

MAY 2014

MIKOŁAJ GRAJECKI

ENGLISH B

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Title

An analysis of the themes and format used by Sacha Baron Cohen to best parody the United States culture in his films

[Read the abstract](#)

Abstract

The controversy surrounding Cohen's work and the common misunderstanding of his filmmaking intentions is what drew me to these particular works. At first glance, his films are mindless, offensive comedies, however, after closer examination, a deeper meaning starts to appear. The aim of this essay is to examine the question 'What themes and devices are used by Sacha Baron Cohen to mock the culture and social issues of the United States in *Borat*, *Bruno* and *The Dictator*?'. The scope of this essay encompasses three works, from which social issues and plot themes are analyzed; however, only two are investigated for their format, production and genre.

The essay begins with a brief summary of the plot and characters of the three investigated comedy films. From there on, the essay is divided into social issues and themes, which serve a purpose not only for the plot, but also carry a hidden political and moral message. Issues such as gun ownership, bigotry and celebrities are discussed, both for their part in the storytelling, as well as their role in Cohen's parody of the United States.

The final part of the body of the essay is the analysis of the film format employed by Cohen. The use of unsuspecting members of the public and the lack of a traditional script is examined and their influence on the general character of the films, the parody and the educational value are discussed.

The following conclusion to the essay is that no single scene in Cohen's films was created for pure shock value. The format used not only highlights the parody, but the authenticity it provides makes every point that he raises that much stronger. Everything serves a greater

purpose, which is to parody the US, and hopefully, educate the general public on the widespread issues.