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Movie Reviews

The first video that we viewed was titled "*Mein Kampf*" which translates to "my philosophy." This is a movie about the life of Adolph Hitler. He was born on April 20, 1889. He wanted to be an artist and go against his father's wishes. At 16 years old, he got tuberculosis and left school to become a part time laborer. He paints his own post cards. He starts anti-Semitist against blond haired people. He wants to become the master race. He believes that the Jews are the devils and he uses the swastika as his symbol.

He decides to become a politician and writes an autobiography titled *Mein Kampf*. His book is not read by a lot of people and they seem to joke about it. Hitler and his men become the strongest party in Berlin. In 1932,

he becomes a German citizen and soon becomes chancellor. Hitler was the head of the National Socialist Party. He gains power and prohibits all other parties. If people choose to stand in his way they are outlawed.

The youth is educated in a daily Nazi routine. There are concentration camps for those who do not go along with his wishes. Jews must wear the Star of David on their arm. There are certain cars that are only for Jews. There were 13 people to a room, which were no better than prison cells. They get 200 calories a day, have to wear wet clothes and are treated like rats. They await death as a savior and the dead lie in the street.

While watching this video, I was more educated than ever about Hitler and his people. I knew of concentration camps and so forth but I didn't know the actual conditions that really took place. It must have been a terrible life to live with no way to get out of it. I feel truly sorry for anyone who had to go through that type of torture.

The second video was titled *Ameena*. This movie was in 1992 about a girl named Ameena Baker who was 13 years old. Where Ameena comes from the girls have a reputation of being good looking. Then some are sold off by their poor parents. Ameena was placed on a plane wearing brides clothing and was going to be married off to an old man for money. Her

parents told her that if she came back home they would kill her and then commit suicide. The Arabs get 200 dollars to marry a girl. They want a young, pretty virgin. It takes only 4 hours to settle agreement and marry that same night.

Amrita was a woman on the plane. She got passengers to sign a petition to stop what was going on. When they arrived in Delhi, the Saudi man in his 60's was arrested for marrying a minor. We later found out that he already had 4 wives. Until Amrita attempted to do something about the situation nothing had ever been done. Ameena's parents were charged with selling their daughter. The Arab man could marry someone as young as 9, as long as she reached puberty.

Ameena was put behind bars with prostitutes and also troubled children. The court wouldn't let Amrita who was Hindu adopt a Muslim child and they wouldn't send her home. She was sent to 3 years in a juvenile home. A higher court overruled it and let her go home which was a harsher sentence. She decided to go back with the Saudi man. In this case the victim became the criminal.

When I saw this video I was outraged. I couldn't believe that it was that easy for an old man to marry a child. I recommend Amrita for stepping and trying to do something for that young girl to help her. I also think that it

is ridiculous that just because Amrita was not the same religion as Ameena that she could not adopt her. That should not happen.

The third video that I watched was called *Spartacus*. This was point blank about the life of Spartacus. He finds out he is going to have a child and he is overwhelmed with joy. His goal is to free the slaves in Italy. Spartacus and his army must fight Rome itself instead of fleeing because they already fought along the way by sea to their homes. In the end there was a battle and Spartacus was victorious.

I was not very interested in this movie as I was for most of the others. It could be because we didn't watch it from the very beginning so it was hard to follow along with. I thought the battle scenes were very realistic and I enjoyed them.

Video number four was titled *Tobacco Slaves*. This was a video about things called Bidi's that you smoke and they taste like candy. It is the fad for the children of 2000. It is made up of tobacco rolled in a leaf. Young girls, even as young as 5 years old, roll 500 per day. Some parents sell their kids into slavery.

In 1976, India had a law that banned servitude but even today it still occurs mainly with children. Children can be purchased for as low as 25 dollars. Girls work 10 hours a day, 6 days a week. When the United States

comes to India to bust them for the illegal act, it is law to tell them they are coming, which gives them enough time to cover it up.

The National Justice Mission freed more than 200 children in the past year. For some kids if you are late on the job you get beat up. One boy got burnt on his thigh with the knife that they use to cut the leaves. Recently the United States banned the sale of Bidi's.

This video was interesting because when I was a senior in high school which was the year 2000 these Bidi's were very popular among my peers. I think it is great that we have banned the sale of these but that doesn't mean that other countries have. This concludes that these children are still put under these harsh conditions to produce.

Video number 5 was called *The Bible and the Gun*. This was a short movie about Cecil Rhodes. These people were chained together at the feet and hung at the nearest tree. In 1902, at his death, his body laid and was carried through the streets. The coffin was carried during the night for burial. He was buried at "Rhodes View". He lies in the heart of the country that he conquered. He's the empire builder and millionaire.

I found it amazing how they carried his body over night for the funeral that would take place the following day. They named his burial place "Rhodes View" after him. That is significant because you see that a

lot in our world today. If someone important dies we may sometimes name something after them like a park or a street.

The sixth video watched was titled *The Magnificent African Cake*. This video took place on the west coast of Africa. One magnificent case was the Gambia river, which the French were eager to gain from Britain. The river was 300 miles long and 30 miles wide. In 1895, the king made a strong plea for peace. It wasn't enough because they wanted land and privilege. In 1896, they surrendered and the Kings went to exile.

In 1906, the British minister said, “ we can't go on killing these defenseless people”. His name was Winston Churchill. In the 1920's gold mining boomed. Twenty people died each week for thirty years. Discipline was brutal and health care was non-existent. After 1930, the labor system had you working on plantations. This is called migrate labor.

This was interesting to see how people were forced to do hard labor in order to live. It is also amazing to see how many people died each week trying to do harmless things such as building a railroad. It makes you think how hard they were actually working.

Video number 7 was called *Apartheid*. This means apartness. It is a hateful symbol of racial prejudice. The largest African group is the Zulus and the majority live in the ghettos. Apartheid was used to find you own

identity. Africans were competing with the white man in commercial agriculture. Africans were restricted to 7% of the land when they were 70% of the people. They had to work on the farms but they weren't paid anything.

While watching this movie you realize that many Africans had no rights at all. I personally cannot imagine working the harsh and long hours that these poor people did and then not get anything out of it. They must have been so depressed because you have to think in your head that you are getting nowhere.

Video number 8 was called *Maids and Madams*. This was a domestic service where black women were maids to white families. Many domestic servants were forced to neglect their own family while watching others. This was the largest source of employment for African women after agriculture. They would work 7 days a week for 10 ½ hours a day. This occurred at the end of Apartheid in the late 1980's.

I found it terrible that these women had to take care of all the families and could not have any visitors, not even her own children. It must have been extremely hard for these women seeing as they were raising other people's children before getting to spend time with their own children and raise them.

Video number 9 was titled *Beneath the Veil*. This was life under the Taliban rule (Islamic Militia). A football field is turned into an execution ground. 7 out of 10 children's parents were killed by Taliban. Women beg on the street because they are forbidden to work and their kids go hungry. The women executed are not allowed to take off veils. They kneel down and are shot. Taliban leadership is proud of what they do on the field. They think of it as a place of joy. Women are deprived of medical care and many die during childbirth. The Taliban won't educate girls over the age of 12. They will also be imprisoned if they are caught wearing makeup.

I found this video to be the most interesting. It is crazy to think that you see all of this on the news but yet you never really know what is going on in other countries. I can honestly say that before seeing this movie I never once thought of what my life as a female would be like if I was under Taliban rule.

Video number 10 is called *Gandhi*. This movie takes place in South Africa in 1893. Gandhi wants justice for his people and he is beaten by the police. He doesn't let being tormented bother him. He says to love thy neighbor as yourself. All people of India must be fingerprinted like criminals. Gandhi states that they may try to kill him. They will have his dead body but not his obedience. In 1915 he arrives back in India. While

the Muslims gather the army fires guns on the people of India. 1, 650 bullets were fired killing many people and causing terror. Gandhi was killed but was remembered by all of his people.

I feel that Gandhi led his country to freedom and he became the spokesman for all mankind. You realize what a great man he was and the impact he had on his people by the number of people who came to mourn his death. I think Gandhi had a lot of heart to continue fighting for what he believed in.

The final video number 11 was titled *Eleanor Roosevelt*. This was about the life of Eleanor Roosevelt from birth through her later life. She was a teacher, mother and a kind and loving women. She was one of the best politicians of the 20th century. She was born on October 11, 1884. She was very close with her father but he always let her down because he was an alcoholic. When he died she didn't know what to do.

On March 17, 1905 she married Franklin Roosevelt. They had a few children. She found out he had an affair on her but she decided to stay with him. Their marriage was shaky for many years. At times they did not live together. Franklin won the presidential campaign but Eleanor did not like being in the spotlight. After the Great Depression Eleanor gave lectures and visited schools and factories. She wrote a news column titled "My Day".

I thought this movie did an excellent job portraying the life of Eleanor Roosevelt. I found it interesting that at one point in time her and Franklin lived in Albany. I never knew until seeing the video the hard and at some times depressing life that Eleanor Roosevelt once lived.