

The Mediating Role of Cinema in Representation of Hard Power Case Study: The movie "Zero Dark Thirty"

Younes Rashidi¹ Ghazaleh Saei^{2*} Mohammad Reza Faraji³ Leila Hosseininha⁴

¹ Ph.D. Candidate in Political Geography, Tarbiat Modares University, Tehran, Iran

² MA Graduate Student in Political Geography Faculty of Literature and Humanities, Islamic Azad University, Central Tehran Branch, Tehran, Iran

³ MA Graduate Student in Political Geography, Tarbiat Modares University, Tehran, Iran

⁴ MA Graduate Student in Political Geography Faculty of Literature and Humanities, Islamic Azad University, Central Tehran Branch, Tehran, Iran

*E-mail of the corresponding author: gazellesaei1@yahoo.com

Abstract

In recent decades, critical geopolitics has worked to achieve a proper understanding of the conditions prevailing in the world by common discourse analysis along with power relations. One of the areas taken into consideration seriously by the critical geopolitical is the media. Media, due to its function in issues related to soft power and common discourse in geopolitics and soft power has the ability to influence the prevailing trends in public opinion through influencing on audiences and conveying information.

Various media are widely used to enhance the influence and expansion of soft power and also strengthening the function of hard power by the states and especially the world major powers like the United States of America. One of the Media that has been utilized seriously to present an acceptable and also influential picture of states is cinema. In critical geopolitical perspective, capabilities that cinema provides to represent different real and imaginative narratives and also its entertaining and attractive nature for people lead to represent different functions than news media represent of themselves.

One of the functions is to use cinema to represent the hard power in order to convince citizens and to convey the message of threats to enemies. As in 2012, in movie "Zero Dark Thirty" the hard power of the United States in the fight against terrorism was represented. This study intends to use the discourse analysis of the film "Zero Dark Thirty" in responding to this question what the mediating functions of cinema are in representation of hard power.

Keywords: Media, cinema, representation, hard power, soft power

1. Introduction

Countries throughout the history utilized various tools and methods to expand their influence and power level. Levels and scope of application of tools and deployment of methods in different times, various situations and groups that are going to affect it are different.

What its importance has not forgotten is the hard power scope of function to consolidate power and gain an advantage over geopolitical competitors. Nevertheless the functions of "soft power" should not be ignored in influencing public opinion, because it would be able to reduce the financial, human, operational cost and ... of countries to develop national strength significantly.

Due to its entertaining functions, and relative willingness the citizens of the various countries have toward it, in this scope, media and among media cinema has the potential to influence public opinion in different geographical scale and in terms of time short term and long term.

In the development of soft power, the increase in influence on citizens who live in geographical areas having the geopolitical importance is one of the main targets. Due to the fact that cinema largely represents the geographical areas and historical events affecting the geographical environment, it is necessary to examine the series of functions of cinema arguable in the scope of the concept of soft power. Within the framework, widespread studies have been done by different researchers so far to explain the method of functioning of cinema in increasing the soft power and influencing citizens, however, one of the issues that received less attention is clarifying the medium role of Cinema as a means to 'represent the hard power' with the enemy. This research seeks to review the movie "Zero Dark Thirty" (2012) and its simultaneous and paradoxical function in 'soft power' and 'representation of hard power' using the critical geopolitics analysis.

2. Research Questions

2.1 Main Question

- Why using soft power of media is done to represent hard power?

2.2 Secondary Question

- In the movie "Zero Dark Thirty," what aspects of "hard power" are represented?
- Using cinema to represent hard power in the movie "Zero Dark Thirty" influences which groups?

3. Research Methodology

In this study, we will rely on library method to collect data used in this research. With respect to the nature of subject of the study, it will be attempted to analyze data and research findings using analytical - descriptive

research methods and with the help of common methodology in critical geopolitical school. In this framework, using 'discourse analysis' to review and criticize the movie "Zero Dark Thirty" will provide the context to study the role of soft power tools in strengthening hard power in critical geopolitical perspective.

4. Theoretical Foundations of Research

Different opinions were expressed about the power and its meaning. Some defines it as the ability of actor to deter or force an actor in positive and negative aspects and in this case the power as the ability of acting can be based on three sources: 1. Objectivity based on the external facts that are hard power, 2. Power based on subjectivity that creates kind of credibility, proceeding based on a kind of credibility and beliefs refer to as soft power, 2. Certified power that is based on the true objectivity for a false thing. (Eftekhari, 2006: 9). Alvin Toffler (1375:27) generally defines the power as: The Power in its most striking form is the use of violence, wealth and knowledge for getting people to do something special. In other words, the power is classified in both hard power and soft power areas. Functions of hard power throughout the history has shown itself for times and most clearly in the twentieth century so that it can be said that hard power for far a long time was the premier tool for achieving the goals. Nevertheless, in recent decades, soft power has also exhibited the important functions and effects that it can sought and gradually attracted serious consideration of political officials, experts and political thinkers to itself.

In the past two decades, the concept of soft power and its functions in increase of national power and pursuing objectives that help to provide national interests has converted into a fruitful, challenging and critical discussion in the literature of world scientific community, as political agents and media professionals of countries are trying to use the tools that are available to utilize "soft power" to stabilize hard power, and provide national interest and expand national security and to gain superiority over competitors and influence over others. For Joseph Nye, power means ability to influence the behavior of others to obtain the desired result. There are various methods here to access: you can force them by threatening, you can entice them with money, or you can encourage them to achieve their needs or make them to cooperate. This soft power – encouraging others to ask for what you want – obliges people to cooperate instead of being forced. (Nye, 1990)

Soft power as a whole can be defined as: the ability to obtain what is considered by attracting rather than coercion or enticement. This would be due to the attractiveness of a country's culture, political ideals and policy. When our policy will be legitimized in the views of others, our soft power will be enhanced. (Nye, 2005: x) In this context it is necessary that the minimum facilities and tools exist that are critical in achieving soft power and strengthening its functions in relation to hard power and topics that are vital in ensuring the security of a country. As it can be said, this will bring us an influence beyond the hard edge of traditional political power balance. (Clark, 2003:182)

One area that is effective in achieving soft power and is highly regarded with academic experts and political officials is the media. Medias are in category of tools that have a high importance in increasing soft power and influencing citizens. A definition is presented for media as follows: 1. as mediating, 2. Communication tools such as radio, television, newspapers, magazines and so on that make the access or wide impact on public possible. (Dictionary. reference, 2014) The importance of media's role and impact on political competitions and geopolitical conflicts is to the extent that all competitors are trying to use and exploit it according to the technical and financial possibilities and infrastructures that have possessed. So that it can be said that in the arena of competitions and conflicts at various sub-national, national, regional and global levels, media have become a decisive factor.

Contemporary wars are defined with extensive involvement of citizens, either as spectators, victims or participants. (Carruthers, 2005:5) They do not understand the conflict directly and due to the news of media they convert into as a part of it. Information and images of human suffering goes around the world and almost spreads to all. (Balabanova, 2007:2) Perhaps most people of the world don't have a direct experience of confronting with the war, regional conflicts and terrorist attacks in their lifetime, but the scope of the effects of these events globally is so that it can be said that few people does not believe it that the various events although may not be related directly to the person, group or country, but are able to affect their lives. This level of global effectiveness on the human society can be the result of political and geopolitical effects, economic events and also media coverage of events that will enable citizens to be aware of their surroundings.

Media have such function and importance that while covering the political processes, can provide natural course of events and their consequences expected to be changed. So that the media war of guerrillas of Zapatistas in the early 1990s, during which supporters and fans of Zapatista using mediating function of internet and cyberspace lead to the fact that the focus of public opinion in political community and in the world to understand what is going on in Mexico, the issue that have been finally continued by formation of the cease-fire and negotiations of Mexican central government and the Zapatista movement.

Much earlier than the supporters of the guerrillas of Zapatistas to use media functionality in soft conflict with the central government of Mexico, in the twentieth during the World War I and II other parties were trying to use

the media as a tool to show their hard power. During World War I media such as radio and newspapers behind the front lines were continuously utilized to show the hard power and strengthening it, what had become more serious in World War II with the arrival of academic experts in the field of media advertising. During the rule of Nazi regime and during World War II, Dr. Joseph Goebbels in Germany managed the Media of Germany professionally, so that he tried professionally to use cinema along with the radio, television and print publications as one of the factors affecting the soft power and consolidating hard power. In contrast, countries such as the United States of America, Britain, Russia, etc. utilized all kinds of media to advertise among their citizens, supporters and for influencing their competitors.

Besides the countries and the government, political and social groups, ethnic minorities and even terrorist groups also attempt to use media for advertising and influencing public opinion largely. What is the most importance meanwhile and is necessary to be considered seriously is the effort of terrorist groups for providing a media show of its power. The event September 11, 2001 is considered as turning point in the world of politics in many ways. This event showed that the Terrorist group may use any tool available as a weapon against national security of states, international security and citizens and to bring major threats against the security of nations. This feeling of fear of the activity of terroristic group is deepened in the shade of the presence of media and news coverage for global citizens in the past two decades. As in the September 11 attacks have done on the United States security and economic centers were largely covered through media and millions - of citizens of the United States of America, and soon billions of people around the world affected by the incident taken place before the camera of TV channels and reporters, so that it seems that there apparently a media show was going on but in a large and global scale.

The sweeping show of the terrorist attacks in the media represented the strength of Terrorist groups such as Al Qaeda for targeting economic, security and social infrastructures as well as citizens and at the global scale, especially in developed countries created a fear about the amount of power of terrorists groups to attack civilians facilities and citizens and it was underlying the drastic clash of different states with terrorism and the terrorism suspects globally.

Quick and wide response took place to these events globally and was associated with massive military operation of USA against Iraq and Afghanistan along with the series of operations took place worldwide to prosecute terrorism suspects, is known today as the "War on Terror". The war on terror while dictating current geopolitical imagination and security considerations associated with [it] creates a situation where the Pain, 2009 has called it Globalized Fear. (Sharp, 2011:297)

The concept of Globalized fear refers to the point that today, citizens are not living with psychological security and relieved, they times and ever witnessed terrorist attacks through the media that has threatened the security in many cities around the world, and for most of civilians. Nowadays, Media in many cases does the same thing which is considered by the Terrorist Group; conveying the sense of insecurity and lack of security among citizens, where rebuilding the sense of security in which is expensive and time consuming for the states.

Security makes sense versus insecurity and breaches of security would be always seriously considered by government. To reduce the countries safety rate and increase the sense of insecurity among the people, Terroristic Groups in most times attack places where are accessible geographically, and can be used continuously or are of utmost importance in terms of the economic, politics, culture and security. In this process, media that consider the maximum, rapid and extensive coverage as part of their goals are forced to broadcast events that will eventually spread the feeling of insecurity in the geographic areas and societies.

Soft power is more a descriptive than a normative concept. (Nye, 2011:81) States are working to provide the high level of propensity and public satisfaction in and out of country to themselves by proper use of the economic, social, cultural and security factors and also political functions and to enhance their soft power. In contrast, Terrorist groups do not want that to increase their desirability in a country where they attempted terrorist attack, to them the soft power is limited to increase in the influence and receiving public support among allies and supporters, while trying to start shows of fear and terror underlying the increase insecurity in the society.

The primary meaning of security as a present situation is the state of immunity against danger or freedom from sadness, anxiety or fear. (Anderson, 2010:228) When the citizens of a country are familiar with the concept of insecurity and lack of sense of security, the approaches necessary to be considered to reduce the negative effects of the subject in geographical spaces and society include a various spectrum. One of these approaches is the government's attempts to identify and eliminate the sources of creating a sense of insecurity in society and geographical spaces. One of these approaches is widespread use of hard power for groups, individuals, organizations or countries that are considered as a source of threat to national security and spreading the sense of insecurity in the country. In the process the approaches are managed in a way that the resources of threat and their supporters consider continuing conflicts and disputes costly and reduce the amount of conflict and making threats.

In this context, the states and groups close to them utilize media not only to increase soft power and influencing citizens and their geopolitical rivals, but also they try by receiving help from the ability media offers, to show the action of fight and struggle difficult, expensive or even impossible for their opponents and enemies. Nevertheless, the government and formal institutions that work to fight terroristic activities encountered restrictions to show their ability, methods and results of the conflicts to terrorists, because the public opinion and the political security critics are sensitive against being famous on media the approaches that are used by the security forces. This is while terrorist groups act freely in showing the hard power and by the terroristic operations which more targets the symbols, infrastructures; public spaces and citizens display their hard power. Targeting economic infrastructures, public geographical spaces and citizens by terrorist groups in most cases associated the extensive media coverage and consequently the formation and spreading the sense of panic and fear in the community, a matter which is of high utility for the planners and perpetrators of the terrorist attacks.

5. Research Findings

In 2001 the terrorist group of al-Qaeda by attacking the World Trade Center, the Pentagon and the failed attempt to attack Washington's political center before the news camera of various television channels was succeeded by using strike on some of the important symbols of the United States of America displays a media picture for themselves worldwide. These attacks had two short-term outcomes for the terrorist group of al Qaeda: 1. Showing the hard power of the group to attack national interests of Western countries, 2. Achievement to levels (albeit elementary) of influence and support among Al Qaeda supporters.

In the security aspect, the attacks proved that despite the military and security power that global powers possess it; their economic and social infrastructures are yet vulnerable to terrorist attacks. So that after the September 11 attack, a number of important terrorist attacks was taken place on economic infrastructure of Western countries among which Madrid bombings in 2004 that had more than 190 killed and 1500 wounded and also in the attack on the train system as well as the buses in London, led to 700 wounded and 56 killed is of great importance. The series of terrorist attacks carried out by Al Qaeda in last 13 years had two important features: 1. Trying to attack economic infrastructure and civilians, 2. Choosing public spaces as the target of terroristic attacks. In the explanation of these characteristics it can be stated that terrorist groups in recent years by showing their violence against media to threat target countries, have attempted to create terror among citizens as well as displaying their power to their fundamentalist supporters.

In contrast, however, compared to the 1990s, the level of operational and legal authority for the terrorist groups in Western countries and the United States of America has increased, but the legal structures and culture-social norms ruling over these countries don't allow them to publicly display the quality and quantity of the hard hitting of military and intelligence institutions of West with terrorist groups. In the process, the task of media displaying to provide the representation of type, quality and quantity of the combat with terrorist groups is on Cinema to fight with media display of terrorist group of Al Qaeda with the help of its application in the process of soft power.

After September 11 in most of cinema works and even TV series it is extensively tried to represent terrorism in the geographical spaces, various aspects of terrorism, the process of birth of terrorism, consequences and ways to deal with it within the display media for audiences. Movies such as World Trade Center (2006), Green Zone (2010), United 93 (2006), Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close (2011) attempted to portray the incident of September 11 and its consequences using a critical style and from some point of view which well welcomed by audiences and political and cinema critics.

In 2011 after 10 years, Osama bin Laden was killed by Special Forces of United States of America (Scheuer, 2011th). Quickly within just two years a movie entitled "Thirty Dark Zero" was made directed by Kathryn Bigelow about the process of discovering the whereabouts of bin Laden and his murder in America by America's military and intelligence forces. The film "Thirty Dark Zero" in 2012 was produced with a budget of \$ 40 million (boxofficemojo.com, 2012).

The core of the movie by Kathryn Bigelow simply claims that torture helped the United States to achieve the terrorist attacks of September 11. The story is about a young officer of CIA named Maya (Jessica Chastain) who believes that the information of a prisoner named Amar will lead them to bin Laden. Following weeks and perhaps months of torture Ammar reveals important information that underlies the access to other information, and finally Osama bin Laden. (Greenberg, 2013)

This movie is of paramount importance in several ways, first, in a very short interval of the operation, the murder of bin Laden was made and was screened at the global level, second, it claimed that much of the film's narratives about the long search for bin Laden is valid based on the information and documents that the producers, writer and film director have achieved it and third and finally, reckless show of violence and torture of America intelligence forces and movie explicit defense of the torture of prisoners by U.S. forces.

If it has already been tried by other cinematic products of America that with displaying hard power, critical discourse to America's global policy and strengthening and representing soft power of America, in contrast, we observe that the film "Thirty Dark Zero" covers an inverted or reverse process in the presentation and representation of hard and soft power of the United States of America; so that it can be argued that this effect is a cinematic reconstructed response to real display of the terrorist group of Al Qaeda in the geographic areas and before the citizens and the media's eyes.

After the terrorist attacks of September 11, during which nearly 3000 Americans were killed, events take place nationally and internationally drew the attention of public opinion in a different way in the United States of America and the world. From the sense of international cooperation to overthrow the Taliban regime to the rise of conflict between the world major powers on the adoption of resolution in UN Security Council to invade Iraq in 2003. However, it seems that for the Americans the murder of Osama Bin Laden by U.S. Special Forces, as the main foreign enemy that has after getting attacked by Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941 by Japanese forces to America and its national interest is of particular importance. This event has a special place in the political thought of America. No one can tell who is upset or has it been questioned, and arousing the sudden wrath doesn't follow the anger and sadness. The news of his death accompanied a wave of song, prayer and joy along the streets, so that it was continued until two years later in the Democratic National Convention (Greenwald, 2012). As the author of online magazine of Wired in defense of the film "Zero Dark Thirty" writes: I am proud to be an American, I'm very, very proud (Ackerman, 2012).

In 2001 a film titled "Pearl Harbor" was made about the Japanese forces attacked to this major port, and efforts were made to represent the role of this historical event in of the America's entry into World War II by providing a quasi-narrative. In the film Pearl Harbor (2001) by showing the normal flow of life in the United States of America in the Pacific Ocean to narrate the process of making the sense of patriotism among the people of America. Whereas in the movie "Zero Dark Thirty" in the opening scene that with the audio playback of the victims of the terrorist attacks of September 11 in a black background explained the feelings of passengers of the airplane, that the country and people of America became victims. What was answered at the first cinematic sequence of the film, showing the scenes of torture one of the al-Qaeda elements in an unknown place.

The film contains violent scenes of torture of terrorism suspect by the artificial feeling of drowning and other forms of torture by CIA agents; the suspect that eventually offering the information needed for easy access to bin Laden. Kathryn Bigelow has stated that all of what this film displayed is based on first-hand information. [Whilst] According to some official sources, including the Senate Intelligence Committee head, Dianne Feinstein, the identity of the messenger (the agent message exchange) of bin Laden which was hiding in Pakistan, was not undiscovered by creating an artificial feeling of overwhelmed drowning (Sullivan, 2012).

In contrast, the details of ten years operation of the Central Intelligence Agency of America for capturing Bin Laden that displayed in the "Zero Dark Thirty", suggests that a wide range of information have been released of classification for the purpose of making this film. Although there is possibility for reality of these information, which is comprised of several prisoners being tortured. Because of the pictures and documents that published about the torture of detainees in Iraq, Afghanistan, Guantanamo and other America's secret prisons, which is suggests that torture by intelligence agencies is a normal and privileged routine for collecting information in the intelligence agencies. The film did not feel any need for justifying the reasons for founding and killing Bin Laden, directly or through cinematic narrations, and in this process, after representation of the final word of the victims of the September 11 attacks; directly continued with Osama bin Laden tracking process. It is trying to rely on the experience of movie audiences, who are witnessed the 2001 September 11 events and the death of many civilians for justifying the narrated story of termination of bin Laden's life. Excessive reliance of the film on moral acceptance of bin Laden's death by the public, according to the producers and director of the film, it was a justified permission for screenplay of violence and torture for finding the main accused evil of the September 11 explosion. So that, many political critics and media experts believed that this film trying to justify the violence and torture for main objective of justification and acknowledgement of Central Intelligence Agency performance during recent years. As Emily Bazelon explicitly confessed the role of the media performance of the film in the process of justification and morality and ethical representation of the methods used for achieving the goal, and expressed her internal feeling about representation of America's intelligence agency performance as: I felt a tremor (chill of fear) in the interrogation scene, but I did not reject it ethically and morally, because though only temporarily, the film successfully accommodated me with this view of CIA agents in the mission: this is a legal way to gather critical information for the benefit of the United States (Bazelon, 2012).

There are two groups of criticisms from the United States of America government institutions as well as political critics to the film that show scenes of torture and violence against prisoners in the film. On the one hand, some of America's intelligence agency officials and legislative bodies in this country emphasized that the story provided in this film about the way to discover the whereabouts of bin Laden is incorrect and also current policies in America's intelligence agencies are against torture of prisoners. On the other hand, critics point out that, according to the documents and information that has already been published, confirm that tortures like feeling of

drowning was frequently used against prisoners; and this movie is trying to use media tools and a wide range of audiences to justify torture and inhumane treatment of prisoners and detainees by America's intelligence agencies. In a reaction to critics, Kathryn Bigelow, the director of film disclose in her interview with the New York Times that this movie is a combination of reality and imagination, an some part of it is documented (Bigelow, 2012). But none of the film making company managers or directors talks about this point that, the film put its outmost efforts in the ethical justification of the using torture for prisoners and detainees, which critics are against it.

The quasi-narrative provided for audience of the operation of identification and killing of Bin Laden, only cover a particular aspects of the America's intelligence agency operations regarding methods of access to data and information about the whereabouts of Bin Laden; operations that ultimately provided the opportunity for the people of America to witness the death and penalty of one of the enemies of their country and people. So that, it can be said that the cultural performance of cinema in this film has been employed to provide a pseudo-moral image of the United States of America's security agencies. However, the film never mentioned the moral consequences of torture against a large number of prisoners, or America's intelligence agency failed operations against terrorists, or victims in Iraq, Libya, United States of America, and so on whom have been tortured by America 's intelligence agency. It looks like a hoax to cover up the crime with shade of innocence (Wolf, 2013).

6. Analysis

In the "Zero Dark Thirty", an attempt has been made to explain that although American enemies and those who commit acts of terrorism could stay away from the hands of the country, but the processes and structures governing the security and intelligence agencies have the power to achieve their goals in fighting terrorism. In this art work, director and film producers tried to show different ways of achieving the underlying data which threatens the terrorist groups and their supporters in the way of acting against the country of America; because as it shown in the film, the will be identified by the American military and intelligence personnel, and a hard and unpleasant fate will await them, groups like Al Qaeda whom shown in this movie of torture. As it can be said that this film represent aspects of hard power that discovery and destruction of the enemy has put on its agenda.

"Zero Dark Thirty" attempts to use the scope of influence of the film to engage with two groups of audience at the same time: First, people of America and those who perceived themselves as the victims of terrorism, and waiting many years after September 11 events for the punishments of the agents. Second, members of terrorist groups and their supporters. For the first group, it can be said that according to ethical acceptance of America residents and partially world about Al Qaeda leader's punishment, this film producers with ease of mind display high levels of violence and torture in the form of a film without the effects it may have on the people following the story of the search process and killing Osama bin Laden. Such that even they didn't consider the criticisms against torture and the Senate Intelligence Committee denial as well as the institutions of America and denied any serious reaction in the preparation of the film by director. Based on the film representation of the Al Qaeda supporters' reaction and their cinematic representation of the matter, they try to show the necessity of fighting against terrorism and reaching an ethical result on the society level for using unethical and immoral methods of receiving information. On the other word, the film is some kind of notice for the terrorists group that don't await anything than using violence and tortures against civilians; the kind, quality and quantity of the interaction of the security and information agencies against them will be in the ethical framework.

7. Conclusion

Media is always capable to be employed as a tool to strengthen the power and expand the influence level of culture, politics or country beyond national borders and global geography. This provides the opportunity to use media in different situations compensating weaknesses and deficits in application of hard power. However, media is confronted with constraints such as ethical principles, legal requirements, etc. in meeting government views on representing hard power.

News and analytic media need valid and verified information and documents to a large extent to prepare and deliver their reports and if it reveals behaviors which are ethically or humanistic criticized by public opinion and critics in the process of preparing and issuing news, or even if it supports such kinds of behaviors, it is confronted with negative reaction from audience, critics and opponents. While in order to represent their influence level and capabilities in damaging national interests of countries, economic infrastructures, geographical areas and threatening citizens, terrorist groups have long been representing their deeds and acts against media monitoring, as media puts covering important terroristic events in its agenda for different reasons such as credit, audience retention, professional principles, media interests, etc. This is an opportunity for terrorist groups to perform their operations in the form of real media representations as was in events in 2001 in America and 2004 and 2005 in Spain and England. This process has challenged national security and efficiency of security entities, police, etc. in many countries through terrorist acts. In contrast, information and security

entities are confronted with constraints due to security considerations in introducing types of methods, tools and measures employed to fight terrorism and also due to avoiding a critical atmosphere in media and public opinion. Movie due to its compositional nature inspired by reality and imagination at the same time provides the opportunity for security entities to interact against activities of terrorist groups and media shows that they initiate. Accordingly, making and showing the movie “Zero Dark Thirty” can be interpreted in this framework. Through narrating long term operation of American forces for discovering concealing place of Osama bin Laden and his murder, this movie shows the various methods of collecting information and hostile behavior and torture against terrorists.

Vast range of representations in this movie communicates a message from USA information and security entities to two audience groups: The first, civilians who are subject to threat by terrorist groups; the second, terrorist groups and their supporters. That is, government and security entities do any necessary act protecting country’s national interests and citizens and employ any necessary method, even tortures illegal by American law, to reach the result accepted by America national interests and public opinion. At the same time the message is communicated to terrorist groups, terrorist supporters and American government’ opponents that USA information and security entities do not consider any legal and ethical constraint to fight terrorists and do any act necessary to identify terrorists and fight them.

As voices of victims in September 11 attack are broadcasted at the beginning of the movie in a dark background referring to media representation and fear resulted from Al-Qaeda attacks, the whole movie is a response to horrors made by Al-Qaeda in America and Europe after September 11. This movie in soft power tools context is a media representation of hard power, requirements, facilities and needs of American government and points out that necessities determine the type of treatment regarding America’s enemies. In other words, this movie indicates that in exceptional cases one can use movies and media for representing hard power and threatening enemies as soft power is used for justification of politic, economic and cultural behaviors of governments.

References

- Ackerman, S. (2012). *Two Cheers for Zero Dark Thirty’s Torture Scenes*. In access at : <http://www.wired.com/dangerroom/2012/12/zero-dark-thirty/>
- Anderson , B. (2010). *Security and the future: Anticipating the event of terror*. Geoforum. (41). Pp 227–235
- Balabanova, E. (2007). *Media, Wars and Politics: Comparing the Incomparable in Western and Eastern Europe*. Ashgate Publishing. Hampshire
- Bazon, E. (2012). *Does Zero Dark Thirty Advocate Torture? How to understand the film’s controversial stand on waterboarding and the hunt for Bin Laden*. In Access at: http://www.slate.com/articles/arts/culturebox/2012/12/zero_dark_thirty_and_torture_does_kathryn_bigelow_s_bin_laden_movie_make.html.
- Bigelow, K. (2012). As Enigmatic as Her Picture, Kathryn Bigelow on ‘Zero Dark Thirty’. *Interview With New York Times, (Brooks Barnes)*. *New York Times, November 30*. In Access at: http://www.nytimes.com/2012/12/30/movies/awardsseason/kathryn-bigelow-on-zero-dark-thirty.html?pagewanted=all&_r=1&.
- Carruthers, S. L. (2000), *The Media at War*. Palgrave. London.
- Clark, W. K. (2003). *Winning Modern Wars: Iraq, Terrorism, and the American Empire*. Public Affairs. New York.
- Eftekhari, A. (2006-2007). Soft Power and The Islamic Revolution. *Mobilization Studies Journal*. Tehran.
- Greenberg, K.J. (2013). *Learning to Love Torture, Zero Dark Thirty-Style*. Huffington Post, Posted: 01/10/2013. In Access at: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/karen-j-greenberg/torture-zero-dark-thirty_b_2448092.html?utm_hp_ref=politics.
- Greenwald, G. (2012). *Zero Dark Thirty: CIA hagiography, pernicious propaganda*. The Guardian, des 14. In access at: <http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2012/dec/14/zero-dark-thirty-cia-propaganda>
- Nye,Jr.,J. S.(1990). *Bound to Lead: The Changing Nature of American Power*. Basic Books. New York.
- Nye,Jr.,J. S.(2005). *Soft power: the means to success in world politics*. Perseus Books Group. New York.
- Nye,Jr.,J. S. (2011). *The Future of Power* . Public Affairs. New York
- Scheuer, Michael (February 7, 2008). "Yemen still close to al Qaeda's heart". *Asia Times*. Retrieved May 6, 2011.
- Sharp , J. (2011). *A subaltern critical geopolitics of the war on terror: Postcolonial security in Tanzania*. Geoforum. (42). Pp 297–305.
- Sullivan, A.(2012). *Kathryn Bigelow, Torture Apologist?*. In Access at : <http://dish.andrewsullivan.com/2012/12/10/kathryn-bigelow-torture-apologist/>
- Toffler, A. (1996-1997). *War and Anti War*. Translator: Kharazmi, Shahindokht. Simorgh Publishing. Tehran. First Edition.

Wolf, N. (2013). *A letter to Kathryn Bigelow on Zero Dark Thirty's apology for torture: By peddling the lie that CIA detentions led to Bin Laden's killing, you have become a Leni Riefenstahl-like propagandist of torture.* The Guardian, Jan 04. In Access at:
<http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2013/jan/04/letter-kathryn-bigelow-zero-dark-thirty>.
<http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/media>.
<http://boxofficemojo.com/movies/?id=binladen.htm>.

Films discussed in this article

Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close. (2011). Directed by: Stephen Daldry. Warner Bros Pictures.
Green Zone. (2010). Directed By: Paul Green Grass. Universal Pictures.
United 93. (2006). Directed By: Paul Green Grass. Universal Pictures.
WTC. (2006). Directed By: Oliver Stone. Paramount Pictures.
Pearl Harbor. (2001). Directed By: Michael Bay. Buena Vista Pictures.
Zero Dark Thirty (2012). Directed By: Kathryn Bigelow. Columbia Pictures and Paramount Pictures.

The IISTE is a pioneer in the Open-Access hosting service and academic event management. The aim of the firm is Accelerating Global Knowledge Sharing.

More information about the firm can be found on the homepage:
<http://www.iiste.org>

CALL FOR JOURNAL PAPERS

There are more than 30 peer-reviewed academic journals hosted under the hosting platform.

Prospective authors of journals can find the submission instruction on the following page: <http://www.iiste.org/journals/> All the journals articles are available online to the readers all over the world without financial, legal, or technical barriers other than those inseparable from gaining access to the internet itself. Paper version of the journals is also available upon request of readers and authors.

MORE RESOURCES

Book publication information: <http://www.iiste.org/book/>

IISTE Knowledge Sharing Partners

EBSCO, Index Copernicus, Ulrich's Periodicals Directory, JournalTOCS, PKP Open Archives Harvester, Bielefeld Academic Search Engine, Elektronische Zeitschriftenbibliothek EZB, Open J-Gate, OCLC WorldCat, Universe Digital Library, NewJour, Google Scholar

