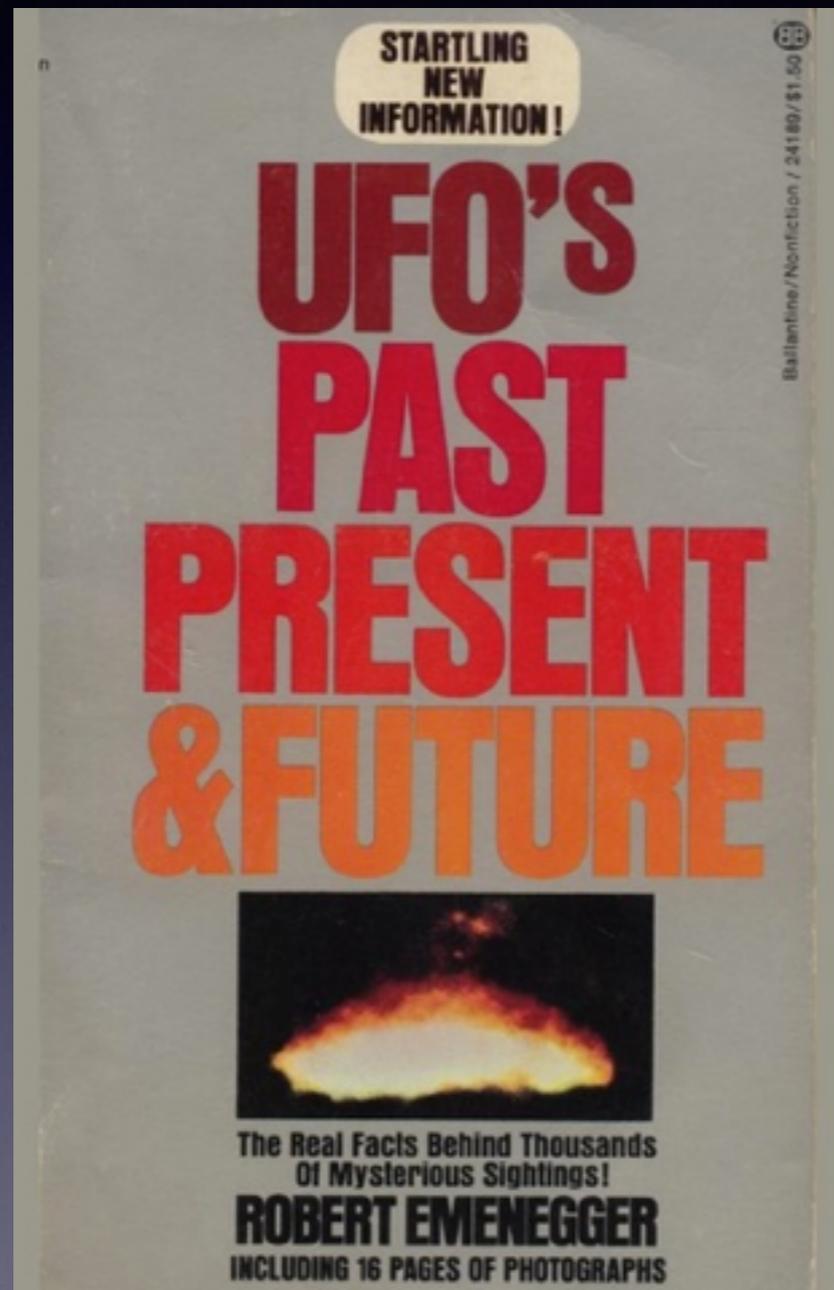


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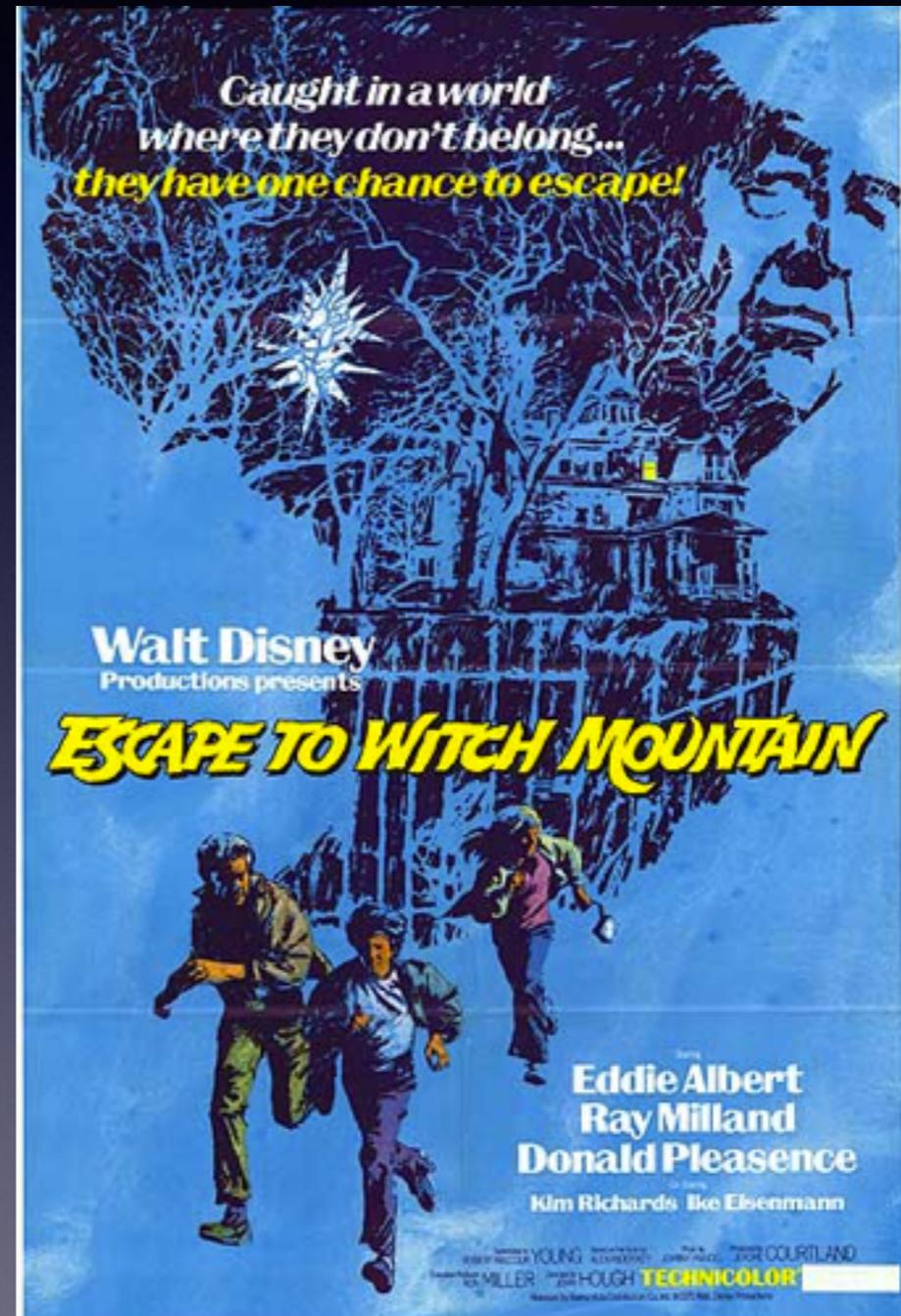
A Few U.S. Intel Influenced Movies (4)

UFOs: Past, Present, and Future (1974)

Escape to Witch Mountain (1975)



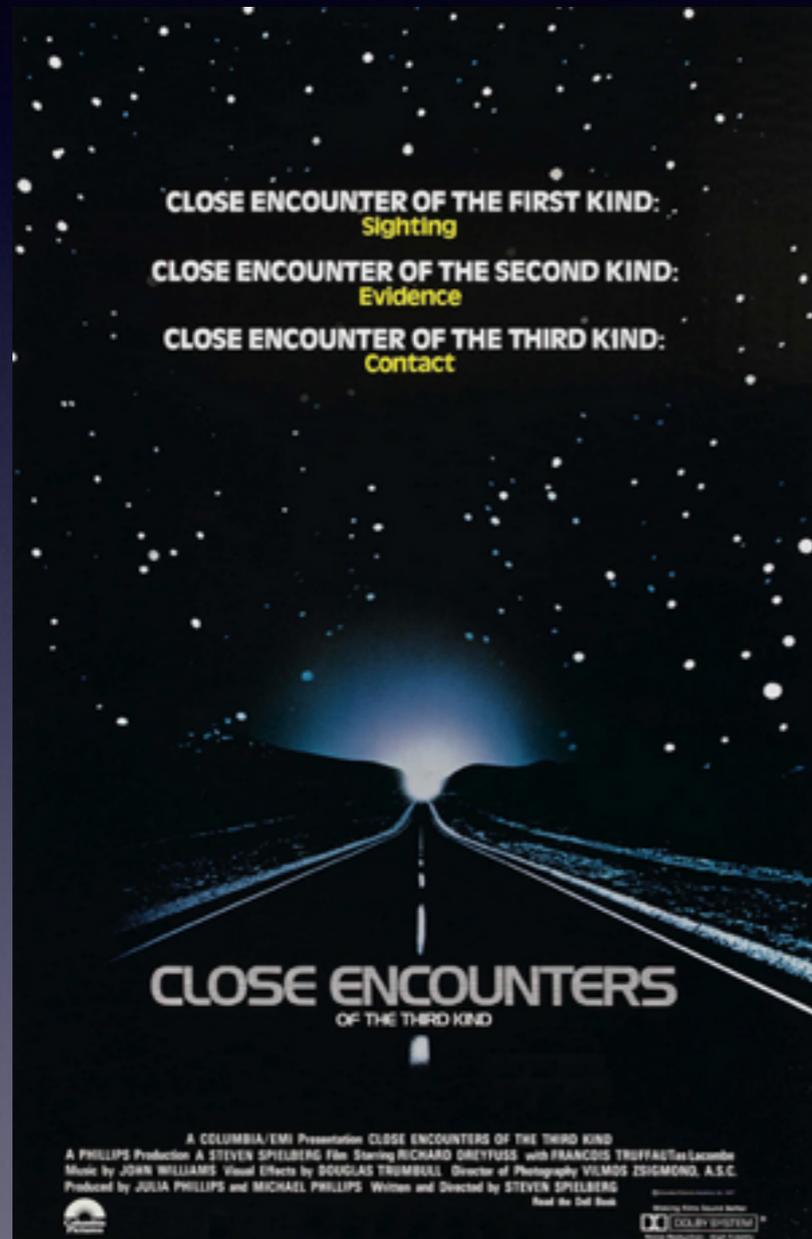
Source: Amazon



Source: IMDB

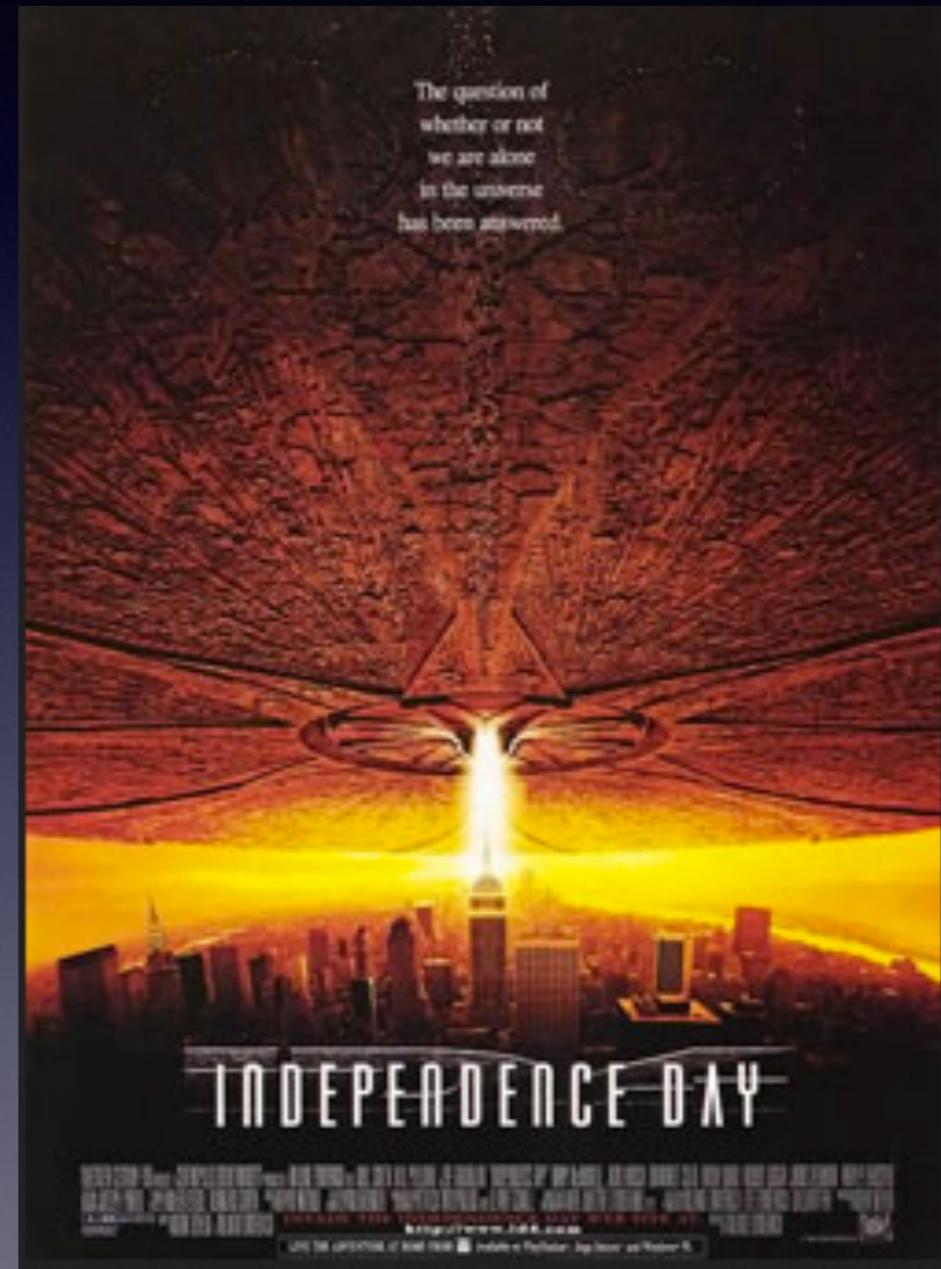
A Few U.S. Intel Influenced Movies (5)

Close Encounters of the Third Kind (1977)



Source: IMDB

Independence Day (1996)



Source: wikipedia

UFO Movies/Media and UFO Political/ Cultural Events Chronology (I)

- 1942-46. Foo fighters are WWII UFOs, mostly from the European theater, reported many times in the newspapers.
- 1946. Swedish ghost rockets are missile-like, dark UFOs mostly traveling over Sweden north to south. Retired General Jimmy Doolittle was sent to investigate. No public report of conclusions was issued.
- June 1947. Kenneth Arnold makes his famous sighting at the beginning of a massive UFO wave lasting two weeks and more. Europe was involved, too.
- July 1947. The famous Roswell UFO crash was reported for a day and then immediately covered up by General Roger Ramey.

UFO Movies/Media and UFO Political/ Cultural Events Chronology (2)

- 1950. *The Flying Saucer*. First UFO movie. Director Mikel Conrad claimed as a publicity stunt to have real UFO footage. He was investigated by USAF.
- 1951. *The Day the Earth Stood Still*. Blockbuster at box office. A former Army major wrote the screen play. Producer Zanuck worked for the Army in WWII and CIA after. They knew each other. Zanuck was connected with CIA's Charles Jackson of Psychological Strategy Board as was Walt Disney, Jack Warner, and Cecil B. DeMille. This movie was probably a test of public reaction to UFO reality.
- 1951. *The Thing From Another World*. AF refused to help production. AF said, "Project Grudge just proved flying saucers don't exist!"

UFO Movies/Media and UFO Political/ Cultural Events Chronology (3)

- 1952. Project Blue Book. A public relations effort to fake real investigation and calm possible public fears about UFOs. It followed Project Sign (1949), a secret positive assessment of UFOs, and Project Grudge (1949-51), a negative assessment when Project Sign conclusions were rejected by the DoD top brass.
- July 1952. Washington, D.C., UFO events. These lasted over two weeks with many observations, visual and radar, of scores of UFOs. It concerned USAF so much that a press conference was held by Generals John Samford and Roger Ramey to quell public concern.
- 1953. Robertson Panel. A secret CIA-convened panel to issue recommendations on the UFO problem. Public media manipulation was recommended.

UFO Movies/Media and UFO Political/ Cultural Events Chronology (4)

- 1953. *Invaders From Mars*. This movie uses lots of UFO facts in its basic invasion plot. Cut from the American version was a long scene of an astronomer detailing many actual UFO cases and incidents from Project Sign and other official AF information. Europeans got to see it. The scene stops the narrative action and serves no cinematic purpose.
- Mid 1950s. Unproduced Disney documentary of UFO reality ordered by DoD. Walt Disney was promised UFO footage as part of this documentary. He never got it.
- 1956. *Unidentified Flying Objects: The True Story of Flying Saucers* (documentary). Project Blue Book assigned officer to monitor and manage possible public fall-out from the movie. There wasn't any.

UFO Movies/Media and UFO Political/ Cultural Events Chronology (5)

- 1956. *Earth vs. The Flying Saucers*. The first direct use of UFO investigation material in a movie. It's an evil alien invasion movie. Producers approached famous gadfly UFO researcher Donald Keyhoe to do a "documentary." Keyhoe took the bait. But couldn't get his name off this fictional, disinformational film.
- 1958-59. *Steve Canyon* (TV series). The one UFO episode was completely rewritten by AF advisors. It was almost not aired.
- 1959-64. *The Twilight Zone* (TV series). Occasional UFO and ancient aliens themed episodes.
- 1966. House Armed Services Committee Congressional hearing. Recent UFO activity was reviewed and the Condon Committee study came out of this hearing. Public concern over recent UFO activity prompted Congress to investigate.

UFO Movies/Media and UFO Political/ Cultural Events Chronology (6)

- 1968. House Science and Aeronautics Committee Congressional symposium. It convened to examine the existing UFO evidence and air pro and con opinions of six scientists and six others.
- 1968. *Chariots of the Gods?* (book). Erich von Däniken's sloppy exploration of "alien"-influenced archaeology starts the ancient astronauts theory craze in earnest in America.
- 1968. *2001: A Space Odyssey*. No UFO information/lore. Pure sci-fi. Blockbuster movie at box office.
- 1969. Condon Committee report issued. The Edward U. Condon written Summary and Conclusions misrepresented content of the year and a half long scientific U of Colorado study. A classic disinformational public government study.

UFO Movies/Media and UFO Political/ Cultural Events Chronology (7)

- 1973. *In Search of Ancient Aliens* (documentary). Rod Serling narrates von Däniken ideas about ancient astronauts/aliens. Seen by millions.
- 1974. *UFOs: Past, Present, and Future* (documentary). Director Robert Emenegger made the UFO documentary at the behest of the AF. Co-producer Allan Sandler and Emenegger were both connected to the U.S. Intel establishment. UFO footage was promised and never delivered.
- 1975. *The UFO Incident* (TV movie). A very good rendition of the Barney and Betty Hill abduction story. No Intel interference.
- 1975. *Escape to Witch Mountain*. A Disney movie featuring many UFO lore and factual details. Two human kids slowly discover their ET alien origins. Disney follow-on *Witch* movies were produced in the next decades, spreading UFO information.

UFO Movies/Media and UFO Political/ Cultural Events Chronology (8)

- 1977. *Close Encounters of the Third Kind*. DoD and NASA refused to cooperate with director Steven Spielberg. NASA tried to quash the film.
- 1977. *Star Wars* (movie series). Entirely scifi based.
- 1978-79. *Project U.F.O.* (TV series) A Jack Warner production based on real Project Blue Book files. Advisor was Col. William Coleman of the real Project Blue Book. Many cases were evaluated as “real UFO” on the show. A DoD covert endorsement of UFO reality?
- 1980. *Hangar 18*. The first film mixing UFO facts with informed UFO speculation. Many specific facts from government documents are incorporated. Mormon-backed Sunn Classic Pictures produced the movie.

UFO Movies/Media and UFO Political/ Cultural Events Chronology (9)

- 1980. *The Roswell Incident* (book). The first book about the Roswell crash incident.
- 1982. *E.T.:The Extraterrestrial*. Another Steven Spielberg vehicle, but not particularly grounded in the factual information about UFOs.
- 1983. UFO researcher Linda Howe promised USAF UFO footage for an HBO special. She never got it.
- 1984. *The Brother from Another Planet*. MIBs for first time appear in a movie.
- 1984. *Clear Intent* (book). Fawcett and Greenwood's FOIA-based research documents AFB UFO intrusions and cattle mutilations and much more.

UFO Movies/Media and UFO Political/ Cultural Events Chronology (10)

- 1986. *Flight of the Navigator*. A Disney film featuring an alien information “download” into a boy. NASA “unloads” the boy and secretly retrieves a UFO. Much accurate UFO information is depicted.
- 1987. *Communion* (book). Strieber’s recounting of his own strange abduction experiences. This awakens many abductees across the U.S.
- 1988. *UFO Cover-up?: Live!* (TV documentary) A live TV production highly manipulated by U.S. intel operatives from the beginning. It’s a classic disinformation operation.
- 1988. *They Live*. Not UFO-related, but apparently too political in its anti-corporation depiction of a fascist-controlled society under ET aliens. Pulled after two weeks release in theaters. Started at number one.

UFO Movies/Media and UFO Political/ Cultural Events Chronology (I I)

- 1989. *The Abyss*. It features an alien presence living in the oceans depths. “Live in peace or we will destroy you” is the final message. UFO literature documents “USOs” as real.
- 1989. *Communion*. Strieber is involved in production so the movie is a good rendition of his story. The public is introduced to the complexities of alien abduction.
- 1990-91. *Twin Peaks* (TV series). A cult TV show featuring occasional UFO sightings and especially Project Blue Book investigators in the second season.
- 1992. *Intruders* (TV mini-series). Tracy Tormé wrote this accurate mini-series based on the Budd Hopkins *Intruders* book. A general audience was introduced to alien abduction.

UFO Movies/Media and UFO Political/ Cultural Events Chronology (12)

- 1992-95. Rep. Steven Schiff investigates the Roswell crash incident culminating in a GAO report indicating that the military mishandled the missing “daily logs” of the RAAF base nearest the crash site. The AF goes on red alert and issues three separate misleading reports to quell public interest. This succeeds.
- 1993. *Official Denial* (TV movie). Bryce Zabel movie mentioning milabs (military abductions) for first time. See *Dark Skies*.
- 1993. *Fire in the Sky*. A recounting of the famous Travis Walton abduction, and notorious in ufological circles for its inaccurate scenes inside the UFO. Writer Tracy Tormé says the studio honchos panicked at the just released *Intruders* movie “competition” and would cancel if *Fire in the Sky* wasn’t “jazzed up.” Did the honchos get U.S. Intel pressure?

UFO Movies/Media and UFO Political/ Cultural Events Chronology (13)

- 1993-2002. *The X-Files* (TV series). Wildly popular series covering many UFO themes from UFO facts to informed speculation to conspiracy theories.
- 1994. *Roswell* (movie). This movie accurately reflects UFO researcher facts about the Roswell crash incident and adds informed speculation. Production was done by sympathetic movie-makers. It was the first Hollywood movie on Roswell.
- 1994. *Babylon 5* (TV series). Space opera that used some UFO gray alien archetypes.
- 1994. *Stargate*. Incorporated many themes of UFO conspiracy culture: government secrecy, reverse engineering of UFOs, and ancient astronaut speculation. Erich von Däniken heavy.

UFO Movies/Media and UFO Political/ Cultural Events Chronology (14)

- 1995. *Alien Encounters from New Tomorrowland* (TV ad). A new Disney Tomorrowland ride promotional documentary stating UFO information as a factual reality. Disney picked Andrew Thomas writer/director of the *Cops* reality TV show to produce it. Disney told him to reserve the last five out of 40 minutes for the new Tomorrowland ride promotion. Oddly, it was aired on independent stations in a few cities around the U.S. Another U.S. Intel test of public reaction?
- 1996. *Independence Day*. “Eliminate any mention of Area 51 and Roswell,” a Los Angeles Army Public Relations officer said. The film got little cooperation from the military despite the fact of its plot featuring U.S. military conquering of the alien menace. Too much UFO fact and informed speculation.

UFO Movies/Media and UFO Political/ Cultural Events Chronology (15)

- 1996-7. *Dark Skies* (TV show). Producer/writer Bryce Zabel bases his “inside the government UFO conspiracy” series heavily on the factual speculation about MJ-12 and probable covert UFO history. U.S. Intel targeted Zabel in an elaborate disinformation operation. His show had too much true UFO information.
- 1996. *Mars Attacks!* Spoof of UFO subculture.
- 1997-2012. *Men in Black* (movie series). Inspired by illustrated novel series, which filters real MIB research through fictional lens. Here the MIB are human government agents and not so much UFO alien related. But UFOs and aliens are all portrayed as real.
- 2001. Steven Greer holds NPC press conference featuring the testimony of military and government UFO whistleblowers.

UFO Movies/Media and UFO Political/ Cultural Events Chronology (16)

- 2002. *Taken* (TV series). A ten part mini-series strictly based on UFO fact and informed speculation from Steven Spielberg. Most expensive (\$40 million) mini-series of its time. Won Emmy for Outstanding Mini-series.
- 2005. *War of the Worlds* (remake). Spielberg got full cooperation from the DoD. There was no mention of UFOs in the film.
- 2007-2017. *Transformers* (movie series). It got full cooperation from DoD and yet it is loaded with UFO information. Alien visitation and conspiracy themes are big part. Example: An extra-constitutional part of U.S. government (“Sector 7”) has done alien research since 1934(!) in secret “Special Access Projects.”

UFO Movies/Media and UFO Political/ Cultural Events Chronology (17)

- 2008. *Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull*. Another Steven Spielberg vehicle. The ancient Ugha mesoamerican (Maya-like) civilization worships an alien race. The film even mentions the Roswell UFO incident!
- 2009. *Avatar*. Not UFO related or U.S. Intel influenced.
- 2010. Robert Hastings holds NPC “UFOs and Nukes” press conference featuring the testimony of military and government UFO whistleblowers.
- 2011. *Battle: Los Angeles*. Full military cooperation. In the movie, there were no actual references to the real UFO case inspiring the movie idea and no UFO information/lore! The movie poster used the classic 1942 front page photo, however.

UFO Movies/Media and UFO Political/ Cultural Events Chronology (18)

- 2012. *Battleship*. It got full cooperation of DoD. ETs are the enemy. Director Peter Berg co-starred in *Fire in the Sky*.
- 2013. Stephen Bassett's Paradigm Research Group holds NPC "Citizens' Hearing on UFOs" event. Six former Congressmen and women judge the evidence of military and government whistleblowers to be probative of UFO reality.
- 2013. *Star Trek into Darkness*. Virtually all of the Star Trek TV series and original movies are scifi and not UFO based. This one used a little UFO material.

Conclusion

- The U.S. intelligence establishment has disinformed the American public about UFOs from the beginning in WWII.
- The U.S. intel has always involved itself in Hollywood as a major way of shaping American cultural values.
- Always paramount was U.S. military “help” for movies portraying the military in a “good” light.
- Covertly, however, U.S. intel was helping and hindering movie productions to shape perception of UFOs in the public mind.
- It still goes on today ...

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