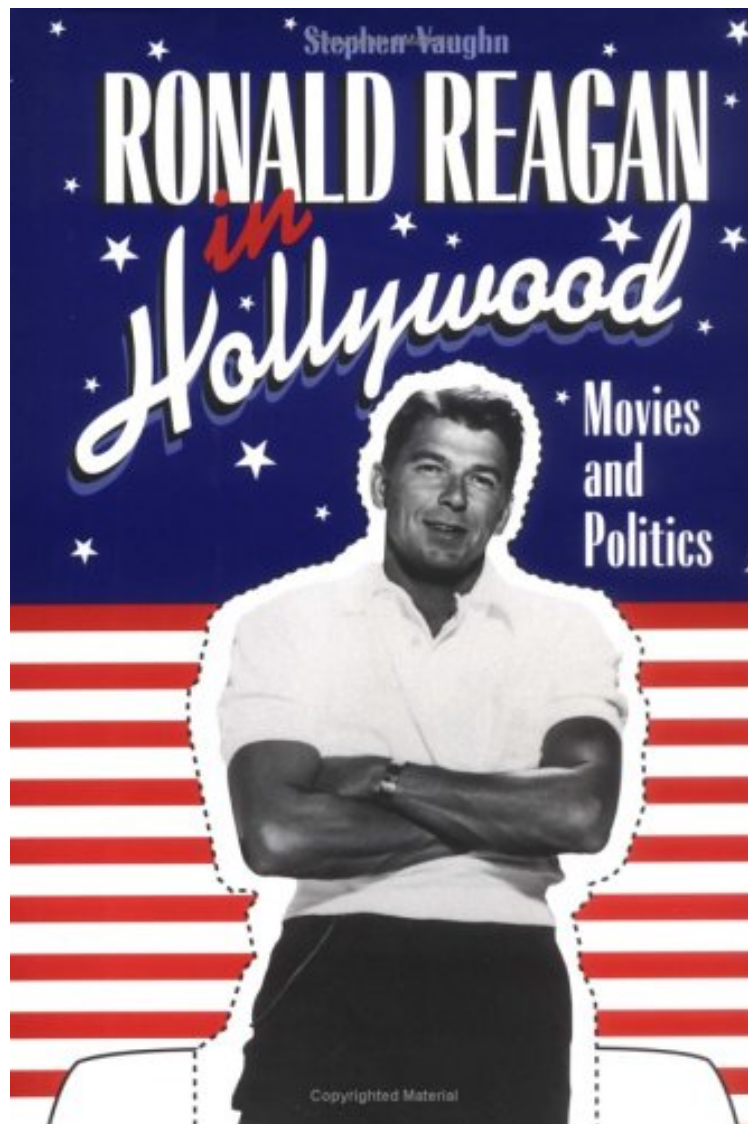


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## Ronald Reagan in Hollywood: Movies and Politics (Cambridge Studies in the History of Mass Communication)

*Stephen Vaughn*

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Communication):

Ronald Reagan in Hollywood explores the relationship between the motion picture industry and American politics through the prism of Reagan's film career at Warner Bros. During the Depression, World War II, and the early Cold War era, the film industry served as a 'grand, world-wide propaganda base' using movies to influence attitudes about patriotism, national defence, communism, the welfare state, race, sex, and civil liberties. Ronald Reagan thrived in this environment. During his years in Hollywood from 1937 to 1952 he formed many of the ideas which were later carried into his presidency. Not merely a star, Reagan also became an articulate industry spokesperson and skilled propagandist, playing an important role in the battle to 'capture the minds' of humanity in the struggle against communism. By the time he left Warner Bros. in 1952, Reagan had abandoned his New Deal liberalism and had become a militant anti-communist. Based on hundreds of interviews (including some with Reagan himself), formerly secret FBI files, and material from more than 150 archival collections, this is the most comprehensive book on this subject to date, providing incisive analysis of Reagan's formative years in Hollywood.

'Anyone in doubt that motion pictures influence society will find ample food for thought in this incisive examination of how Hollywood 'turned dreams into reality.' EmpireFrom the Back CoverRonald Reagan in Hollywood explores the relationship between the motion picture industry and American politics through the prism of Reagan's film career at Warner Bros. During the Great Depression, World War II, and the postwar era, the Hollywood film industry served as a "grand, worldwide propaganda base" for those who wanted to use movies to influence attitudes about patriotism, national defense, communism, the welfare state, race, sex, and civil liberties. Reagan thrived in this environment. During his years in Hollywood, from 1937 to 1952, he formed many of the ideas that he later carried into his presidency. Not merely a star, Reagan simultaneously became an articulate industry spokesperson and skilled propagandist, playing an important role in "the battle to capture the minds" of humanity in the struggle against communism. By the time he left Warner Bros, in 1952, Reagan has abandoned his New Deal liberalism and had become a militant anticommunist. Based on interviews with President Reagan and others, formerly secret FBI files, and material from more than 150 archival collection, Ronald Reagan in Hollywood is the most comprehensive book on the subject, providing an incisive analysis of Reagan's important formative years.