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**Research and writing**  
**Chapter 25**  
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**Film: Independence Day**

The threat of nuclear war has been an issue for decades, and it's no surprise that this horror has been portrayed in movies like Independence Day, 1996. In this movie, an alien invasion threatens to destroy Earth using advanced technology, such as giant spaceships and devastating weapons. The film shows how people of different backgrounds and cultures unite and fight for survival.

One way to analyze movies is through the lens of networks. A network is a structure that shows how individuals or groups are connected. On Independence Day, there is a network of different personalities, including scientists, politicians, military personnel, and ordinary people. The network is also global because threats affect people all over the world. The film shows the characters coming together to deal with a common threat, working together to fight an alien invasion, each person playing a specific and important role. For example, presidents issue orders to armies, scientists analyze alien technology, and civilians invent innovative ways to fight back every day. The Networks depicted on Independence Day emphasize the importance of collaboration and working together towards a common goal. I remember watching this movie several times and getting so emotional with the President's speech. I still talk about it often with friends as so many modern, global situations come up, like Covid-19, that requires the world to stop thinking about individuals or even as separate countries and to act as a united network for the better good; literally for our own survival. That speech gave those soldiers and those watching the film inspiration to remember that we all need each other, and that our network is important: that our diversity is necessary even to accomplish what may seem insurmountable. Also, the explosion scenes were always pretty awesome!!

Another way to analyze movies is through the lens of hierarchies. A hierarchy is a structure that shows how power is distributed among individuals or groups. Independence Day has several hierarchies, including the military chain of command and the hierarchy within the alien race. The film shows how these hierarchies can help or hinder the characters' efforts to fight aggression. For example, military hierarchies help characters organize their efforts and coordinate attacks, but they also create conflict between the various branches of the military. Similarly, hierarchies within alien races created conflicts between various alien leaders, ultimately benefiting the human characters.

Independence Day can be analyzed through a cultural lens. Culture refers to the beliefs, values, and practices shared by a group of people. Independence Day characters come

from different cultures, including Americans, Israelis, and Africans. The film shows how these cultures influence the actions and perspectives of its characters. For example, American characters are depicted as patriotic and willing to sacrifice for their country, while Israeli characters were shown as resourceful and innovative. The film also emphasizes the importance of understanding and respecting cultures as characters from different cultures learn to work together and appreciate each other's strengths.

In summary, Independence Day is a film about the threat of global crisis and the importance of cooperation, hierarchy, and cultural understanding in crisis. The network of characters is diverse and global, emphasizing the importance of working together towards a common goal. Hierarchies within armies and alien races can help or hinder a character's efforts to fight an invasion. Finally, the film emphasizes the importance of understanding and respecting cultures as characters from different cultures learn to work together and appreciate each other's strengths. Independence Day is a thought-provoking film that offers insight into how individuals and societies respond to crises. Similarly, during the Cuban Missile Crisis, Networks, hierarchies, and culture played a significant role in the outcome of this time. It is evident that there were clear power structures and hierarchies in place, with leaders such as President Kennedy and Premier Khrushchev at the top of their respective hierarchies. The decisions made by these leaders had a significant impact on the outcome of the crisis. In an alternate outcome of the Cuban Missile Crisis, If there had been more open communication and collaboration between the networks of the United States and the Soviet Union, it is possible that a peaceful resolution could have been reached without the threat of nuclear war. Additionally, if the hierarchies within each government had been more flexible and willing to compromise, the leaders may have been able to find a mutually acceptable solution. Finally, if both sides' cultural values and beliefs had been more aligned, with a shared understanding of the dangers of nuclear war, there may have been more willingness to find a peaceful resolution. In this alternative outcome, the crisis would have been resolved diplomatically, avoiding the devastating consequences of a nuclear war.