

The thesis deals with the views on mass culture in the last three novels of the American writer Nathanael West (i.e. *Miss Lonelyhearts*, *A Cool Million* and *The Day of the Locust*). The main argument is that while these novels often criticize mass culture, their views of it are rather ambivalent than purely negative. The first two chapters describe the cultural context that informed the novels and their view of mass culture, including modernism, the rise of mass production, and opinions of mass culture that were typical in the 1930s. The next two chapters then proceed to examine in detail the many uses of mass culture in the novels.