



# Geopolitics and the exploration of racial conflicts

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## Abstract:

This paper explores the racial conflicts, injustice and the theme of revenge in the novel *The Revenant* by Michael Punke. This novel is a historical fiction set in the period between 1823 to 1840 in the cultural backdrop of a tribe known as the American Frontier tribe who experience various racial disputes amongst themselves. Hence, an extensive observation on the geopolitics of the tribal community will be made to analyze how the main theme of revenge is constructed in the plot. This paper will discuss both the versions of the novel and the film adaptation in regard to the description of the locale as geopolitics plays a vital role, hence a study between visual description and narrative description will be made clear in this paper. This paper explores the thought process of the writer to understand his construction of the character amid various experience the protagonist goes through and evolves into the character he becomes at the end.

## Keywords:

Revenge, geopolitics, vengeance, racial conflict, injustice

## Introduction:

The identical epigraph is used in *The Revenant's* prologue by the author to set the tone for the story's path. The author similarly promotes and implements the character development of Hugh Glass, using a variety of rhetorical techniques such as figurative symbolism, imagery and religious allegory. The author effectively establishes the growing masculinity of Glass using figurative symbols. Glass is shown at the beginning of the book as a tough guy, especially considering his bond with his rifle. This relationship is nothing but straight forward instead, it is filled with care and tenderness. This story exemplifies the historical conflicts of how hard the circumstances affect the life of the suffering frontier men in the northwest grounds of the country. The revenant is the one who has returned as if from the dead. So, this is also an exploration of retribution of one's life for his will of revenge. The theme of vengeance in the plot is depicted brutally to effectively establish the mood and the setting.

## Glimpse in to the world of *The Revenant*:

Hawk Glass is the half-Native American son of Hugh Glass (Forrest Goodluck). The expedition's leader, Andrew Henry, orders his troops to return to their base, a fort in the middle of this snowy wilderness, because they are running low on men and are being hunted. The seeds of discontent are sown when John Fitzgerald expresses his disagreement. He dislikes Glass and doesn't have any faith in Henry. Glass is viciously attacked by a bear while he is away from the team one day during these discussions; the scene is, without exaggeration, one of the most breath-taking, heart-racing, and horrifying. The onslaught narrowly spares Glass. It appears improbable that he will return to the base. They decide to part ways because of the terrible circumstances and the murderous tribe that is after them. Naturally, Fitzgerald rapidly grows weary of having to see the death of a man he doesn't care about. In front of a motionless Glass, he kills Hawk before essentially burying Hugh alive. Glass, a revenant (one who returns after death or a lengthy absence), effectively emerges from the dead as Bridger and Fitzgerald turn around and starts to travel home. He drags himself through snow and across mountains in search of the person who killed his son despite having shattered

bones, no food, and a long way to go. He is essentially a ghost, a guy who has experienced the closest thing to death one could imagine but refuses to pass on until justice has been served.

### **A Reflection of Good and Evil:**

One has chosen this novel as it is a comprehensive and moving portrayal of the geopolitical and racial conflicts of that time-period and region. One could relate to the inner turmoil of Glass as he struggles to come to terms with his own masculinity and the dangers of the wilderness. Glass is also an interesting case study on how societal gender roles have emotionally stunted men and how revenge and anger are the only acceptable outlets of emotional expression for men. So, the revenant in parts involving more of nature and revenge and nothing more makes it a simple part. The not so simple part is that, the plot is constructed within multilayered elements that transcends the revenge label to reveal a central idea on the relative nature of good and evil. The Revenant reintroduces the readers to explore on the primal meaning of the human experience and strip bare civilized men to what lies beneath.

### **Hugh Glass - A Renaissance Man:**

Glass's incredible story, Based on his quirky life experiences. Glass's major priorities were to live than to hunt which was harder for him to survive amongst the narrowed livelihood. Mostly he spent his lifetime safeguarding his son and himself from being dead. There's the time he spent as a merchant on the high seas. There's that weird detour when he became a legit pirate, much to his own personal dismay. And then there's the year he spent with a Pawnee tribe after being brought to their village to be killed.

### **Captain Andrew Henry - Captain Curse:**

Henry's worry is that he is cursed is based on his actual experiences on the frontier, even though it may be exaggerated. Consider the tale of George Drouillard, a former travelling companion of Henry and Lewis and a fellow member of Lewis and Clark. a hostile native tribe attacked them, hacking them up. Henry also witnessed the recent, unsuccessful war between the Rocky Mountain Fur Company and the Arikara. Our skipper has been "racked by internal uncertainty" as a result of these failures.

### **John Fitzgerald - A Lucky Break?**

John Fitzgerald shows us the darker side of frontier life. A gambler and murderer by trade—tough racket—Fitzgerald came out west to escape life and all the mistakes he made along the way. Too bad he ends up making the biggest mistake of all time by turning his back on Hugh Glass. What will Fitzgerald do next then? Fitzzy shouldn't have to worry about the revenant pursuing him once more because the conclusion of the book indicates that Glass is giving up on his quest for retribution. Even so, given how tolerant the frontier can be of evil characters like Fitzgerald, it is difficult to foresee a happy ending for him in a setting as perilous as the frontier.

### **Jim Bridger - The Great Unknown:**

Glass gives Bridger a piece of advice that will change his life forever: "Follow your own lead, Bridger". And that's just what Bridger does: the end of the novel sees him petitioning Captain Henry to be sent out on trapping mission deep in the wilderness, a mission that marks his transition into maturity. What's more, the mere fact that Bridger makes this request shows how much confidence he's gained already.

### **Conclusion:**

In this tale about revenge, Michael Punke acknowledges the anguish and pain endured by Hugh Glass in order for him to live and his vow to exact revenge on his son's murder. The way the author continues to

confront the injustice occurring around the protagonist is breathtaking. *The Revenant* is a slow, grueling adventure film, so those who enjoy white-knuckle gore will enjoy feeling ragged but a little tougher.

This Paper affirms the protagonist's faith without making any exaggerated claims, and it keeps the narrative moving slowly, which gives the plot greater force. This essay also examines racial conflicts and the wilderness of people searching for new lands.

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