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25: Research & Writing: Independence Day

In the Film Independence day, aliens are identified as the foreign threat early on in the film, as on the week of the fourth of July, U.S. independence day, a massive alien spaceship approaches planet Earth. These aliens further present themselves as a threat, as they hover over major cities in the world; leaving world leaders and civilians scared and unsure of the alien's intentions. In earlier scenes of the movie, you can see components of the society's networks, such as the U.S. military puzzled about how to tackle the arrival of the aliens, and you can see them escalating the situation by involving the Secretary of defense. In the early stages of the alien's arrival you see leaders of hierarchies and governments of the world working together to try and find out as much information about the alien's arrival as possible, but consequently leaving the civilians of the world in the dark about the initial arrival of the aliens. For example, in one scene, a submarine on the Persian gulf takes pictures of alien ships, and we see in the movie that those pictures are being sent back to the president of the United States.

Shortly after that scene, the ships start to become more visible to the people; which sends them into a frenzy of terror and confusion. With people becoming aware of the ships the president of the U.S. takes action, and sends pilots up to investigate the ship; they are then vaporized by a forcefield present around the ships. This solidifies the aliens as a serious threat to

the world and instills further panic among the masses. As the alien's moves become more synchronized throughout the movie; it is clear the agenda of the aliens is taking over. In regards to the culture of the people during this crisis; some people in the movie want to welcome the aliens to earth with open arms; while others want to rise against the aliens and defend their home.

In regards to the network aspect of the aliens, it's revealed later in the movie that the aliens were using satellites around the world to communicate with various alien ships and home ships; which thus explains their synchronized movements. The U.S. government represents the hierarchy in this crisis, as the president advocates for the evacuation of U.S. cities; upon an alien ship shooting down a helicopter. Towards the climax of the movie, the alien ships open up and start firing down on cities as people start to evacuate; which further solidifies this arrival of the aliens as a crisis. After the attacks; cities around the world are left desolate and in ruin, with very few survivors; this result is very similar to the effects of the nuclear explosions that occurred in the Cuban Missile Crisis. Next, the government plans a rebuttal attack with air force pilots going and attacking alien ships; which causes the aliens to come out, and wipe out all the pilots.

Later in the movie the president can talk to one of the aliens, and asks for his demands so they can reach peace; the alien says they don't want peace, and the president learns their true intentions and advocates for the use of nuclear weapons. In regards to the Cuban Missile Crisis, long negotiations for peace and the creation of treaties are what ultimately ended the Crisis.

As the movie starts to come to the final climax, a plan is devised to give the alien ships a computer virus to disable their impenetrable force field that way missiles can be deployed and the aliens can be destroyed. This plan travels to countries around the world through various

networks in morse code. Through this plan, the alien ships and mother ships are destroyed;
bringing the crisis to an end.

Works Cited

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