

Circuses without the Bread: The *Hunger Games* Films as an Allegory of the Alt-Right

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Abstract

This article argues that the *Hunger Games* films (2012–2015) give audio-visual narrative form to the rise of the alt-right in the early twenty-first-century United States. Examining film form as well as plot and dialogue, it shows how the film series represents a level of poverty not seen in the United States since the Great Depression yet offers viewers a spectacle of revolt in the place of class warfare. When Katniss Everdeen, the series' protagonist, foments a rebellion against the Capitol, she refracts the cultural right's assault on the so-called "liberal establishment". In sum, Katniss is an alt-right heroine, leading a revolt that prefigures the storming of the US Capitol on January 6, 2021, and fostering an ideology of reactionary right-wing politics.