



The Revolution Will Not Be Televised
(Ireland, 2002, 74 minutes)
Directors: Kim Bartley and Donnacha O Briain
Study Guide

Synopsis

The Revolution Will Not Be Televised is a feature length documentary on Hugo Chavez, President of Venezuela. Over the course of 7 months, from January to July 2002, the filmmakers secured unprecedented access to film Chavez in his daily life. During this time, there was a coup and the filmmakers were the only crew inside the presidential palace at the time. They were also the first there for his triumphant return some 48 hours later. What had in fact taken place was the first coup of the twenty first century, and the world's first media coup. *The Revolution Will Not Be Televised* is a thrilling insight into President Chavez and the power of media.

Study Questions

- When you watch or read international news, do you ever wonder if there is another perspective to the story that goes unreported, or do you assume that new reports are unbiased?
- When you think of documentary films, do you imagine impartiality on the part of the filmmakers?
- What do you know about the political and economic situation in Venezuela?
- Venezuela is the 5th largest oil producing country in the world. With that information, would it surprise you to know that over 70% of the population lives in poverty? Why or why not?
- How would you define "globalization"?
- How would you define "neo-liberalism"?

Classroom Exercise

Compare the Venezuelan Constitution - Preamble and Fundamental Principles (English translation available here: <http://www.vheadline.com/readnews.asp?id=6831>) with the US Constitution.

Discussion Questions

- Do you think the filmmakers were unbiased in their approach to the story?
- After watching the film, do you think there are different meanings for the terms "globalization" and "neo-liberalism" outside of the US? What is the difference between how you define those terms and how they are defined elsewhere?

- What role, if any, do you think the U.S. played in the coup?
- In the film we learn that almost every Venezuelan carries a copy of their Constitution and refer to it regularly. Can you imagine people in the USA doing the same? If not, why not? If so, what would it take for that to happen?