

Representing Middle-earth

Tolkien, Form, and Ideology

ROBERT T. TALLY JR.



McFarland & Company, Inc., Publishers
Jefferson, North Carolina

Table of Contents

Preface and Acknowledgments	1
Introduction: The Perilous Realm in an Era of Multinational Capitalism	11
<i>Strange Bedfellows: Tolkien and Marxist Literary Criticism</i>	13
<i>Towards a Literary Cartography of Middle-earth</i>	17
<i>On the Shadowy Marches of Faërie</i>	19
1. “Almost it seemed that the words took shape”: Narrative, History, and the Desire Called Marx	23
<i>“The theatre of my tale is this earth”</i>	25
<i>In the Hall of Fire</i>	29
<i>“Endless untold stories”</i>	35
2. Formulae of Power: Generic Discontinuities in the Saga of the Jewels and the Rings	40
<i>Harmonizing Heterogeneous Narrative Paradigms</i>	41
<i>Modern Epics</i>	45
<i>“The starry sky is a map of all possible paths”</i>	47
<i>The Red Book of Westmarch</i>	52
<i>“A more or less mediocre, average English gentleman”</i>	55
<i>The Cauldron of Story</i>	60
3. Three Rings for the Elven Kings: Trilogizing Tolkien in Print and Film	64
<i>“There is no real division into 3”: Defining Trilogy</i>	65
<i>“The rhythm or ordering of the narrative”:</i>	
<i>Trilogizing The Lord of the Rings</i>	70
<i>“Too much hobbitry”: The Hobbit as a Film Trilogy</i>	74
<i>An Artificially Ordered World</i>	77

4. The Geopolitical Aesthetic of Middle-earth: Space, Cinema, and the World System in <i>The Lord of the Rings</i>	79
<i>"I wisely started with a map"</i>	82
<i>The Eye of Sauron</i>	85
<i>The Conspiracy of the Ring</i>	90
<i>Geopolitical Fantasy</i>	95
5. The Politics of Character: The Dark Lord, the Witch-Queen, and the White Wizard	98
<i>Sauron, Healer of Middle-earth</i>	99
<i>Galadriel, Witch-Queen of Lórien</i>	105
<i>Song of Saruman</i>	110
<i>"Satan fell": Ethics as False Consciousness</i>	116
6. Let Us Now Praise Famous Orcs: Simple Humanity in Middle-earth's Inhuman Creatures	118
<i>"Whence they came or what they were"</i>	119
<i>No More Big Bosses!</i>	123
<i>Human, All-Too-Human</i>	126
<i>Orcs' Untold Stories</i>	128
7. Demonizing the Enemy: Monstrosity, Ethics, and the Sense of the World Wars	131
<i>Manufacturing Monsters</i>	134
<i>Sympathy for the Devils</i>	138
<i>After the Wars</i>	141
8. "Places where the stars are strange": Fantasy, Utopia, and Critique	145
<i>Surveying the Great Schism</i>	146
<i>"The world as it appears under the sun"</i>	148
<i>Reflections on Magic</i>	151
<i>Beyond Good and Evil</i>	155
<i>The Fantastic Is Good to Think With</i>	161
Conclusion: "We should not neglect the red dragons"	163
Notes	167
Bibliography	183
Index	189