

# THE LORD OF THE RINGS TRILOGY

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## How America Related to the Trilogy

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*The Lord of the Rings* is arguably the most well-known fantasy series in the world. That it has retained its popularity for so long prompts a certain curiosity: What continues to bring audiences, especially in America, back?

This project examines book reviews found in newspapers, journals, and magazines to discover what audiences loved or, conversely, hated about *The Lord of the Rings*. Reviews from the initial American publication, and the twenty-fifth and fiftieth anniversaries were examined for comprehensiveness. Also, historical and sociological texts were consulted to relate Americans' opinions from each period to the issues and concerns within their individual cultures.



*The Lord of the Rings* trilogy's popularity is a credit to Tolkien. While he insisted it was not allegorical, he claimed to have written the trilogy to be applicable. The trilogy's continued popularity indicates that he succeeded; the topics to explore within it are as numerous as they are challenging.

America's opinion on the trilogy has evolved with America, and if the trilogy's popularity continues (renewed interest due to the movie adaptations indicates that it will), entire new generations will read the trilogy and find within it thought-provoking issues and comparisons to their own lives. The question is: What will these new readers think, and how will *The Lord of the Rings* relate to America in the future?