CALL FOR PAPERS

Gods of War
An area of multiple panels for the 2016 Film & History Conference: “Gods and Heretics”
October 26-30, 2016
The Hilton Milwaukee
Milwaukee, WI (USA)

DEADLINE for abstracts: June 1, 2016

The idea that the gods fight alongside terrestrial armies – that they intervene in battle, or imbue individual warriors (perhaps even entire armies) with heightened martial skills, or strategic wisdom – is older than Homer. Napoleon acerbically noted God’s seeming preference for fighting on “the side of the big battalions, and Bob Dylan sang that “If God’s on our side/He’ll stop the next war,” but the belief persists, undimmed, on the fluid, multiplying battlefields of the 21st century.

This area invites papers that explore the diverse ways in which the complex intersections of the martial and the divine have been played out in moving-image media. Proposals may deal with works from any region or time period; from drama, documentary, propaganda, journalism or advertising; and from internet video as well as traditional film and television.

Possible themes and topics include, but are not limited to:

• Faith as war-film character trope (Gods and Generals, Saving Private Ryan)
• The “religious fanatic” as enemy Other (Khartoum, Black Hawk Down, Sole Survivor)
• The “gods of war” in human form (Patton, Gettysburg, Last of the Mohicans)
• Religious war as historical epic (The Last Valley)
• The Crusades on film (Richard the Lionhearted, The Crusades, Kingdom of Heaven)
• Battlefield angels (Raiders of the Lost Ark, A Guy Named Joe, Stairway to Heaven)
• Religious war as historical epic (Elizabeth, The Last Valley)
• Faith-based resistance to armed force (Gandhi, The Mission, Romero)

Proposals for complete panels (three related presentations) are also welcome, but they must include an abstract and contact information, including an e-mail address, for each presenter. For updates and registration information about the upcoming meeting, see the Film & History website (www.filmandhistory.org).

Please e-mail your 200-word proposal by June 1, 2016, to the area chair:

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