

Film Title and Release Date: *Breaking Point: The War for Democracy
Ukraine* (2016)

Length of Minutes: 98 minutes

Genre: Documentary

Reviewer Name and Grade: Jaden R., 9th Grade

Date Reviewed: April 2, 2022

This Documentary talked about the long-term effects of all the invasions of Ukraine, their importance in the identity of Ukraine and its citizens, and how these invasions affected the political landscape of Ukraine and lead to the country it is today with its iron-willed fight for independence and democracy. The documentary lays out the historical background of Ukraine and its many invasions from ancient Pole's armies to modern-day Russia. It then details the political movement against the Soviet Union and the roots of anti-communist statements and pro-democracy movements in Ukraine. The film explains the struggles of communism and democracy within Ukraine under Soviet rule as citizens of Ukraine fought for their identity in government and as people. This leads us to the current day Russo-Ukrainian War as the film describes the Russian goal to eliminate democracy's influence in their own country through the Ukrainian invasion and the Ukrainian people's resilience to fight against overwhelming powers to create a democratic Ukraine. This documentary gives the viewer a broader and more informed view of the background and outcome of the Russo-Ukrainian War as average Ukrainians are pushed into a fight for their democracy.

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

I found this by a subject search on collections relating to the current Ukrainian invasion.

Did the plot presentation of information keep you interested?

The presentation of information kept me interested by how the information was shown through the trials, tribulations, and lives of Ukrainians

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

I believe the pace struck a good middle ground.

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

9th to 12th graders will be able to grasp the larger themes of this documentary.

5 stars: I'm really glad I watched this film; it was awesome! I believe this documentary did a very good justice in presenting the Russian and Ukrainian backgrounds and succeeded in giving a whole picture of the Ukrainian conflict.