

Two Regimes Film Questions – Level 3

The first four questions are for students to contemplate within the first few minutes.

1. What do you anticipate when you see the opening title, Two Regimes - A Mother's Memoir of the Holodomor and The Holocaust?
2. Have you ever heard the term "Holodomor"?
3. What is the purpose of writing a memoir?
4. What is a Genocide and can you give examples of several from history (or current events)?
5. The cover of the book (1:50) is a painting by Nadia. What is going on here and how does it make you feel?
6. If the painting "Lake Landscape" (2:28) were music, what would it sound like?
7. Why do you suppose Teodora had an "arranged marriage"? (3:28) What would be beneficial to enter an arranged marriage?
8. Teodora's husband, Dimitri Fyodorovich Verbitsky was overheard saying, "the Kremlin has become inhabited by little long noses" (3:53). He allowed children of clergy and kulaks to enroll in the school where he was director. Why would these actions lead to his resignation and house arrest? What would happen to someone in the United States who criticized Congress?
9. What was the State Political Administration and what was its purpose in the USSR?
10. The painting "Matryona" depicts the way Teodora feels (5:07) when the village council paid her a visit. Explain.
11. Since half the adults (6:41) in Pereprava were illiterate and poor, what motivated Teodora to teach reading?
12. What does the painting "Motherhood" (7:03) make you feel? How does the title contribute to the meaning?
13. How would you describe "Spring Thaw" (7:32) to someone who has never seen it?
14. Why does Stalin's Collective Farm Policy (8:56) struggle, while most people want to be free merchants? Why do most of the people have trouble buying goods at the market?

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15. What kind of friend is Olga and why does she open her home to another family (10:44)? How would you reach out to someone in need, if you had very little yourself?
16. Why do you suppose the Soviet Union had a law (11:36) that stated you can not evict children from a space they occupied? Is that a fair law? Why?
17. What would it be like to see a cow cry (12:46)? How could this mistreatment of animals predict what might happen to the people?
18. Describe Nadia's feeling when she painted "Sorrow" (13:01)?
19. When the ration cards ran out, the people grew desperate (14:04). Even though Mariupol was rich with gardens and the sea, why were people starving?
20. What does "Potatoes Harvest" tell you about women? (13:51) How did women adapt to these situations? What does it mean when we hear "Women Hold Up Half The Sky"?
21. The Stalinist Era began extreme and repressive measures to organize collective farming (15:14). What would be the benefit of this type of farming? Who would suffer?
22. What would drive people to burn their own homes in the Soviet Union (16:24)?
23. What is strange about "The Arrested"? (17:42) What is an Enemy of the People? What does it mean that the State is above all?
24. Why were Ukrainians and Greeks targeted by the Soviets? (18:32)
25. Why does "Strannyky" (19:40) remind you of the current state of affairs in Ukraine?
26. As the Germans expanded their territory past Poland (20:52), they used civilians to do heavy labor. How does the "Gathering" explain this?
27. What is your first reaction to "Run Home Little Girl"? (22:57) Why would the city give up without a battle?
28. Describe the scene as the Jews were ordered to pack their belongings and leave (23:34). Why didn't the Jews leave before the Germans forced them out?

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29. Does “Hell’s Threshold” fairly represent the 7.5 thousand people about to be shot down for no reason? What do you think Teodora was feeling at this time? Why couldn’t she help her Jewish friends (24:29)?
30. How did Teodora feel knowing she helped dig the ditches where the Jews were dumped (24:40)? How could the people have resisted?
31. In the winter of 1941, people of Mariupol were suddenly deported by train to labor camps in Germany (26:10). What would make human beings so cruel as to do this to other human beings?
32. What modern day situation does the photos of the children without parents remind you of (26:20)? Why hasn’t the world become a kinder place?
33. How would Teodora’s and Nadia’s experiences forge an indelible bond between Mother and Daughter? Explain how the painting “Mother and Child” represents that bond. (27:50)
34. How was it possible to not know about any news events for 4 years? (28:15) At what lengths does the mother go to protect her children?
35. Describe how the people felt on March 4, 1945 when they sighted the American Troops. (28:43)
36. Why would Teodora and Nadia decide not to return to the USSR after the war?
37. What would Teodora think if she knew you were learning about her story? Why does it need to be told?