

Social criticism in Dashiell Hammett's "Red Harvest" and "The Maltese Falcon"



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SOCIAL CRITICISM IN DASHIELL HAMMETT'S "RED HARVEST" AND "THE MALTESE FALCON"



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GRIN Verlag Gmbh Apr 2008, 2008. Taschenbuch. Book Condition: Neu. 210x148x1 mm. This item is printed on demand - Print on Demand Neuware - Seminar paper from the year 2007 in the subject English Language and Literature Studies - Literature, grade: 1,7, University of Heidelberg (Anglistisches Seminar), course: Twentieth Century Crime Fiction, 12 entries in the bibliography, language: English, abstract: This essay will explore how social criticism is performed in two novels of Dashiell Hammett. Red Harvest is often described as the first hard-boiled novel , giving it the status of a literary landmark. Here the author gives us a clear impression of his characteristic world and his social vision of it. Therefore, the novel appears to be an interesting subject to look how this kind of literature employs social criticism. The other book that will be examined here is The Maltese Falcon, one of the most popular and best known hard-boiled crime novels ever, that has served as a model for many authors. As Robert Shulman argues, Hammet gives his social vision its fullest expression in this novel, showing his concern with American individualism . Thus, as this examination is limited to two works, it seems most sensible to use The Maltese Falcon along with Red Harvest for this purpose to produce a good insight into the social criticism in Hammett s books. Before beginning with the study, it is necessary to make clear what social criticism is here, as the term itself has a wide meaning. Social will be discussed in the sense, as the Merriam-Webster dictionary puts it, of or relating to human society, the interaction of the individual and the group, or the welfare of human beings as members of society . This means that in a smaller sense, the term social concerns the way...



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