

Two Regimes Film - Questions

Directions: As you watch the video, you are to fill in the blanks or circle the best answers on this viewing guide. The titles of the artwork are provided for you in **bold italicized** font so that you can keep track of your place while watching the film.

- When music plays*: This video is based on actual events as lived by a _____ woman, Teodora Verbitskaya. (Circle one)
Ukrainian Spanish Greek
- Two Regimes book cover*: Life under Stalin, then forced deportation into Germany into slave labor camps under Hitler until the rescue and liberation by the _____. _____.
- "Lake Landscape"*: We found ourselves in this area by circumstance and had never imagined that fate would lead us to this place of fearless b _____.
- "Arranged Marriage (followed by photographs of groups of men)"*: As the outgrowth of the former Checka, they were stationed in the more popular areas and were involved in flushing out the remaining bourgeoisie class and remnants of the anti-Communist w _____ army.
- "Matryona" (Matron)*: They believed me and even took me and my children one of them was only two months old to the station and bought us tickets to Mariupol, where my widowed f _____ was living.
- "The Remains of a Grain Silo"*: That we should join him. He urged me to be very careful, my children and I boarded a b _____.
- "Khorovod" (Round Dance)*: After the spring rains, the steppe began to become even more a _____.
- "Ukrainian Village"*: Although the state was struggling to organize collective farms, there was still many free m _____.
- "Market"*: Because of the high unemployment, no one had money. They found themselves spending the last of their Rubles and looking toward an uncertain f _____.
- "Harvest"*: They had their own little house that they built themselves out of a clay and s _____ mixture.
- "Doroha" (The Road)*: I returned to find myself again out of work... All friends also had been a _____ while others were too afraid to continue friendship.
- (Photographs of cows)*: For the first time in my life, I actually saw a cow c _____.

13. **“Potato Harvest”**: Except for some occasional salted fish, meat and fish were unavailable for several y_____.
14. **“City of Kitezh”**: Without consideration to the sick, the aged or the children and without even allowing time to say goodbye, the police would arrive and at gunpoint force this people into t_____ ignoring the wailing, crying, and moans.
15. *(Video of fire:)* They would use furniture, personal belongings, anything that would b_____.
16. **“The Arrested”**: There were 3 men and the one in the middle was _____
_____. (Circle one)
- the husband our neighbor our landlord
17. *(Video of guns and planes):* The Germans tore Poland to pieces in a few days descending on the country like an evil h_____.
18. **“The Gathering”**: Petrovych’s wife, who lived in the main apartment, came in one day and offered to sell some coal for h_____.
19. **“Kokoshnyk” (Head-dress)**: Twenty or so soldiers ran down our street and everything grew q_____.
20. **“Run Home Little Girl”**: Up until now the _____ had been left alone and walked about freely. (Circle one)
- Jews Christians Muslims
21. **“Hell’s Threshold”**: It was difficult to believe that they would shoot down seven and a half thousand people for no reason, but several days later they were executed and buried in those same t_____ that we had dug.
22. **“Internment”**: The railway car was filled to the limit and the doors were bolted shut with a padlock. We were unloaded at n_____ and under guard.
23. **“Mother and Child”**: We listened in amazement, not believing our ears but saying nothing. We didn’t want to miss a single w_____ of his account.

For this part, you will be reading the white words on the black background to answer these questions.

24. What year did US Army enter the town of Euskirchen? (Circle one)
- 1909 1945 2001
25. *Photos: Teodora (top left); Nadia & Lyucia (top right):* Teodora and later Nadia emigrated to what country? (Circle one)

Russia France Canada

Two Regimes Film – Questions - Level 2

Pre-discussion activities before watching the video:

- What is a memoir? How does it differ from a journal or diary entries?
- Can one learn history through paintings?
- What is 'readers' theater'?

It is recommended students work in partners to obtain answers to the following:

- 1:01 At the beginning of the film, we come across the word “genocide.” How do you understand it?
- 1:52 The first painting on the title page shows several figures. What emotion is shown on their faces?
- 1:54 What years are covered by Teodora’s memoir?
- 2:01 What are the two regimes Teodora described in her memoir?
- 3:14 Who was in power at the time?
- 3:40 Why was Teodora’s husband arrested? Do you think that people can be arrested for criticizing the government?
- 4:05 What was the State Political Administration (GPU) and what was its purpose in the USSR?
- 5:17 What excuse did the wife give that her husband was not there?
- 5:48 What was the significance of the painting “Remains of a Grain Silo?”
- 6:14 How did they make their living in the village of Pereprava? What helped Teodora and her husband to make a living? (Education)
- 7:17 What did they warm their cottage with?
- 7:48 In the spring, the painting of the Round Dance showed what emotions/actions?
- 8:51 How did the farmers’ market look like when Teodora’s family moved to Mariupol? What kind of goods did private farmers sell?
- 10:20 How many children did the mother have when her husband was taken away?
- 11:00 Who did the mother and children move in with?

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- 12:40 Where were the cattle taken?
- 13:17 What do you think are food ration cards?
- 14:13 What did women have to do to raise their families?
- 14:58 When did Lenin introduce his new economic plans?
- 16:05 What did farmers use as firewood to stay warm?
- 17:05 Who do you think was the 'black raven?'
- 17:53 Who were taken away and considered 'enemies of the state?'
- 19:40 Who attacked Poland? What were the people forced to dig?
- 21:58 What was found in the cellar?
- 22:17 The Germans surrounded the town with what?
- 23:34 Who made the Jews pack up and leave? In the painting "Hell's Threshold, who are the people? Where are they going?
- 24:50 How many Jews were executed in the trenches outside of Mariupol?
- 25:45 How were people moved?
- 26:14 What was the camp surrounded by?
- 27:19 What did the German soldier who deserted, tell the group was happening? When was the camp liberated?

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?