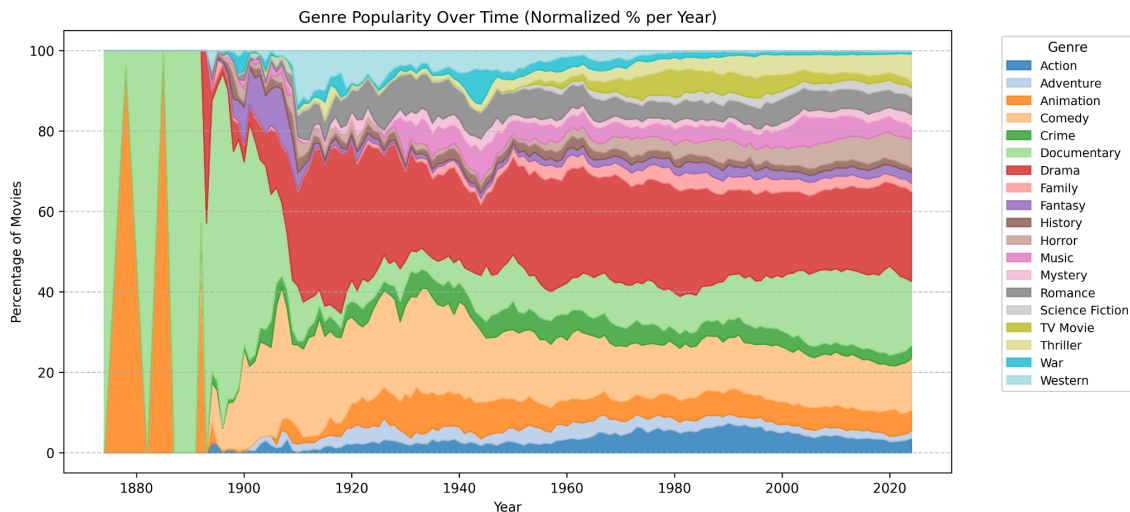


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## The Evolution of Most-Produced Movie Genres

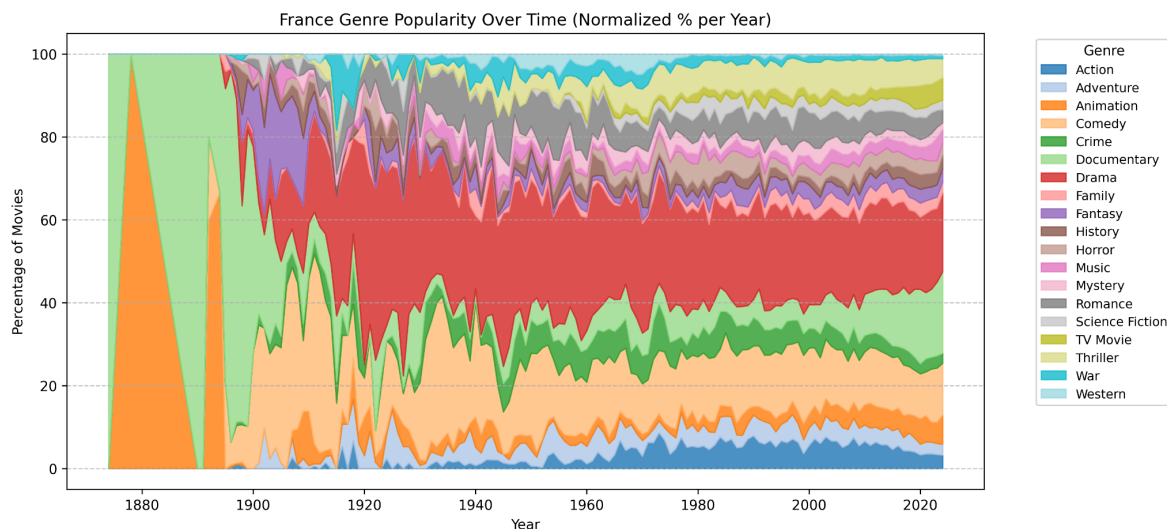
### Introduction:

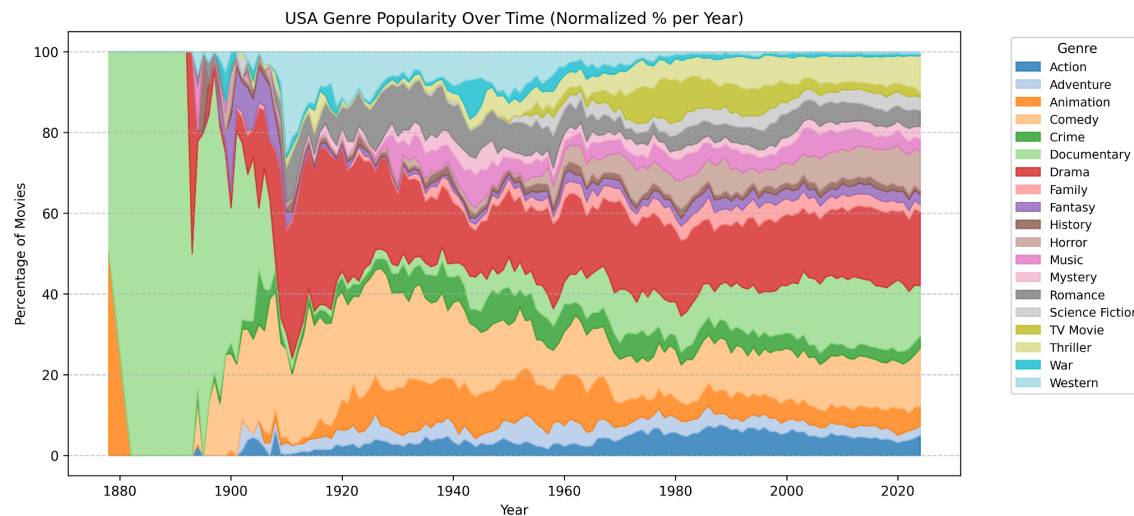
Movies serve as a reflection of cultural values, societal norms, and historical influences, with the dominant types of films evolving over time. I hypothesized that dominant movie genres shift over time in response to cultural, political, and technological changes.



### Analysis:

To first explore this, I began by plotting genre popularity over time. I noticed clear trends linked to historical innovations in cinema. Before 1891, only animation and documentary (simple recordings of real-world events) films existed due to technological limitations. The invention of the Kinetograph in 1891 and later film projectors enabled narrative storytelling, leading to the rise of Drama, Comedy, and Westerns in the early 1900s. Another innovation that was noticeable was the advancements in special effects and increasing public fascination with technology in the 1950's with the emergence of the science fiction genre. While I was able to see clear trends from technological advances, I wasn't able to see any clear trends due to worldwide historical events like the two world wars.





In order to further explore trends in genre popularity, I analyzed movies produced in the United States and France. I chose these countries because they had the top two most produced movies in the dataset.

The first thing I noticed was that France did not have the same spike in Western films that the US did. In the US, Western films saw a rise in popularity from around 1910 to 1960. After researching, I found that a major influence on early Western films was Theodore Roosevelt who was president from 1901-1909. Roosevelt, a former rancher, was often portrayed as the embodiment of the frontier spirit and his public image reinforced the notion of the cowboy as a self-reliant hero, a theme that became central to many early Western films. The rise of Hollywood as the American film capital in the 1910s further enabled these stories to thrive, as Western films had low production costs and wide appeal. In contrast, France did not experience these cultural and societal influences in the same way. The country had no equivalent to the American frontier myth that drove Western film popularity in the US.

Another takeaway from comparing the two graphs that I found interesting was the Influence of World War I (1914 - 1918) on both countries. During this decade, only France saw a large increase in War movies while I would have predicted that both would have seen this change. This trend likely reflects the greater devastation that France endured, as much of the war was fought on its soil. With direct exposure to destruction and loss, French audiences gravitated toward realistic and somber narratives that processed national trauma and honored the war's impact. In contrast, the United States, which entered the war later (1917) and did not experience battles on home soil, did not see the same urgency in war-related storytelling. Instead, Hollywood continued producing films in other dominant genres like Westerns and Comedies, which catered to escapism rather than direct war reflection.

## Conclusion:

Through this analysis, it is clear that historical innovations and cultural influences play a crucial role in shaping the evolution of film genres. While technological advancements drive global shifts in storytelling, cultural and societal factors create unique trends in different countries. Films reflect the values and experiences of the societies that produce them, with historical events shaping audience preferences in distinct ways.