

Contents

List of Figures	ix
Acknowledgements	xi
Notes on the Text	xiv
Introduction	1
The Kafkaesque Beyond Kafka	1
What we Know: Literature on Kafka and the Kafkaesque in Film Studies	4
Kafkaesque Cinema and the Crisis of Liberalism in its <i>Longue Durée</i>	7
Part I: ‘Modernity’s Objective Spirit’	
1. Anxious Humour and Alienating Labour	23
Prelude: The Chaplinesque and the Kafkaesque	23
Alienating Labour: <i>Шинель</i> (<i>The Overcoat</i> , 1926) and <i>Modern Times</i> (1936)	27
Bullshit Jobs: <i>Il Posto</i> (<i>The Job</i> , 1961)	35
2. Bureaucracy	41
Prelude: Bureaucracy and Violence	41
Stalinist Depoliticisation: <i>Postava k podpírání</i> (Joseph Kilián, 1963)	44
Post-Revolutionary Contradictions: <i>La muerte de un burócrata</i> (<i>Death of a Bureaucrat</i> , 1966)	49

‘The New Class of Administrators’: <i>Mandabi</i> (<i>The Money Order</i> , 1968)	53
3. Social Alienation	59
Prelude: Modernism’s Reaction to Liberal Individualism	59
Post-War Repression: <i>Jonas</i> (1957)	63
Memories from the Repressed Past	67
Kōbō Abe: Between Literature and the Audiovisual Arts	69
他人の顔 (<i>The Face of Another</i> , 1966): Hiroshi Teshigahara’s Adaptation of Abe’s Homonymous Text	72
4. The Work of Art as Alienating Labour: <i>Barton Fink</i> (1991) and the End of Jewish Modernity	79
Jewish Modernity: Some Introductory Remarks	79
<i>Barton Fink</i> (1991): Clifford Odets and the Estranged Artist	82
‘Assimilation’?	88

Part II: Fascism and its Legacies

5. Fernando Arrabal and the Persistence of the Spanish Civil War	95
Prelude: The Spanish Civil War and the Crisis of Anti-Fascism	95
<i>Baal Babylone’s</i> (<i>Baal Babylon</i> , 1959) Visual Dramaturgy and its Transposition to Film: <i>Viva La Muerte</i> (<i>Long Live Death</i> , 1971)	98
Cruelty as Protest: <i>L’arbre de Guernica</i> (<i>The Tree of Guernica</i> , 1975)	104
6. Memories from the Holocaust in Central Europe	111
Prelude: Central/Eastern Europe and the Holocaust	111
Tragicomedy in <i>Obchod na korze</i> (<i>The Shop on Main Street</i> , 1965)	114
Some Notes on Bruno Schulz, the Polish Kafka	119
Theatre of Death: <i>Sanatorium pod klepsydrą</i> (<i>The Hourglass Sanatorium</i> , 1973)	121
7. Parables of Underdevelopment	129
Prelude: Kafkaesque Cinema and Enforced Underdevelopment	129
A City under Siege: <i>Invasión</i> (1969)	132
<i>Invasión’s</i> Afterlives	135
Neocolonial Conditions of Existence: Raúl Ruiz’s <i>La colonia penal</i> (<i>The Penal Colony</i> , 1970)	138

Part III: Stalinist Terror

8. Memories from the Rákosi Era	147
Prelude: The Minor and the Kafkaesque	147
Self-Renunciations: <i>Hannibál tanár úr</i> (<i>Professor Hannibal</i> , 1956)	150
Laughing at the Rákosi Era: <i>A tanú</i> (<i>The Witness</i> , 1969)	157
9. Politicising the Absurd	165
Prelude: Beyond the Existentialist Understanding of the Absurd	165
Late Modernist Language Scepticism: <i>O slavnosti a hostech</i> (<i>A Report on the Party and the Guests</i> , 1966)	169
Surveillance Anxieties: <i>Ucho</i> (<i>The Ear</i> , 1970)	176
10. Jewish Purges	183
Prelude: Jewish Purges in the Soviet Bloc	183
Kafkaesque Realism: Artur London's Testimony	186
Suspended Time: <i>L'aveu</i> (<i>The Confession</i> , 1970)	190
The Doctor's Plot: <i>Хрусталёв, машину!</i> (<i>Khrustalyov, My Car!</i> , 1998)	195

Part IV: Late Capitalist Contradictions

11. Behaviourist Surveillance	205
Prelude: Surveillance as a Feature of Modernity	205
The Prison Industrial Complex: <i>Ghosts ... of the Civil Dead</i> (1988)	207
Surveillance Capitalism: Some Key Definitions	214
Consumer Behaviourism: <i>Paranoia 1.0</i> (2004)	217
12. Post-Fascism	225
Prelude: Counter-Enlightenment in Contemporary Liberal Societies	225
The Curves of Time: <i>La Jetée</i> (1962)	228
Belated Style in Béla Tarr's <i>Werckmeister harmóniák</i> (<i>Werckmeister Harmonies</i> , 2000)	234
<i>Transit</i> (2018): Anna Seghers's Anti-Fascism Revisited	239
13. The Anthropocene Crisis	249
On the Anthropocene	249
The Multiple Temporalities of Colonial Modernity: <i>Die Parallelstraße</i> (<i>The Parallel Street</i> , 1962)	252

‘What if Spring did not Come?’ <i>La Cinquième Saison</i> (<i>The Fifth Season</i> , 2012)	260
Epilogue	269
Bibliography	275
Index	295