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Ideology vs Philosophy. The Interpretation of Greek and Latin Mythology in Soviet Animation

The object of my research is Soviet animation and cinema for children inspired by classical antiquity (first of all, mythology). One of the most interesting aspects of these movies is the usage of mythology (the ancient Greek mythology in this case) to create a new mythology (the mythology of the Soviet state). This ideological approach might be visible in varying degrees. There are some propaganda style movies that have typical features - an ideological, sometimes even political, message; the usage of symbols belonging to other cultures, of pathetic music or style of pictures. On the other hand, any movie for children is intended to indoctrinate, to implant some ideas - the main values inherent to a culture. In this sense we may understand every Soviet animation film as ideological, by paying attention to the measure in which the myth was changed in order to bring in these values. Analyzing different types of these movies in class, we may ask questions about history of culture, political situation, usage of myth in propaganda aims, as well as to answer some “eternal” questions, relevant for a contemporary audience. In this report, I would like to focus on such use of these animations in the classroom.



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