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Beckman 206

Lincoln's Laser: An Examination of Alternate History

Have you ever wondered what would happen if history had turned out differently? The genre of alternate history presents twisted timelines that produce strange and disturbing realities. Though examples have existed for centuries, the genre has grown in depth in the last sixty years, transitioning from pulp fiction fare to a window into the zeitgeist of the cultures that produce it. It has also become more popular, spawning growing interest in the steampunk sub-genre. I will be examining both early and recent examples of alternate histories, as well as the social and political roles they play. In addition, I will analyze the implications of melding fact and fiction, and touch on the process of writing a piece in this genre.