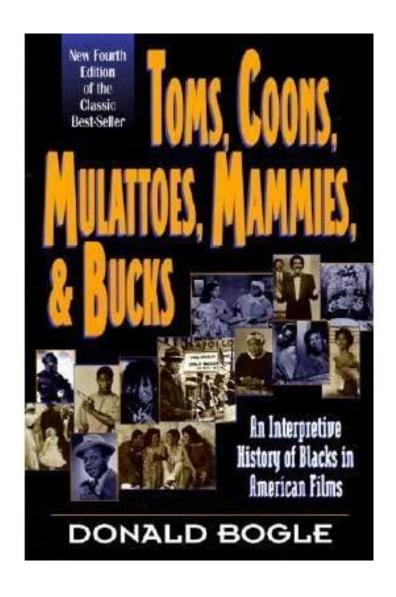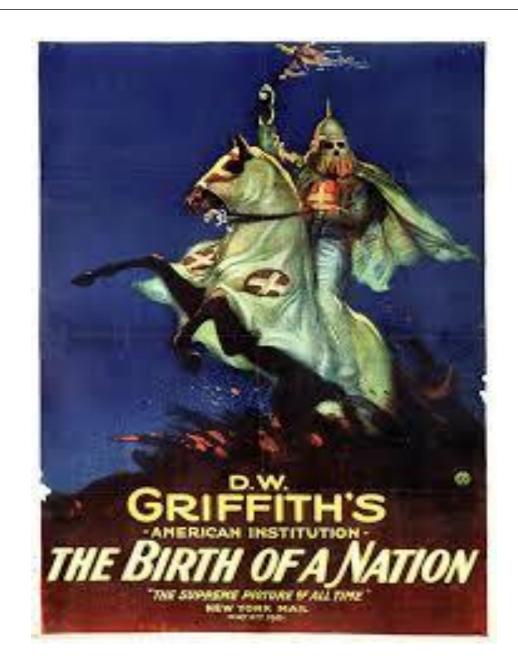# Race in North American Literature, Theatre, and Film
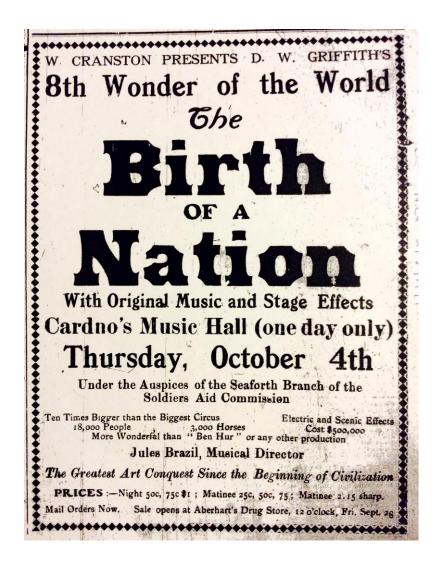
Dr. Mariya Nikolova
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White Ideology & Anti-Black Stereotypes in US-American Cinema

White Ideology & Anti-Black Stereotypes: Black People Framed

- [Toms](.)

- [Coons](.)

- [Mulattoes](.)

- [Mummies](.)

- [Bucks](.)

Black Men Framed: The Black Buck

Black Men Framed: The Black Buck

'the barbaric black out to raise havoc … subhuman and feral, … nameless characters setting out on a rampage full of black rage (Bogle 13)

'oversexed and savage, violent and frenzied as they lust for white flesh' (14)

`Griffith played on the myth of the Negro's high-powered sexuality, then articulated the great white fear that every black man longs for a white woman. Underlying the fear was the assumption that the white woman was the ultimate in female desirability, herself a symbol of white pride, power, and beauty. Consequently, when Lilian Gish, the frailest, purest of all screen heroines, was attacked by the character Lynch – when he put his big black arms around this pale blond beauty- audiences literally panicked. Here was the classic battle of good and evil, innocence and corruption` (14)

Constructing Blackness

from colonization onward: Black and the Indigenous people framed as

> impervious to ethics, representing not only the absence of values but also the negation of values ... the enemy of values ... absolute evil. A corrosive element, destroying everything within his reach, a corrupting element, distorting everything which involves aesthetics and morals, an agent of malevolent powers, an unconscious and incurable instrument of blind forces
>
> (Fanon, *The Wretched* 6)

reading tip: Frank Wilderson´s *Red, White & Black. Cinema and the Structure of U.S. Antagonisms*

Black Men Framed: Emmett Till

Group Discussion: Amiri Baraka´s *Dutchman*

homework: read Davidson´s `Sometimes Funny, but Most Times Deadly Serious: Amiri Baraka as Political Satirist`