

REVIEWER'S REPORT

Manuscript No.: IJAR-51880

Date: 28-05-2025

Title: Contagion of Memory- In Retrospection of David Morrell's First Blood and Hollywood's Inception of Rambo

Recommendation:

Accept as it is.....**YES**.....
 Accept after minor revision.....
 Accept after major revision
 Do not accept (*Reasons below*)

Rating	Excel.	Good	Fair	Poor
Originality			√	
Techn. Quality			√	
Clarity		√		
Significance			√	

Reviewer's Name: Syed Mohammed

Reviewer's Decision about Paper: **Recommended for Publication.**

Comments (*Use additional pages, if required*)

Reviewer's Comment / Report

Abstract Review:

The abstract presents a thought-provoking and thematically rich overview of a research project that interrogates the intersection of memory, trauma, and cultural representation in the aftermath of war. The study anchors itself in David Morrell's *First Blood*, exploring the complex character of Rambo as a lens through which to examine broader socio-political and historical undercurrents. The abstract highlights how Rambo is emblematic of the post-Vietnam veteran experience—alienated, scarred, and subjected to institutionalized neglect and violence.

The juxtaposition of the individual against state apparatuses, as represented by Madison's sheriff, is effectively articulated. The themes of corporeality, authority, and the reconstruction of historical narratives through memory are compellingly introduced. The notion of memory as "redacted" adds an incisive dimension to the research, suggesting a critical engagement with selective remembrance and national amnesia.

Further, the critique of the Hollywood adaptation underscores the shift from a nuanced, trauma-centric narrative to one that arguably embraces and disseminates nationalist and militaristic ideologies. The exploration of "myriad endings" in adaptation points toward a sophisticated understanding of cultural production and reception within the context of American exceptionalism and cinematic myth-making.

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Keywords Review:

The selected keywords—*Memory, Culture Industry, Traumatized Body, Revisionist History, Hollywood*—are well-aligned with the abstract's thematic concerns and theoretical frameworks. They reflect the interdisciplinary nature of the study, integrating literary analysis, cultural studies, memory studies, and film criticism.

Overall Assessment:

This research abstract offers an intellectually rigorous and politically aware approach to analyzing *First Blood* and its cultural reconfigurations. It demonstrates an astute grasp of the intersections between narrative, memory, trauma, and ideological production, particularly in the post-war American context. The abstract signals a deep engagement with both textual and paratextual elements, situating the study within a critical discourse that challenges reductive representations and calls attention to the ethical dimensions of remembering and retelling history.