Geopolitics and Local Responses: A Comparison of Hong Kong's Filmmakers in the 1960s–1970s and the 2000s

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Abstract

Hong Kong movies are famous for their over-the-top productions that the public finds entertaining. They, however, were far more than just entertainment in the Cold War context during the 1960s and the 1970s but an important means for conveying political ideas to agitate their audiences for or against the Chinese Communist Party. This state of affairs has relented for two decades since the 1980s until 2003 when Hong Kong's filmmakers were allowed in the Chinese market through engaging in movie coproductions with the Mainland. This study compares the strategies adopted by Hong Kong's filmmakers during the 1960s and the 1970s to those in the recent decade with particular reference to the global/regional geopolitics as well as the historical backdrop of China, Hong Kong, and Taiwan that shaped the conditions under which Hong Kong's filmmakers responded to the challenges and opportunities they confronted at different times.