

Reflection Assignment: “Hirak Rajar Deshe” — Politics, Power, and Resistance

Overview

In this reflection, you will analyze *Hirak Rajar Deshe* (The Kingdom of Diamonds), a 1980 Bengali political satire directed by Satyajit Ray.

The film explores themes of **authoritarian control, propaganda, education, and resistance**, offering a creative lens to examine how power operates under repressive regimes. Through this assignment, you’ll connect cinematic symbolism to real-world political patterns in South Asia and beyond.

Learning Objectives

By completing this reflection, you will:

1. Interpret political symbolism and allegory in film.
2. Critically evaluate authoritarianism and resistance through cultural representation.
3. Compare fictional depictions with real historical or contemporary cases.
4. Develop reflective writing skills linking art and political analysis.

Instructions

1. **Watch the Film:**
 - We will view *Hirak Rajar Deshe* in class (with English subtitles).
 - You may also rewatch it independently (YouTube [link](#))
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2. **Write a 2–3 page reflection (approximately 800–1,000 words)** addressing the following prompts:

A. Understanding the Allegory

- What political system does the film’s kingdom represent?
- How does the King maintain power over citizens, and what tools of control are used?
- What role do education, propaganda, and fear play in sustaining authoritarian rule?

B. Resistance and Justice

- Who resists the King’s control, and what methods do they use?
- How does the film portray moral courage, truth-telling, and collective action?
- What do these acts of defiance suggest about civic responsibility under authoritarianism?

C. Comparative Analysis

- Identify one **real-world political event or regime** (past or present) that parallels the film's depiction of control and resistance.
- Explain how the techniques of rule or resistance compare (e.g., censorship, surveillance, education, protest, or dissent).
- What lessons can we draw from both cases about democracy, repression, and the power of ideas?

3. Formatting & Submission

- Length: 2–3 pages, double-spaced, Times New Roman 12 pt, 1-inch margins.
- Include your name, course title, and date.
- Submit your reflection as a **PDF or Word document via Canvas** by the posted deadline.

Grading Rubric (20 points total)

Criteria	Excellent (A)	Good (B)	Satisfactory (C)	Needs Improvement (D/F)
Interpretation of Allegory (5 pts)	Demonstrates deep understanding of the film's symbolism and political message.	Identifies main themes with some analytical depth.	Basic summary with limited interpretation.	Misinterprets or overlooks key allegories.
Critical Comparison (5 pts)	Insightful, well-supported comparison to real political events or regimes; demonstrates global awareness.	Reasonable comparison with partial depth.	Superficial or descriptive comparison.	Lacks relevant or accurate real-world link.
Analytical Depth (5 pts)	Connects film analysis to theoretical ideas (e.g., authoritarianism, resistance, propaganda).	Makes some conceptual connections; minor gaps.	Mostly descriptive with little analytical insight.	No connection to political theories or class themes.
Organization & Clarity (3 pts)	Clear structure, coherent flow, excellent writing mechanics.	Mostly clear; minor grammar or structure issues.	Adequate but uneven organization.	Disorganized or unclear writing.
Creativity & Reflection (2 pts)	Original insights; demonstrates critical thinking and reflection on moral or civic dimensions.	Some originality or personal reflection.	Limited or surface-level reflection.	No evidence of critical reflection.

Submission Guidelines

- **Due Date:** One week after the in-class screening.
- **File Format:** PDF or DOCX uploaded to Canvas.
- **Late Policy:** 2-point deduction per day for up to 3 days; no submissions accepted beyond that period without prior approval.
- **Academic Integrity:** Use your own words. If referencing specific ideas from class readings, cite them briefly in-text (author, year). Plagiarism or AI-generated text without attribution will result in a zero and a report to the Dean of Students.