

Film Title and Release Date: *American Experience: The Bombing of Wall Street* (2018)

Length of Film in Minutes: 53 minutes

Film Genre: Documentary

Reviewer Name and Grade: Fred D., 9th Grade

Date Reviewed: May 31, 2021

The documentary *American Experience: The Bombing of Wall Street* discusses the bombing of Wall Street on September 16, 1920. The film starts by providing context for the time period. World War I had just ended, there was optimism about the future and businesses were growing richer. However, there was also division growing in the country. Workers and soldiers watched the rich men and businesses grow richer while they worked long hours for little pay. The rich were reaping the rewards of their hard work. This, along with Lenin and the Bolsheviks taking power in Russia, started to create a sense of anti-capitalism within the United States. The people saw Russians rising up against their government and realized they could do something similar. Labor strikes started to occur, and violence started to erupt as riots took place in the streets and bombs were being mailed to prominent political and economic figures. Political figures attempted to push back against the people responsible by limiting free speech and deporting people they believed were related to the movement. However, this led to many innocent people being deported. The actual bombing that took place on the 16th of September in 1920 killed 40 people, however it seemed to slowly be forgotten over time as the roaring twenties were in full swing. The documentary does a great job of informing the audience about a mystery that remains unsolved and is rarely talked about.

How did you find the film on Kanopy (by title search, subject search, casual browsing, etc.)?

I found this film by searching for documentaries on Kanopy.

Did the presentation of information (for documentary) keep you interested?

The presentation of the information was great and the ambient sounds and tone really helped to create a dark and mysterious mood. The footage used was of great quality and kept me interested throughout the entire duration of the film.

Was the pace of the film too fast, too slow, or just right?

The pace of the information given was just right.

What grade level(s) is this film appropriate for?

I would recommend this film to grades 7th and up, however I think that if the film can be understood by someone it can be enjoyed by them.

I rate this film *5 stars*.

The documentary was great, and it presented a lot of interesting information that I hadn't heard before. The topic covered was unique and one that not a lot of people know a lot about. The presentation of the film was also great, with footage of the event being shown and ambient sounds added to the footage to help the audience picture what it was like to be there that day. This film deserves a 5 star rating in my opinion because it was interesting, even to someone who is not very interested in politics and history. I would mainly recommend this film to people who are interested in American history and politics, and anyone who wants to learn something new in general.