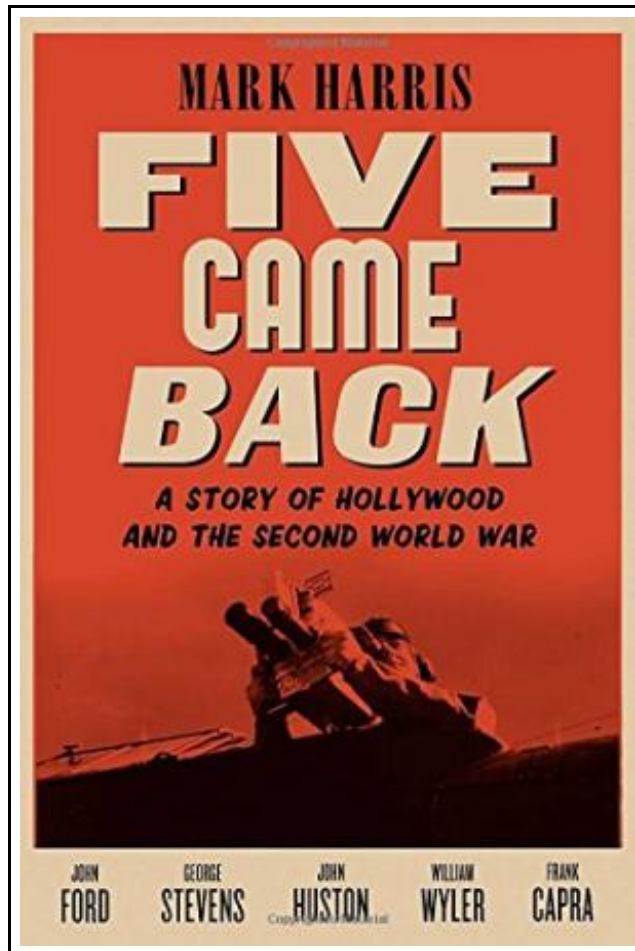


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FIVE CAME BACK: A STORY OF HOLLYWOOD AND THE SECOND WORLD WAR



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Penguin. 1 Cloth(s), 2014. hard. Book Condition: New. The author of the New York Times Notable Book Pictures at a Revolution here tells the story of how Hollywood changed World War II and how World War II changed Hollywood through the director's lens. In prewar America, Hollywood's relationship with Washington was decidedly tense; investigations into corruption and racketeering were multiplying, with insinuations that the business was too foreign, too "un-American" in its values and causes. When war came, the propaganda value of film was absolutely vital to winning the hearts and minds of American soldiers and civilians, but the government was not remotely equipped to harness it. President Roosevelt and the military had to turn to Hollywood for help, and the whole effort was farmed out to a handful of Hollywood's most acclaimed film directors: John Ford, William Wyler, John Huston, Frank Capra, and George Stevens. They were complicated, competitive men, gifted and flawed in equal measure, and between them they were on the scene of almost every major moment of America's war, from Midway to North Africa, from Normandy to the liberation of the Nazi death camps. In the end, though none of them emerged unscarred, they produced a body of work that was essential to how Americans perceived the war and still do. "A tough-minded, information-packed and irresistibly readable work of movie-minded cultural criticism. Like the best World War II films, it highlights marquee names in a familiar plot to explore some serious issues: the human cost of military service, the hypnotic power of cinema and the tension between artistic integrity and the exigencies of war." *NYTimes* "It's hardly news that the movies affect and are affected by the broader canvas of popular culture and world history, but [Mark] Harris perhaps more successfully than any other writer, past or present manages to find in that symbiotic...



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