

One can say that Frank Capra is the most 'American' film director of all time, being the one who implemented the so-called Americana genre into cinema. Capra's one of the most notorious pictures *Mr. Smith Goes to Washington* (1939) seems to follow the mentioned Americana style, perfectly illustrating the moral challenges within the American legislative process. In the provided scenes, there's an emphasis on Congress as an institution vulnerable to corruption and tensions inside of it. The protagonist (played by James Stewart) embodies a patriotic sincerity, often being a last light alone against the pressures and manipulations of politicians who prioritize personal gain. By creating such a protagonist committed to democratic principles and giving him antagonized forces, which I would say are not any less 'Americana', Frank Capra underscores the significance and difficulty of maintaining integrity within Congress.

Despite not having watched the whole film, from what I could understand from the provided scenes and slight research the film tries to humanize Congress, in a sense that each congressman isn't just a seat or a number but a human, a lawmaker with ethical and emotional challenges and film addresses this by highlighting moments of vulnerability and determination. Thus, Frank Capra's picture emphasizes the demands of personal bravery within a congress and that only with ordinary people who find the strength to stand up will democracy thrive in a country.