



Battleground: 21 Days on the Empire's Edge

Film Study Guide

Director: Stephen Marshall

2004 | Documentary | 81 Minutes | USA | English | Unrated

Synopsis: Three weeks before the Islamic celebration of Ramadan in 2003, documentary filmmaker Stephen Marshall went to Iraq to cover the war from all sides of the conflict as resistance amongst the citizens toward the U.S. occupation had increased. The people that are the subjects in the film span a wide range of viewpoints on the situation:

- An Iraqi that fled the country after rising up against Saddam in 1993 returns home for the first time, looking for family members;
- A Lt. Colonel who conducts a meeting with the local sheiks;
- An Iraqi woman working as a translator hears all sides;
- An Egyptian businessman;
- An Iraqi physician studying the effects of depleted uranium;
- A US Colonel stationed in the Sunni Triangle;
- A producer from Al-Jazeera;
- A US Tank Commander in Samarra;
- A taxi driver in Baghdad.

Post-Screening Discussion Questions

1. What do you think about the Iraq war?
2. If Bush had 20/20 hindsight, do you think he would he still have ordered the invasion? Support your conclusion.

3. Are Iraqis better off now than with Saddam in power? Why do you think that?
4. What do you think of how the media covered the “Shock and Awe” bombing of Baghdad?
5. What is the difference between why the U.S. went into Iraq and what the U.S. is doing in Iraq?
6. If you were President, what would you do differently with the current situation?
7. Did your position on the war in Iraq change after seeing the film? If so, why?