



REALITY IN ALISTAIR MACLEAN'S WAR THRILLERS

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Abstract

My attempt regarding the research is to explore the reality of the contemporary period of Alistair Maclean through his war thrillers. While considering his fictional works, they could also be understood as written at the interest of a particular ideology supporting violence which became connected with the popular culture. Alistair Stuart Maclean (1922-1987) was a 20th century Scottish novelist whose popular thrillers and adventure stories are estimated to have sold over 150 million copies, making him one of the best-selling fictional authors of all the time. Most of his popular novels portray his own real-life experience in fighting for the Royal Navy during World War II. He has a wide range of fictional writings and it can be found that his vision does not limit itself to the idea of culture industry. His amazing style of writing and characterization makes one addicted to reading his books and once in his career, he even adopted the pseudonym Ian Stuart to publish some of his novels in order to prove his writing quality over his popularity during that time. Maclean was largely successful in creating a new style of writing which heralded the onset of a new genre and his own special formula of writing excites the audience while the locations are described with maniacal attitude of a man with an eye for detail. Also, the action sequences are narrated so well that one can almost visualise them before the eyes and the humour is simply great and liberally used even in serious situations to the point of being cynical at times. According to one obituary after his death at the age of 64, "he never lost his love for the sea, his talent for portraying good Brits against bad Germans, or his penchant for high melodrama. Critics deplored his cardboard characters and vapid females, but readers loved his combination of hot macho action, wartime commando sagas, and exotic settings that included Greek Islands and Alaskan oil fields."

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