

Note from the Editors

Welcome to the latest edition of 49th Parallel. This issue features an article on the influence of public opinion on the Lyndon Johnson Administration during divisive American involvement in Vietnam and an article on the progressive left-liberal documentary films of Robert Greenwald and his Brave New Films production company.

Tara Marie Egan's "Vietnam, the Johnson Administration and the Role of Domestic Public Opinion" argues that given the pervasive atmosphere of concealment in the political context during escalation in Vietnam, an examination of the influence of public opinion in shaping American foreign policy is a worthwhile exercise. Accordingly, the perception and treatment of public opinion by Johnson and his key advisors provide insights into how changing public views influenced the Administration's decision-making and choices. In "Documentary as Social Justice Activism" John Haynes suggests the distribution methods and textual strategies of Robert Greenwald's films are structured in such a way as to unite a diverse audience and mobilise grassroots activism in an era frequently characterised as one of declining participation in more formal democratic processes in American civil society.

This edition also contains book reviews covering subjects as broad as Hollywood, US foreign policy, religion and education, and cinema and national identity.

Thank you to all our contributors for ensuring a high standard of work and engaging in themes and debates that highlight the compelling and dynamic nature of interdisciplinary studies of North American culture, history, and politics.

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