

Film Title and Release Date: *The Art of Dissent* (2021)

Film Length in Minutes: 105 Minutes

Film Genre: Non-Fiction

Reviewer Name and Grade: Sahil G., 8th Grade

Date Reviewed: March 27, 2022

The documentary “The Art of Dissent” focuses on a rebuilt society after being invaded by the Soviet Union in 1968. In this documentary we are given interviews of how the invasion was planned. On August 20th, 1968, 500,000 Warsaw pact troops and 5,000 tanks invaded Czechoslovakia. Their only defense was protesting and non-aggressive tactics. A group of celebrities came together to sing their music in public and were escorted out during the invasion. A man named Dukecheck was kidnapped and forced to publicly declare that he was the one who tried to defend Czechoslovakia from the Soviet Union. The people of Czechoslovakia retaliated by taking down signs, not providing food or water for the soldiers and more. When Dukecheck returned from Russia, the music creators and artists held out hope that he could help them. Unfortunately, he did quite the opposite, he helped the Soviet Union by taking over his government appointed job and requested for people to submit to censorship. Those who did not submit, were exiled. Some celebrities even made music for those who opposed censorship. After the invasion, many people enjoyed listening to these celebrities' music. It was a way to express how they did not want censorship anymore. The underground music was a way to bring back hope into Czechoslovakia. This documentary was balanced because it gave all of the facts, and it did not leave out key information which could draw to one choosing sides.

How did you find the film on Kanopy?

I found this film on Kanopy by scrolling through the documentaries section.

Did the plot or presentation of information keep you interested?

Yes, it kept me interested by consistently giving me information on how people survived and rebuilt Czechoslovakia after the invasion. It also gave information on how the people rebelled, such as destroying road signs.

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

The film was at a slow rate and easy for audience to follow along, but took a while to get moving

What grade level is this appropriate for?

This documentary is appropriate for all students from grades 7-12

4 stars: I enjoyed this film and found it worthwhile to watch

I give this film 4 stars because it gave plenty of information to draw a conclusion on how music helped revive and reform Czechoslovakia. For example, the music became a symbol of people trying to fight for freedom. I think this documentary explained that very well. I think something that was not so great were the interviews they used. The interviews did not have much to offer in my opinion.