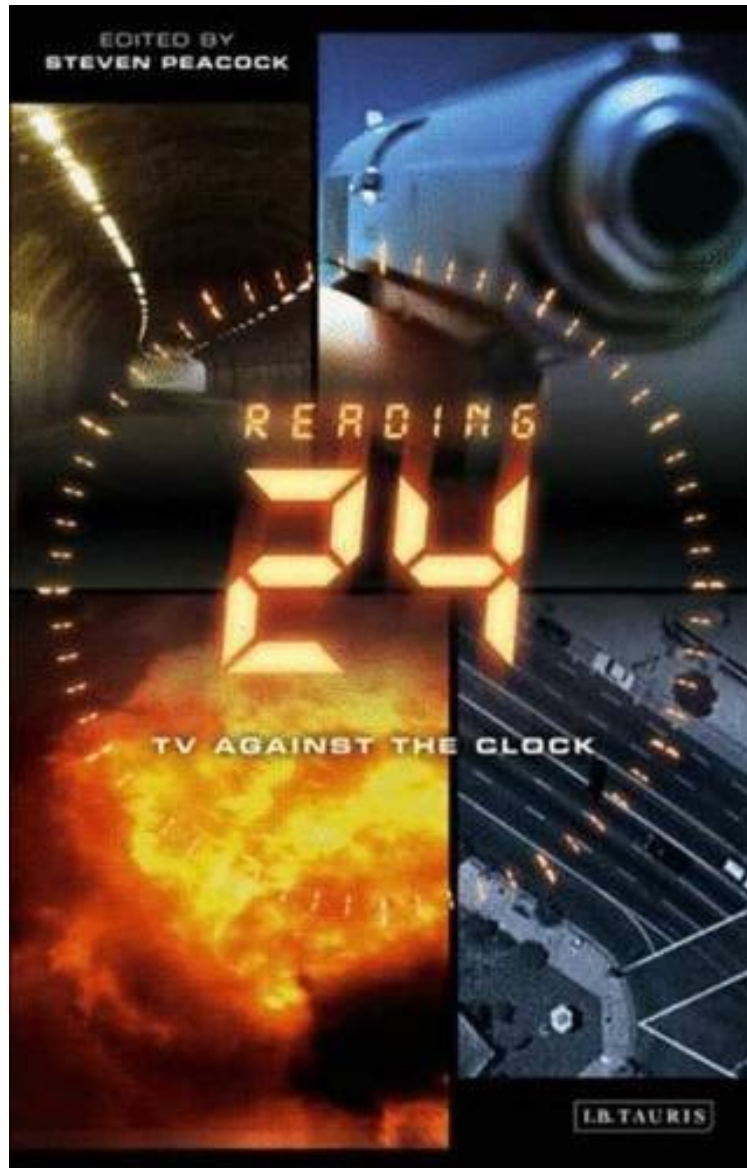


Reading 24: TV against the Clock (Reading Contemporary Television)

From Brand: I. B. Tauris

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#4340659 in Books I. B. Tauris 2007-02-15 2007-03-06 Original language: English PDF # 1 8.64 x .75 x 5.331, .71 #File Name: 1845113292256 pages | File size: 66.Mb

From Brand: I. B. Tauris : Reading 24: TV against the Clock (Reading Contemporary Television) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Reading 24: TV against the Clock (Reading Contemporary Television):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Good not great By S. Sherman This collection of essays about 24 is

divided into three sections. The first deals with the aesthetics, most of all the real-time principle and the use of split screen. The second deals with politics, while the third addresses gender issues. I found some useful insights, but also some irritating aspects. The first section adopts an adulatory tone, almost as if what is being discussed is (or should be regarded as) Shakespeare. I don't particularly like when Shakespeare is written about in this way, and have no idea why people would convince themselves that a tv show is practically above criticism, only to be appreciated for its brilliance. I preferred the second portion, which dealt with such questions as to how the 'nuclear narrative' of 24 differs from that of the Cold War era 'The Day After', and the question of the 'state of emergency', as explained by Agamben, and 24 (basically, the show hoists up a mentality (deeply influenced by the Bush administration) that 'everything has changed', and so no rules apply, even though the CTU agents are allegedly saving America, which is supposed to epitomize government constrained by rules). Surprisingly, one essay on torture capitulates entirely to the political logic of the show: " Like Audrey (Raines), we may not be able to be party to all of it or to cope with the pain and suffering that Bauer must dish out, but we can take some comfort in knowing that he can and will on our behalf." This sentence is not offered as explanation so much as praise. The third section on gender was interesting, but I don't know why this topic appears rather than race or the 'post-colonial' questions, both of which seem at least as salient to me. Chloe is saluted as a character epitomizing the rhetoric of 'Asperger's Syndrome' popular in the last decade, in an essay poised somewhere between a fan's note and academic criticism. Several errors grate. Jack did not defend President Palmer in Season one--he was merely a candidate at the time. The Bush administration cannot be described as 'isolationist'(!), it invaded two countries. The term the author is looking for is 'unilateral'. For all their adulation, the authors in the first section miss the famous 'silent clock', which periodically ended episodes without the thumping ticking. The book is interesting, but it made me wonder if it is not best to wait til a series has ended its run before producing academic literature about it--it at times seems hasty and a little inflated.

3 of 4 people found the following review helpful. A Fascinating Look at a Network Television Phenomenon By Terry Sunday When the techno-soap drama "24" premiered on Fox in November 2001, it quickly became a media phenomenon that won both critical and popular acclaim as a prime example of quality television programming. Each season of the multi-E Emmy-award-winning series attracts legions of loyal, dedicated fans who breathlessly follow Counter-Terrorism Unit (CTU) agent Jack Bauer in "real-time" through one seemingly endless day as he battles in a frantic race-against-the-clock to protect America from horrible terrorist threats. "Reading 24" is not an episode handbook. This is not the place to find the usual cast biographies, shooting scripts, glossy color photos (there are no photos in the book) or behind-the-scenes tales typical of a television series "companion guide." Rather, in a collection of 16 individual essays, "Reading 24" offers scholarly, insightful and fascinating assessments of the structure, style, morality, politics and culture in the world of "24." Topics include (among many others): 1) analyses of the show's innovative split-screen visual technique, 2) comparisons of the arrogant, corrupt and dishonest politicians in "24" with the current (2007) Washington administration, and 3) an examination of the morality of the torture that "24" depicts with such brutal realism. A very interesting chapter explores the relationship among program sponsorship--the Ford Motor Company paid up to \$5 million in Season 2 to assure that "24" prominently featured its huge, gas-guzzling SUVs--and the politics of the global oil industry and the "War on Terror." Perhaps one of the most intriguing things about "Reading 24" is the fact that the majority of the contributing scholars are non-American. With no obvious partisan axes to grind, they observe the U.S.'s actions in the post-9/11 world, and the insights into the national psyche that "24" captures so well, with objective, critical detachment. Thus "Reading 24" is much more than simply a book about a television show. It is also a perceptive, thought-provoking look at America's place in the world, and somewhat of a cautionary tale about what may happen "if this goes on..." Highly recommended.

5 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Fascinating essays and discussions about the "24" TV series By Edward Alexander Gerster This may prove a bit too academic for some, but the essays and discussions presented here are a fascinating read for fans of the series, as well as for those interested in screen-writing and television production. There are more than just critical discussions on content -- terrorism, masked identities, germ warfare, government operations, etc. There are also interesting forays into the creative side of the show, such as the stylistic innovations of split screen presentation, and the omnipresent clock. Well presented, thoughtfully provoking in it's content, and a pleasure to read.

Time has named 24 one of the *Best Television Events of the Decade.* With an innovative format that uses one hour of real time for each episode, and a season that comprises one twenty-four hour period, the show zeroes in on the fears and dangers of a post-9/11 world and the ways in which threats are transmitted, tracked down, and fought. From assassination attempts and germ warfare to horrific terrorist plots, Kiefer Sutherland's Agent Jack Bauer embodies America's darkest fears and its perilous place in the world today. This book brings together critical discussions of the series from many different perspectives. It covers everything from the show's unconventional format to discussions of globalism, oil, the politics of torture, and gender, and includes an episode guide.