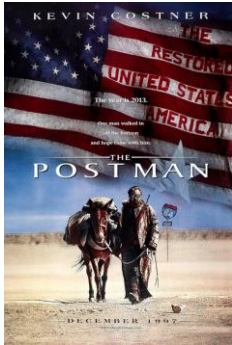


## Short Review: “The Postman” (1997) by Dr. John L. Flynn



**Postman, The** (1997), Warner Brothers, color, 177 min. Director: Kevin Costner. Writers: David Brin (novel), Eric Roth, etc. Producers: Kevin Costner, Steve Tisch, etc. Cast: Kevin Costner, Will Patton, Larenz Tate and Olivia Williams.

For his directorial follow-up to “Dances With Wolves” (1991), Costner again rides into the wilderness on horseback, fights with hostiles, and wins the hand of a woman who has just lost her husband. But this time, it’s 2013, and the holocaust has come and gone. Costner plays a wandering Shakespeare performer who is captured by a fascist army and tortured by its Hitlerian leader, General Bethlehem (Patton). The wanderer beats feet away from the army and adopts the uniform of a US postman, and soon buys into the lies that he tells survivors about reforming the US government. But like all big-budget Westerns, the big showdown with the general has to take place. “The Postman,” based on the award-winning science fiction novel by David Brin, could have been a much better film with a smaller budget, more character development and a shorter running length. The Postman’s love affair with Abby (Williams) was sacrificed so that Costner could wander the plains again in search of his past glory with the Sioux.

Copyright 2012 by John L. Flynn, Ph.D.