ABSTRACT

RESEARCH PAPER: Paradise, Terror and Human Rights: Shifting Cinematization of Kashmir in Hindi Cinema

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This paper researches Kashmiri representation in Hindi cinema and explores the complex trajectory of the pre-1990s and the post-1990s films. The pre-1990s era in the cinema presents a glorified Kashmir with immense paradisiac beauty while the post-1990s sees it as a nightmarish paradise lost. Although, both these eras in the cinema oversimplify the paradisiac or otherwise nightmarish reputations of the Kashmir valley, it recognizes the complex political and psychological rhetoric underneath it. It is pertinent to understand these trends in cinema in order to identify that they are woven around deeper and complex political rhetoric. However, it also identifies a recent change in trends and attitudes in a move away from over-simplistic representations of Kashmir. It predicts the arrival of a new cinematic trend that will capture Kashmir in a more nuanced light emanating from local Kashmiri voices and other artistic expressions.